

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

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

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 moment of reflection  
2 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.

14 MS. KRAKE: Third order. 3-A.

15 APPLICATIONS WITH THE DECISIONS RENDERED BY  
16 THE ZONING HEARING BOARD ON APRIL 14, 2010.

17 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
18 If not, received and filed. Clerk's notes,  
19 please.

20 MS. KRAKE: We have a few responses  
21 this week. First is from OECD concerning  
22 the Crisp Avenue bridge. This is from Linda  
23 Aebli Aebli, the director. She writes,  
24 "This office is in receipt of your second  
25 request dated June 11 concerning the status

1 of the Crisp Avenue bridge. Please be  
2 advised I did respond to your May 12  
3 correspondence on May 17 updating council  
4 and the public on the Crisp Avenue bridge.

5 As I stated in my May 17 letter, the  
6 Crisp avenue bridge is partly funded by the  
7 community development block grant in the  
8 amount of \$150,000. In order to receive  
9 other financing information, council will  
10 need to get this information from the  
11 appropriate department.

12 On Friday, June 11, 2010, OECD  
13 received from the engineering firm Reeman  
14 and Peterson plans and spec for this  
15 project. This enabled this office to  
16 prepare the spec book for distribution.  
17 OECD also arranged with council and the city  
18 controller on Monday, June 14, and the bid  
19 opening will be held in council chambers on  
20 Wednesday, July 21, 2010, at 10 a.m. The  
21 prebid conference will be held at the site  
22 on Wednesday, July 7, 2010, at 10 a.m.

23 If you have any questions, please  
24 feel free to contact me."

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MS. KRAKE: We also received a  
2 response from Scranton Housing Authority and  
3 this is from Gary Pelicacci. He says he is  
4 in receipt of our May 28 letter regarding  
5 the trash situation at Hilltop Manor. "The  
6 Scranton Housing Authority has the trash  
7 picked up twice a week, Tuesday and Friday,  
8 at Hilltop Manor. Also, our maintenance  
9 department walks the site daily to pick up  
10 any debris. Maintenance has been instructed  
11 to pick up all trash on both sides of  
12 street. The Housing Authority is currently  
13 exploring various options to help this  
14 situation. Until we come up with a more  
15 viable solution, the Housing Authority will  
16 continue to monitor the situation and  
17 increase the pickups by our department."

18 And it says, "It is always our  
19 intention to be a good neighbor."

20 MS. EVANS: Are they going to  
21 provide the trash receptacles?

22 MS. KRAKE: I did speak on the phone  
23 to Mr. Pelicacci, and they are looking into  
24 them, but in that one particular area where  
25 there is -- where the resident has come and

1 spoken at council, he says the parking there  
2 is so small and limited that to put a  
3 dumpster there will take up a parking  
4 spaces, so for right now even though this  
5 are still looking at the receptacles they  
6 are trying to maintain zero garbage  
7 anywhere.

8 MS. EVANS: Very good.

9 MS. KRAKE: That's the best they can  
10 tell us right now.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MS. KRAKE: We also have a response  
13 from the Recreation Authority from their  
14 solicitor, Paul Kelly. At the Recreation  
15 Authority's meeting, the board voted to  
16 direct him to respond to our letter. The  
17 Rec Authority does not receive any parking  
18 fees from CMC and the authority is not aware  
19 of any fees being paid by CMC for their  
20 employees to park at Nay Aug Park."

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MS. KRAKE: And finally, we received  
23 a Right-to-Know request from Stu Renda, our  
24 Right-to-Know officer. He answered all of  
25 our requests for ECTV and the peg channel,

1 and he did provide 49 pages and we did let  
2 council know that we have them in our  
3 office.

4 MS. EVANS: Very good.

5 MS. KRAKE: And we have a few no  
6 responses. The first is Mark Dougher,  
7 Director of Parks. He did not respond to  
8 our letter concerning the fireworks display  
9 and when they will be held.

10 The next letter we sent to Stu Renda  
11 and Mr. Dougher. This was -- our question  
12 was concerning the cutting of 31 percent  
13 which is equal to \$130,000 in the parks  
14 budget for 2010, traditionally this line  
15 item is used to pay for lifeguards and other  
16 seasonal employees. We had asked with the  
17 pools set to open, which we know they are  
18 open, how will this effect the staffing or  
19 will it cause any closing of any pools and  
20 they have not responded.

21 Also, we received no response from  
22 Director Seitzinger concerning the Washburn  
23 Street cemetery and the 100 block of North  
24 Merrifield avenue. We also did not receive  
25 a response to our second request concerning

1 Atlas Glass on Providence Road.

2 And we did not receive a response  
3 from Pat McMullen concerning the stop sign  
4 in the 200 block of South Decker Court, and  
5 that's all we have.

6 MS. EVANS: Let's send another  
7 request to Mr. McMullen about South Decker  
8 Court. I know that Representative Murphy's  
9 office is working on this as well and we  
10 provided Mr. McMullen with all of the  
11 necessary documentation and we would like a  
12 response.

13 As for the others, they will be  
14 included in their files in council's office.

15 MS. KRAKE: Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Do any council members  
17 have announcements at this time?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I do. This coming  
19 Sunday, Father's Day, there is the second  
20 annual, hopefully, Father's Day five-mile  
21 race. It's sponsored by the Prostate Cancer  
22 Awareness Association of Northeastern  
23 Pennsylvania. Last year was our initial  
24 event. We are looking for an increased  
25 number for this year.



1                   The race, as I said, is five miles,  
2                   it's a \$35 registration and registration  
3                   is--you can register starting at 7:00 Sunday  
4                   morning at Scranton High School at the  
5                   parking lot in Scranton High School.  
6                   T-shirts for all who register, medals for  
7                   all finishes. It's a really good race and  
8                   it's for a very good cause. All of the  
9                   money goes to the Prostate Cancer Awareness  
10                  Association which then turns it over to  
11                  research and awareness programs. So if  
12                  anyone would like to participate please  
13                  register Sunday morning and if anyone would  
14                  like to volunteer, if they are not up to  
15                  running the five miles, if they would like  
16                  to come and volunteer certainly the race can  
17                  use as many volunteers as possible that day.  
18                  So, thank you.

19                  MS. EVANS: Are there any other  
20                  announcements?

21                  MR. ROGAN: Yes. Applications for  
22                  the two scholarships generously donated by  
23                  businessman Giovanni Piccolino can be  
24                  dropped off by graduating students from the  
25                  Scranton School District until July 1. The

1 applications can be dropped off at Buona  
2 Pizza located on 540 Lackawanna Avenue.

3 Secondly, the City of Scranton Parks  
4 and Recreation will be hosting it's "Learn  
5 to Swim Program" again year. It will be  
6 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The schedule is as  
7 follows: Monday, June 28 to July 2 at  
8 Weston Field; Monday, July 5 through July 9,  
9 at Weston Park; Monday, July 12 to the 16 at  
10 Novembrino Pool; Monday, July 19 through the  
11 23, at Connell Park; July 26 through the 30  
12 at Nay Aug Park; and again in August, 2 to  
13 the 6 at Nay Aug Park. And class sizes are  
14 limited and will be on a first come first  
15 serve basis. For more information you can  
16 contact Weston Field at 3480-4186.

17 The Fourth Annual "Kids' Swim Free"  
18 at Nay Aug Park will be held again this year  
19 sponsored by the Lackawanna County  
20 Taxpayers' Association, and they would like  
21 to sponsor three to five events again this  
22 year and they are looking for donations.  
23 Donations can be sent to "Kids Swim Free,"  
24 1416 South Webster Avenue, Scranton,  
25 Pennsylvania, 18505, and checks can be made

1 out to "Kids Swim Free."

2 And finally, as Mrs. Krake reported,  
3 the Crisp Avenue bridge will be -- the bids  
4 will be opened on July 21 at 10 a.m. in  
5 council chambers, so that is very good news  
6 and residents of West Side will be very  
7 happy when that project is complete. Thank  
8 you.

9 MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: I don't have anything  
11 at this time, Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: I was just thinking as  
13 you read your announcements, Councilman  
14 Rogan, that perhaps we should order that  
15 information about the swimming classes, the  
16 free swimming classes, to ECTV to run  
17 weekly.

18 The weekly schedule for street  
19 cleaning is as follows: June 14 to 18 North  
20 Webster Avenue to Madison Avenue, and June  
21 21 to June 25, Minooka section, Saginaw  
22 Street to Vicond Avenue.

23 On Sunday, June 20, 2010, the Villa  
24 Capri Cruisers will sponsor a Father's Day  
25 car show at Nay Aug Park across from the

1 CMC. For more information call  
2 570-842-2736.

3 Finally, I could would like to wish  
4 all of the gentlemen in our area a very  
5 Happy Father's Day, including Councilman  
6 Loscombe, and McGoff, and my husband. I  
7 lost my father, Carl Tomko, six years ago.  
8 He was my best friend, my rock and my role  
9 model. Fathers truly are irreplaceable in  
10 our lives and they should be honored and  
11 cherished every day, not only on Father's  
12 Day, and that's it.

13 (Mr. Joyce takes the dais and joins  
14 council for the meeting.)

15 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
16 PARTICIPATION.

17 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this  
18 evening is Andy Sbaraglia.

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
20 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I  
21 see we're in the process, I guess the  
22 process is complete to give a grant for  
23 \$472,317. One of the projects I guess is  
24 the old Pub Charles where the hole in the  
25 ground is because that's the 246 address is

1 Pub Charles, which is a hole in the ground  
2 which means a complete building, but this  
3 324 that's Grass Grossinger, I believe,  
4 their old building. Somebody is already in  
5 there developing because they got a liquor  
6 license application on the window, so  
7 exactly what is the deal on that other than  
8 he wants us to help pay for his apartments  
9 up there.

10 This is an another deal where they  
11 want to put in more loft apartments for -- I  
12 don't know, if the University should ever  
13 build a dormitory for the kids that go to  
14 that medical school there is going to be a  
15 lot of crying people in Scranton for all of  
16 this money we poured into their buildings  
17 because it's ridiculous. Every time you  
18 turn around they want to build open more  
19 loft apartments for these kids. Well,  
20 that's the way life goes in this city.

21 Your "C", that was a "B", your "C",  
22 Marinucci. I guess he is up for  
23 reappointment to the -- out there at the  
24 Rec -- Scranton Recreation Authority, Rec  
25 Authority. We have a lot of dealings with

1           that man, you know, with the "Kids Swim  
2           Free" program. When you read them dates off  
3           I don't think you read any times. I think  
4           the pool is only open around 11 or 12:00.

5                   MR. ROGAN: I believe they open  
6           earlier for the program.

7                   MR. SBARAGLIA: They are going to  
8           open earlier? Did they give a time slot?

9                   MR. ROGAN: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

10                   MR. SBARAGLIA: Oh, okay, for the  
11          kids to get in.

12                   MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13                   MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay, and then after  
14          that if you want to go swimming you are  
15          going to pay up at Nay Aug at least. Oh  
16          well, these things are going, but we should  
17          get a piece of the action. I believe these  
18          grants are ridiculous. I don't mind them  
19          borrowing money and we take a piece of the  
20          action, just like Rinaldi when he wanted the  
21          500 block of Lackawanna Avenue he wanted a  
22          piece of the action, so if a piece of the  
23          action is good for him why isn't it good for  
24          the city or the state? If we lose the  
25          money, we lose the money, but that grant is

1           lost anyway. You give a grant away, it's  
2           forget it. Kiss the money goodbye, but if  
3           we take at least a piece of the action --  
4           speaking of a piece of the action, let's go  
5           back to the Hilton being it's going to be up  
6           for sale. Did any of you inquire of the  
7           mayor what kind of perks goes with that  
8           hotel besides not paying taxes and them free  
9           parking spaces, is a person going to buy  
10          that?

11                        I don't even want to get into it,  
12           it's disgusting what they did. They conned  
13           the city into telling that they would go  
14           bankrupt if you didn't buy our fixtures, so  
15           we gave in and bought the fixtures, all the  
16           fixtures, beds and everything were on their  
17           mortgage to the city and then they went  
18           bankrupt anyway and we lost the money. I  
19           told -- Mr. DiBileo was sitting up there, I  
20           told him, "Let them go bankrupt. Let them  
21           go. They will buy it, we can start over  
22           again."

23                        They should have, but they didn't,  
24           hence, we lost all that money. Now it's  
25           coming up again, but I wish you would

1           inquire of the mayor what kind of perks you  
2           plan to give the new owners if they should  
3           come through.  Somebody should actually come  
4           through with that because we don't want too  
5           many slaps in the face which we have got  
6           with that hotel.  Okay.

7                   MR. ROGAN:  Mr. Sbaraglia, regarding  
8           5-B, I'm going to make a motion to table 5-B  
9           until we can schedule public caucus.

10                   MR. SBARAGLIA:  That's okay.  It's  
11           not that I got anything against it because  
12           if he is going to build a building there on  
13           the Pub Charles side he is going to make a  
14           considerable investment.  I don't think he  
15           can build a building there for the \$472,000,  
16           probably cost a little more if he is going  
17           to build any kind of substantial building,  
18           but the other part of that, down at the  
19           Grass Grossinger where they are in there  
20           making the development now they are planning  
21           to put a bar in the lower level because why  
22           else would they put application for a liquor  
23           license?  That's a whole separate deal.  If  
24           they are going to build because that hole is  
25           disgusting.  You walk by there and it



1                   doesn't make the city look too great, so I  
2                   can see that development going through.  
3                   This other one though, I think we have to  
4                   look at that a little more. Thank you.

5                   MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

6                   MS. EVANS: Thank you. Les  
7                   Spindler.

8                   MS. HUGHES: Madam President, if I  
9                   could, just one comment on the hotel, that  
10                  was a program approved by the county, the  
11                  city and the school district. The taxes are  
12                  paid on the land. There was a forgiveness  
13                  on the real estate taxes for a period of ten  
14                  years from the completion of the project for  
15                  every million dollars invested with a cap up  
16                  to ten million dollars for ten years. I  
17                  don't know, that would be in the assessor's  
18                  office as to when the Lita Program would  
19                  come off and when it started. Once that  
20                  comes off there will be real estate taxes  
21                  paid on the hotel, but right now they are  
22                  paying pursuant to the Lita program tax on  
23                  the land that's not a KOZ zone.

24                  MS. EVANS: It's not.

25                  MR. HUGHES: It's not.

1 MS. EVANS: And I do recall at the  
2 time I did not vote for that particular  
3 agreement concerning the Hilton Hotel  
4 because I knew that the city was going to  
5 lose it's \$3 million, and actually a great  
6 deal of work was done behind the scenes.  
7 Attorney Hughes actually worked tirelessly  
8 on that and kept in contact with me. He had  
9 an alternative whereby the city would not  
10 lose the \$3 million, but that was not the --  
11 that was not acceptable to city council at  
12 the time and that council, rather, I believe  
13 Mr. DiBileo was the president, they rather  
14 agreed with what the mayor had worked out  
15 with the Hilton Hotel. And, you know,  
16 again, as Mr. Sbaraglia noted that was very  
17 unfortunate and I'm not sure the city is  
18 never going to recoup it's money and  
19 particularly not on this sale because I  
20 don't foresee the Hilton Hotel selling for  
21 \$35 million. Mr. Spindler.

22 MR. HUGHES: If I could, at that  
23 time the Algonquin Hotel in New York City,  
24 which is 180 rooms, a historic hotel on 45th  
25 Street, I believe, sold for \$32 million. I

1 think that if the Hilton Hotel sells for  
2 over 35 million there is something in there  
3 where the city would get some of it's money  
4 back, but that's just a comparison for the  
5 Algonquin Hotel in New York City, I think  
6 it's between Fifth and Madison, sold for  
7 \$32, and that was back in 2005 at the time  
8 that was going through. I kind of laughed  
9 when they said if it sells for more than \$35  
10 million and here's a historic hotel with the  
11 Oak Room and everything else, the Algonquin  
12 in New York that went for \$32 million.

13 MS. EVANS: Yes, I recall our having  
14 that conversation which was why the  
15 agreement worked out between the mayor and  
16 the Hilton and council was so ludicrous  
17 because Attorney Hughes is correct the city  
18 would only recoup it's 3 million if the  
19 hotel would be sold the purchase price of 35  
20 million and again, that's something that I'm  
21 sure we all recognize is not a reality.  
22 Well, water under the bridge now. When the  
23 proper things aren't done at the proper  
24 time, this is what happens. Mr. Spindler.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,

1 Council. Les Spindler, city resident,  
2 taxpayer and homeowner. First off, I want  
3 to commend council for keeping these  
4 summertime meetings at 6:30. It's more  
5 convenient for most people to get to, most  
6 people work during the day. I know the  
7 previous majority wanted them at noontime  
8 because they knew most people couldn't go  
9 and they could get out of here, so thank you  
10 again.

11 MS. EVANS: You're welcome.

12 MR. SPINDLER: 5-C, putting  
13 Mr. Marinucci back on the Recreation  
14 Authority, this Recreation Authority is the  
15 reason there is no free swimming at Nay Aug  
16 Park and I think they should all be  
17 replaced. You replaced a good woman on the  
18 zoning board in Mrs. Cook and I don't think  
19 Mr. Marinucci should be put on this  
20 Recreation Authority. As I said, I think  
21 they should all be replaced. Because of  
22 them there is no free swimming.

23 A few weeks ago I gave you a report  
24 about the stolen DiBileo signs. I spoke to  
25 Detective Martin last week and he said

1 absolutely, positively the two city  
2 employees mentioned in that report are the  
3 ones on the videotape that stole the signs.  
4 Again, I'll say it's being sat on by the  
5 chief and the mayor and a crime was  
6 committed and that in itself, them not going  
7 forward with this, I think that's a crime,  
8 so I think something has got to be done with  
9 that.

10 I come across some information that  
11 the mayor has lost 25 union related disputes  
12 so far, and I guess that number is going up  
13 all of the time, and I guess what Detective  
14 Martin said last week I guess we lost  
15 another arbitration. He is probably going  
16 to appeal that and cost the taxpayers more  
17 money. I hope I'm wrong, but I don't know  
18 when it's going to stop.

19 Oh, okay, a different note here.  
20 For 51 years my family has had a family  
21 reunion and it was at the Radisson this year  
22 and we had relatives that stayed there from  
23 out of town and we got together Sunday and  
24 they said they went to the mall on Saturday  
25 evening, walked around town and they just

1 reinforced what myself and many other people  
2 have said over the years, they said there  
3 was absolutely nothing to do in downtown. I  
4 guess that's so much for Chris Doherty's  
5 24-hour city. These are people from out of  
6 town, they wanted to do something, they  
7 couldn't find anything to do and I think  
8 it's a darn shame.

9 This morning in the Doherty  
10 newsletter there was a report about a female  
11 police officer filing an age discrimination  
12 lawsuit. I don't know why it took so long  
13 to report it in the newspaper, I knew about  
14 this a year ago. The original suit was  
15 filed in May of 2009 and it was just in the  
16 paper today. It's just goes to show the  
17 incompetence of this administration, I said  
18 it in the past Chief Elliott is totally  
19 incompetent. He should have resigned a long  
20 time ago. Again, this is costing the  
21 taxpayers more money with these lawsuits and  
22 I know they female police officer, she is a  
23 very wonderful woman, as are the two other  
24 police officers who the chief degraded by  
25 calling them a terrible name. I hope these

1 people win their lawsuits, but it's just too  
2 bad that the taxpayers are going to have to  
3 pay for that. That's all I have tonight.  
4 Thank you for your time.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Spindler.  
6 Bob Bolus.

7 MR. BOLUS: Bob Bolus. Good  
8 evening, Council. Bob Bolus, Scranton.

9 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

10 MR. BOLUS: Definitely on "C", the  
11 appointment of Marinucci, I would ask that  
12 you table this. We have had many, many  
13 issues and confrontations with  
14 Mr. Marinucci. He has an arrogance about  
15 him. In fact, there was one day when we are  
16 up there talking about the zoo and trying to  
17 keep it there for the people when he  
18 actually got to the point he wanted to step  
19 outside a have a fistfight with me, which  
20 I'm more than gladly would have had provided  
21 if I would have won the zoo would have  
22 stayed and that would have been it. Well,  
23 he refused to get up and come outside.

24 But the problem we have with him he  
25 is he part of the problem at Nay Aug Park.

1 He allowed a lot of money to be spent up  
2 there. They are their only little clan over  
3 there and it's going to broken up.  
4 Remember, they are the ones who want to give  
5 Lackawanna College where the zoo was the  
6 land for a dollar perpetually, and that's  
7 what got to stop. There is no mentality  
8 here. There is no consideration for the  
9 people and our part, not giving it away to a  
10 college for free. Let them buy something in  
11 the city and pay some taxes, and that was  
12 the problem we had with Marinucci. He has a  
13 real bad attitude, he has been on there a  
14 long time, and if we are going to move  
15 forward in this city we need to put new  
16 blood in, new ideas, and get rid of the  
17 stagnant political cronyism attitude and  
18 it's definitely in the Recreation Authority  
19 at Nay Aug. I would ask that you table it  
20 and maybe let somebody else come forward for  
21 a change.

22 On the University of Scranton coming  
23 down Mulberry Street, we are entitled to an  
24 impact fee, no matter what. If it's road  
25 blockage or how it's an inconvenience to us,



1           it may be temporary, but we are entitled to  
2           money. We had it on Lackawanna Avenue, the  
3           mayor didn't go after any money there. We  
4           need to move forward and collect every dime  
5           we can. And the University is literally  
6           taking over this city they are tearing  
7           everything down, they only have one attitude  
8           and that's their attitude. Look at the  
9           South Side complex. Take a walk over there  
10          and look at the grass, look at the mud, look  
11          at the dirt over there. They don't care  
12          about people in the City of Scranton, they  
13          only care about the University of Scranton.

14                 Mr. McGoff, I know you keep making  
15          faces about it, and I'm sorry if it offends  
16          you, but quite frankly --

17                 MR. MCGOFF: You're not offending  
18          me.

19                 MR. BOLUS: Okay, good, because I  
20          have an issue as a taxpayer in this city  
21          with the University of Scranton not paying  
22          their fair share and getting a free ride,  
23          and the day I'll be the happiest is when I  
24          see them paying a fee and paying their fair  
25          share to the taxpayers of this city that

1 have been supportive.

2 MR. MCGOFF: I just find a few of  
3 your comments ironic.

4 MR. BOLUS: Pardon?

5 MR. MCGOFF: I just find a few of  
6 your comments ironic.

7 MR. BOLUS: Well, a lot of the  
8 things we found ironic when you were the  
9 council president here and let a lot of  
10 things slide through the door and under the  
11 cracks, we weren't happy with that, so maybe  
12 they are ironic, but maybe we are moving in  
13 a different direction with the council that  
14 is wanting to get somewhere.

15 The other night I was watching one  
16 of our police officers up at Meadow Avenue  
17 directing traffic. I would make a  
18 recommendation that our police officers  
19 start getting florescent gloves. It was  
20 getting dark and you couldn't actually see  
21 him waiving his hands at traffic coming  
22 forward. And get them different lights that  
23 they could carry out there, some like we see  
24 in an airport when they are directing planes  
25 in, the red lights, give our guys some

1 safety that are I think they are entitled to  
2 have out there. The vests don't cut it when  
3 you can't see what they are directing.

4 I was at Dunmore council meeting  
5 last night and I brought up fees for the  
6 sewer line and the leachate line coming  
7 through here, and they are going to explore  
8 it, as well as the gas line coming from  
9 Alliance to see if we can get a host  
10 community fee, and the reason I'm bringing  
11 it up tonight is that maybe now that it's  
12 been approached up there maybe council and  
13 their council could kind of sit down and  
14 throw some ideas up there that may work for  
15 the benefit of both communities, helping  
16 Dunmore get out of debt and helping Scranton  
17 get out of debt and start paying some of our  
18 bills.

19 We need an emergency plan on that  
20 gas line and it's got to be an accurate one,  
21 meaning, that it's running through our city  
22 and we are all worried about Marcellus shale  
23 and everything and we got a potential hazard  
24 coming right through a community that we  
25 have people living in.

1                   The issue I have here is one I had  
2                   last week was the land on East Mountain  
3                   where the house is that I am having a  
4                   problem with that city owns that they allow  
5                   people to build over, is to have the law  
6                   department put something together and put it  
7                   up for sale. It's Scranton real estate, the  
8                   city is entitled to be paid for it, and they  
9                   are entitled to get their fair share by  
10                  auction.

11                  Take some of these blighted  
12                  properties that are all over the city and  
13                  start putting them up for sale and  
14                  generating revenue. They look like heck all  
15                  over this city, burned out shells, and it's  
16                  time to the mayor put things on the fast  
17                  track rather than giving us agenda that with  
18                  are wasting everybody's time by not putting  
19                  nothing on it. It's time to come to the  
20                  plate, you lost your election, be the mayor  
21                  for the next time -- or the time that's left  
22                  and start representing the people and let's  
23                  start cleaning up the city. Thank you.

24                  MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.  
25                  Doug Miller? Ron Ellman.

1 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Ronnie  
2 Ellman again. You know, people always tell  
3 me that you are just beating your head on a  
4 wall. They have lost faith in you. Three  
5 or four weeks ago, I forgot what it was, I  
6 mentioned a half a dozen illegally parked  
7 cars that three or four people had told me,  
8 not a one was addressed. That's why people  
9 don't want to -- they just don't care about  
10 this council meeting no more. And someone  
11 asked me what the fire truck cost and I  
12 said, "Hell, I don't know what the fire  
13 truck cost," nobody could find out what they  
14 are paying for the fire truck. That doesn't  
15 make sense. You people voted for, you ought  
16 to know what it cost, and it cost probably  
17 twice as much as if we paid for it instead  
18 of going this lease to buy.

19 And I can't understand you with  
20 praising the zoning board, maybe Mrs. Cook,  
21 the rest of them could care less about what  
22 they do. They defer their own policies,  
23 like, the parking for the college, just to,  
24 you know, they are no good. Every one of  
25 them should be replaced.



1 houses .

2 But this house on the 1500 block of  
3 Court, guess what? Is anybody familiar with  
4 that neighborhood? Beautiful houses. I  
5 want to know why in 2007 that house was made  
6 a KOZ. It was occupied? Yeah. That was  
7 like stealing money from the taxpayers to  
8 make that house a KOZ. There is not a  
9 reason in the world. That's under Todd  
10 O'Malley's watch. Todd never saw a KOZ he  
11 didn't like evidently. A beautiful house is  
12 occupied in the middle of residential  
13 neighborhood, it was made KOZ and it's still  
14 KOZ. Before that, they paid taxes. This is  
15 senseless. This goes on right under  
16 everybody's nose day in and day out.

17 Just like Baker, they wait until the  
18 last minute and they blink. Why couldn't  
19 they wait another week for a trial, it  
20 wouldn't have hurt. They would have saved  
21 money. You know, this city is going to pot  
22 between the universities, I was told three  
23 or four days ago, I heard this like tenth  
24 hand from somebody from somebody from  
25 somebody, that a University -- I mean, the

1           medical school is taken -- you know, is  
2           talking about letting the students have the  
3           new apartments in Olive Street. They're  
4           supposed to be for the people that were  
5           displaced first, but I brought some clothes  
6           over to Sister Adrian's the week before last  
7           for Miss Rosie, and that's where I heard it.  
8           They're not even getting their -- they can't  
9           even get their own apartments back, you  
10          know, it's just a rumor, but that's what I  
11          heard.

12                         It's just all kind of crooked deals  
13           just like this down house being a KOZ in the  
14           middle of the neighborhood, it's just  
15           senseless. Is that me?

16                         MS. EVANS: Yes.

17                         MR. ELLMAN: I guess you are happy  
18           to hear that bell ring. I wish somebody  
19           would investigate this and tell me why it's  
20           KOZ and tell the city why because there is  
21           lot of people have been wondering why a  
22           beautiful piece of property was made KOZ and  
23           there is something crooked as the dickens  
24           about it.

25                         MS. EVANS: We'll look into it.



1 Thank you. Carl Kupchinas.

2 MR. KUPCHINAS: Good evening. My  
3 name is Carl Kupchinas. One of the reasons  
4 that I'm here this evening is to invite  
5 everyone here and everyone watching to our  
6 30th anniversary block party. The Catholic  
7 Faith Community of North Scranton which  
8 includes St. Joseph's, St. Anthony's and  
9 Holy Rosary Parish will be conducting our  
10 annual block party next weekend, June 24, 25  
11 and 26 at our Parish Center which is at West  
12 Market Street by Cole Muffler. The block  
13 party is between 6 & 11 p.m. on Thursday and  
14 Friday, and between 5 and 11 p.m. on  
15 Saturday.

16 The block party will include the  
17 following live entertainment: On Thursday,  
18 the Holy Brothers will be featured; on  
19 Friday, Picture Perfect; and on Saturday,  
20 Jim Cerminaro between 5 on 7 p.m. Later,  
21 John Stevens and Double Shot between 7 and  
22 11 p.m. This year's entertainment will be  
23 varied and there should be something for  
24 everyone.

25 We have a variety of games for the

1 adults and children such as the Big 6, the  
2 Money Wheel, and Irish poker for the adults,  
3 as well as our annual raffle for the  
4 children. We will have plush animals,  
5 Lollypop treats and Kids Corner which will  
6 include face painting and many more games  
7 and fun. We also can't forget about our  
8 annual diaper derby which will be run  
9 Friday, June 25, at 7:00 p.m. All children  
10 up to three years of age are warmly invited  
11 to run for the roses. Ribbons and prizes  
12 will be award at the medal stand.

13 Other features of our block party  
14 are the Treasure Cove, Dining Around,  
15 Baskets Galore, Book Nook, an ice cream  
16 truck, Bingo and many more. New this year  
17 is the water wars where you can actually  
18 launch water balloons at your friends.

19 We also have some of the best food  
20 around. In addition to the usual burgers,  
21 hot dogs, fries, pizza, potato pancakes and  
22 the usual block party food and beverages, we  
23 will be featuring at the St. Joseph's stand  
24 homemade pigs in the blanket and Assoki.  
25 Asookis are Lithuanian cookies.

1                   At St. Anthony's stand they will  
2                   have homemade Italian cookies and pastries.  
3                   Why wait for La Festa Italian, which is many  
4                   months away, when you can get these  
5                   delicious items next weekend right here in  
6                   North Scranton.

7                   As you can see, our block party has  
8                   something for everyone. We hope to see you  
9                   there. It's going to be held rain or shine,  
10                  and sincerely thank everyone who comes.

11                  In other matters, I would like to  
12                  publically thank the Army Corp of Engineers  
13                  for the fast progress they are making on the  
14                  Albright Avenue Flood Control Project. I  
15                  heard at a council meeting a few weeks ago  
16                  that the project is slated for completion in  
17                  the Fall of this year. The sound of the  
18                  construction equipment is indeed a happy  
19                  sound for the residents of lower Greenridge  
20                  who suffer from flooding three times  
21                  previously. The new levy system will not  
22                  only enhance the beauty of the Lackawanna  
23                  River, it will also provide the flood  
24                  protection that the residents of lower  
25                  Greenridge and the Plot Section have waited

1 for and greatly deserve.

2 Finally, I realize Sunday's rainfall  
3 was a magnitude that our area rather rarely  
4 sees. I spoke to some friends who reside in  
5 the South Scranton section of the city who  
6 said they felt a lot of the flooding was  
7 caused by storm drains which are clogged. I  
8 also noticed a few clogged storm drains in  
9 the lower Greenridge where I reside,  
10 including one of the new drains right by the  
11 Albright Avenue Bridge. Gene Barrett and  
12 the Scranton Sewer Authority just got a  
13 large rate increase. I feel Scranton  
14 council or other governing bodies should  
15 keep track on the Sewer Authority that to  
16 keep these storm drains open so it will not  
17 be a repeat of this past Sunday. With their  
18 rate increase I don't see where they can't  
19 clean up these storm drains.

20 We would like to thank everybody for  
21 your time and I hope everyone has a great  
22 summer. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,  
24 Mr. Kupchunas, I'll be addressing those  
25 issues that you just alluded to as your

1 final point regarding the sewer pipes and  
2 the catch basins, etcetera, citywide.

3 MR. KUPCHUNAS: That was a terrible  
4 situation on Sunday.

5 MS. EVANS: It is. It is. So I  
6 will be addressing that tonight.

7 MR. KUPCHUNAS: Thank you very much.

8 MS. EVANS: And I do have to say  
9 it's a wonderful church picnic up at Holy  
10 Rosary in North Scranton.

11 MR. KUPCHUNAS: I hope you will be  
12 able to make it there this year again. We  
13 had a great time last year.

14 MS. EVANS: It is. It's a wonderful  
15 annual event. The food is fantastic, the  
16 people are warm and welcoming, the  
17 entertainment is unparalleled, so we  
18 encourage everyone to get up there and have  
19 a good time.

20 MR. KUPCHUNAS: And don't forget the  
21 water works. You could actually launch  
22 water balloons at your friends or enemies.

23 MS. EVANS: Oh, how about that.  
24 That's right. Water balloons. Thank you.  
25 Lee Morgan.

1 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

2 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

3 MR. MORGAN: Lee Morgan. I would  
4 just like to start by saying that the City  
5 of Carbondale has started a playground  
6 program. It's really an amazing thing that  
7 the mayor of that small town to do something  
8 that the residents in this city have been  
9 waiting a long time for, and I hope that  
10 council will keep in it's mind, you know,  
11 spending the cable TV franchise fee, a  
12 portion of that, for a playground program.  
13 I would like to see the City of Scranton do  
14 something like the City of Carbondale has  
15 done.

16 It shows a real vision for his small  
17 town because he is trying to combat a lot of  
18 things that we should be trying to do the  
19 same thing about, whether it's drugs or  
20 vandalism or a multitude of many other  
21 problems. I mean, this is a mayor of a  
22 small town and I guess their council has  
23 determined that it's important to do this.

24 And, you know, in regards to  
25 Mr. Marinucci's reappointment to the Rec

1 Authority, I think that if the Rec Authority  
2 isn't moving in the best interest of the  
3 city then maybe we should abolish it. I  
4 mean, we keep talking about the problems  
5 about the fees being charged at Nay Aug Park  
6 for the pool, you know, some people consider  
7 Mr. Marinucci to be argumentative, that's  
8 not my point, but, I mean, you know, all of  
9 the problems we've had, all of the deals  
10 allegedly with the zoo, and if that's the  
11 situation then I just think that maybe it's  
12 time to consider just abolishing the  
13 authority. I mean if it's not going to do a  
14 constructive job for the residents then we  
15 have to reorganize it, but -- or just out  
16 and out abolish it.

17 And as far as, you know, I  
18 watched -- well, I read the paper and I  
19 watched some of these meetings in regard to  
20 the blight in the city and the meeting, but  
21 has anybody on council ever looked at the  
22 condemnation book in the city? The city has  
23 a condemnation book and when they condemn a  
24 property they put it in the book. I think  
25 it would be a great benefit of this city or

1           this council to look at this book because,  
2           you know, we have all of these condemned  
3           properties in the city, and I just think  
4           that if we are trying to find out what  
5           happened here maybe we should be really  
6           trying to look at it. I mean, we talking  
7           about -- I mean, from the newspaper said  
8           about trying to do something with all of  
9           these blighted properties. Well, how did we  
10          get that many and why did it happen? And if  
11          there is a problem with the process of  
12          condemnation then we should change the law  
13          and do something to protect the residents of  
14          this city. And I just think that if  
15          somebody's house got condemned for a reason  
16          that wasn't justified we should have stopped  
17          it.

18                   I don't think many people understand  
19          their right to challenge a condemnation, so  
20          what we have is possibly when you look  
21          through the book is maybe we have is a  
22          department that went forward and condemned  
23          houses by whatever statutes they ran by and  
24          then the people who were served the  
25          condemnation didn't know they could appeal



1           it, so maybe what happens is we forced  
2           people into the street that didn't have to  
3           be there.

4                     And, you know, we can all talk about  
5           what we are going to do now, but maybe it's  
6           something we should have did then and maybe  
7           it's time to control or past so we have some  
8           command of our future because, you know  
9           other speakers get up and talk about a  
10          24-hour city here. Well, in order to have a  
11          24-hour a day city where there activities  
12          going on you need population here, but when  
13          you have all of these condemned properties  
14          and people trying to flee, I mean, you have  
15          walked the city in your election process and  
16          look at all of the the properties for sale.  
17          Let's not even look at the vacant lots and  
18          the condemned properties. Well, all of  
19          these things have be addressed, and I just  
20          think that maybe it would be a good thing to  
21          look at that condemnation book. Thank you.

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

24                     MR. MEY: Good evening, Council.  
25          Milton Mey, Scranton, Pennsylvania. I live

1 in the 500 of Quincy across from East  
2 Scranton High School and that place is going  
3 to be another North Scranton. The grass is  
4 this high over there, so something should be  
5 done about it. And next door to me a fellow  
6 from the Ukraine bought the house and then  
7 there is a piece of metal sticking up this  
8 high where there was a sign there for permit  
9 parking only and they took the sign and way  
10 and they never brought it back.

11 MS. EVANS: What's the address  
12 there?

13 MR. MEY: 533 Quincy.

14 MS. EVANS: 533?

15 MR. MEY: 533 Quincy.

16 MS. EVANS: And the first property  
17 that you mentioned that's overgrown, where  
18 is that again?

19 MR. MEY: East Scranton High School.  
20 That's in the -- in the 500 block. You  
21 know, you people have been here complaining  
22 about River Street and Meadow Avenue, when  
23 they gave them the permit to build that gas  
24 station there in the zoning office they were  
25 supposed to put a red light there. If you

1 look back in the zoning thing you will  
2 probably find it there, and I think you  
3 should go after the people and have them pay  
4 for it and put it up because that's  
5 ridiculous up there. That's bad, bad, bad.

6 Another thing, I have a solution for  
7 you for the downtown for walking across the  
8 street. At the corner of Linden and  
9 Jefferson on every pole there is a button  
10 where you press the button and all the  
11 lights turn red so people have a chance to  
12 cross the street. If you put them downtown  
13 you would save yourself a lot of aggravation  
14 and a lot of money, because that box  
15 shouldn't cost that much money because the  
16 "Walk" and "Don't Walk" signs are there  
17 already. It's something you ought to look  
18 into. Where you would need them, you would  
19 probably need the on Wyoming Avenue,  
20 Washington Avenue, Adams Avenue from  
21 Mulberry Street to Lackawanna, that's the  
22 only place you would need them.

23 And, Mr. McGoff, I don't want to  
24 yell at you, but the University, too, I am  
25 in the five of Quincy and since they moved

1           there, I'm there since '64, they've actually  
2           ruined our neighborhood, and I'm being very  
3           honest with you. The city gave them -- they  
4           gave them the four of Monroe, they gave them  
5           the four of Quincy, and they have the four  
6           of Clay, plus the three blocks of Linden  
7           Street, how much more can we give them?  
8           They want to give them Mulberry Street, too,  
9           now? It's ridiculous. I mean, they are  
10          going, going, going, but it's ridiculous.

11                        Come up on a Friday night or  
12          Saturday near my house and you will see what  
13          I'm talking about. It's bedlam there. They  
14          go down the street yelling "F" this and "F"  
15          that, they don't care because they are from  
16          out of town. These kids, these pupils just  
17          don't care. And at the corner of Linden and  
18          Jefferson, as Marie Schumacher brought up  
19          last week, they have the signs there, but  
20          you know what, they don't pay attention to  
21          them. I think it's upon the University that  
22          when they are in class they should have one  
23          of their security people there to see that  
24          they obey the law. If not, have a cop there  
25          and charge them for jaywalking. I'm being

1           serious. It's ridiculous. One day I was  
2           going by and this girl she told me, "Go "F"  
3           yourself," because she cut right in front of  
4           me. It's ridiculous. I wanted to get out  
5           and slap her, but I figured if I did I would  
6           be in jail, so I just left it alone. That's  
7           all I have for you tonight. Thank you.

8                       MS. EVANS: Thank, Mr. Mey.

9                       MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus. I want to  
10           address a couple of different issues  
11           tonight. I took my boy for a walk today and  
12           I noticed 339 Railroad Avenue, that's a  
13           vacant house that's very overgrown, if you  
14           could write that down, and the corner of  
15           Fifth Avenue and Broadway there is two  
16           sewers there, but the one sewer facing Fifth  
17           Avenue facing the church is completely  
18           filled up with dirt. I mean, I think you  
19           couldn't get anything open.

20                      And I agree that the Sewer Authority  
21           should be responsible for every sewer in  
22           this city. I mean, those poor people don't  
23           have flood insurance so who is going to pay  
24           for will the damage they got? The Sewer  
25           Authority should be getting the bill. I

1 think they should look into that.

2 Another thing, the University of  
3 Scranton, I don't understand how they get  
4 away with not paying taxes on dormitories,  
5 like these ones they are going to build, and  
6 the ones that they have already. They are  
7 not academic buildings, they are apartment  
8 buildings, so the person next door to them  
9 that rents, like if I had an apartment  
10 building over in the Hill Section and I  
11 rented it to people I would have to pay  
12 taxes. How come they don't have to pay  
13 taxes on apartment buildings and the  
14 dormitories? They are not academic  
15 buildings. I wish somebody would look into  
16 the law about that. I mean, the Catholic  
17 Church, the University of Scranton, is  
18 running the City of Scranton.

19 Another thing, and I hope you are  
20 paying close attention tonight, I saw each  
21 and every one of you council members vote on  
22 this Marinucci issue for the Recreation  
23 Authority. If by chance you vote for this  
24 man I'm going to take a long hard look  
25 because you are not going to be for the

1 people, you are going to be for him.  
2 Mr. Marinucci, he is not for the people. So  
3 if any one of you vote for him I think  
4 people better start wondering about it, but  
5 pay close attention to this vote. And I'd  
6 also like to know, even if you vote for him  
7 or don't vote for him what authority do you  
8 have? I thought even if you vote either way  
9 does it make a difference if you vote no or  
10 yes?

11 MS. EVANS: According to the Home  
12 Rule Charter, the mayor appoints to those  
13 authorities with the advice and consent of  
14 Scranton City Council, which is why  
15 legislation is forwarded to council by the  
16 administration for the appointment or  
17 reappointment of any authority members using  
18 this particular instance. I know that in  
19 the past, during the terms of prior  
20 councils, when an appointee has not received  
21 the consent of city council, the individual  
22 takes his seat on that authority.

23 MS. FRANUS: How is that possible?

24 MS. EVANS: I don't know how that's  
25 possible.

1 MS. FRANUS: Mr. Hughes? Attorney  
2 Hughes, is that legal or is that -- why is  
3 coming in front of council it doesn't make a  
4 difference?

5 MS. EVANS: It doesn't seem to make  
6 any sense, I agree with you, why send  
7 anything to council if you intend to seat  
8 the person regardless of council's approval.

9 MS. FRANUS: Could that be looked  
10 into as a legality of that because  
11 Mr. Marinucci should not be serving there  
12 anymore. He is there many years too many.  
13 He is the most arrogant man, he doesn't want  
14 to have any meetings for the people to find  
15 out anything, he doesn't want to come this  
16 front of council to answer questions, I  
17 never met a man so arrogant and for this man  
18 to have another appointment is a kick in the  
19 teeth of the taxpayers. I'd love to know  
20 where the money goes for the Nay Aug Park  
21 swimming. Does he answer that? No.

22 Anyway, like I said, when this vote  
23 comes I hope you vote the right way for the  
24 people and if you vote for him you are not  
25 for the people. Thank you.



1 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Franus, just before  
2 you go, I want to jump back to your original  
3 statements, 339 Railroad Avenue, what's the  
4 complaint?

5 MS. FRANUS: It's vacant and the--  
6 this high the weeds.

7 MS. EVANS: Okay, a vacant property  
8 is overgrown and then you said Fifth Avenue?

9 MS. FRANUS: There is two sores  
10 there, but the one facing Bob Bolus' church,  
11 which it is, thank God.

12 MS. EVANS: It's a catch basin.  
13 That's clogged with debris.

14 MS. FRANUS: Yes.

15 MS. EVANS: Okay.

16 MS. FRANUS: And Broadway and  
17 Railroad, the corner, I saw a sewer lid, but  
18 I saw no drain with a big puddle of water,  
19 so I don't know if there is supposed to be  
20 one there, but please check that, too.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MS. FRANUS: Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who  
24 wishes to address council?

25 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Hi, Janet.

1 MS. EVANS: Hi, Chrissy.

2 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Hi, Janet. Hi,  
3 jack.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy, what's up?

5 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Well, Jack, Sunday  
6 was a bad flood city, wasn't it? It was a  
7 nasty one, wasn't it, Jack? Those firemen  
8 did a good job down there. I want to thank  
9 Engine 7, Rescue 1, and the chief. Good  
10 job, Guys. Keep it up down there. I'm  
11 proud of every one of them down there.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good job.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

14 Marie Schumacher, citizen and member of the  
15 Taxpayers' Association.

16 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: First off, I'd like  
18 to know if Mr. Rogan obtained the  
19 information that I requested last week on  
20 how much our property taxes revenues will  
21 increase because of the ending of KOZ's this  
22 December?

23 MR. ROGAN: Did I send that request?

24 MS. EVANS: I saw that letter was  
25 sent out I think to Mr. Courtright's office,

1                   however, we haven't received a response yet.

2                   MR. ROGAN: I believe it was  
3                   Mr. Joyce that sent that request. I sent  
4                   the one about the Crisp Avenue Bridge that  
5                   Mrs. Krake reported on.

6                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, okay. The  
7                   other thing tonight sort of, I guess, OECD  
8                   night, I noticed they had a couple of  
9                   solicitations in the paper recently, and I  
10                  don't know if anybody ever bothered to go  
11                  down, but I did notice they were asking for  
12                  the bids on the pavement around the  
13                  refurbished Parking Authority building, the  
14                  original one, and I guess that's North  
15                  Washington and Linden Street, and I just --  
16                  I know you approved it, that council  
17                  approved it last year, but when you walk  
18                  particularly down on Wyoming Avenue and  
19                  there is bricks out and you could break your  
20                  ankle, I don't think there is single  
21                  sidewalk around that Parking Authority  
22                  building that's really bad. Some of them  
23                  don't really need anything and we are going  
24                  to spend a lot of money replacing them.

25                  But then the one that caught my eye

1 is the invitation for the demolition of  
2 hazardous structures, Project NSP-1099.  
3 Now, do you know -- have a list of which  
4 projects are on the list for demolition?

5 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, do we have  
6 that in our office? I know that we received  
7 the cover page to that indicating that these  
8 hazardous structures were being put out to  
9 bid for demolition, but does the office have  
10 the backup on which properties they are?

11 MS. KRAKE: I believe we do and,  
12 Mrs. Schumacher, you know we are always  
13 available.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: I will check, and I  
15 believe, if I'm not mistaken, the NSP is  
16 Neighborhood Stabilization Program, and I  
17 think that was totally devoted to South  
18 Side, but -- and this is not a -- this is  
19 for the future. A woman wrote in, and I  
20 wish I remembered her name or clipped the  
21 letter to the editor because I thought it  
22 was a good idea, you know, I have complained  
23 in the past about we cleaned up the Hill  
24 Section and moved the problems to South  
25 Side, now we are going to clean up South

1 Side and move the problem to West Side, and  
2 this woman said maybe if we just had smaller  
3 projects in each of the section of the city  
4 simultaneously that couldn't happen, and I  
5 think that's worth considering for the  
6 future, but I would like to see what it is.

7 The other thing, I was at the  
8 library doing some other things and I looked  
9 at OECD's paper, and there were -- the list  
10 of the CDBG funded economic development  
11 activities and loans as of the end of last  
12 year, there were four that were approved by  
13 council and they didn't appear on the list  
14 and I just wonder why or if they went away  
15 or what's happened. They were approved on  
16 the same night as at least one other that is  
17 on the list, so I don't know, but one was  
18 Martini Grill for \$50,000, and I think they  
19 are already out of business if I'm not  
20 mistaken; Carl Von Lugar, \$57,000; Michael  
21 Angelino's, \$48,000; and Diversified  
22 Disaster Recovery Services, Inc., \$50,000.

23 And then, and I would like to  
24 commend OECD, they did add a section to the  
25 loan section where they gave the dates that

1           payments were made or were not made and I  
2           just wondered if -- I can't remember is that  
3           you, Pat?

4                       MR. ROGAN: Yeah, but that was the  
5           letter they we sent out, but I don't think  
6           we received a response yet because the  
7           monthly reports that council gets it's just  
8           for the status. It says, "Open, closed or  
9           litigation," but open could mean the  
10          payments are back and they just didn't make  
11          it to litigation yet and they could be back  
12          on their payments.

13                      MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, well, I just  
14          wondered because of those that were listed  
15          in that section of the Caper this year,  
16          Pizano Partnership missed payment number 34.  
17          And Salon Bergine missed payments number 41  
18          and 42, and I wonder if they been -- if they  
19          have been caught up now.

20                      MS. EVANS: We'll find that out, but  
21          can we have, if you don't mind, that  
22          information to copy in our office so that we  
23          can now pursue this week?

24                      MS. SCHUMACHER: Sure.

25                      MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: And then the final  
2 item I have for this week is the CMC  
3 employee garage that has been in the paper  
4 of late, and maybe I will show my ignorance,  
5 but I know when I was building my home in  
6 Virginia I paid a fee and at regular  
7 intervals the house was inspected, and I  
8 actually have the sign offs of the people  
9 who inspected it, and is that not the  
10 purpose? I mean, I don't understand why  
11 this building is having these problems if it  
12 was properly inspected throughout the  
13 process.

14 And then I'd like to know what is  
15 the -- if CMC employees are now using May  
16 Aug for parking, what impact does that have  
17 on, for instance, the major events this  
18 week, that car show, I know you always have  
19 to walk there many blocks.

20 MS. EVANS: Yeah, I noticed all of  
21 the parking lots are there.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: I wonder if we know  
23 what kind of arrangements have been made,  
24 are they just informal or are they formal  
25 and if they are formal are we going to at

1           least get any money and are they restricted  
2           to a certain number so that the people who  
3           want to use Nay Aug --

4                   MS. EVANS: What we have heard thus  
5           far, and I believe this was probably -- our  
6           source would have been the newspaper, that  
7           CMC is giving the City of Scranton \$48,000  
8           monthly during the time period in which  
9           their employees parking garage is being  
10          repaired and as a result all of the meters  
11          surrounding CMC, and even farther down I  
12          have noticed, are all bagged with orange  
13          bags so that no one may park there with the  
14          exception of CMC employees.

15                   MS. SCHUMACHER: I do remember that,  
16          but that's the metered parking, but does  
17          that satisfy all of the requirements or are  
18          they -- did they very more people parking  
19          actually up in the lots at Nay Aug, and if  
20          so do they have a certain amount allocated  
21          and a way to determine whether it's them or  
22          not so --

23                   MS. EVANS: We are still trying to  
24          determine if CMC pays the City of Scranton  
25          for any parking in Nay Aug by their



1 employees. Now, as Mrs. Krake reported  
2 earlier we did receive a response from the  
3 Recreation Authority stating that no money  
4 is paid to the Recreation Authority for  
5 parking with Nay Aug Park by CMC, so now we  
6 have to find out even if necessary by a  
7 Right-to-Know request if the -- if CMC is  
8 paying -- is paying the city directly for  
9 parking in that area across from the CMC.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I remember  
12 correctly, several years ago when they built  
13 the helipad there that parking lot adjacent  
14 to the helipad the far lot, that was  
15 specifically for the CMC employees and  
16 that's where their buses pick them up. I  
17 don't financial arrangements were made, but  
18 I don't know are you saying they are parking  
19 anywhere else in the --

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: I don't know,  
21 that's what I'm saying. Are they identified  
22 somewhere?

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah, that was  
24 originally set aside specifically for CMC  
25 employees and that's why they had the

1 shuttle bus run from the hospital up to  
2 there.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: I have never seen  
4 the shuttle bus but, okay. Yeah. Oh, okay.  
5 Thank you.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Okay. Thanks.

7 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else  
8 that wishes to address council?

9 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.  
10 Nelson Ancherani, First Amendment Rights.  
11 In the last nine years police and fire, we  
12 have been taking the brunt of the blame for  
13 the city being in the financial straights,  
14 and I just want to keep reminding council  
15 and the people it's not our fault. It's not  
16 the fire and police unions. We didn't put  
17 the city 300 million to 400 million dollars  
18 in debt, long-term debt. Our budgets, our  
19 salaries, have been remaining static since  
20 2002. The administration has not given out  
21 one raise to the police or fire personnel,  
22 so when you think about it the city did  
23 follow the Recovery Plan outlined on Page 64  
24 when it came to the police and fire unions,  
25 no raises for them, but if you read Page 64

1 of the Recovery Plan and check the budgets,  
2 you will see where the city violated the  
3 Recovery Plan when it came to giving out 25  
4 million in raises and new hires.

5 You heard last week from the  
6 President of the FOP when he spoke about the  
7 State Supreme Courts decision to hear the  
8 police and fire cases. For nine years now  
9 numerous arbitrations brought about by the  
10 unions because the city violated, and I  
11 emphasize the word violated, the contracts  
12 and they were won by the unions and they  
13 have been appealed by the city. Now there  
14 is a light at the end of the tunnel.

15 The unions know there are no  
16 guarantees as to which way the Courts will  
17 decide, but at this point it's my feeling,  
18 and that's my feeling, to just sit it out  
19 and wait. The time for negotiating would be  
20 over, and again, that's my feeling.

21 The city missed the train in my  
22 opinion, it's only a matter of time. If the  
23 Courts take anything away from us at this  
24 point at least we won't be giving it away to  
25 this administration. I can live with that.

1                   Martin also spoke about the SIT  
2                   clerk award that came out from the PRLB.  
3                   The city had 20 days from the date to file  
4                   an exception to the order or for lack of a  
5                   better word appeal. They are going to do  
6                   that. PEL got the word or will be getting  
7                   the word from them. The city has posted  
8                   three positions for SIT clerks. Because of  
9                   this I was told today that clerical are  
10                  blaming the FOP because some positions are  
11                  going to be moved around. This is not the  
12                  FOP's fault. The FOP has followed the  
13                  contract and the SIT agreement. It is not  
14                  the FOP who has violated the SIT agreement  
15                  three times and the city had to pay police  
16                  officers twice and they are going to pay the  
17                  third.

18                  This current violation of the SIT  
19                  agreement is the third time it was violated  
20                  by te city, and they are going to end up  
21                  paying for people that didn't work, so the  
22                  vindictiveness and retaliation starts and it  
23                  is the clerical who has to suffer. They are  
24                  ones who are getting manured on. The SIT  
25                  clerk agreement spells out what positions

1 are SIT clerks, and they are starting to get  
2 moved around and it isn't fair to them.

3 Again, the FOP did not violate the  
4 contract. If the city followed the contract  
5 for the last nine years, we wouldn't have  
6 this mess that we have now. Nine years  
7 there has been labor unrest in this city and  
8 it's absolutely uncalled for.

9 And, Mr. Loscombe, stay the course.  
10 Experts say you should have filed your  
11 lawsuit in county court. They can say what  
12 they want, but you can see where we are,  
13 appeal after appeal after appeal, nine years  
14 now, county courts. Federal Court will  
15 never be that long, so stay the course.  
16 Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
18 anyone else that wishes to address  
19 council?

20 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.  
21 MOTIONS.

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

24 MR. MCGOFF: Please. First, I know  
25 Mrs. Krake said we haven't received anything

1 back from Mr. Dougher on the fireworks, the  
2 only thing, and I mentioned it before, that  
3 the bids that went out on these fireworks  
4 for -- there were two bids, one for June 26  
5 and one for September 5, so I'm assuming  
6 that those are the fireworks.

7 MS. EVANS: Those are the dates,  
8 yeah, according to what I have read as well.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Why on the 26th, I'm  
10 not quite sure, it's a week prior to the  
11 Fourth of July weekend, but that seems to be  
12 when the bids were put out, maybe they were  
13 the only available dates that they had for  
14 it, but apparently we are having fireworks  
15 on the 26th of June and September 5.

16 I don't know, I'm sorry I was late  
17 last week, I don't know if anybody had  
18 mentioned the public meetings that are being  
19 held on the Monroe County Local Share  
20 Accounts?

21 MS. EVANS: I don't believe so.

22 MR. MCGOFF: And I believe 5-B is  
23 asking for a grant through that. If I'm  
24 reading it correctly, I think the two are at  
25 least somehow related, but we did receive

1 something from the Department of Community  
2 and Economic Development saying that there  
3 be a meeting to provide information on the  
4 Monroe Local County Share Account Funding  
5 that's available to eligible applicants in  
6 Lackawanna County, and this meeting -- there  
7 are two meetings actually, one is at East  
8 Stroudsburg University, which I don't assume  
9 anybody would go to, but on June 28th at  
10 1:00 at the University of Scranton there is  
11 a meeting and at which time the information  
12 will be provided. That is, again, if I'm  
13 not mistaken, that's money that is to be  
14 shared among the counties from the gambling  
15 revenues in the state, so if anybody is  
16 interested that's 1:00 on -- June 28, 1:00  
17 p.m., at the University of Scranton, Brennan  
18 Hall.

19 And I know Mr. Rogan has said that  
20 he was -- I believe you said you were going  
21 to ask to table that --

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MR. MCGOFF: -- legislation, and I  
24 may be preempting, but I don't know  
25 necessarily if it's a good idea to table,

1 but I think maybe it's a good idea to at  
2 least hold whatever would be a final vote on  
3 that particular piece of legislation until  
4 maybe after this meeting is held when maybe  
5 some people can get information about it and  
6 determine whether perhaps this grant that's  
7 being applied for is, you know, within --  
8 you know, something that we do want and  
9 would be viable for the city.

10 MS. EVANS: And I think in addition  
11 to that, though, we would also like to have  
12 Miss Aebli and Mr. Joyce come in for a  
13 caucus and describe it --

14 MR. MCGOFF: I wasn't saying that --

15 MS. EVANS: -- that project.

16 MR. MCGOFF: -- I was trying to --

17 MS. EVANS: No, I understand.

18 MR. MCGOFF: The way it works out if  
19 it were to go through the three votes the  
20 final vote would be on the 29th, which would  
21 only be one day after this meeting, so just  
22 the timing of things.

23 MS. EVANS: Yeah, but in the mean  
24 time I think our intention, I agree with  
25 what you are saying, our intention is to



1 table so that we can also obtain that public  
2 caucus in order to pose questions of our own  
3 regarding the project and the funding source  
4 itself.

5 MR. MCGOFF: The other two things  
6 that just wanted to maybe touch and ask  
7 questions, one was the SAPA Plan  
8 legislation, I know we had talked about that  
9 and we received a letter from Mr. King about  
10 putting it on the agenda, but I think maybe  
11 it's something that perhaps before August  
12 that we at least look into it and --

13 MS. EVANS: Yes, I know we had --

14 MR. MCGOFF: -- make some decision  
15 on it.

16 MS. EVANS: -- we had discussed this,  
17 I had not placed that legislation on the  
18 agenda because at this point in time were  
19 council to actually vote on the city's  
20 portion and the city's involvement in the  
21 SAPA Plan, I could not, you know, speaking  
22 only for myself, I could not approve of such  
23 participation. The city pays by far the  
24 largest financial portion of all of the  
25 communities involved in this plan, yet, it

1 appears that most of the actions or remedies  
2 that are provided by this plan are for the  
3 benefit of outlying areas such as North  
4 Abington, South Abington, Clarks Summit,  
5 Clarks Green, etcetera. And, as I said, at  
6 the same time, while these localities are  
7 paying a very small portion of the costs  
8 involved, which is proportionate to their  
9 population, the City of Scranton would have  
10 to pay the greatest amount.

11 Now, in the past I know that the  
12 state has provided the funding for these  
13 types of activities and organizations in an  
14 effort to encourage regionalization and  
15 coordinated efforts by various communities  
16 and in this case, for example, in terms of  
17 zoning, planning, and etcetera, but the  
18 state government has also sharply cut the  
19 budget for these types of activities, that  
20 was done last year, and since the current  
21 budget faces over a one billion dollar  
22 deficit, I do not foresee that funding is  
23 going to be returned to this particular  
24 program.

25 Nevertheless, I felt that because

1 the program itself has merits rather than  
2 voting down Scranton's participation,  
3 Scranton would be wiser to wait and see what  
4 the verdict on the state budget will be. In  
5 other words, specifically, what the funding  
6 by the state would be for this particular  
7 program and if again it remains the same or  
8 it further decreased then Scranton I feel  
9 really can't afford participation in this  
10 and I know I would be voting against it.

11 So, basically, the bottom line here  
12 is it was kept off the agenda in an effort  
13 to provide time for council to learn the  
14 decisions of the state before casting a  
15 vote, but if our city planner is, you know,  
16 this concerned and this anxious to move this  
17 along then we can certainly discuss as a  
18 council placement on the agenda, but I don't  
19 feel that it's going to be to the benefit of  
20 the program very likely.

21 MR. MCGOFF: And again, I wasn't  
22 asking, you know, to ask -- I just think  
23 it's something that we should at least start  
24 to discuss and if need be, you know, table  
25 it at some point in time and, you know,

1           revisit it again, but I think we need to  
2           start addressing it since it has been  
3           awhile.

4                     MS. EVANS: Well, that's fine.

5                     MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

6                     MS. EVANS: We can put it on--

7                     MR. MCGOFF: And, like I said, I  
8           wholeheartedly agree with you.

9                     MS. EVANS: We can put it on next  
10          week's agenda if council members are in  
11          agreement.

12                    MR. MCGOFF: And perhaps ask if  
13          Mr. King and any other people from SAPA --

14                    MS. EVANS: Well, actually, we are  
15          going to be tied up for the next few weeks  
16          in predetermined caucus sessions, so I don't  
17          see that, you know, we are going to have  
18          availability for them until sometime later  
19          in July.

20                    MR. MCGOFF: Very good. Also, I  
21          know we discussed in prior weeks the Comcast  
22          legislation. That, too, I think we should  
23          perhaps, you know, at least try and address  
24          prior to our recessing for August.

25                    MS. EVANS: And I agree. We have

1           been actually actively working on that. In  
2           fact, just today Attorney Hughes and myself  
3           and Attorney Cohen had a very lengthy  
4           conference call, you know, many issues were  
5           posed about the contract, more information  
6           will be forthcoming from Attorney Cohen, and  
7           I know that he intended to return to Comcast  
8           with some of our concerns and then he will  
9           be getting back to Attorney Hughes.

10                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. And last  
11           thing, I know I'm told Mr. Rogan mentioned  
12           last week the letter that OECD received from  
13           HUD concerning the program and it was  
14           brought up again tonight about some of their  
15           programs, but I think it should be mentioned  
16           that HUD did send us, you know, in their  
17           yearly review, did commend both Scranton  
18           OECD, the quote, "We congratulate the City  
19           of Scranton on it's many accomplishments  
20           during this program year, and based on those  
21           review we have a concluded that Scranton has  
22           the capacity to carry out it's programs and  
23           has met it's reporting requirements."

24                   And so I think that's important that  
25           we understand that OECD does a great deal of

1 work in promoting the many programs in the  
2 city and it's nice to see that, you know,  
3 HUD recognizes the work they have done, and  
4 that's all I have. Thank you.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes. A few weeks ago a  
8 resident came in who was victim of a credit  
9 card fraud, and he mentioned that he had to  
10 go to get a police report and he was charged  
11 \$15 for it, and we talked about it then and  
12 we had conversations about it going forward,  
13 and I think it's something we need to look  
14 into amending, and Chief Elliott actually  
15 sent me an e-mail last week mentioning that  
16 attorneys have come in to get pictures a lot  
17 of time they are attached and they will  
18 receive the pictures on a disc for free with  
19 no charge. Meanwhile, a victim of a crime  
20 has to pay for the report, and I think it's  
21 completely wrong. I think we need to amend  
22 this, and I will be meeting with Chief  
23 Elliott this Friday to discuss it and I will  
24 report back to my colleagues as well as  
25 Attorney Hughes to hopefully amend this

1 ordinance.

2 And finally, I have citizens'  
3 request for the week. The shopping center  
4 on Luzerne Street in West Scranton, there is  
5 a dumpster on the side of the building that  
6 residents report isn't cleaned in a timely  
7 manner and they say that in the summer  
8 months they can't even open the windows in  
9 their home because the smell from the  
10 dumpster is carrying into their yards and  
11 it's pretty disgusting. Could we please  
12 send a letter to Licensing and Inspection so  
13 an officer may be made aware of that  
14 situation.

15 And finally, I received a request  
16 from a business that's located on Wyoming  
17 Avenue, and in October they say the Mulberry  
18 Bush won a contract to put bushes in front  
19 of some of the downtown businesses, and I  
20 remember receiving that letter in our mail,  
21 and the owner states that the grate where  
22 the shrubs are going to be planted is  
23 missing for nearly two years and that people  
24 are falling and tripping on it and they are  
25 wondering when the bushes will be delivered,

1 so could we please send a letter to the  
2 proper department and ask that -- I have  
3 more details here, I just didn't want to  
4 read them all on the air, and that is all.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.  
6 Mr. Loscombe, any comments or motions at  
7 this time?

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you,  
9 Mrs. Evans. Ladies and gentlemen, tonight I  
10 present you a tail of two cities. Two city  
11 newspapers, that is. In one hand I hold a  
12 copy of the Scranton Times, and in the other  
13 I present a copy of the Wilkes-Barre Times  
14 Leader, which currently only prints a Sunday  
15 edition for the Scranton readership, the  
16 Scranton Times is our one and only daily  
17 newspaper. The problem is the Scranton  
18 Times only prints sound bites that detract  
19 from the full scope of the story and allows  
20 the bloggers who read the paper over the  
21 Internet to form opinions and provide  
22 comments, thereby acting as dime store  
23 lawyers without having the facts on hand.

24 Now, don't get my wrong, I  
25 appreciate the bloggers and their comments,



1 both critical and favorable, however, in  
2 order to deliver informed comments the  
3 readers should have the full story and not  
4 just the sound bites that diminish the  
5 facts.

6 This brings us to the Times Leader.  
7 The same article regarding the last council  
8 meeting and my explanations for the legal  
9 complaints are in print almost verbatim  
10 allowing anyone wanting to comment a more  
11 concise and factual account.

12 I realize that I have been the  
13 subject of many articles by the Scranton  
14 Times, perhaps this helps them to sell more  
15 newspapers. I would hope not. I have  
16 always promised to be open and transparent  
17 are you and I assure you that will not  
18 change. Josh Brazinski, the Scranton Times  
19 City Hall writer, has had my cell phone  
20 number and has called me numerous times  
21 requesting my feedback on many issues, and I  
22 have always responded honestly and  
23 truthfully as I did with his predecessor,  
24 Roger DuPugh.

25 This past week I have been the

1 subject of several articles, and I know that  
2 I have made it the top of their hit list, I  
3 missed a letter there, when Joe Cole  
4 dedicates a cartoon to me. However, it was  
5 a cartoon that I considered degrading to my  
6 brother firefighters and all of the  
7 hardworking men and woman who have earned  
8 their pensions.

9 This week, the Times also decided to  
10 do a little investigative work and contacted  
11 the Director of the Public Employee  
12 Retirement System and a Philadelphia  
13 municipal law attorney in what I can only  
14 surmise to be an attempt to sway public  
15 opinion or to provide me with unsolicited  
16 legal advice. No thank you. I have an  
17 attorney and a damn good one at that.

18 On the advice of my attorney, I will  
19 no longer be responding to the Scranton  
20 Times queries, so if you, the public, want  
21 the full, unabashed story, watch these  
22 council meetings or visit me in person  
23 before or after any of these meetings and I  
24 will be happy to provide you with any  
25 information or answers that I can within the

1           legal boundaries. I realize as a public  
2           official that I'm open to criticism and I  
3           can appreciate that, however, let's level  
4           the playing field.

5                       I do have a comment though. I do  
6           believe that the Scranton Times has their  
7           pens so far up the administration's backside  
8           that they don't realize that they are just  
9           as responsible for the resultant mess that  
10          we find ourselves in. Picture that in  
11          cartoon form, Mr. Cole. That's all I have.

12                      MS. EVANS: And just in time,  
13          Mr. Joyce. Any comments or motions?

14                      MR. JOYCE: Yes. Sorry about that.  
15          Council has received the Single Tax Office  
16          city funds distributed comparisons from 2009  
17          to 2010, and I just wanted to report some  
18          numbers to everyone so that everyone can be  
19          informed how the city is doing collecting  
20          taxes. Now, might I add the year-to-date  
21          comparisons are from -- the 2009 figures are  
22          as of May 7th of 2009 and the 2010 figures  
23          are from May 31st of 2009, so we are not  
24          exact in comparing apples to apples,  
25          however, it is very close.

1                   Real estate tax 2009, as of 5-7 we  
2                   collected \$10 million; as of 5-31-2010 we  
3                   collected \$10.4 million for a \$400,000  
4                   increase.

5                   Earned income tax as of 2009 we  
6                   collected \$7 million as of 5-7. As of  
7                   5-31-2010 we collected \$11.2 million for a  
8                   \$4.2 million increase.

9                   LST/EMS taxes of a 5-7-09 \$450,000;  
10                  5-31-2010 \$820,000 for a \$370,000 increase.

11                  Business privilege and mercantile  
12                  tax \$800,000 for 2009 compared to \$1.6  
13                  million as of 5-31-2010. So overall -- and  
14                  that's a \$800,000 increase.

15                  So overall we are bringing in more  
16                  revenue through the tax office in 2010 than  
17                  we are in 2009.

18                  And I have a few citizens' requests:  
19                  I know that a resident mentioned 339  
20                  Railroad Avenue and the property having  
21                  overgrown grass, if you could please send a  
22                  letter to Mr. Seitzinger and to inform him  
23                  of this and ask him to please contact the  
24                  property owner.

25                  Also, I have been informed by a city

1 resident, and it's ironic that we actually  
2 were discussing the Lackawanna River -- the  
3 Heritage Authority before because an  
4 uprooted tree has actually fallen onto the  
5 trail as has been reported by residents.  
6 So, Mrs. Krake, if you could please send a  
7 letter to the Authority informing them of  
8 this and asking them to have the tree  
9 removed so the walkers could easily access  
10 the trail that's blocking the path. It's  
11 blocking the walking path from one side to  
12 the other and some regulars who walk there  
13 are a little bit of upset.

14 Also, a letter to Mr. Seitzinger if  
15 we could also add the old Scranton school  
16 location that another resident has brought  
17 up as far as the overgrown grass.

18 Also, I have been in contact with a  
19 Minooka resident who has informed me that  
20 the upper part of Birney Avenue in Minooka  
21 cars are traveling relatively fast at  
22 dangerous speeds and, in fact, this person  
23 had their car sideswiped and it was a hit  
24 and run type of deal, so if you could please  
25 send a letter to Mr. Elliott, Chief Elliott,

1 and if inform him of this, and ask if he  
2 could possibly send a patrol car to monitor  
3 that.

4 Also, I have been informed by  
5 another resident that the same situation  
6 exists on Emmett Street over in West  
7 Scranton near the United Neighborhood  
8 Center. Another resident has complained  
9 that there is -- informed me, rather, that  
10 cars are traveling awfully fast and fears  
11 that it's dangerous for the children at that  
12 location as well.

13 In addition, a North Scranton  
14 resident has informed me that the 3100 block  
15 of Rockwell Avenue between Greenbush and  
16 Reese Street has many large potholes making  
17 very difficult travel conditions. If we  
18 could please send a letter to Mr. Brazil  
19 asking him to investigate the situation.

20 And I just have a couple more: A  
21 resident of South Scranton living on Fig  
22 Street has contacted me regarding several  
23 rental properties that he feels are not  
24 being kept up to code. The addresses for  
25 these properties are as follows: 620 Fig,

1           621, 622, 624 and 626 Fig. If we could send  
2           a letter to Mr. Seitzinger informing him of  
3           this and perhaps we could also copy Chief  
4           Elliott and the blight control officer and  
5           inform them of these locations.

6                     I have also been informed that by a  
7           North Scranton resident that on the 200  
8           block of Reese Street recently during  
9           garbage collection -- or refuse collections  
10          would be a more formal term, some of the  
11          collectors when bringing or putting one of  
12          the bags in the truck actually let the bag  
13          bust and they did not clean up the refuse  
14          causing it to blow all over some of the  
15          resident's lawns. If we can send a letter  
16          to Mr. Brazil and inform of this and ask him  
17          to handle this situation accordingly.

18                    Also, a resident of Pen-bryn Drive  
19          has informed me that a stop sign at the  
20          corner of Pen-Bryn Drive and Leslie Drive  
21          has been defaced and spray painted with  
22          graffiti, if we could send a letter to Mr  
23          Brazil -- actually, just send one letter,  
24          but inform him of all of these situations.

25                    And while I'm speaking of stop

1 signs, I would like to thank Mr. Brazil and,  
2 well, the traffic maintenance whoever it is  
3 being outsourced now for their work in  
4 fixing the stop sign on Dewey and Jackson  
5 Street, I'm happy to report that that is now  
6 fixed.

7 Also, a resident of Academy Street  
8 in West Scranton has informed me that there  
9 are overgrown hedges and weeds on the  
10 property to the rear of 1435 Academy Street  
11 which are attracting various rodents, snakes  
12 and skunks. Also, the resident fears that  
13 the situation is creating a safety issue  
14 since the sign at the top of 15th Street is  
15 completely covered, that's a one-way sign  
16 and it's causing drivers to travel the wrong  
17 way on the street. If we could please add  
18 this to the letter to Mr. Seitzinger.

19 And finally, a South Scranton  
20 resident contacted me earlier in the week  
21 regarding the Suds and Duds Laundry Mat on  
22 the 600 block of Cedar Avenue. The resident  
23 informed me that the laundry mat is not  
24 being kept up to par as lint traps are  
25 rarely cleaned, there is gum stuck in some



1 of the washers and dryers, and overall that  
2 the establishment is not being kept up to  
3 code, so if we could please inform  
4 Mr. Seitzinger and add this to the letter  
5 and ask him to please check into this  
6 situation, and that is all.

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

8 Good evening. On Tuesday, June 22,  
9 the Pennsylvania Economy League will present  
10 it's revised Recovery Plan for the City of  
11 Scranton during a public caucus in Scranton  
12 City Council chambers at 5:30 p.m. Council  
13 encourages your attendance at this important  
14 meeting. If you are unable to attend, we  
15 urge you to watch the broadcast in order  
16 that you, the taxpayers, will be informed  
17 about PEL's Recovery Plan and how it will  
18 impact you.

19 Also, council will be anxious to  
20 accept your comments, concerns, and  
21 suggestions by e-mail or by contacting  
22 Council's Office by phone prior to placement  
23 of the revised Recovery Plan on it's agenda  
24 at a future date.

25 At last week's meeting I addressed

1 the problem of increased crime and the need  
2 for increased police protection throughout  
3 Scranton. I also noted that Miss Aebli,  
4 OECD director, stated that 300,000 was  
5 available for community development  
6 officers. According to Paul Kelly,  
7 solicitor of the Civil Service Commission,  
8 the hiring list of police officers will  
9 expire in July 2010 and has possibly two  
10 names remaining on it.

11 In order to administer a police test  
12 and to create a new list, the Civil Service  
13 Commission must receive the direction of the  
14 mayor. If the mayor acts promptly, the  
15 police test may be administered no sooner  
16 than September 2010 following meetings of  
17 the Civil Service Commission, two weeks of  
18 advertisements, and two weeks of a sign-up  
19 period. Thereafter, candidates who pass the  
20 test must receive Act 120 and additional  
21 police training.

22 This time line means that new  
23 officers would not be placed on our streets  
24 until January 2011. While I do understand  
25 the requirements and agree that the process

1 must be followed, the fact remains that more  
2 officers are needed in Scranton,  
3 particularly now during the summer months  
4 when local intermediate and high schools are  
5 no longer in session. Unfortunately, ten  
6 weeks of free time may well add to the  
7 already documented spike in juvenile crime.

8 Consequently, I would like the  
9 mayor, the police chief, and the police  
10 union to reach an agreement to use the  
11 \$300,000 available through OECD to fund  
12 overtime for police officers at least  
13 throughout the summer months so that we can  
14 provide an increased police presence and  
15 protection throughout our city  
16 neighborhoods.

17 And with my honorable colleagues'  
18 agreement, council wishes to send letters to  
19 Mayor Doherty, Chief Elliott, FOP President  
20 Martin and Miss Aebli to request that the  
21 civil service test for the hiring of new  
22 police officers be administered in September  
23 2010 and that \$300,000 in available OECD  
24 funds be expended for overtime for  
25 assignment of Scranton police for

1 neighborhood patrols throughout the 2010  
2 summer months and any time thereafter during  
3 which funds remain available. Is that  
4 agreeable to my colleagues?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's agreeable.

6 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Next, after  
8 five years of delays the Crisp Avenue Bridge  
9 Replacement Project will finally begin  
10 within a month according to a television  
11 news report broadcast last week. It's  
12 important at this time to give credit where  
13 it is due.

14 In truth, there were unforeseen  
15 obstacles along the way that prevented the  
16 completion of this project in 2008.  
17 Additional requirements were raised by FEMA  
18 and DEP, for example, but there simply is no  
19 acceptable excuse for the languishing of  
20 this problem in West Mountain for five  
21 years.

22 According to written records, the  
23 project was to be completed in October of  
24 2009, yet, the city did not even submit it's  
25 permit application for the replacement of

1 the bridge until November of 2009. The city  
2 dropped the ball and appears to have failed  
3 to act with urgency in this matter. Rather,  
4 it was the immediate action of Mr. Tom Tell,  
5 chief of staff, and State Representative  
6 Kevin Murphy, that made this project happen.

7 In prior years, both Councilman Bill  
8 Courtright and I tried to push the process  
9 along and only received time lines for  
10 completion. In 2010, our new council  
11 continued to pursue this project and  
12 remained in close contact with Mr. Tell who  
13 provided us with more information and  
14 documented facts regarding had project than  
15 had any previous source from whom I have  
16 requested information.

17 Thus, our recognition and gratitude  
18 are given to Mr. Tom Tell, chief of staff  
19 for Kevin Murphy, State Representative Kevin  
20 Murphy, and the good people of the area of  
21 the Crisp Avenue Bridge who never gave up  
22 their fight to fix a major problem and to  
23 demand what is right. If not for their  
24 efforts, the administration likely would  
25 continue to sit on this project and we would

1           be looking at another year wasted.

2                     In addition, I also understand that  
3           on May 24, Greenman Peterson requested a  
4           supplemental agreement form between the city  
5           and the contractor, payment procedures,  
6           submittal procedures and execution and  
7           closeout forms as of last week. Although  
8           the project will be put out to bid on June  
9           24 and bids will be opened on July 21, in  
10          order to prevent any possible further delays  
11          in this project, OECD needs to address any  
12          additional matters immediately. The  
13          legislation for the supplemental agreement  
14          with Greenman Peterson needs to come before  
15          council.

16                     Council continues to await final  
17          legislation for bidding of the professional  
18          services and rental registration issues from  
19          the mayor and his legal staff. In addition,  
20          Mrs. Krake noted to me that information for  
21          the Administrative Code Book requested in  
22          February 2010 from City Solicitor Patterson  
23          was not received until the second week of  
24          June; and, as I mentioned a moment ago, OECD  
25          submitted a permit application in November

1 of 2009 to execute work on a bridge with  
2 documents dating stating the project  
3 completion date was October 2009.

4 On the other hand, the  
5 administration demands immediate cooperation  
6 from council and council's office and now  
7 council is demanding the immediate  
8 cooperation of the administration and the  
9 mayor on this legislation that benefits the  
10 people of the city in an effort to save the  
11 taxpayers money.

12 Also, Mrs. Krake, please call and  
13 send a letter to Mr. Renda, BA, and inquire  
14 if the city receives parking fees from the  
15 CMC for it's employees who park at Nay Aug  
16 Park, and the inquiry doesn't pertain to the  
17 \$48,000 monthly payment for metered parking  
18 during the time period of repairs to the CMC  
19 employee parking garage.

20 And, Mrs. Krake, please send a  
21 letter on behalf of council to Mr. Gene  
22 Barrett, executive director of the Scranton  
23 Sewer Authority, regarding flooding that  
24 occurred on June 13, 2010, on Watson Street  
25 and Smith Place. Homeowners' basements

1           incurred over two feet of storm water  
2           damaging furnaces, hot waters heaters,  
3           washers, dryers, and various other items.  
4           The Scranton Fire Department was called to  
5           pump storm water out of several homes  
6           despite the presence of sump pumps in these  
7           basements.

8                         Further, residents were informed  
9           that their homeowners' insurance will not  
10          cover replacement costs without a special  
11          rider and UGI does not cover replacement  
12          costs during due to rain events under their  
13          protection plans.

14                        As a result, council requests that  
15          sewer pipes on Watson Street, Smith Place,  
16          Railroad Avenue, Albright Avenue near the  
17          bridge and Meridian Avenue are checked and  
18          cleaned and that catch basins in these  
19          blocks are cleared of debris in order to  
20          prevent further damage during future rainy  
21          events.

22                        And finally, I have citizens'  
23          requests for the week: East Mountain and  
24          Mountain Lake Road were trimmed last week  
25          and the residents of East Mountain thank the



1 DPW for this great job.

2 A homeowner reports that the DPW  
3 street sweeper destroyed eight feet of curb  
4 in front of his home, I do have the address  
5 included in the request, but I'm not going  
6 to broadcast it. Council requests that the  
7 DPW repair this curb since the homeowner's  
8 property becomes flooded during rain events  
9 as a result of the curbs destructions.

10 A resident reports that trash was  
11 left in Mahem Court from Mulberry Street to  
12 the next block by University students when  
13 they vacated their apartments. The trash  
14 wasn't bagged and, consequently, the DPW  
15 wouldn't collect it. The resident then  
16 contacted the Office of Licensing,  
17 Inspections and Permits to address the  
18 problem and received no assistance. The  
19 property owners should be contacted to take  
20 care of this problem and to ensure that  
21 their tenants dispose of trash properly.  
22 Please address this problem as soon as  
23 portion since the temperatures have been on  
24 the upswing, and this block -- this  
25 block-long trash rather, attracts stray

1 animals and creates a health issue.

2 412 Mahem Court, this vacant  
3 residence has an unsecured door and  
4 neighbors report vermin entering the home.

5 Downtown residents report the  
6 hazardous conditions of sidewalks in front  
7 of Whiskey Dicks, which remain without  
8 repair. When will the repairs occur? They  
9 also request the repair of potholes on North  
10 Washington Avenue in front of the Scranton  
11 Cultural Center.

12 The gutter lane of East Mountain  
13 Road where catch basins are located is  
14 littered with debris. Also, catch basins on  
15 Yesu Lane located a few feet off of East  
16 Mountain Road is almost totally blocked by  
17 debris.

18 Next, during Sunday's rainy events  
19 water was shooting over the top of catch  
20 basins on Cherry Street, River Street,  
21 Moosic street, and Spruce Street since most  
22 were covered by debris. For example, a  
23 resident told me the catch basin at the  
24 bottom of the Moosic Street by the Cheese  
25 Stake restaurant was in deplorable

1 condition. When time permits, please clear  
2 the debris from catch basins on these  
3 street.

4 City residents request the clearing  
5 of litter, overgrown weeds, etcetera, on  
6 Olive Street between Capouse Avenue and  
7 Seventh Avenue Providence Road. We need to  
8 make our school children safe and stop the  
9 blight from increasing in that area, and so  
10 I'm hoping that action will be taken prior  
11 to the opening of the new school year in  
12 August.

13 533 Quincy Avenue, remove the bottom  
14 portion of a traffic sign that is posing a  
15 safety hazard to pedestrians.

16 Fifth Avenue and Broadway, a catch  
17 basin is clogged with debris, please clear,  
18 and that's it.

19 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
20 RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND  
21 SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE  
22 CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF 317 LINDEN,  
23 LLC, TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF  
24 COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR A LOCAL  
25 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE

1 HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT, FOR A REAL  
2 ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LOCATED AT  
3 324/326 PENN AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA, AND  
4 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
5 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
6 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT  
7 GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH  
8 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT  
9 AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF  
10 \$472,317.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
11 PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

12 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make a  
13 motion to table Item 5-B.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll second the  
15 motion.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question?

17 MR. MCGOFF: As I said before, I'm  
18 not in favor of tabling things because it's  
19 always uncertain as to when they are going  
20 to return. By tabling it, do you have an  
21 idea of when we would put this back on the  
22 agenda?

23 MR. ROGAN: After the caucus.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes. The week following  
25 the caucus.

1 MR. MCGOFF: When do we foresee that  
2 taking place?

3 MS. EVANS: Well, we have not yet  
4 invited the participants to attend since we  
5 are only tabling it this evening, so that's  
6 really going to be requiring, you know,  
7 their dates and we have PEL in the mean  
8 time.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Right, and that's why I  
10 guess I was asking. You said before we were  
11 kind of full at caucus time.

12 MS. EVANS: I was assuming that we  
13 would have Mr. Joyce and Ms. Aebli and that  
14 we would have one to possibly two caucuses  
15 with PEL if they require more than an hour's  
16 time for their presentation.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Can we -- okay. I  
18 guess, again, I'd like to see this -- I'd  
19 like to see this, you know, back to the  
20 agenda in time that we would vote on it  
21 prior to leaving in August. That's why it  
22 becomes a little bit time sensitive if we  
23 table it and it doesn't get back on the  
24 agenda.

25 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on

1 the question?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: I mean, I would agree  
3 with you, Mr. McGoff, but there is lot of  
4 information that I think we need on this  
5 yet. That meeting is like putting the cart  
6 before the horse. The 28th is when they are  
7 going to discuss this, yet, this hearing  
8 along incorporates that information already.  
9 I'd like to know how to get more information  
10 on the awarding and handling of these  
11 grants. How they are awarded, who  
12 qualifies, along with the scope of this  
13 project. I mean, it's a hole that's been  
14 sitting there all summer, I don't think  
15 there is a big emergency unless they, you  
16 know, send an emergency certificate with it,  
17 but I believe we will have time before the  
18 summer recess. If they are that urgent,  
19 they can get together with us and answer our  
20 questions. That's all. It's a lot of money  
21 to put out.

22 MR. ROGAN: I was just going to say,  
23 we are dealing with almost half a million  
24 dollars here. I think it's taking our time  
25 and making sure things are done right, and

1 if we need to we have to meet in August then  
2 we can meet in August, which I don't have a  
3 problem with it.

4 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not disagreeing  
5 with the idea of tabling it, I would just  
6 like to indicate that, you know, there is  
7 some assurance it is going to be on the  
8 agenda in a timely manner.

9 MS. EVANS: I believe it will return  
10 to the agenda when everyone is satisfied  
11 that questions have been answered and  
12 information has been provided. All those in  
13 favor signify by saying aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

18 MR. MCGOFF: No.

19 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and so  
20 moved. Item 5-B is hereby tabled.

21 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. APPOINTMENT OF  
22 ANTHONY MARINUCCI, 1208 BLAIR AVENUE,  
23 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18503, AS A MEMBER  
24 OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON RECREATION  
25 AUTHORITY FOR A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM. MR.

1 MARINUCCI'S CURRENT TERM EXPIRES ON JUNE  
2 17, 2010 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON  
3 JUNE 17, 2015.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

9 MS. EVANS: On the question?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, on the question.  
11 I don't know Mr. Marinucci personally, but I  
12 did meet him when I attended the February  
13 meeting of the Recreation Authority with  
14 Councilman Joyce. We are treated by all  
15 members of the Recreation Authority with  
16 respect, but I must base my decision for  
17 reappointment on the Recreation Authority  
18 for Mr. Marinucci on my records of  
19 Mr. Marinucci's actions during his prior and  
20 present service to this authority.

21 Several items come to mind: During  
22 his term over \$700,000 in no bid contracts  
23 were doled out for landscaping at Nay Aug  
24 Park.

25 The charge of swimming at Nay Aug



1 Park was instituted and continued under his  
2 term.

3 He has voted along with the other  
4 Recreation Authority members in opposition  
5 to moving the meetings to Scranton City Hall  
6 chambers in order for the meetings to be  
7 televised on a monthly basis for those who  
8 are unable to attend their meetings.

9 And perhaps the deciding factor for  
10 me is a lease provided Lackawanna College  
11 with the exclusive use of Nay Aug Zoo and  
12 parking area at the rate of a \$1 a year for  
13 50 years with multiple renewals. This lease  
14 could have been structured properly to  
15 generate sufficient revenue to maintain the  
16 swimming pool at Nay Aug Park and to provide  
17 free swimming for everyone. That's  
18 something that should have been looked into.

19 I believe it is time for the mayor  
20 to submit the name of a candidate for this  
21 position that is a bit more progressive and  
22 will serve the best interest of all of the  
23 city residents, and it is for this reason  
24 that I will be voting "no."

25 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on

1 the question?

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I firmly believe  
3 that we need new people. We need new blood  
4 in all of our authorities. Just look at the  
5 last council election, the people want  
6 changes in this city and we can't keep  
7 reappointing the same people over and over  
8 who have the same ideas, and we have seen  
9 the results. People aren't happy. The  
10 "Kids Swim Free" program is one that the  
11 Taxpayers' Association is pushing for and  
12 children should be able to swim at our pools  
13 for free and the tax dollars supporting it,  
14 and I will also be voting "no."

15 MS. EVANS: For all of the reasons  
16 that have been previously stated by my  
17 colleagues, I, too, will be voting "no."

18 Of all of the current council, I  
19 have been seated for the longest time  
20 period, seven years, and during those years  
21 it's always been my belief and my fight that  
22 free swimming would be available to all  
23 children at Nay Aug Park. We, in previous  
24 councils, were successful in obtaining free  
25 swimming at neighborhood pools, but because

1 the Recreation Authority appears to have  
2 control over the Nay Aug Park pool, council  
3 has no ability to remove those swimming  
4 fees.

5 In addition, as was also indicated,  
6 I felt very strongly that the municipal  
7 authorities should meet in city council  
8 chambers and their meetings should be open  
9 to the public and develop advertised.

10 Now, of course, all meetings are  
11 open to the public, but they're held in such  
12 limited facilities many of them are never  
13 broadcast on television. Meanwhile,  
14 significant decisions are made by these  
15 authorities as was noted a moment ago by my  
16 council colleagues that the Nay Aug Park zoo  
17 apparently was leased to Lackawanna College,  
18 and I'm not quite sure that the Recreation  
19 Authority has the ability to do that. I  
20 believe they very well could be in violation  
21 of the Home Rule Charter since it is city  
22 council who has the sole power to convey  
23 property within the City of Scranton.

24 So there are a number of issues that  
25 have been ongoing and growing with the

1 Recreation Authority over the last seven  
2 years and as a result I, too, will be voting  
3 "no."

4 All those in favor signify by saying  
5 aye.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MS. EVANS: Opposed.

8 MR. ROGAN: No.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

10 MR. JOYCE: No.

11 MS. EVANS: No. The nos have it and  
12 the legislation dies.

13 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO  
14 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. NO  
15 BUSINESS AT HAD TIME.

16 MS. EVANS: I'll entertain a motion  
17 to adjourn.

18 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

19 MS. EVANS: Meeting adjourned.  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

---

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER