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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT
(Not present)

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE
(Not present)

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. ROGAN: 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 MR. ROGAN: I received a phone call
13 from Mrs. Evans earlier, she had a death in
14 the family and she is not going to be here
15 today, and Mr. Joyce is feeling very ill.
16 That's why he is not here.

17 Dispense with the reading of the
18 minutes.

19 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.

20 MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD
21 MEETING HELD ON MAY 26, 2010.

22 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
23 If not, received and filed. Clerk's notes,
24 please.

25 MS. KRAKE: First we have some no

1 responses. We did not receive an answer
2 from an our letter that we sent to Mayor
3 Doherty, Ms. Aebli and Mr. Rinaldi
4 concerning the 500 block of Lackawanna
5 Avenue.

6 MR. ROGAN: Could we send a second
7 request, please? Thank you.

8 MS. KRAKE: We did not receive a
9 response on our second request that was sent
10 to Stu Renda regarding the list of open
11 items needed from the business
12 administration for Robert & Rossi in order
13 to complete the city audit for 2009.

14 MR. ROGAN: I guess we could send
15 that one more time and if not we will have
16 to do a Right-to-Know.

17 MS. KRAKE: We also had a second
18 request to Director Brazil concerning the
19 sidewalks along the bridges citywide.

20 MR. ROGAN: Mr. McGoff, have you had
21 any discussions with Mr. Brazil?

22 MR. MCGOFF: I have not.

23 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

24 MS. KRAKE: And also from Mr. Brazil
25 we did not receive an answer concerning

1 brush and grass on East Mountain Road, a "Do
2 Not Walk" sign on Lackawanna
3 Avenue by Buona Pizza, the 900 block of
4 Hawthorne Street and the 1800 block of
5 Dorothy.

6 MR. ROGAN: If we could send those
7 again and keep a copy in the file.

8 MS. KRAKE: We have eight letters
9 that were sent to Director Seitzinger that
10 we have not received a response to.

11 MR. ROGAN: Send those again.

12 MS. KRAKE: And we have several
13 letters that we did receive a response from
14 Director Brazil. His office called our
15 office today and the first one is concerning
16 our request to find out how the board super
17 duty truck was paid for if it was, indeed,
18 paid for from the fees we received from the
19 Keystone Landfill or the revenue, I should
20 say, and he said -- their office said, "This
21 was not paid for with those monies, instead,
22 it was paid for through matching grants that
23 were actually given to the flood control
24 department," and said, "This legislation was
25 passed possibly in 2008, but definitely

1 prior to 2010."

2 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

3 MS. KRAKE: The next response is
4 concerning our letter of June 15 to clear
5 the debris from the catch basins on East
6 Mountain Road, Yesu Lane, Cherry Street,
7 River and Moosic Street and also Fifth
8 Avenue and Broadway. The director says
9 these were all completed.

10 MR. ROGAN: Okay. Good.

11 MS. KRAKE: The next was a second
12 request concerning an additional stop sign
13 at Price and North Cameron and the director
14 tells us the engineer is currently reviewing
15 them at this time.

16 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

17 MS. KRAKE: We had sent a letter to
18 Director Brazil concerning the camera shots
19 and the report that was supposed to come
20 from them that was taken in the Keyser
21 Valley area, but we did receive word from
22 Representative Murphy's office that they did
23 receive this report.

24 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

25 MS. KRAKE: And we also received

1 word from our city engineer, Mr. Swanson,
2 that he is checking on the traffic flow on
3 Fifth Avenue and the 500 block of West
4 Mountain to determine if a stop sign is
5 needed there, also.

6 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

7 MS. KRAKE: We have a response from
8 OECED concerning police patrols. Director
9 Aebli tells us OECED is the only funding
10 source for the neighborhood police.
11 Apparently, they interpreted our letter as
12 we are requesting that for civil testing and
13 which, of course, we intended that for the
14 chief, but she does tell us that assigning
15 more Scranton police to foot patrols without
16 throughout the 2010 summer months does not
17 fall under OECED. Please keep in mind that
18 if more police officers are assigned and
19 federal funding is used for salaries they
20 are required to walk or bike only in low to
21 moderate income areas. These low to
22 moderate income areas are determined by the
23 2000 census.

24 MR. ROGAN: And that is really what
25 we are looking for is beat police officers

1 in our low to moderate income areas, so
2 hopefully we can see some action on that.

3 MS. KRAKE: Yes. And we had a
4 couple of responses from Director Aebli,
5 once again. We had requests from citizens
6 that came to the podium last week. They
7 were concerned about Pizano Partnership.
8 She tells us payment number 28 was from
9 2008. Payment number one in 2009 should
10 read 29, therefore, there is not a missed
11 payment.

12 Concerning Salon Benget, the first
13 payment began with payment 31 and then there
14 were two double payments in the amount of
15 530 that were not numbered as such
16 individually so, therefore, that one was not
17 missed either. And I believe the first one
18 came to the podium is aware, but just so the
19 public is aware, the Martini Bar Grill block
20 grant did not pass last year. That was
21 defeated.

22 And one more we had from another
23 resident that came to the podium, the
24 property at 1500 Court Street that is
25 assessed to Constance Doherty is a KOZ and

1 to the best of our investigation has been
2 since at least 2006. The treasurer is going
3 to give us a list of properties that are
4 designated KOZ and then we should be able to
5 get more information on that.

6 MR. ROGAN: Good. We'll be looking
7 forward to that.

8 MS. KRAKE: That's all we have.

9 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Do any
10 council members have any announcements?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just this was in my
12 mailbox, I don't know, do you want to read
13 it?

14 MR. MCGOFF: Go ahead.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Press release:
16 National Recording artist, Jimmy Sturr, Nay
17 Aug Park, on Saturday, followed by
18 fireworks. The City of Scranton is proud to
19 present national recording artist Jimmy
20 Sturr and his polka band in Nay Aug Park on
21 Saturday, June 26, 2010. This free concert
22 will begin at 7:30 p.m. just past the pool
23 complex near the Schimmelfenning Pavilion,
24 and it will be followed by the City of
25 Scranton's independent state fireworks at

1 approximately 9:30 p.m. This event is free
2 and open to the public. Please bring your
3 blanket or chair and enjoy the festivities.
4 For more information please call 348-4186 or
5 903-9084. Sandra Opchinski, recreational
6 specialist.

7 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.
8 I received a letter from ECTV. They are
9 adding another broadcast of city council,
10 it's going to be an overnight broadcast on
11 Friday at 2 a.m., so the schedule for city
12 council will be as follows: Thursday at
13 6:30 live, Wednesday at 10 a.m., Thursday at
14 2:30 p.m., Friday at 2 a.m., Saturday, the
15 government in review, starting a noon and
16 Sunday, the government in review, starting
17 at eight.

18 I received a memo from a concerned
19 resident asking that council reminds
20 residents that the second half the garbage
21 disposal fee is due buy July 1. Residents
22 have until July 31 to pay without a current
23 any penalties, however, after that date the
24 penalties are very steep.

25 And finally, the Lackawanna County

1 Taxpayers' Association is again looking for
2 donations for the fourth annual "Kids Swim
3 Free" program. They are hoping to sponsor
4 three to five events again this year.
5 Donations can be sent to "Kids Swim Free",
6 1416 South Webster Avenue, Scranton,
7 Pennsylvania, 18505, and checks can be made
8 out to "Kids Swim Free."

9 And that is it. Citizens'
10 participation, our first speaker is Andy
11 Sbaraglia.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
13 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
14 see we have on our 5-B SAPA, drafting our
15 comprehensive plan. When this came up maybe
16 two years ago or three years ago I said why
17 are we -- actually Clarks Summit and
18 Abingtons and the whole area on top of the
19 mountain and excluding all of our valley
20 communities. The only one that really
21 belongs to this thing is Scranton because
22 they are really attached, but we didn't take
23 in Dickson City, we didn't take in Taylor,
24 we didn't take the whole valley community
25 could have been brought in. We have very

1 little in common with the Abingtons. We
2 really do, other than the fact that they
3 needed us for population. Without us
4 probably nobody would listen to them, and
5 yet we denied our roots. Our roots are
6 Taylor, Dickson City, up and down the valley
7 all the way to Old Forge. These are our
8 roots. I tell you what the Abingtons does
9 to us. I watched many people put in for
10 block grants and were denied. Why were they
11 denied? Because they said they made too
12 much money. Why did they make too much
13 money, because the Abingtons were included
14 as their money, so that is what they really
15 do to us. They deny a lot of people within
16 the city block grants because we are
17 combined with the Abingtons as far as money
18 goes and that pushed the income way, way up.

19 And you should know that,
20 Mr. McGoff. You listened to that, that they
21 were denied many times that came before you
22 and we denied them people that wanted up by
23 St. Ann's they wanted money for their
24 ballpark and were denied. Why were they
25 denied? Because they said they made too

1 much money. Did they make too much money?
2 No, but because we are combined with the
3 Abingtons it raises our income up and that
4 was bad. I wish we could change that, the
5 city, as a city, should be where our income
6 is and then when we find out we were all low
7 to moderate income and not just certain
8 areas, but around the housing projects
9 because that's the only way we can actually
10 say how much money.

11 I think the median income in this
12 city is probably around \$26,000, if we are
13 lucky. A lot of people maybe make more
14 money, but then they move up to the
15 Abingtons because they don't want to pay our
16 taxes. They don't want to pay us what we
17 deserve and most of the people up the
18 Abingtons probably have businesses in
19 Scranton, probably where most of the lawyers
20 and doctors and so forth live, not in our
21 area because they want to pay our taxes, and
22 yet -- well, you'll probably approve it. I
23 read part of the plan. It's like 40 or 50
24 pages. I mean, it was back and forth, they
25 are not even single pages, they are back and

1 forth, so you got to keep on back and forth,
2 back and forth, back and forth.

3 I wanted to speak on it because when
4 it came up originally I spoke against it. I
5 still speak against it because of the fact
6 is I want the valley communities to be with
7 us. I have nothing about being an auxiliary
8 to that area up there, but our roots are in
9 the valley, not up in the Abingtons. Thank
10 you.

11 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Terri
12 Soucek.

13 MR. SOUCEK: Terri Soucek. Hi, I
14 live at 729 Saginaw Street in South
15 Scranton, I lived directly opposite the
16 Hilltop apartments, Hilltop Manor. I have
17 been here several times to the council
18 meetings and with regards to the garbage how
19 it was being disposed of and I'd like to
20 know -- I have spoken to Frank Joyce through
21 e-mail and contact several times and he has
22 told me that they are working on the
23 dumpsters, getting dumpsters, but I would
24 like to know what the status is on that
25 because he was asking, I heard, about a time

1 line, some kind of time frame for this.

2 MR. ROGAN: I know we received a
3 response, but I don't think they gave a time
4 line in the response; correct?

5 MS. KRAKE: The last I spoke to
6 Mr. Pelicacci he told me that he wasn't --
7 at first I understood that the dumpster
8 would be coming, but then he said there
9 wasn't enough room in that particular
10 parking lot that if he were to put dumpsters
11 there in that area where -- across from your
12 property, Mrs. Soucek, that it would take up
13 some of the parking spaces, so he told me
14 that he is being vigilant in picking up the
15 trash and that it's twice a week and that
16 the maintenance people are out on the
17 properties, but I also have to say I live
18 close to this area and I have seen it myself
19 since he has said that, that the garbage is
20 still all over.

21 MR. SOUCEK: Yes, it is, and part of
22 the problem, too, is that these people,
23 meaning tenants, don't have trash cans
24 either, and I find it hard to believe that
25 throughout that whole complex that there is

1 not one place to place dumpsters. There is
2 like plots of land here and there. It
3 doesn't take a large area to put one
4 dumpster here, one dumpster there and fence
5 it in. I don't understand why this has gone
6 on for two years since I have moved to
7 Scranton and at least a year and complaining
8 about it, why this continues to be the case.

9 MR. ROGAN: I agree. When I was up
10 at your house I saw is firsthand all of the
11 garbage blowing over and they really do need
12 dumpsters or garbage cans in front of the
13 house.

14 MS. SOUCEK: I mean, they have a
15 complex down on, I don't know the name of
16 it, but they have city housing right in the
17 city, and how do they squeeze dumpsters in
18 there, but yet they can't seize dumpsters on
19 all of the available land that's in and
20 around these buildings. That why I find it
21 hard to believe.

22 MR. ROGAN: I agree. When I was up
23 there, there was more than enough parking
24 spots. It didn't seem like they were
25 pressed for parking.

1 MS. SOUCEK: No.

2 MR. ROGAN: But we will follow-up
3 with them once again and we will do our
4 best.

5 MS. SOUCEK: Also, we were having a
6 problem with the vacant lot between 721 and
7 729 Saginaw Street. We were trying to get
8 the owner to mow it and mow the grass
9 because it hasn't been mowed in about two
10 years. A year ago there were complaints
11 from myself as well as one or two other
12 neighbors about it and there was supposed to
13 be a letter sent out and Mr. Joyce was going
14 to ask was the letter sent out. The man
15 was -- the owner was supposed to fined
16 because this has gone on and on and on. The
17 grass was about maybe two and a half, three
18 feet high already. You have kids climbing
19 over a broken fence. There is a broken
20 fence in the front of it. They climb over
21 from Hilltop Manor, the kids are climbing
22 over that fence and going through that yard
23 and cutting over to McConnell Park that way.
24 Somebody is going to get hurt.

25 And so the owner was there Friday,

1 he did a little 20 foot section in the back.
2 Then he didn't show up the whole weekend,
3 then he was here Monday, yesterday, he did
4 another little 20 foot section and then that
5 was it. I mean, it's just absurd that it's
6 taken -- the last time he did that he
7 abandoned it because his lawn mower broke.
8 I mean, I don't see how you can mow two and
9 a half feet high grass with a regular lawn
10 mower. I mean, it's just absurd that it's
11 taking this long for him to get the grass
12 mode.

13 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Krake, can we
14 please send another letter to the blight
15 officer as well as Mr. Seitzinger regarding
16 this issue? I will take a ride up there
17 this week, too, to look. I know where live
18 and I'll take a ride up to look at it.

19 MS. SOUCEK: Also, I don't
20 understand, another thing I don't understand
21 is the city has been declared a distressed
22 city, am I correct in saying that?

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. SOUCEK: And it's been going on
25 for what, ten years at least? How many

1 years has it been distressed?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Eighteen.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, closer to 18.

4 MS. SOUCEK: Oh, 18, excuse me.

5 Okay, for 18 years I'm wondering why the
6 city hasn't done anything to encourage
7 business growth? Like, what I'm talking
8 about is instead of imposing having the 6
9 percent sales tax on businesses throughout
10 the city, cut it to 3 percent to encourage
11 people to come here and shop here and do
12 more business in this city because I know
13 this has worked for other distressed cities
14 where they zoned the city -- I don't know
15 how they zoned it, but they zoned it and
16 they only charged 3 percent sales tax.

17 People were opening up auto
18 dealerships and everything else, people were
19 coming from far away to buy cars within the
20 cities that I was talking about and I think
21 it would promote growth because right now
22 what's going on is Scranton is charging a
23 3.41 personnel income tax on any resident
24 that works here and it's really a staggering
25 amount, like, when I tell other people, oh,

1 it's 3.41, they go what? They are amazed.
2 Even my accountant is amazed. He couldn't
3 believe it, and that needs to be cut down to
4 at least, like, 1.5 like other cities.

5 MR. ROGAN: I agree with you. The
6 only way to stimulate business in this city
7 is to reduce taxes. Unfortunately, the
8 sales tax is set by the state, but the
9 mercantile and the wage tax that's something
10 that --

11 MS. SOUCEK: But if that's set by
12 the state how can other cities such a New
13 Jersey, let's pick Newark, for instance,
14 they have it where they have 3 percent sales
15 tax in certain areas to promote business
16 growth in a distressed city.

17 MR. ROGAN: They might have a
18 different law than we do in New Jersey.
19 Unfortunately, in Pennsylvania the only
20 break you get I think they had a computer
21 tax holiday and they do that twice a year,
22 but nothing for specific cities,
23 unfortunately.

24 MS. SOUCEK: What is the KOZ zone?
25 When did they do that? What is the idea of

1 having a KOZ zone?

2 MR. ROGAN: Having what?

3 MS. SOUCEK: The KOZ zone in the
4 city.

5 MR. ROGAN: Oh, the KOZ's?

6 MS. SOUCEK: Yes.

7 MR. ROGAN: They are supposed to
8 create jobs and bring people into the city.
9 A lot of times, you know, they will come in
10 and take advantage of the benefits and then
11 they will leave afterwards, but the results
12 have been mixed.

13 MS. SOUCEK: Yeah. Well, couldn't
14 they do a KOZ zone right in the middle of
15 the city, you know, to promote, again, more
16 businesses. It seems to me they are giving,
17 like, home -- some homeowners in certain
18 areas I heard they don't have to pay taxes
19 for ten years, that encourages the growth of
20 town homes and all of that, but where does
21 that save the taxpayers? It doesn't. You
22 know, the other people that pay taxes wound
23 of paying for someone else --

24 MR. ROGAN: I agree.

25 MS. SOUCEK: -- for the next, what,

1 ten years? It's just something to think
2 about. Thank you.

3 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Les
4 Spindler.

5 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
6 Council. Les Spindler, homeowner and
7 taxpayer, and city resident. Councilman
8 Rogan, did I hear right that additional
9 showing of council is going to be Friday at
10 2 a.m.?

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

12 MR. SPINDLER: That's another
13 brilliant move by ECTV and who is going to
14 be up in two in the morning watching it?
15 Why don't they have another prime time show.

16 MR. ROGAN: I agree.

17 MR. SPINDLER: It's ridiculous.
18 That station is just a waste. Moving on, I
19 brought this up many times during heavy rain
20 falls by sidewalks get flooded. Can I
21 approach, Mr. Rogan?

22 MR. ROGAN: Sure.

23 (Mr. Spindler, approaches the dais.)

24 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Those are from a

1 recent thunderstorm and you can actually see
2 in one of the pictures the water hitting off
3 the puddles, you can't even walk out my
4 front door. The water actually goes into
5 the lawn and the lawn is like a swamp and
6 this is a problem caused by the city which I
7 spoke of for years now. All of the water
8 from the Street just comes in, I'm on the
9 corner, it comes right into my sidewalks and
10 nothing has been done to this date.

11 MR. ROGAN: We'll send another
12 letter to Mr. --

13 MR. SPINDLER: A letter has been
14 sent.

15 MR. ROGAN: I know. This is -- it's
16 right on the corner where the curb goes
17 down.

18 MR. SPINDLER: Water comes right in
19 off the street. I can't even walk out my
20 front door.

21 Next thing, last week in the 200
22 block of Mifflin Avenue it was blacktopped
23 and on the corner of Mifflin and Linden they
24 put arrows down the street on the right, but
25 they didn't put a left turn arrow, it's just

1 blank, and people -- if you use common sense
2 you should know that's a left-hand turning
3 lane, but a lot of drivers don't use common
4 sense, they are going to go straight from
5 lane, I have seen it happen. And also I
6 brought this up, coming into in the city on
7 the Linden Street bridge there is no lines
8 there, people just go straight from wherever
9 lane they want to.

10 MR. ROGAN: I will add that to my
11 request. I actually had one on the corner
12 of -- today when I was coming up on the
13 corner of Mulberry and by Wyoming coming up
14 when the three lanes come down to two there
15 are no markings and I was almost hit today,
16 so I will add that to my request.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. About the
18 authorities, since council, like I said, has
19 no say on who is put on the authorities, I
20 think council should seriously look into
21 abolishing all of these authorities. They
22 don't do anything, they are just cronies of
23 the mayor and I think they are waste of
24 time, so I think council should seriously
25 look into them.

1 Last week Councilman Joyce talked
2 about to this date how much tax money has
3 been collected as compared to last year with
4 the same dates. I don't know what the
5 reason is, but maybe since the tax collector
6 isn't a Doherty crony and a lot of the
7 Doherty cronies that weren't paying taxes
8 now have to pay them.

9 What Andy spoke about, the SAPA
10 plan, last week in the Doherty newsletter
11 the editors said, "SAPA plan favors city,
12 Scranton council should embrace it."

13 Well, if this takes Scranton
14 contributing any money to this then maybe
15 the editor and the Scranton Times would
16 contribute the money instead of the City of
17 Scranton contributing if they think it's
18 such a great idea because this city cannot
19 afford contributing any money to anything
20 else like that and what benefit are we going
21 to get out of it.

22 Next thing, I saw in the Doherty
23 letter the other day where no surprise the
24 city is appealing another arbitration loss.
25 When is it going to stop? Chris Doherty

1 just keeps appealing, appealing, appealing
2 and the only ones that suffer are the
3 taxpayers and the only ones making money are
4 Chris Doherty's attorneys. This is a darn
5 shame. I don't know when it's going to
6 stop.

7 Lastly, the mayor talks about blight
8 in this city. Two of the biggest examples
9 of blight in the city are in his precious
10 downtown that supposedly is revitalized and
11 I have spoke about these before. The one is
12 the big hole in the ground on the corner of
13 Wyoming and Linden, and the other one is on
14 the corner of the Penn and Linden. The one
15 on Wyoming and Linden the weeds are so tall
16 there are trees down. They have to be 10 to
17 12 feet high and it's just -- it's a big
18 eyesore. I don't know what could be done
19 about that but, for example, last year when
20 La Festa at that was taking place people
21 were walking by that and to me I think it's
22 an embarrassment. People coming into this
23 city to see two eyesores there and two
24 popular corners of this city, so if you want
25 to clean up blight, Mayor Doherty, why don't

1 you clean up those two corners downtown
2 where nothing is happening. The projects
3 are dead that were supposed to take place on
4 those corners and it's just blight.
5 Something has got to be done. Thank you.

6 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Bill
7 Jackowitz.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
9 South Scranton resident and member of the
10 Taxpayers' Association. Community Bake Shop
11 site downtown up for sale, by James
12 Haggerty, staff writer, published June 16,
13 2010. Ten months after the fire destroyed
14 the Community Bake Shop, the property that
15 housed the landmark bakery for decades is
16 for sale. "It may be worth selling and it
17 may not be worth selling said Addy Pollock,
18 whose family founded the business in 1947.
19 Maybe we still can build. Everything is so
20 up in the air. We have to take one step at
21 a time."

22 Community Bake Shop occupied the
23 four-story downtown structure for 47 years
24 before it was gutted by flames August 19.
25 We weren't even left with a spoon,

1 Mrs. Pollock said. It means starting from
2 scratch. The "Pollocks issued -- leased a
3 space in the bridge section of the Mall at
4 Steamtown earlier this year and put up
5 displays for the bakery and the
6 wedding-related services, but the shop never
7 opened," mall general manager Jane Wall
8 said.

9 You know, this business has been in
10 this town for 47 years. I think maybe the
11 city should step up and help this city and
12 help this business, Community Bake Shop if
13 they want to relocate in the city. You
14 know, OECD or someone should step forward
15 and maybe talk with the owners of the
16 Community Bake Shop instead of helping all
17 of these other businesses and developers who
18 don't even -- who have never had any
19 businesses in this town and maybe we should
20 help one out that's been here for 47 years.
21 We thumbed our nose at Buona Pizza and Coney
22 Island, maybe we should help Community Bake
23 Shop.

24 "Housing discrimination suit against
25 developer Joyce settled," published June 16

1 2010. A Dalton developer has settled a
2 federal housing discrimination suit for
3 allegedly prohibiting people under the 21
4 living in the Scranton apartment complex.
5 Jerry Joyce, members of his family and
6 companies he operates paid \$35,000 to settle
7 a case by the US Department of Housing and
8 Urban Development. When Mr. Joyce sought to
9 convert the former Petersburg Silk Mill into
10 74 apartments, he said opponents objected
11 that he could become and have students in
12 order to win the zoning board approval.
13 Again, another zoning board mistake. They
14 approved this violating the law because you
15 cannot discriminate against people living in
16 a housing area. It doesn't matter if they
17 are 18 years old, 19 years old or 20 years
18 old, and again, I believe taxpayers' money
19 was used for this. Mr. Joyce said he agreed
20 to lease the apartment only to people age 21
21 or older and advertised restrictions. HUD
22 filed a suit in US District Court for the
23 Middle District of Pennsylvania in May of
24 2008 alleging the policy discriminated
25 against families with children, and

1 Mr. Joyce lost and has to pay for it.

2 Also, Mr. Joyce has had some other
3 dealings within the city. I'm not sure if
4 any of his dealings have ever been
5 completed. I think the big hole down there
6 where Pub Charles is one of Mr. Joyce's
7 projects that was never completed, so I
8 believe he is a coming forward again for
9 more money, so I hope the city council takes
10 a real good look at this guy because so far
11 he has a very poor record in my opinion.

12 "Marinucci to take seat on Scranton
13 Recreation Authority, mayor says. Mary
14 Chris Doherty said Wednesday that Anthony
15 Marinucci will be reappointed to the
16 Scranton Recreation Authority despite a four
17 to one city council vote Tuesday against
18 Mr. Marinucci we appointed him. Mr. Doherty
19 said the Home Rule Charter permits
20 Mr. Marinucci to be placed on the Authority.
21 The new five-year term expires June 17,
22 2015."

23 If everyone has ever had any dealing
24 with Mr. Marinucci, like I have, the last
25 time I went to a Recreation Authority he

1 actually got up from behind the table,
2 picked up his folding chair, moved his chair
3 in front of me and yelled and screamed and
4 pointing his finger at me and all I asked
5 him about was free swimming at the pool at
6 Nay Aug Park. All along he had a cigar in
7 his mouth. Very professional.

8 "Scranton Housing Authority ends
9 contract for Washington West work." Again,
10 Scartelli Contracting. I would like to know
11 how many contracts has Scartelli gotten from
12 the City of Scranton? They are being -- the
13 Housing Authority is not happy with their
14 work. They had a contract for \$1,396,277 --
15 \$1,396,277 and their tiles that they put in
16 are not, they are popping up, so on and so
17 forth. I know that that garage that they
18 built up here doesn't look worth a darn.

19 I would like city council to look
20 into this and see how many contracts since
21 Mayor Doherty has been Mayor of Scranton has
22 Scartelli contractors from Taylor gotten and
23 also to review their work to see if there
24 work is up to par or not. Taxpayers have
25 been paying on this.

1 And the last one, if I could get
2 a couple --

3 MR. ROGAN: Sure.

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: -- thirty seconds or
5 so. Report ranks Scranton in the lower half
6 of the recovering cities. Rising
7 unemployment, I have been talking about
8 unemployment from this podium for seven
9 years. The reporter on this was -- it
10 doesn't -- oh, Mr. Haggerty again. The
11 metropolitan area of the Scranton,
12 Wilkes-Barre and Hazelton has been in the
13 bottom three or the high three, whichever
14 way you want to look at it, unemployment in
15 the state for three decades, 30 years. This
16 is no surprise. So, again, that was
17 admitted from the story, so if you're going
18 to print a story, Times-Tribune, print the
19 full story or don't print the story at all.

20 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Jackowitz, on the
22 Mr. Joyce question, I believe we are in the
23 process of setting up a caucus with
24 Mr. Joyce and Mrs. Aebli; right?

25 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Has there been a date
2 set yet?

3 MS. KRAKE: I believe we are looking
4 at a date in July.

5 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yeah, I understand
6 that, that's what I'm saying. I
7 respectfully request that you look into the
8 project because that railroad station down
9 there is still sitting down there vacant,
10 that's another one of his projects. You
11 need to look at his record and see what he
12 has and has not done right there by the
13 Lackawanna bridge. He was going to turn
14 that into a fancy/AOE restaurant.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe that's
16 Mr. Donahue's building.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: Donahue? I stand
18 corrected.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's okay.

20 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

21 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Ronnie
22 Ellman, member of the taxpayers. Did
23 anybody find out why Todd O'Malley and the
24 mayor made that house a KOZ on Court? A
25 \$200,000 house that was paying \$6,500 a year

1 taxes.

2 MR. ROGAN: I do not believe we did.

3 MR. ELLMAN: I don't know, some
4 people don't answer me. Did you ever find
5 out about the fire truck, what it cost?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: The price of it?

7 MR. ELLMAN: Yeah. We are leasing
8 that fire truck. I have had three or four
9 people that know more about it, I don't
10 really know. They say we are leasing it and
11 nobody knows what it costs.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm sorry, I didn't
13 understand the question last week. The cost
14 to lease it or what it would cost if we just
15 purchased it?

16 MR. ELLMAN: What's it costing the
17 city in the long-run?

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, the lease
19 package, I believe, is 250 some thousand. I
20 don't have it front of me right now.

21 MR. ELLMAN: When you lease a car,
22 because I've done it, let's just say you
23 have at the end of three years, you know,
24 \$5,000 in the car and you want to buy it,
25 they might give you 1,500, a 1,000. They

1 don't give you what you paid on all those
2 years and probably the same thing with this
3 lease. Whatever we are paying a month if we
4 wanted to buy the thing at the end of
5 whatever the lease is you're only going to
6 get a fraction of what we paid in.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: The only problem is
8 we don't have the money right now to
9 purchase something outright, so --

10 MR. ELLMAN: You'd have money in the
11 city if there wasn't just so much -- just
12 wasted. Just common waste.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: We're working on it.

14 MR. ELLMAN: On the 2800 block, and
15 I know better than take Tony -- on about the
16 trees and so forth, but I talked to him this
17 morning, Santolli, a tree on private
18 property is being cut down, it's costing the
19 taxpayers around \$5,000, and I'm not mad
20 about the tree, the tree was bad, but it's
21 on private property for two years they have
22 gone around and around and around the woman
23 won't to it. Why should taxpayers do it?
24 You know, go down there 2800 block of North
25 Main, one of my neighbors. That's a bad

1 precedent that he started. What if you say,
2 "I don't have money for my sewer bill?"

3 I cut tree downs in my backyard last
4 year, it cost me three, 400 for some small
5 ones, what if I said I didn't have money and
6 asked the city to do it? That's what this
7 started, this shouldn't have been done. In
8 two years something could have been enforced
9 on the people that owned the house to make
10 them cut the tree down themselves. You're
11 never getting this five grand back, you
12 know, that could have gone for the fire
13 truck.

14 I bet there is no -- I was told
15 there is no lien ever put on Market Street
16 in the parking lot next to the Taurus Club
17 where the city tore down that three-story
18 apartment building 60, \$70,000. I inquired
19 once, no lien ever put on that. I forgot
20 that address. All there is is a dumpster
21 for the restaurant there.

22 See, there is just waste, nothing
23 but total waste goes on right under your
24 noses. Nobody complains.

25 In today's paper, I can't see the

1 damn thing here. You go powder your nose
2 and I'll be through when you get back. The
3 city has bought a house on 78 East Parker
4 Street and nobody will tell me nothing
5 about. Well, why did the city have to buy a
6 house? It's right there. There is no names
7 or nothing just --

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe that's in
9 the flood project. The city is in the --
10 the city is in the process of purchasing
11 some house.

12 MR. ELLMAN: That house is for sale.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Which one?

14 MR. ELLMAN: The one directly across
15 from it, the corner house on Boulevard and
16 Parker.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, if it's in this
18 new flood area because of the way the flood
19 program was setup, if it's in that new flood
20 area that's the area where this house was
21 sold I believe or just purchased, nobody can
22 sell it to any private individual. The city
23 has to -- unless, you know, it's going to be
24 taken over by the city anyway. No one is
25 going to insure it, it's in the flood plane,

1 and there was a meeting several weeks ago,
2 they are still negotiating with the
3 appraiser and the city flood program and
4 that for the purchase of it.

5 MR. ELLMAN: If you call that house
6 in the flood plane there must be 50 around
7 there up the street at the 12 -- I guess it
8 would be the 100 block where Burn's Parker
9 house, they are improving that, that's the
10 same place.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: The Parker house is
12 included in that area, so there is still --

13 MR. ELLMAN: Yeah, but they are
14 improving it. They built out a fence around
15 it, they have remodeled it, they have done
16 all kinds of things to it.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure, I understand
18 and in the mean time --

19 MR. ELLMAN: Yeah, they're going to
20 stay there, these houses will stay there or
21 else it would be empty lots. Right there
22 when you cross the bridge over the creek,
23 you know where I'm talking about, it's one
24 way now? Last year the Corp of Engineers
25 they put down some mesh and planted grass

1 all over the place and it was beautiful.
2 All winter these damn kids on those four --
3 you know, those little quads, they just
4 thrive on -- they thrive on destroying
5 things. They have torn up the whole place.
6 Besides being completely illegal and not
7 insured and everything is wrong with them,
8 and I like them, my kids grew up with them,
9 but they rode them in the junk yard or out
10 in Madisonville when I lived there, you
11 know, they didn't ride on city streets.

12 This past week there is a guy came
13 down Luzerne Street like he owned the place
14 on a quad. I was as Price Rite, just like
15 he belonged there. No license plates, no
16 nothing. Some of them could be licensed.
17 99 percent of them don't belong on the
18 streets and they are not insured. I saw the
19 police break up at the gas station next to
20 the Pepsi-Cola plant and they took off and
21 ran from them instead of showing any
22 authority or anything he just let them go.

23 See, Duryea confiscates them,
24 arrests the drivers and fines them. Now, if
25 Duryea can do it why can't we do it?

1 Instead of just allowing it, that's all
2 that's happens happening. People tolerating
3 and allowing it and everybody complains they
4 are out from 5:30 in the morning until one,
5 2:00 at night, and I talk to the kids, you
6 know, when I walk my dogs. They put a pipe
7 in the muffler system and knock out all the
8 baffles, you can hear them a mile away.

9 You know, but nobody cars, you know.
10 You want to take some money for the city,
11 start fining the people that have these
12 things and illegal parking. You can't even
13 make a turn. The D.A.'s Office is uses --
14 they park illegally all the way up to the
15 corner in the turn lane. I know there is a
16 sign there for one or two cars, but they
17 taken over like it's their personal parking.
18 Across the street, the jeweler, he treats
19 the left turn lane as his personal parking.
20 You know, start fining people crying out
21 loud. You can't even push a grocery cart
22 out of the grocery store because cars are
23 parked where it says, "No parking. Fire
24 Lanes."

25 MR. ROGAN: We'll send a letter.

1 MR. ELLMAN: There is all kinds of
2 money in this city that can be brought in.

3 MR. ROGAN: I'll ask Chief Elliott
4 about that, about the quads, what the
5 protocol is.

6 MR. ELLMAN: Can I have just one
7 second? I'll make it quick. Do you know
8 how the electric plant for Olyphant and the
9 electric company has a higher rate that they
10 have no taxes, Peckville and some of -- you
11 know, several communities in the state that
12 do that. You don't know what I'm talking
13 about?

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah, they have their
15 own power plant.

16 MR. ELLMAN: Yeah, they have their
17 own power. They sell it the people and
18 their taxes are down to nothing because the
19 power is up, but the idea is even with the
20 institutions getting a better rate everybody
21 is paying their part. You can do the same
22 thing here and go after the University and
23 these hospitals and all of deadbeats like
24 that ARC that takes a \$200,000 house, I just
25 look forward to somebody coming from one of

1 these charities and asking me for a donation
2 so ARC can buy a \$200,000 house in the
3 middle of a nice neighborhood and they will
4 ruin the neighborhood's value. I know
5 people are not going to like me saying it,
6 but they will -- a group home in the middle
7 of \$200,000 houses isn't going to help the
8 neighborhood one bit. You just don't allow
9 things like that. The city is full of empty
10 houses and cheap houses and that could be
11 turned into something for ARC, but, no, they
12 had to go out there. Nobody knows why.

13 But I'll just wait for somebody,
14 they are always phoning me, I'm on every
15 sucker list in this country. When United
16 Way comes I'll give them an earful, I
17 promise you, giving \$200,000 to buy a house.
18 I hope everybody else remembers that when
19 United Way wants money. Thank you.

20 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

21 MR. CONDACE: A.J. Condace, 5012
22 Maple Street up in East Mountain. I just
23 come to ask you questions or if you could
24 look into East Mountain. This last
25 rainstorm we have a lot of people up there

1 on fixed incomes and they have never
2 completed the curbs wrapping around on Derby
3 down to Elm Street, and I think they
4 stopped, I believe it was at 1011 Derby, you
5 will see in the middle and it hasn't
6 continued down. Without it continuing down,
7 some of the people, like I said, that are on
8 fixed income, 10-17, 10-15, the water pushed
9 into their houses, I mean, really hit their
10 basements hard. It didn't effect me, I'm
11 just down from it, but I just can't stand
12 there, you know, and look at the rest of my
13 community that happened.

14 And then on Maple it stopped going
15 up to the top, they just it off at 1510
16 going up the curbs on Maple up there, but if
17 they don't wrap that around, that curb from
18 1011 Derby all the way down to Elm Street,
19 unfortunately, Friendship House is right
20 there where they have it, the water comes
21 down and it comes right over and pushes and
22 then there is an alley and then you have
23 1500, 1502, 1506, right there, those houses
24 are getting hammered, and that's because
25 it's running right down the alleyway that

1 really -- it wasn't, I mean, it's just
2 overgrown alleyway that's --

3 And with the curb there that water
4 would have no where to go because the end
5 house of -- after 1017 and the end of that
6 block on Elm or Derby and Meade that house
7 is probably it's a disaster they tell me.
8 It's up for sheriff's sale, unfortunately,
9 but where that wraps around without the
10 water properly being brought over they have
11 a ditch dug out there which brings the water
12 from the overflow right down and into the
13 back of that alley and, unfortunately, hits
14 a lot of the houses of some of them and some
15 of the elderly. One person just bought into
16 the area, they are getting hammered.

17 And one idea that I had awhile ago
18 was if they wanted improvements even before
19 they did the sewer system why didn't they
20 get somebody to come in and do an estimate
21 and put in a proper storm water runoff
22 system for us. I mean, the sizing, because
23 they just went through and put something in,
24 but the water is actually running right up
25 through the storm drains they put in, so

1 it's grossly undersized for any heavy rains
2 and they almost wiped out the house down
3 there on -- it's not Wintermantle, yeah, it
4 might be the end of the Wintermantle, it's a
5 house that came flying off and just pushed
6 -- and keeps flooding, and that's from the
7 curbs they did put it on Elm Street. So
8 some sort of catch basin that we need a
9 project. Even if the community themselves
10 every one in front of your house we're
11 putting it and they say, "Okay, we're going
12 to assess you, but you can deduct that for
13 "X" amount of years off your taxes, we'll
14 break it down and pay 10 percent, 10
15 percent, 10 percent of what you pay off into
16 your city tax because of the improvement."

17 We are already paying taxes, I want
18 to enjoy what the rest of the city hopefully
19 has, but I'm hearing today there is more
20 than just East Mountain, but there is lot of
21 people on fixed incomes and they really have
22 to assess that and why would they stop?
23 It's just been too long. I don't want to
24 hear a machine is broken, I don't want to
25 hear, you know, it's just too long. These

1 people can't. I'm going to pay for a curb
2 myself over the next two weeks I'm having
3 estimates done, but some of the these people
4 they can't afford to do that.

5 And that's what I'm asking, I'm
6 asking if the council can actually not just
7 look into it, but figure out some type of a
8 solution to get that done or if the city
9 themselves can't do it find out an estimate.
10 I mean, even if you have to pay at least
11 there is a benefit that the other people
12 have and we'll take it off your taxes or
13 something for your people that are on fixed
14 incomes.

15 MR. ROGAN: I agree. That's been a
16 problem, the water, up in that neighborhood
17 for as long as I remember. You know, a lot
18 of areas have gotten better, so there is a
19 solution up there.

20 MR. CONDACE: Well, what's happened
21 is the area is now getting hit and the other
22 parts of East Mountain on the lower end
23 weren't hit before because now the curbs
24 were -- and they stopped the curb on Elm
25 Street and didn't wrap it around, and there

1 is an alley when you come, I believe it's
2 Birch right there or right after the Irish
3 Cultural Center where it comes down. Now,
4 that would be a perfect spot if it was
5 possible it put in a catch basin and catch
6 the flow of water, the surge down, as it's
7 coming down the funnel. I don't know the
8 solution, I'm not a civil engineering
9 engineer, but the curbs would have helped
10 some of the people, that they never
11 completed now. I mean, what if they would
12 have seen some value of that, but they
13 stopped, and I think they have stopped a
14 year and a half ago to -- this has been a
15 while over there or a year ago, but they
16 have to fix them.

17 MR. ROGAN: Mr. McGoff said we are
18 going to get in touch with Director Brazil.

19 MR. CONDACE: Okay. Thank you very
20 much.

21 MR. ROGAN: Well, thank you. Is
22 there anyone else who would like to address
23 council?

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
25 Council. Marie Schumacher, city resident,

1 member of the Taxpayers' group. First of
2 all, the Tripp Park runoff, since we are
3 talking about rain today, has that -- the
4 developer ever satisfy that lawsuit or are
5 we still -- is the city still at risk for
6 having to pay for that? If you recall a
7 couple of years ago Grace and I think Robert
8 Medallis took the developer to Court because
9 they were getting flooding out, has that
10 been satisfied?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe it's still
12 in litigation from what I understand.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: In litigation?

14 MR. HUGHES: That case is currently
15 in litigation. It's appealed to the
16 Commonwealth Court.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: And that was
18 appealed by the developer?

19 MR. HUGHES: Yes.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.
21 Now, the 74 East Parker Street property that
22 is spoken about by Ron Ellman, why did that
23 not come before council? That, I believe,
24 is a capital purchase. A house is a capital
25 item and that was not in the capital budget

1 for last year, it's over the threshold for
2 transferring any dollars from one account to
3 another, so I would like to know why it
4 hasn't come before council? .

5 MR. ROGAN: I do not know.

6 Mr. McGoff, is that --

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm anticipating
8 that --

9 MR. ROGAN: Did that come before
10 council at all?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: I mean, I'm
12 anticipating that particular property was
13 that. I don't know for sure.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Was what?

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: That was in the paper
16 today. I just found out before I came in
17 here myself, but I know that area was in
18 that flood plane where they are in the
19 process of purchasing the properties.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Are they going all
21 the way up to Main Street? I can't believe
22 that's in the flood plane.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, I'm trying to
24 remember how many there were.

25 MR. SCHUMACHER: I think this is

1 only a couple of Main Street, a couple
2 houses off Main Street, but it doesn't
3 matter. I mean, Ronnie was asking about why
4 the city is purchasing it, I'm asking why it
5 didn't come before council because you are
6 supposed to approve transfers of money.
7 This is a capital item. It was not in the
8 capital budget for the last year, unless you
9 can show me where it was.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure. I'll
11 definitely look into because I'm not sure
12 that they were that far ahead at this point
13 anyway, so that may be something totally
14 different, but I'll definitely get the
15 information for you. It is in that East
16 Parker area where they are going to be
17 taking homes.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I mean, the
19 city's capital budget has been a disaster
20 forever, and I would hope that, you know, in
21 another two months the newest one should be
22 out, and I'm hoping you were more vigilant
23 than we have in the past, and again, I still
24 think that this should have been a transfer
25 item.

1 And can you tell me were the
2 penalties for trucks idling beyond allowed
3 times in the City of Scranton?

4 MR. ROGAN: I don't know offhand,
5 but we'll look into it.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: I know that's been
7 a problem now at the Daron property for
8 many, many years, and I was just perusing
9 some newspapers, and I did see where some
10 municipalities have fairly sever charges for
11 those who break that law, and I would like
12 to know if ours are punitive in nature.

13 And does the fireworks for the June
14 26th and 5th of September fireworks come out
15 of the Recreation Department budget or is it
16 another budget?

17 MR. ROGAN: I'm not sure.

18 MR. MCGOFF: No idea.

19 MR. ROGAN: We'll check.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: And again, there
21 was an article in the paper stating that
22 the, I forget what's it's called, Franklin
23 monument is going to be placed between city
24 hall and Fidelity Bank. I'm certainly happy
25 we are going to get this monument, but that,

1 if I recall correctly again, was being paid
2 for with CDBG funds and that particular area
3 is not a low to moderate income area, so I'm
4 not wondering how that exception was granted
5 and if an exception can be granted to use
6 CDBG funding for an area that's not in low
7 and moderate income to that if it can be
8 applied elsewhere.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes, maybe for community
10 policemen.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Pardon?

12 MR. ROGAN: If we could get an
13 exception, I didn't receive any information
14 on that, but if we could get an exception
15 for something like that maybe we could get
16 an exception for other things like the
17 community police that would be good for the
18 neighborhoods.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: I would like to
20 know that, very interested in that. And
21 then does the city have a policy if a person
22 wants to build a home or modify an existing
23 home for using geothermal power?

24 MR. ROGAN: I don't think so.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: So you just have to

1 get the drilling permit from DEP and that's
2 it?

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: And I hope that we
5 will be gathering comparable statistics on
6 our fire department calls to Dunmore between
7 the current year and last year as a result
8 of the change in policy in the city -- or
9 Borough of Dunmore.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: I would like to
12 know what that's costing us. And then the
13 fire truck, again, going back several years
14 when Mrs. Gatelli was going to have a
15 month's -- at least a month's worth of
16 budget hearings and then I guess too much us
17 showed up to participate and the meetings
18 ceased, but at this one meeting that was
19 held someone talked about the city being
20 eligible for a fire truck, I believe -- I'll
21 close on this one.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: I believe the South
24 Scranton, which is in a low to moderate
25 area, was eligible for a new fire truck and,

1 of course, that would have had a domino
2 effect of trucks and I don't know if a grant
3 has been written to obtain that truck and if
4 not, why not?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: They did receive a
6 grant a few years ago for a fire truck for
7 South Side --

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: How many years ago?

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: -- through the low
10 income.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: How many years ago?

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: It's probably about
13 four or five, I'll have to double check, but
14 it's --

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: If you could
16 because this was not that long ago, so I
17 would appreciate if you could check it
18 because I know of any other fire stations
19 might qualify.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure.

21 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there
22 anything anyone else what would like to
23 address council?

24 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, City
25 Council. I'm Tom Ungvarsky and I'm a member

1 of the Scranton-Lackawanna Taxpayers'. Last
2 week's agenda you had an a property listed
3 in the 300 block of Linden Street. Can you
4 tell me if that's part of St. Peter's
5 Square?

6 MR. ROGAN: I'm not --

7 MR. UNGVARSKY: Is that part of the
8 St. Peter's Square project? Does anyone
9 mow?

10 MR. MCGOFF: I believe it's a
11 separate project.

12 MR. UNGVARSKY: Okay. This project,
13 is it part of Mr. Joyce's project? Does
14 anyone know if this is a Joyce project?

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MR. UNGVARSKY: Can you tell me how
18 many projects Mr. Joyce has had and how much
19 we have given Mr. Joyce for all of his
20 projects? Can you find that out for me?

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's what we are
23 working on. I don't know if you heard
24 before, but we are planning a caucus with
25 Mr. Joyce and we do have all of these

1 questions to go over, amongst others. That
2 is a question.

3 MR. UNGVARSKY: Yeah, I would like
4 you to find out what the total is that he
5 got from city, state and federal.

6 Also, I understand that the money is
7 to come out of the gambling fee; is that
8 correct? I thought that gambling fee was to
9 be used for property tax reduction. Now it
10 seems as though we are going to start giving
11 it out to developers; is that correct?

12 MR. ROGAN: I believe a portion of
13 it was from the gambling.

14 MR. HUGHES: No, that's not correct.

15 MR. ROGAN: That's not correct.

16 MR. HUGHES: That came from funds --
17 from horse racing.

18 MR. ROGAN: Horse racing.

19 MR. UNGVARSKY: Well, that is
20 gambling.

21 MR. HUGHES: It's an entirely
22 separate program from what I understand.
23 It's not the slot machine. In fact, when I
24 saw it I said, "What's this?"

25 I had no idea what it was. It was

1 some type, obviously, with the horse racing
2 that there is some type of monies that go
3 into an account that can be made for
4 development projects.

5 MR. UNGVARSKY: Thank you for that,
6 but it does seem as though all of the money
7 is going to a developer and nothing is going
8 to the city residents to put in new curbs or
9 new sidewalks or make improvements in the
10 neighborhoods.

11 On SAPA, several years ago I kindly
12 advised city council that they should look
13 into it. When the new council took over I
14 asked them to look in it. I don't know what
15 benefit Scranton would get out of SAPA. It
16 seems the only reason that we get into SAPA
17 is because of our population. The only
18 thing it would do would be to cost the City
19 of Scranton some funding.

20 Now, several weeks ago, I asked city
21 council why the agenda was so light, that
22 nothing was coming down to be passed. There
23 was no legislation. It's almost as though
24 city hall is closed down. It seems ironic
25 that we have a new -- that we have a paper

1 in town that is so disinterested that it
2 can't find out why nothing is being handed
3 down to at this council and that just about
4 everything city council does is being
5 protested. Perhaps, now the city or the
6 Wilkes-Barre Times Leader maybe could do a
7 little investigative reporting and come out
8 with something in their Sunday paper because
9 apparently the Scranton Times has no
10 interest in doing it, and I thank city
11 council for their attention.

12 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

13 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jack, you handsome
14 devil, you.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy got a
16 haircut.

17 MR. SLEDENZSKI: That's right, I got
18 it cut. Well, Jack, these firemen are doing
19 a good job, aren't they, Jack? They're
20 doing an excellent job them downstairs?

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: You are right, Buddy.

22 MR. SLEDENZSKI: You want to know
23 something, Jack, they're good men down
24 there, you know, Jack? I want to say hello
25 to one of them, Chief. That's it. Thank

1 you.

2 MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else who
3 would like to address council?

4 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

5 MR. ROGAN: Mr. McGoff, do you have
6 any motions or comments?

7 MR. MCGOFF: Please. First on the
8 grant application that we tabled last week
9 for the 317 Linden, LLC., that grant is from
10 the 2009 funded that has -- or the grant
11 applications for the 2009 funding that has
12 recently been released. I think
13 inappropriately last week we were under the
14 assumption that it was for current funding
15 in 2010. I also made an announcement about
16 a meeting being held at the University of
17 Scranton, that meeting is to talk about or
18 to discuss the 2010 funding, so they are
19 actually two different -- two different
20 years of funding. The loan or the grant for
21 the Linden Street project that has been
22 talked about was from 2009 funding, the
23 meeting has to do with the 2010 funding both
24 from the same account which, the account is
25 name the Monroe County Local Share Account,

1 and where that money comes from I don't
2 know. As Attorney Hughes just said, he
3 believes it's from monies from horse racing
4 or harness racing, whatever in the state.
5 Maybe that's something we can determine or
6 put -- could be determined if somebody
7 attends the meeting on the 28th.

8 The other thing, and I'll talk a
9 little bit about it now is the SAPA
10 legislation that's on the agenda. This is
11 something that's been going on from -- I
12 believe the initial legislation okaying the
13 City to look in the planning was all the way
14 back in 2005, so this is something that's
15 been going on for a rather lengthy period of
16 time.

17 And there have always been questions
18 as to what good this will do for the -- you
19 know, what positive effects this will have
20 on the city, and from what I can glean from
21 the number of meetings that have -- we have
22 already had people from SAPA here, there
23 have been a number of other public meetings
24 discussing the plan, and I agree with
25 Mr. Sbaraglia that, you know, there are

1 differences between the Abingtons and the
2 City of Scranton and I think part of the
3 plan was to enhance those differences, to
4 see the Abingtons as more of a residential
5 area and zone it residentially and Scranton
6 to have an industrial corridor and to zone
7 it accordingly with the idea being that the
8 City of Scranton would be enhanced by
9 economic development through small
10 industries, small businesses, and the
11 Abingtons would then -- businesses that were
12 looking to move into the area would be
13 somewhat by zoning forced into the City of
14 Scranton and that the Abingtons would
15 become--

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: Clean and green.

17 MR. MCGOFF: -- a more -- thank
18 you -- become more of a residential area or
19 enhance the residential areas of the
20 Abingtons which has some merit, I believe
21 has some merit.

22 And so, again, agreeing with
23 Mr. Sbaraglia, Mr. Sbaraglia there are
24 differences, but I think those differences
25 are important and are integrated into the

1 plan and really part of the plan so that we
2 can enhance some economic development in the
3 city, and I guess we will maybe discuss a
4 little bit more of it as we get to the
5 legislation, and that's all I have. Thank
6 you.

7 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. I will
8 comment on the legislation when it comes up.
9 First of all, I had a meeting with Chief
10 Elliott on Friday and among many things that
11 we talked about the Scranton police officers
12 along with the US Marshals did a checkup on
13 the sexual offenders listed in Scranton and
14 of the 77, all of them were in compliance,
15 so Scranton was in 100 percent compliance,
16 they went around and knocked on the doors,
17 so that's very good news, and I want to
18 congratulate the police officers of Scranton
19 and the chief for the great work they have
20 been doing in protecting the children in our
21 area.

22 I have received a paving list from
23 OECD and it says: The following roads,
24 including curb cuts, that have not been
25 completed are near completed to date, and

1 it's the 400 block of Marian Street, the 400
2 block of Forrest Court, the 400 block of Dix
3 Court, the 200 and 300 of Jefferson Avenue,
4 the 100 and 200 of Mifflin Avenue, the 600
5 of Saginaw, the 100 of Bengar Place, the 600
6 of Herbert Street, 1400 and 1500 of Olive
7 Street, and 1200 Lucille Street. So that is
8 the paving list and we thank Ms. Aebli for
9 this list.

10 Next, I have a list of citizens'
11 requests for the week: The first one is
12 resident reports a pothole in the 1100 block
13 of Aker avenue. They say the pothole just
14 keeps getting bigger and bigger and the
15 neighbors have been filling it themselves,
16 but it just seems to get washed away every
17 time it rains because it's not a
18 professional repair, and also in the same
19 area of the street sweeper has not come by,
20 so could we please a send a letter to
21 Mr. Brazil regarding this issue.

22 A resident called to complain about
23 several properties at 710, 712 and 718
24 Pittston Avenue and they were blighted, they
25 were vacant, and one of them was being

1 renovated, but they are not renovating it
2 any longer, I guess they gave up on the
3 project, and there is insulation and
4 building materials in the yard, so could we
5 please a send a letter to Licensing and
6 Inspections as well as the blight officer.

7 And could we please send a letter to
8 Chief Elliott asking what protocol for
9 people caught riding quads illegal on city
10 streets, what the protocol they follow is.

11 Next, a resident reports a problem
12 again with water runoff in the 1100 block of
13 Lavelle Court, and the alley is -- the same
14 alley hasn't been paved in over 50 years and
15 along the edges of the alley there are
16 broken -- big pieces broken off which leads
17 the water to run down into their basement
18 and they said they already spoke to
19 Mr. Brazil about it, but I would just like
20 to send another reminder regarding this
21 issue, and that is all. Mr. Loscombe?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
23 Just a couple of quick things: First of
24 all, I do have several requests and I do
25 have some e-mails and a phone calls that I

1 have been unable to return in the last
2 couple of days, so for those of you who are
3 waiting for a return call I will get back to
4 you tomorrow, I promise.

5 Mrs. Krake, I noticed in the paper
6 there was a bid request for demolition, I
7 guess for condemned or blighted properties
8 in the city, I was just wondering if you
9 could find out if they have a list compiled
10 of what properties will be on them, on that
11 list to be demolished, and that we can use
12 it on our checklist for some of these that
13 we get requests for.

14 And just one other thing, several
15 meetings ago I had mentioned that we were
16 looking into a cell phone ordinance just
17 like several municipalities the city has,
18 Wilkes-Barre has one and stuff, we are doing
19 a lot of research on it. We are waiting to
20 see if the state came out with a pretty
21 strict one, but it's not too strict, so a
22 lot of times the state's rules supercede the
23 city's rules so sometimes there is no teeth
24 in your own ordinances when it comes to
25 something like that.

1 I mean, I have some information on
2 some challenges already in several of these
3 municipalities, and I'm looking at one from
4 Harrisburg here right now, and also, I mean,
5 it says, the statement here is, the defense
6 counsel cites the State Vehicle Code. There
7 is section that prohibits the Commonwealth's
8 2500 plus municipalities from enacting their
9 own driving rules.

10 So in an effort to get in together
11 properly and safely for all of our residents
12 without costing us money and litigation and
13 appeals we are still working on it. I just
14 wanted you to know that, but we just want to
15 make sure all our I's are dotted and T's are
16 crossed and we'll update you in the future
17 when we get a little bit more information on
18 this. And that's all I have, Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: That's similar to the
20 same situation with the sex offenders when
21 we looked into that when we wanted to do
22 something in the city, but because of the
23 state I believe it was Allegheny County they
24 were challenged. And again, the last thing
25 you want to get stuck in the Court system

1 when, you, know, we are just trying to help
2 people. And I know Kevin Murphy,
3 Representative Murphy is working on a bill
4 right now that will be more strict on the
5 sex offenders, so we are thankful for that.

6 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
7 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
8 OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
9 PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING THE SCRANTON
10 ABINGTONS PLANNING ASSOCIATION (SAPA)
11 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

12 MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll
13 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
14 introduced into it's proper committee.

15 MR. MCGOFF: So moved.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

17 MR. ROGAN: On the question? You
18 can go ahead if you want.

19 MR. MCGOFF: I already commented.

20 MR. ROGAN: You know, this
21 legislation sounds good on the surface. The
22 Abingtons would be bringing -- they don't
23 want business, major business in their area.
24 They want to keep it clean and green like
25 somebody said before that they would want to

1 move it into Scranton, but I don't
2 understand why when they don't want it there
3 we would have to be in agreement with them
4 because if they don't want it there it's
5 going to come here anyways.

6 Secondly, I think the biggest thing
7 that is preventing the business in the City
8 of Scranton is the taxes in the City of
9 Scranton. The only way that we are going to
10 stimulate business is to provide a tax
11 incentive to get businesses to come into
12 this area, and the tax incentives for first
13 time home buyers that move into the City of
14 Scranton that in the future can work with
15 people raising their families here in our
16 neighborhoods, and I just -- I don't see how
17 this plan is going to help us.

18 And I have an e-mail here from the
19 state about -- Mrs. Evans mentioned last
20 week that the funding is going to be cut and
21 it says right here, "While Mrs. Evans is
22 correct that funding isn't a certainty, they
23 are hopeful that the line item would be
24 increased somewhat," although, there is no
25 certainty in that. And, you know, I don't

1 want to cast a vote based on hope, so I will
2 be voting, no.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Again, it's a plan that
4 has minimal cost attached to it. Most of
5 the cost has been in the actual formation of
6 the plan, the implementation of the plan is
7 going to cost very little and --

8 MR. ROGAN: But the future cost is
9 uncertain.

10 MR. MCGOFF: And we develop a little
11 bit of my myopia, you know, looking at
12 short-term possibilities instead of --
13 instead of looking at what the long-range
14 possibilities may be. We have -- we are
15 constantly being asked why isn't anything
16 being done to encourage economic development
17 in the City of Scranton. Here is something
18 that can do that or potentially do that and
19 yet we are ignoring it and it can be done at
20 minimal cost. It's a plan that will enhance
21 all of the areas involved in the plan. Will
22 it be -- will it be tomorrow? Maybe not,
23 but I don't think that we should get rid of
24 this or defeat it, throw it out, simply
25 because we are looking at something that the

1 state might not fund something.

2 I think that this is a -- this is a
3 plan that has been worked on. It's set for
4 five years now. It's something that has the
5 potential to be very beneficial to the
6 entire area and I think it's something that
7 we should seriously consider because it's
8 something that's going to be needed. It's
9 something that is going to enhance economic
10 development, it is something that's going to
11 improve the area and instead of dealing with
12 this kind of doom that, well, maybe the
13 state won't fund it, let's go ahead and be
14 proactive. Let's do something that's going
15 to benefit the city and the area and let's
16 go behind this plan and make it work.

17 MR. ROGAN: But the problem I see
18 with it is, number one, we don't know what
19 the cost is upfront. Number two, who is to
20 say that if the Abington or a business wants
21 to locate to the Abingtons, they didn't want
22 it there, why would they come to Scranton
23 when they can -- take, for instance, the new
24 Wal-Mart right over the border because of
25 our taxes. I think the taxes are the

1 problem, it's not that businesses don't want
2 to come here, we have great workers and
3 great people in the area, we are overtaxed
4 in this city and I think the proper way to
5 go about bringing business is tax incentives
6 for the businesses.

7 MR. MCGOFF: But that has nothing to
8 do with SAPA plan.

9 MR. ROGAN: And that's why I'm
10 voting against the SAPA plan.

11 MR. MCGOFF: No, you are attaching
12 something that has nothing to do with the
13 plan to the plan. Just because taxes may be
14 discouraging some businesses, that's no
15 reason to vote against the plan that would
16 encourage businesses to come here.

17 MR. ROGAN: But that's why the plan
18 is flawed because they say, well, if the
19 businesses aren't welcome in the Abingtons
20 they would come to Scranton, but I don't
21 believe that they would to. It would
22 drive--

23 MR. MCGOFF: It has to do with
24 zoning, not with taxation.

25 MR. ROGAN: I understand that. I

1 understand that, but I don't believe it
2 would work.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have to say that
4 I'm -- you know, looking at all sides of the
5 story I'm not totally convinced it's to our
6 benefit at this point, we don't know what
7 the bottom line is going to be on a
8 year-to-year basis. As far as industrial
9 and the business, I mean, I believe that's
10 what we have a Chamber of Commerce for. I
11 just -- I really don't see any -- I have
12 been here six months, I have had no one from
13 SAPA come to this meeting and approach us
14 and give us a description of it, although, I
15 have had the opportunity via e-mail to go to
16 their meetings in the Abingtons, but we are
17 running a pretty tight schedule here and
18 it's just been too hard to do that. But,
19 you know, I believe that if they were really
20 interested they could have come here and --

21 MR. MCGOFF: They have been here
22 numerous occasions. Mr. King works for the
23 city. All you have to do is call him. I
24 I'm sure that he would be more than happy to
25 talk with you. Denise Prowell, who has been

1 behind this plan forever, is constantly
2 making contact with councilmen in the city.
3 To say that they have not reached out and
4 done their --

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: I said they reached
6 out via e-mail. I haven't had anyone come
7 here and speak on their behalf or on behalf
8 of SAPA, that's what I was stating.

9 MR. MCGOFF: At least in the time
10 that I have been on council they have been
11 here three times.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, they are down
13 to the home stretch now, this is their -- I
14 mean, six months --

15 MR. MCGOFF: Because they haven't
16 come directly to you that --

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Not to me, to us. We
18 have three new people --

19 MR. MCGOFF: Sometimes we have to
20 reach out to people as well. Not everyone
21 is going to just come and, you know, to a
22 council meeting. Sometimes if you need
23 information it's important for you --

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe they need
25 our vote right now, we don't need theirs.

1 MR. ROGAN: We did do that and I'm
2 sure everyone that are we here we looking
3 into every issue we vote on. We may not
4 agree, but we don't just cast a "yes" vote
5 or a "no" vote based on what -- based on the
6 information. I really don't believe just
7 because you zoned Scranton for something
8 they are going to come because the tax rates
9 are so high, but this is a blank check.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Have you --

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: There is industrial
12 zones in Taylor or Old Forge.

13 MR. ROGAN: Do you know what the
14 final cost of this is going to be?

15 MR. MCGOFF: To implement the plan?
16 Right now to implement the plan basically
17 nothing. The cost has already been paid to
18 formulate the plan.

19 MR. ROGAN: The implementation we
20 don't know how much it's going to cost.
21 What if the state doesn't fund it, what are
22 we going to do then? We are going to be
23 asked to cover the --

24 MR. MCGOFF: There is nothing to
25 fund. All it is, is a matter of rezoning.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: So from now on it's
2 totally free, we don't have to pay anything?

3 MR. MCGOFF: There may be some
4 minimal cost of implementation but --

5 MR. ROGAN: From what?

6 MR. MCGOFF: I'm --

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would just have to
8 say, until we get our own house in order we
9 can't --

10 MR. MCGOFF: Have either of you made
11 an attempt to speak to Mrs. Prowell or
12 Mr. King on this plan?

13 MR. ROGAN: I have received a lot of
14 information from both of them actually. I
15 have read it over before casting my vote,
16 yes.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: I haven't called
18 people personally, I have received e-mails,
19 but the e-mails invited us to meetings. I
20 have had no descriptive action on the plan
21 or anything like that. That's not my only
22 concern right now. We have a lot of issues
23 we have been working on, and it's not like
24 we just come here on Tuesday and just listen
25 to what's going on. I believe we are out on

1 daily basis, trust me. I know. We put a
2 lot of miles in and a lot of time, but this
3 isn't something that's been sticking in my
4 side to jump on.

5 MR. ROGAN: Agree. All those in
6 favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Opposed?

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

10 MR. ROGAN: No. The nos have it and
11 it's defeated.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: I'll entertain a motion
16 to adjourn.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER