

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 29, 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

CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce. Mrs.

11 Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Here.

13 MS. EVANS: Dispense with the
14 reading of the minutes.

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

16 AGENDA FOR THE ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING
17 TO BE HELD ON JULY 7, 2010.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE
21 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
22 HELD ON JUNE 23, 2010.

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

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

1 SCRANTON LACKAWANNA COUNTY HEALTH AND
2 WELFARE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON MAY 20,
3 2010.

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

6 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
7 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING HELD
8 ON MAY 26, 2010.

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

11 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE
12 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
13 HELD ON MAY 26, 2010.

14 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
15 If not, received and filed. Clerk's notes.

16 MS. KRAKE: Yes. We have a few
17 non-responses. We did not hear on our
18 Right-to-Know from the business
19 administrator concerning the flood control
20 projects.

21 MS. EVANS: I'd ask you to then turn
22 that over to Attorney Hughes, please.

23 MS. KRAKE: Yes. Also, we did not
24 hear on a Right-to-Know concerning the
25 Community Medical Center paying a fee for

1 their employees to park at Nay Aug.

2 MS. EVANS: To Attorney Hughes.

3 MS. KRAKE: And we have some
4 responses. First is from Chief Elliott
5 regarding our testing for their -- our
6 question regarding the testing for patrol
7 officers. He tells us he has already made
8 that request through the Civil Service
9 Commission and he is awaiting a date for the
10 test.

11 We also received a response from Bob
12 Martin, President of the Fraternal Order of
13 Police. He tells us he is in receipt of our
14 letter and that OECD funds can be expended
15 for overtime for neighborhood patrols for
16 the Summer of 2010.

17 The FOP has a stark realization just
18 how vital those assignments are not only to
19 the safety and security of our
20 neighborhoods, but to the overall
21 relationship between the police department
22 and the community. The FOP has agreed in
23 the past and is still willing to cooperate
24 to ensure these important patrols can be
25 staffed. The FOP also agrees and is willing

1 to cooperate to administer a Civil Service
2 Test for hiring of new police officers.

3 Even though the FOP does not play
4 much of a role in the hiring of new
5 officers, the city, council, and taxpayers
6 can count on the FOP's full cooperation to
7 get these important initiatives moving.

8 MS. EVANS: I had the opportunity
9 over the last week to speak with several
10 police officers who voiced their concern
11 that, indeed, the summer months are a time
12 of increased crime and I'm very glad that we
13 received Mr. Martin's response indicating
14 that the police department would be
15 agreeable to negotiating with the city for
16 those summer months the use of overtime, I
17 believe it's \$300,000, from OECD.

18 I would ask now that a copy of that
19 letter be sent to the mayor tomorrow morning
20 asking for his decision since it is going to
21 take him until January I believe 2011 to
22 very likely increase the number of beat
23 officers on our street that are paid through
24 COM-D. The very least we can be doing now
25 is using the funds that are sitting and are

1 available to get more police on the street
2 this summer.

3 MS. KRAKE: Our next response is
4 from Bill Courtright, collector of taxes.
5 This was in regards to the KOZ information.
6 He tells us that a list has never been
7 generated by the Commonwealth of
8 Pennsylvania showing all KOZ properties in a
9 taxing district. To date, the Single Tax
10 Office has abated over 221,000 in 2010
11 property taxes in the City of Scranton. Our
12 office receives KOZ abatement letters on a
13 daily basis, therefore, the stock amount
14 briefly changes. And then he says we can
15 contact him if we have any further
16 questions.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

18 MS. KRAKE: The next is a letter
19 from the Scranton School District
20 Superintendent, William King. This is
21 concerning the overgrowth of grass and weeds
22 at the former East Scranton Intermediate
23 School located at 528 Quincy Avenue. He
24 tells us that the Scranton School District
25 has not owned that property for more than

1 three years. He believes the owner of the
2 property is Mr. Cliff Melberger, CEO and
3 president of Diversified Information
4 Technologies.

5 And he tells us also that it is
6 important to note that the school district
7 takes great pride in maintaining all their
8 properties and would never knowingly allow
9 situations like this to occur.

10 MS. EVANS: If we can then forward
11 that information to LIPS that Mr. Melberger
12 owns that property and that he is expected
13 to maintain it as does any other property
14 owner in the City of Scranton.

15 MS. KRAKE: Yes. Our next response
16 is from Attorney Haggerty, who is the
17 attorney for the Lackawanna County Heritage
18 Valley Authority. This is regarding
19 obtaining meeting minutes from that
20 authority. We had asked, city council had
21 asked, if they would give us a copy of all
22 of their meeting minutes, so at first they
23 called us, they weren't sure which
24 particular meeting we meant and we told them
25 it was for all of their meetings so that we

1 could make it public in our office and also
2 to the library as council requested, so it's
3 not that they weren't open to that, but here
4 is their response. They tell us they area
5 public agency governed by the Pennsylvania
6 Municipal Authorities Act. All of the
7 meetings of the LHVA are open to the public.
8 Likewise, the minutes from each meeting are
9 public documents available for inspection
10 and review by any citizen. However, there
11 is no, per se, distribution list of these
12 minutes to any requester.

13 Then they wrote further to tell us:
14 Any meeting minutes of the LHVA which
15 Scranton City Council desires to obtain will
16 be granted upon request. Please direct your
17 request to the LHVA upon the conclusion of
18 the particular meeting in question and once
19 the meetings are ready for dissemination the
20 same will be sent in furtherance of the
21 request.

22 MS. EVANS: I know that I spoke with
23 you very recently about our contacting the
24 Lackawanna County Valley Heritage
25 Association regarding the trail and as we

1 are doing so I think we can once again
2 mention the importance of council receiving
3 those monthly meeting minutes, particularly,
4 since it appears that the portion that will
5 be charged to the City of Scranton is going
6 to be much more significant than originally
7 anticipated. So, you know, in the spirit of
8 transparency, accountability and
9 cooperation, we would hope that they would
10 approve our request.

11 MS. KRAKE: Yes. And we have
12 another response from Chief Elliott
13 concerning the operation of the quads on
14 city streets. He tells us they are illegal
15 to operate in the city as they are not
16 registered vehicles.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

18 MS. KRAKE: And, finally, from
19 Bernice Sparacino from the Scranton Sewer
20 Authority, Gene Skeleton has informed them
21 that the following basins have been cleaned
22 and the lines checked. They would be Watson
23 Street, Smith Place, Railroad Avenue, and
24 Meridian Avenue.

25 MS. EVANS: That's very good news.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. KRAKE: And that's it.

3 MS. EVANS: And if you would,
4 please, send a letter thanking Mr. Barrett
5 and the Sewer Authority employees and the
6 Board of the Scranton Sewer Authority for
7 their prompt action in this matter.

8 Do any council members have an
9 announcements at this time?

10 MR. MCGOFF: Just one. I was asked
11 to remind the people that DPW will not be
12 working on Monday and please adjust the
13 refuse collection schedule accordingly.
14 Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Good to know.

16 MR. ROGAN: The Lackawanna County
17 Taxpayers' Association will be holding their
18 first "Kids Swim Free" event this year. It
19 will be Saturday, July 3, at Nay Aug Park
20 and children age 6 though 15 get in for
21 free. It will be from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m.

22 (Mr. Joyce enters council chambers
23 and takes the dais.)

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
25 Mr. Loscombe, did you have any

1 announcements?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you, Mrs.
3 Evans. I was in a restaurant today and I
4 happened to come across this flyer and I
5 thought it would of interest. On July 4 at
6 the Nay Aug Park swim complex there will be
7 an annual Independence Day celebration which
8 is sponsored by the American Flag Committee.
9 There will be a color detail, firing detail,
10 flag pageant, and honorary American flag
11 escort by members of several organizations
12 and a band concert by the ring hold band
13 under the direction of Kevin Riggy.

14 Everyone is invited to observe this
15 annual Independence Day celebration
16 presented by military veterans of all wars
17 and conflicts. Enjoy the band concert,
18 arrive early, find a comfortable spot along
19 the east wall of the swim complex or bring a
20 comfortable chair. Particularly, bring your
21 children or grandchildren to observe this
22 early grand event. Miniature American flags
23 along with a cool refreshing drinking will
24 be given free to all youngsters. There is
25 ample free parking, later follow the Davis

1 Trail and view the scenic gorge and
2 playgrounds. And this is Sunday at 10:30
3 a.m. at Nay Aug Park near the swim complex.
4 That is all I have. Thank you.

5 Thank you. And, in fact, we have
6 one of the annual organizers of that
7 wonderful event with us this evening,
8 Mr. Frank Tyson, and I'm sure he is here to
9 tell us even more about it, and it is well
10 worth attending.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: I didn't mean to take
12 your thunder, I just happen to come across
13 this today.

14 MS. EVANS: No, we have very glad.
15 People, I think, may need to hear it twice.
16 If they miss it the first time they'll catch
17 it the second time.

18 The weekly schedule for street
19 cleaning is as follows: June 28 to July 2,
20 Moosic Street to East Mountain Road; and
21 July 5 to July 9, Jackson Street to
22 Pettibone Street, including North/South
23 Road.

24 The Sixth Annual Festival of Unity
25 will be conducted on Saturday, July 10,

1 2010, at Nay Aug Park in Scranton. This
2 enjoyable event celebrates the many cultures
3 within our community and provides family
4 entertainment by local and featured
5 performers, step teams and cultural dance
6 troops as well as games, arts and crafts by
7 local artisans and delicious ethnic foods.
8 Mark your calendars and take the entire
9 family to the Unity Festival at Nay Aug
10 Park.

11 An important reminder for Scranton
12 residents, the second half of the 2010
13 garbage disposal fee is due by July 1 for
14 those who did not previously pay in full.
15 After July, the fines, fees and costs become
16 very steep for delinquent payments, so
17 please remember that date.

18 Also, Community Development Block
19 Grant or CDBG Home Program and Emergency
20 Shelter Grant Program or ESG 2011
21 applications for federal funding are
22 currently available. You may obtain a copy
23 on line at www.Scrantonpa.gov, Department
24 OECD, and then go to applications, then read
25 the application carefully. If requesting

1 funding for more than one activity, a
2 separate application for each activity must
3 be submitted to OECD. Complete the
4 applications and submit one original and one
5 copy no later than Friday August 6, 2010, to
6 the Office of Economic and Community
7 Development, 538 Spruce Street, Suite 812,
8 Scranton, PA, 18503.

9 And finally, on behalf of all City
10 Council, I'd like to wish everyone a very
11 safe and happy Fourth of July weekend, and
12 that's it.

13 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
14 PARTICIPATION.

15 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this
16 evening is Lee Morgan.

17 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
18 Last week council had to vote on the
19 Scranton Abington Planning Association's
20 ideas to redo I assume zoning and control
21 sprawl, and I would like to ask that council
22 invites them to come here and does -- let's
23 them, allows them to give a presentation and
24 then council revotes that issue. Two
25 council members weren't present. I think --

1 I think it would be a positive thing.

2 I sat through the presentation, I
3 asked them some questions, I won't say that
4 they were very happy about the questions I
5 asked because it got a little heated, but I
6 really think that that might be a good idea
7 for this city. I really honestly believe
8 that. I believe that we have a lot of
9 industrial areas that we could enhance by
10 becoming a part of that. Some people are
11 concerned about the cost of making it
12 happen, but I think that we have to be
13 honest with ourselves and realize that not
14 only is the State of Pennsylvania short on
15 money, I think there is 46 states that
16 really would like to file bankruptcy in this
17 nation. There is much a lot of
18 municipalities that are filing bankruptcy.

19 I think that from watching the PEL
20 tonight that I think that would should
21 really happen with council in regards to
22 them is that we should not continue our
23 partnership with them. I think that's one
24 thing that we should vote out.

25 But as far as -- as far as this

1 Scranton Abington Planning, you know, when
2 you sat through it they had maps, it was at
3 Scranton High School, and I just think that
4 it would benefit us because we could have a
5 lot of people move into this city if we can
6 get control of many things and I think this
7 council is well aware of that. If we could
8 cut our wage tax, if we could find ways to
9 redevelop our industrial areas. Last Friday
10 I was in Harrisburg talking to a
11 representative about that, I think his last
12 name is Saylor. I have been trying to let
13 the state become aware that, you know,
14 Scranton can move forward, but we need some
15 help in economic development. We need some
16 someone in Harrisburg to recognize that we
17 need funding to redevelop our industrial
18 areas that are zoned industrial.

19 All of the problems in front of the
20 city aren't easy ones and, you know, I
21 didn't come here to hammer council tonight I
22 just think that maybe we should revisit
23 that. I mean, if we can get people to move
24 back into the city by cutting our wage tax
25 and enhancing our city through employment, I

1 mean, you know, you got to realize that when
2 Colts operates their buses if they come
3 outside of the city and there is lot of jobs
4 here people are going to come into this city
5 and work and when we find solutions to our
6 tax problems then residents -- well,
7 residents of our communities will move here.

8 Most of the people who have left
9 this city have left this city because they
10 don't want to pay the high tax. They don't
11 want -- they just don't want to and I think
12 that if we can create an engine for economic
13 development that's what was so important
14 about bringing Austin Burke here because I
15 think there has to be a partnership between
16 council, the mayor, and various other
17 organizations, and this is only one part of
18 it, okay? You bring Austin Burke on board,
19 you bring this group on board and then you
20 get Council on board and then you start to
21 empower the most important people in our
22 community which are citizens.

23 And to be honest with you, the
24 outlying communities they don't want all of
25 their farmland turned into developments, and

1 to be honest with you we have a lot of
2 properties here that we could sell, readily
3 sell and increase our tax base and increase
4 the amount of residents here that earn a
5 living wage and instead of having minimum
6 wage employees in the city, which is
7 probably generally quite a few, we can bring
8 people that are earning 50 and 60 thousand
9 dollars here in private industry in these
10 industrial zones we already possess.

11 And I just hope that with five
12 members of the council watching the
13 Pennsylvania presentation, the same thing
14 that we did with the PEL today, maybe it may
15 sway some people's minds here and it may be
16 positive, and it doesn't hurt to listen to
17 what people have to say because we may all
18 learn something. Thank you.

19 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Ozzie Quinn.

21 MR. QUINN: Thank you. First of
22 all, I want to thank Mrs. Evans and the
23 majority of the city council for inviting
24 the Taxpayers' Association to the PEL
25 revision -- revised plan that's proposed and

1 it's the first time I think in the history
2 of the City of Scranton that the taxpayers
3 of the City of Scranton have been asked to
4 sit down at the table and actually get
5 involved in what they're doing -- in what
6 this government is doing with our money and
7 we appreciate that very much.

8 MS. EVANS: Well, I think it's vital
9 because this plan is going to impact the
10 taxpayers daily lives and so there should be
11 a voice. The taxpayers are the major
12 stakeholders.

13 MR. QUINN: Thank you. And I don't
14 want to polish the apple, but what you did
15 tonight is indicative of the last six months
16 of what the majority of city council has
17 been doing to try to address this problem of
18 overspending in the City of Scranton, okay,
19 and this was -- tonight showed that.

20 It appears to me that Mr. Doherty's
21 house of cards is falling apart and
22 according to the white paper that was
23 presented tonight by the PEL, and naturally,
24 that's what it was, a PR thing, and the
25 thing was that it was a -- it shows that our

1 debt services is 11.4 percent and shows that
2 we are \$92.5 million in debt and you asked
3 if that was the principal and he said, yes,
4 and he didn't say -- he said he would tell
5 you what the interest would be, but that
6 doesn't include the interest; am I right?

7 MS. EVANS: Actually, it didn't
8 include all of the debt.

9 MR. QUINN: Oh, okay.

10 MS. EVANS: I believe that was his
11 statement because some of it they felt they
12 couldn't determine, they couldn't bring it
13 down or pull it out from the manor in which
14 it's listed, and so they did the best that
15 they could with it, but admittedly they
16 stated all of the debt was not included in
17 that figure.

18 MR. QUINN: Well, you know, in the
19 debt, they project the debt for 2011, 12 and
20 13 to be \$5,274,000, I mean, a deficit in
21 the operating budget, okay? And that
22 actually is what the debt service is, \$6
23 million, okay, and that didn't come about
24 until 2000 -- it started in 2003, so it's
25 obvious, you know, where we are. We are

1 left, the taxpayers are left, because of
2 Mr. Doherty's free spending, we are left
3 holding the bag here.

4 And I want to thank the city council
5 and I hope and look forward to future
6 meetings and getting us back on the right
7 road here. We are talking about getting the
8 city going. Who is going to move back into
9 the city if there is such a debt. They say,
10 "Oh, I'm not going to move back in there,"
11 they are saying that the only way you are
12 going to be able to pay that debt off is by
13 an assessment and there is not going to be
14 any reassessment. That's dead. That's dead
15 in the water. No doubt about that, so the
16 only way you are going to do it is to tax.
17 Now, if I hear that I'm not going to move in
18 the City of Scranton. Thank you very much.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Andy
20 Sbaraglia.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
22 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
23 will be up at Nay Aug on July 3. As you
24 know, I'm one of the committee chairmen for
25 that, for the free swim program, and

1 basically what it is, is all kids up to the
2 age of 15 swim free. Some is allowed free
3 by the pool itself and others will be paying
4 for it. I just hope everybody -- it's a
5 beautiful day and everybody gets some real
6 good use out of the pool being that I think
7 they said two of them are closed?

8 MS. EVANS: Yes. Connell Park and
9 the Capouse Avenue pool in Pinebrook.

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: This "B", this piece
11 of land, is that somewhere at Mt. Pleasant
12 where this is located?

13 MS. EVANS: No. Actually, this is I
14 believe in East Mountain and if I could,
15 Attorney Hughes, if you might elaborate on
16 tonight's legislation, please, regarding the
17 easement agreement in East Mountain.

18 MR. HUGHES: Surely, Madam
19 President. What happened here is that the
20 city needed to construct the storm sewer.
21 They began constructing it over the lands
22 that were the Mountain Rest Nursing Home and
23 they were told that they didn't have any
24 authorization to come onto the property.
25 They agreed that they would give the city an

1 easement to come over and to put the storm
2 water across their property to where it
3 drains I really don't know, but they ended
4 up agreeing on the easement and they said
5 you can put the easement in to drain the
6 storm water from the water that's coming
7 down East Mountain onto the Mountain Rest
8 property, and I think there were property
9 owners that complained because of the storm
10 water, and as a result this is the easement
11 agreement.

12 The owner of the property is
13 Pennsylvania LTC, Inc. The Horsham
14 Industrial and Commercial Development
15 Authority has a mortgage on the property
16 that's why they have agreed to be part of
17 the grantor, to sign the easement agreement
18 to the city, so the city will now have a
19 storm sewer pipe underneath the easement
20 area to convey the storm water coming off
21 the East Mountain higher elevations, down,
22 it will be distributed, I guess ultimately
23 into the Lackawanna River, but that's what's
24 on here is to confirm that easement
25 agreement.

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: It sounds like a
2 very expensive project to lay all of that
3 pipe in there.

4 MR. HUGHES: Well, that was a
5 decision the city made and it could probably
6 have gone down the streets and it would have
7 been much more expensive, and I don't know
8 how it came across to do the storm sewer,
9 but that was a decision that was made by the
10 city years ago, and as they were coming
11 across the property they were trespassing.
12 They said, "We'll give it to you free, but
13 you put the storm pipe in and you maintain
14 it," and that's what it was.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, but I hope
16 it's basically for the majority of the
17 residents that live up that way and not for
18 a particular resident that don't like water
19 coming down his property.

20 MR. HUGHES: I have no idea how that
21 started or how many years ago it started,
22 but this is the result of what the easement
23 was and it's not for the Mountain Rest
24 property, it's for other properties to drain
25 the water that is pooling and coming in that

1 area.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, I would assume
3 so, but it's also if you understand what
4 they have do to lay these pipes it's not
5 exactly a piece of cake. They've got to dig
6 up, lay down and so forth and so on, and it
7 just cost money, but you are right. It has
8 to benefit the majority of Scranton
9 taxpayers and now a few individuals.

10 Well, we went through our
11 presentation with PEL, but they left out a
12 lot of things. They didn't account for all
13 of these taxes at the properties, that would
14 sort of push our tax up a little more. They
15 didn't bring in the fact that a lot of
16 properties in downtown had their assessment
17 lowered because why? We don't know, but
18 they did have it lowered, and there is lot
19 of other factors in there. We may get a
20 positive when the KOZ's expire. Right now
21 they are draining two and they didn't
22 account for the KOZ's, how much the KOZ has
23 cost the City of Scranton. All them factors
24 should have been brought up with the other
25 factors.

1 You got positive and negative on
2 anything you do in taxation. Before you can
3 really get a true picture of the city, we
4 got to look at what we can do with the
5 taxation of the nonprofits or even change
6 the way the tax code is in the city. There
7 is no -- we are charged now for sewage,
8 okay, separately? We are charged for water
9 separately. We are charged for our dumping
10 of the waste separately. Maybe it's time to
11 charge for every building in Scranton
12 separately for police protection and for
13 fire protection, but separately and that
14 would then be -- our nonprofits would then
15 have to pay because they are supplying a
16 service like everything else.

17 You got to look at things that are
18 off the wall really because we are in a
19 situation now where you know and I know
20 there is very little wiggle room. We knew
21 there was a \$5 million deficit how many
22 years ago, eight, ten? We knew way back
23 that we got this \$5 million deficit because
24 that's what we have all of these lease
25 deals, lease deals, at least for the last --

1 well, I would say at least seven years or
2 eight years we knew we had that deficit. We
3 never really tried to get rid of that
4 deficit other than using these what he
5 called one-time revenue sources and selling
6 this and that poor -- I don't know who owns
7 the DPW site anymore. It changed hands so
8 many times, for all I know maybe even the
9 state owns it.

10 Well, I know you got a lot to do
11 with it, but you have certain -- with the
12 budget you got it look at fixed costs.
13 There are certain things that you cannot
14 change no matter what, and the worst part
15 about it someone of the fixed costs are tied
16 to a variable like you are right. When they
17 got the medical it is huge and it is a
18 variable and I don't know how other than
19 cost containment is the only solution to
20 that, but we are stuck with it. Whatever it
21 is, like I said before.

22 If only they listened to Brian Reap
23 when he made a suggestion that could have
24 saved the city millions of dollars today.
25 They just wouldn't listen to him. He said

1 we know we got a problem with it, let them
2 go on social security. When it hits social
3 security they lose this, okay, and they go
4 on social security. That was just the
5 solution instead, of course, the way they
6 did it. Now we are paying double medical
7 costs and there is nothing you can do about
8 it. Thank you.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Donna
10 Dominick.

11 MS. DOMINICK: Good evening. Donna
12 Dominick, Scranton resident.

13 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

14 MS. DOMINICK: I'm here for two
15 things: First thing I think you can help me
16 with, the second one probably just need to
17 get it off of my chest. I think it maybe
18 might have been two years, Mrs. Evans, I
19 didn't bring it to your attention, but
20 someone else must have, I live at South Side
21 Park Avenue between Jackson Street and
22 Washburn Street. There is vacant lot on the
23 corner of Jackson and South Hyde Park.
24 Every time we get heavy rain all of the
25 gravel, mud, rock, everything washes down in

1 front of my home. I remember at the time
2 you said about hearing about the guy that
3 was cleaning it up and wheeling it back up
4 and dumping in the lot, that was my son, and
5 we really got to the point we just stopped
6 doing it.

7 Now, the last three times I called
8 DPW, and they did come out and they cleaned
9 it up for us and I thanked them. I have
10 checked, my understanding is that is a
11 city-owned lot and if that is true I'm
12 wondering isn't there some type of barrier
13 that -- don't even have to be high, just
14 something to keep that from -- it washes
15 down and it just sits right in front of our
16 home, you know, that's where it stops and it
17 really is disgusting, you know, and I don't
18 know if you had checked at the time about
19 that, I don't know what or anything you
20 found out about --

21 MS. EVANS: No, I think it was just
22 a matter of trying to get a cleanup underway
23 so that you wouldn't have to continually
24 clean that mess up yourself, which you
25 shouldn't have to do.

1 MS. DOMINICK: Right, that's why we
2 stopped. It was awfully heavy.

3 MS. EVANS: Sure.

4 MS. DOMINICK: I mean, this was like
5 backbreaking stuff, it weighs a ton, you
6 know, and then keep wheeling it up the block
7 and empty it out in the lot, it's just -- if
8 it could just be sealed off.

9 MS. EVANS: We'll look into that.

10 MS. DOMINICK: Or a fence along the
11 side if the city could put some kind of
12 barrier there, I don't know. Okay.

13 And the second thing is you probably
14 heard enough about flooding, in fact, I wish
15 I was Mr. Spindler, I would be happy with
16 just my sidewalks flooding out because I get
17 it up to the second step, but that Sunday
18 when we had those heavy rains, you know, my
19 basement was flooded, took out the furnace,
20 the water heater, had to replace that, we
21 get flooded repeatedly, there is four of us
22 where we sit on Hyde Park Avenue, it slopes
23 down, evens out here and then it kind of
24 goes up a little. Now, we have been pumping
25 out our own basements for years, myself and

1 the guy next door.

2 Now, that particular day was an
3 unusual rain event so the fire department
4 did pump out several houses around us, but
5 generally that's not the case, but every
6 time we do get heavy rain, myself and my
7 neighbor next door we pump ourselves, that's
8 just how it's always been.

9 Now, after that occurred I called
10 the Sewer Authority up because it
11 literally-- if you are familiar with the
12 street behind PNC Bank there, this is his
13 house, my house, right to the end of the PNC
14 lot where it becomes a lake like Meridian
15 Avenue does, and they were really nice guys
16 that came out from there, and I had
17 conversation with the one man and he --
18 because I said, "I don't understand --"
19 well, they checked the sewers first, and he
20 said they were clean. And I said, "Geez,
21 I'm surprised that, you know, it got that
22 bad," and I said, "Especially with the one
23 like there is a sewer across from me, there
24 is another one right here, and right here,
25 like surrounded by three sewers."

1 And he said back then when they put
2 them in he said they knew then that that was
3 a flood area, so my question is why can't
4 you get flood insurance? To me, I don't
5 mind not being a designated flood area, but
6 then I shouldn't get flooded, but every time
7 it rains heavy and you get flooded that
8 small area some way should be designated a
9 flood area. I mean --

10 MS. EVANS: We can --

11 MS. DOMINIC: I don't know where you
12 go or what you do with this, but --

13 MS. EVANS: Let us look into it in
14 our office and if you could leave your
15 telephone number and then we'll get back in
16 touch with you.

17 MS. DOMINIC: Okay. Thanks, Mrs.
18 Evans. Good night, Council.

19 MS. EVANS: You are welcome. Ron
20 Ellman.

21 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Ronnie
22 Ellman, member of the Taxpayers'
23 Association. I was certainly glad to see
24 somebody oppose the university's building.
25 It doesn't look like too many people want to

1 tackle them. You know, this zoning board
2 has just stabbed the people of this city
3 right in the back. You know what's going to
4 happen next, they are going to take a block
5 of houses for parking because there is no
6 parking for up to 1,000 people that they
7 plan to have in this building that, you
8 know, there is no stopping them. Then they
9 are going to tell you we can't get an
10 orderly -- people to cross Mulberry orderly
11 so we need to close Mulberry. This is never
12 going to stop with them unless you put your
13 food down, and nobody seems to do it.

14 You know, here is some more
15 propaganda, just a bunch of dismal figures
16 that don't make sense in here. There is no
17 way in the world the University of Scranton
18 generates \$411 million in this city. There
19 is just no way, and I asked somebody what
20 they thought about that that's very
21 successful and he just laughed. You know,
22 this is like World War II Goebbel feeding
23 the German people a bunch of propaganda,
24 that's all this is, you know, they don't
25 stop. You people, we elected you to put,

1 you know, put your foot down and try to do
2 something to end it and it's not being done.
3 I have people just mention this all of the
4 time.

5 Over here it says that they are
6 bragging about what's his name,
7 Mr. Pallichak brags about the University
8 giving \$100,000 in lieu of taxes. The last
9 house they took off was \$6,500 or so, but if
10 you took the 150 houses they are taken off
11 over the years and figure them just in
12 \$1,000 a piece for crying out loud, just a
13 \$1,000 instead of four or five thousand
14 that's 150,000 and here that Mr. McKenna
15 protege is bragging about them giving us
16 \$100,000 gift, and I asked Stu Renda for
17 proof of the permits and he refuses to give
18 them to me, so I could take it -- I just
19 take it for -- that they didn't pay all of
20 the -- you know, the permit fees.

21 MS. EVANS: You could file a
22 Right-to-Know request and it has to be
23 answered.

24 MR. ELLMAN: I did that.

25 MS. EVANS: Oh, and he refused?

1 MR. ELLMAN: I got everything. He
2 is not going to give it up. He'll wait
3 until the FBI comes and they will get him,
4 but he won't give them to me. That's
5 another one that I don't have no use for,
6 and I have had a whole bunch of people ask
7 me, probably ten or one people, ask about
8 that house that I have found out, a \$200,000
9 house that is taken off the tax rolls on
10 Court Street. Did anybody check into it?

11 MS. EVANS: Actually, yes, we did.
12 Mrs. Krake, do you want to explain to
13 Mr. Ellman, please?

14 MR. ELLMAN: People want to know how
15 and why and who did it. It paid taxes and
16 was taken off. Now, if that's not something
17 crooked I just don't know what it is, and
18 how do you know how many other houses in
19 that neighborhood, and then I have to listen
20 to the United Way pleading for money they
21 gave 200 -- they gave money, not \$200,000,
22 to Arc to buy a house that's going to --
23 it's not going to help a neighborhood put a
24 group home in the middle of \$200,000 houses.
25 There is that big building on the corner of

1 Mulberry and Sanderson, used to be the
2 nursing home, why didn't they go over there
3 and buy that building? It wouldn't even
4 cost \$200,000.

5 See, they are buying houses all over
6 town, taking them off the tax roles and
7 nobody is doing nothing. There is no kind
8 of codes or something where you can put a --
9 that's a business going in the middle of a
10 residential neighborhood. You know, it's
11 just not right. I know I could buy a
12 building next door to me and they wouldn't
13 want me for a neighbor, I promise you. I
14 just don't know what in the world I would do
15 if they had a group home open up next door
16 to me and ruin my property values.

17 And real quick, this little girl, I
18 ran into her Sunday, she pushes a stroller
19 with a baby in it and has a little I guess
20 he is three years old, a little tiny kid she
21 holds by the hand, she asked me again if
22 they could remove that car, two cars on the
23 2000 block because that's where she lives
24 evidently, someplace on North Main, and I
25 went by there, they got 150-foot driveway

1 with parking in the back and they park
2 against a iron fence next to the old
3 library, you know, where you cannot use it.
4 And this isn't for me because I don't walk
5 down there, it's too far, my dog would have
6 a heart attack trying to walk that far.

7 MS. EVANS: This is right on North
8 Main?

9 MR. ELLMAN: Is what?

10 MS. EVANS: There is right on North
11 Main?

12 MR. ELLMAN: Yeah, the 2000 block.

13 MS. EVANS: Okay.

14 MR. ELLMAN: Next to that old
15 children's library and what it used to be,
16 and I don't know where she lived because I
17 didn't ask her, but she has to go out and
18 she told me she crosses the street, so I
19 guess she crossed down the street somewhere.

20 And one other thing, Sunday night
21 Miss Rosie and me were riding around and we
22 stopped in a little place called Cosmo's
23 over on Moosic Street for some ice cream and
24 here is a very apparent successful business
25 that's not KOZ and they got building permits

1 and that shows that we don't need to KOZ
2 this whole city. He has people he has hired
3 and, you know, delicious --

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

5 MR. ELLMAN: -- ice cream. He's from
6 Montdale and I asked him, you know, somebody
7 needs to just get a wheel barrow and push it
8 through the front window and tell the boss
9 to fill it up with ice cream. Very, very
10 nice people over there, and thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And, Ms.
12 Carrera, if we could get a letter sent about
13 that situation on North Main Avenue
14 tomorrow, please.

15 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

16 MS. EVANS: And also about that
17 vacant lot at the corner of South Hyde Park
18 and Jackson Street. Thank you. Francis
19 Tyson.

20 MR. TYSON: Francis Tyson, resident
21 of Scranton. Thank you, Mr. Loscombe, for
22 your vote, we appreciate all of the
23 information we can get around the city no
24 matter what corners it may have come from.
25 Yes, we're having our Independence Day event

1 at Nay Aug Park as we do every year and we
2 start that off at 10:30 in the morning.
3 Some people ask why we start so early in the
4 morning, it's because what we like to do is
5 give everybody an opportunity to have the
6 rest of the day to observe Independence Day
7 with your families in our community.

8 We start our program off with a
9 concert band concert, Ted Riggy and his
10 band, and that goes on until 11:00 and we
11 call for the presentation of flags at 11:00
12 to start our ceremony.

13 On the program it's directed on
14 Independence Day for patriotism and we try
15 to make this towards all of the youngsters.
16 That's why during our program what we do is
17 we pass out American flags to all of the
18 youngsters that are there. We also at the
19 conclusion pass out a free beverage to all
20 the youngsters through the benefit of the
21 lady's auxiliary Marine Corp League, so we
22 try to make it as most pleasurable day as we
23 possibly can.

24 We actually have 17 veterans groups
25 that's going to participate in this

1 particular program, and it's not easy to get
2 that many different groups at one time, but
3 they are all very dedicated, they are all
4 veterans. We also have assistance from our
5 Boy Scouts, they are going to help us again
6 this year, so if all of you can make it we
7 certainly would like to have you attend,
8 Madam President of council and your group.

9 We would like to indicate
10 regrettably this year or unfortunately this
11 year is that Independence Day falls on a
12 Sunday. This may interfere with some people
13 that has their religious obligations, but
14 I'm sure they can get together and come up
15 with some sort of compromise where you can
16 probably enjoy both, so if anybody has the
17 time and inclination please join us on the
18 Fourth of July up at Nay Aug Park. Thank
19 you very much.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much. Is
21 there anyone else that cares to address
22 council?

23 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus. First, I'd
24 like to I address something up on River
25 Street up by the light there. I'm sure Mr.

1 McGoff must be aware of this, the light at
2 River Street and the Scranton Expressway,
3 well, now there is construction and there
4 has been and there is a bridge and so it's
5 two lanes -- it used to be two lanes going
6 and two lanes going back. Now it's two
7 lanes going up and one is for coming down
8 and one is for going up, but when you are at
9 that light and you even back up from the
10 light there is a line to stay behind, the
11 tractor trailers get off of the expressway
12 to make at that turn, somebody is going to
13 get killed because they do not move -- they
14 don't stop, and I had to go right off the
15 road into the dirt because you can't back up
16 because there is cars behind you. You can't
17 back up to give them more room, and they
18 just don't care because I blew my horn, they
19 just keep coming. I mean, I could have got
20 the whole front of my car smashed.

21 Well, the same thing happened with
22 my sister. She lives up there on Moltke, so
23 it's not just me. Somebody is going to get
24 killed. I don't know what you can do there
25 or a whole car is going to get demolished.

1 I mean, it's sometimes impossible. I mean,
2 it's unbelievable.

3 MR. MCGOFF: What they need to do is
4 move the stop line back.

5 MS. FRANUS: Not even that, the stop
6 line --

7 MR. MCGOFF: Well, they need to move
8 it back pretty far.

9 MS. FRANUS: They need to move that
10 barrier over to the left. They need to give
11 them room.

12 MR. MCGOFF: That might help as
13 well, yes.

14 MS. FRANUS: I mean, well, the stop
15 line is going to have to go way back. A
16 move is fine, but I don't think many people
17 even go by that stop line. You know, the
18 stop sign is way up here, they are not going
19 to back way down. It's going to be too late
20 one of these days.

21 I just wanted to come here to
22 express my views on that SAPA, whatever it
23 is. The Scranton Times has been writing
24 many editorials encouraging council to pass
25 this. I just hope you are not swayed by the

1 constant barrage of letters, you know, and
2 opinions from the Scranton Times and saying
3 how it's basically your fault if all of
4 these other cities and townships fail. No
5 it's not. You stand by your guns. When
6 asked last week Mr. McGoff couldn't get the
7 cost of a minimal cost and it's I think
8 wonderful, Mr. Rogan and Mr. Loscombe, that
9 you really asked the good questions and you
10 stuck to your guns. I mean, you really did
11 what the people elected to you do to, and I
12 appreciate that as well as many other people
13 do. It was nice to hear. It was so
14 refreshing.

15 I just hope that you stand by what
16 you think, stay the course, because if a
17 business wants to come to Scranton they
18 don't need that to pass to come. I mean,
19 why should we pay money for something we
20 don't even know how much it's going cost and
21 then, like you said, if somebody is going to
22 want to come, they are going to come.
23 That's not going to make any difference
24 whatsoever. What's to stop them. You want
25 them to come. They are going to come. I

1 don't get it. So it makes no sense
2 whatsoever.

3 I read these articles and I think,
4 boy, talk about propaganda. Typical
5 propaganda and then nothing against you,
6 Mr. McGoff, in a way, but when you are
7 pushing something so hard I have to wonder
8 or right off the bat I am thinking something
9 must be fishy here, something must --
10 something is not right here, so that's one
11 thing right off the bat. Red flags go way
12 up. I.

13 Don't know what else to say except
14 the University of Scranton I don't think, my
15 own personal view, I don't know when it's
16 going to come in front of you, I see the
17 planning commission passed that and I see
18 where the zoning board passed that, I can't
19 even comprehend how you could pass that. I
20 think these dorms, I've said it before, they
21 are not academic buildings. I think each
22 person, I mean, they are getting tuition
23 from 400 people, that's just one building
24 that they are building. How about all of
25 the other ones that are there? Unless you

1 get money in lieu of taxes from the
2 University of Scranton I do not think you
3 should give them what they want ever. Ever.
4 Ever, ever. Ever.

5 Their money for their permits, big
6 deal. When you people get permits you pay
7 your taxes, don't you? Well, they are
8 getting permits without paying taxes. If I
9 were the people on the hill I would be
10 outraged. I mean, starting a revolution up
11 there. That's all. Thank you very much.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MS. FRANUS: And thank you again,
14 Mr. Rogan and Mr. Loscombe.

15 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
17 Marie Schumacher. I guess since they end it
18 with a Scranton-Abington planning I'd like
19 to start with it. I'd like to read the
20 forward to that plan, I don't know, it's
21 available in the Scranton Public Library at
22 Albright if anybody has taken the time to
23 look at it, but it reads: "While the
24 benefits of multi-municipal planning are
25 numerous, prudence dictates that all aspects

1 of this plan include: This SAPA plan should
2 not infringe on any lawful rights granted to
3 any member municipal that said member
4 retained prior to it's participation in it's
5 association.

6 All decisions relative to
7 participating in this plan now and in the
8 future are the sole dominion of the elected
9 leadership of each member municipality.
10 Each member community will continue to
11 maintain it's own zoning hearing board.
12 Each member community reserves the right to
13 withdrawal from this SAPA plan at any time.
14 Autonomy of each and every member community
15 shall be permanently protected and
16 maintained.

17 We have made a considerable
18 financial investment, one of our city
19 employees has made a considerable investment
20 of his time over these past many years and I
21 believe for a number of reasons that we
22 should be allowed to hear what that person's
23 recommendation is in person, and I would
24 also since the figures weren't available I
25 would like to know if the value of the grant

1 value lost because DCED if you participate
2 in these does give you preference, if that
3 will exceed the cost of participation. I
4 think that's important and I do think
5 regionalization is the way to go, but I
6 would at least think we should hear from
7 Mr. King and maybe other members of the
8 association before -- one more time or at
9 least one time.

10 MS. EVANS: Well, actually, we have
11 in the past, two of us anyway. The three
12 new members did not to my knowledge, but we
13 have had the SAPA plan since 2009. I
14 believe or I would hope anyway that everyone
15 has read it, and we do have, at least I do,
16 many e-mails from SAPA, so I am
17 well-apprised of the agreement and the
18 situation, but I might ask what do you
19 believe are the specific benefits of SAPA
20 for the City of Scranton that Scranton does
21 not or cannot provide itself?

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: I think
23 regionalization, and I think we have made
24 this, what was it, \$25,000 investment and,
25 as I say, Mr. King has given up a lot of

1 evenings, I don't know if he gets paid, but
2 I think, you know, in all fairness if he has
3 made that investment of time and we have
4 made that investment of money, we deserve to
5 hear from them and in an open forum and as
6 we heard from PEL tonight.

7 MS. EVANS: Yes. We have made a
8 significant contribution greater than any of
9 the other communities involved and they are,
10 I believe, Newton, Dalton --

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, I know what
12 they all are.

13 MS. EVANS: -- south Abington, West
14 Abington, etc., and I believe that probably
15 Mr. King's services are in-kind services
16 that have been provided, you know, by the
17 city, but do you realize this is a 20-year
18 plan?

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: And we can opt out
20 any time we want.

21 MS. EVANS: It's a 20-year plan with
22 no price tag attached to it, so--

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: I understand.
24 Well, maybe --

25 MS. EVANS: I believe it would be

1 irresponsible to enter into any agreement
2 and not know what costs is involved.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: I believe DCED has
4 costs. I think we have heard some discussed
5 at some of the meetings that I attended held
6 up in Newton, but again, I think it should
7 at least be publically, I'm not saying you
8 people obviously have made up your minds,
9 but I think the taxpayers have already made
10 that investment and deserve to hear the
11 other side.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes, but it's a little
13 bit -- well, actually, SAPA has held, as you
14 know, because you have been present at them,
15 quite a number of public meetings over the
16 last two years minimum, so public
17 presentations have been made, but the
18 concern about DCED and other state
19 departments funding this is significantly
20 risky right now. In fact --

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: I understand what
22 you're saying that it will save money--

23 MS. EVANS: -- the individual from
24 DCED who has been working closely with SAPA
25 just learned in November that her job was

1 going to be saved for 2010. You know, we
2 don't even know if it's going to be saved
3 beyond that. It's on a year-to-year basis,
4 so we don't even know if the people involved
5 from these agencies are going to continue to
6 be employed by the state. That's how shaky
7 and risky this is right now.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: So it's only one
9 year, but anyway, I don't want to spend my
10 whole time. I didn't mean to go on that
11 long. I would like to know if the city --
12 if you all have passed an ordinance that --
13 on not charging victims for police reports
14 and if so when that is effective. I know
15 it's been discussed but --

16 MR. ROGAN: I met with the chief
17 about that last week and I discussed it with
18 some of my colleagues on council and it's
19 something we are working on right now.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: But you have the
21 ability to pass an ordinance to actually
22 affect that; correct?

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes. It would be an
24 amendment to, actually I have it right in
25 front of me, File of Council No. 30, 1999.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Well, I
2 would hope that would come soon. I thought
3 tonight's presentation was interesting. I
4 wish we had been able to see the conclusion,
5 but I guess that will keep us coming back,
6 and I thought it was interesting that our
7 debt service exceeds, but not by much, our
8 structural deficit.

9 And I noticed that there has been an
10 announcement for bids for the pavilion at
11 Nay Aug Park again, I don't believe that was
12 in the capital budget. Are you -- is
13 anybody --

14 MS. EVANS: I have already put in a
15 request for that information. I don't know
16 either where -- what the budgetary line item
17 is coming from, I don't know if it's the
18 operating budget or the capital budget, and
19 our office is trying to get that information
20 I. Believe Mr. Renda is the one with the
21 knowledge in this area, but he is on
22 vacation now for the week. We have been
23 trying since last week to obtain the answers
24 to that line item.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Because the

1 greenhouse still isn't started and those
2 bids were approved quite awhile ago and it
3 seems to me that the residents and users of
4 the old South Side Complex should be coming
5 up on the list for their replacement pretty
6 soon.

7 And now, if I may, that flood
8 control project that came up, the sale of
9 that house on Parker Street, whether it's
10 east or west, I don't know. The Tax
11 Assessor's records and the flood office
12 records are all -- but, I'm concerned about
13 it from, I mean, not that we have any --
14 much latitude because the government has
15 told us what we have to do to mitigate that
16 100-year flood plan and even though there
17 are only 18 properties involved totally,
18 just from the rough calculations I have made
19 based on the sale of the property, that one
20 property that was in the paper last week,
21 based on the percentage that is of the
22 assessed value, the city is going to -- it's
23 12 1/2 percent, remember, this is a federal
24 project so it's going to be 75 percent by
25 the federal government and then 12 1/2 by

1 state and 12 1/2 by us, if I may finish this
2 thought. It's going to be over a quarter of
3 a million dollars to buy those houses.
4 There are another 11 houses on those 18
5 properties have demolition, homes that are
6 going to be have to demolished, which is
7 additional costs, and then I would hope
8 somebody is working with Advanced Textile
9 Composites in their relocations since they
10 are one of the buildings that are scheduled
11 to be bought out for that flood control plan
12 and I would hate to see a thriving business
13 move out of the city, especially when there
14 are lots of places, so I hope somebody is
15 talking to them.

16 MS. EVANS: Actually, yes. Those
17 are part of the responsibilities of
18 Mr. O'Hora, the flood control manager for
19 the city, to relocate all of those
20 individuals whether homeowners or
21 businesses.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Well, I do
23 -- and who budgets for those? Where is that
24 quarter -- well, it's going to be more than
25 a quarter of a million dollars probably when

1 last week, I'm still waiting for a response.
2 I did speak to Deputy Chief Lucas on the
3 fire department response to Dunmore, we are
4 compiling that. Chief Davis was out so he
5 was going to get together with him and
6 proceed with the information on that, and I
7 believe you asked about the grant for fire
8 trucks or whatever, the last vehicle, the
9 Rescue I, which is over on Wyoming Avenue
10 that was done through grants through OECD.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: And I get more
13 information I'll pass it along.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: I didn't get to
15 my-- I do have a fire department thing, but
16 I'll get to that next week, so thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

18 MR. SLEDENZSKI: This is for Janet.
19 That's for you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy, they're
22 rolling.

23 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jack, what did you
24 say?

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Did you hear them?

1 They are rolling.

2 MR. SLEDENZSKI: I know I heard
3 them. I heard them. They roll quick, don't
4 they? I want to say one thing, Jack, these
5 guys are doing a good job downstairs, aren't
6 they? They all are, even the chief, too.
7 Wish him luck. Get back to work, Chief, I
8 miss you. Thank you.

9 MS. EVANS: Thanks, Chris.

10 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.
11 Nelson Ancherani, First Amendment Rights.
12 Two weeks ago I said police officers will be
13 getting paid for doing nothing when the city
14 has to pay out the award from the PA Labor
15 Relations Board regarding the SIT clerks.
16 It's not for nothing. It is for the work
17 the officers are doing, doing the work of
18 the not hired SIT clerks by the city.

19 Article I, Section II, of the
20 1993-96 CBA provides for the creation of an
21 SI Committee, SIT, comprised of duly
22 authorized representatives of the city, PEL,
23 and the FOP, so the city and PEL had a hand
24 in development of the SIT, but the city is
25 not living up to the agreement.

1 Following is from the March 18, '08
2 council minutes of Ann Marie Stulgis and
3 thanks, Jerome, for the reminder. It's also
4 condensed for time restraints: The SIT
5 history since 2003. The city eliminated in
6 violation of the police contract several
7 clerk positions in January of 2003. In
8 February of that year, the union filed a
9 grievance because those positions were
10 created as part of the Recovery Plan. The
11 SIT clerks were created in 1993 by the city
12 and the Pennsylvania Economy League who
13 overseas the distressed status of the city.

14 In return for the creation of those
15 clerk positions, 17 police jobs were
16 eliminated. The understanding being that
17 while police jobs were eliminated, lower
18 paying clerks would be hired to do all of
19 the paperwork for the police officers
20 because police officers are mandated to
21 write reports and all written reports have
22 to be typed. Since most police officers
23 aren't typists and tend to hunt a peck, a
24 lot of time was spent doing paperwork. With
25 SIT clerks working, that time would no

1 longer be spent at headquarters, police
2 officers would be on the road ensuring the
3 citizens and public safety.

4 Because the city chose to
5 arbitrarily eliminate those positions, the
6 FOP went to arbitration. February 13, '03
7 is when the grievance was filed. That was
8 for a binding arbitrator and on September
9 13, '04, 19 months later, the arbitrator
10 ruled that the city blatantly and willfully
11 violated the union contract, thus, ordering
12 the city to make cash payments to the police
13 officers pay union legal fees and to pay
14 interest from the date the grievance was
15 filed which was, of course, February of
16 2003.

17 Did the city comply? No. It
18 appealed to Common Pleas Court and lost.
19 Did they then comply? No. They appealed to
20 Commonwealth Court. There were two hearings
21 held in Commonwealth Court, the first
22 hearing was before three judges. Because
23 this was a serious issue with the
24 possibility of a huge monetary payout and
25 the city being an Act 47 city, the

1 Commonwealth Court demanded an en banc
2 hearing, simply meaning that the case was
3 heard by the full Commonwealth of seven
4 judges. Their decision was unanimous with
5 the city losing again. Did they comply this
6 time around? No.

7 At this point the FOP went to the PA
8 Labor Relations Board alleging that the city
9 violated the PA Labor Relations Act by
10 failing to comply with the Common Pleas
11 Court decision. The PLRB ruled in fact the
12 city did fail to comply. Did the city then
13 comply? No. The city then filed with the
14 PA Supreme Court to have the case heard.
15 Pennsylvania Supreme Court denied hearing
16 that case saying the Commonwealth Court
17 decision stands. Did the city then comply?
18 No, they did no.

19 And may I remind you, as Ann Marie
20 did in '08 that the dollar figure all of
21 those years continues to grow, as did the
22 interest. Around the beginning of March
23 2008 police officers were paid \$1 million of
24 that arbitration award. They had hired five
25 of the eight clerks. That one million was

1 about half of what the city owed. That
2 money figure of \$800,000 is now what the
3 city owes -- is not now what the city owes,
4 it is more like \$1.7 million and growing
5 daily. Keeping in mind that that dollar
6 figure is mounting every day, that that
7 interest is growing every day, they still
8 have three more clerks to hire, which
9 supposedly they now are doing.

10 Since the city did not comply with
11 hiring the three clerks and not complying
12 with monetary value of the award another
13 PLRB hearing was held in February of '09 to
14 force the compliance. That PA Labor
15 Relation's opinion came -- can I just finish
16 this?

17 MS. EVANS: Yes.

18 MR. ANCHERANI: That opinion just
19 came out on June 7, 2010. The city is
20 filing an exception, more delay. And might
21 I also mention that more than one million
22 was spent on legal fees to fight this
23 ridiculous case. And just remember, it
24 never had to happen. All it took was
25 compliance in 2003 and we would not be here

1 worrying about whether or not we will have
2 the money to pay this award. This all could
3 have been avoided. Thank you.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

8 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, do you have
9 any arguments or motions at this time?

10 MR. MCGOFF: Please. Just to
11 reiterate some of the things that were said
12 from the podium. As you know, I feel that
13 last week's vote on the SAPA plan was
14 somewhat ill-advised. We have received a
15 letter from the members or from the Board of
16 the Scranton and Abington's Planning
17 Association asking for a meeting. I would
18 hope that that becomes a priority, that we
19 can meet with them, and at some point in
20 time receive the information that I believe
21 we need to vote on that again, and hopefully
22 after that meeting that one of the members
23 who voted against the plan, against the
24 legislation, would ask for a reintroduction
25 of the legislation. I believe that it's

1 something that can be beneficial and has
2 been said I think that the more information
3 we receive the more it will be found that it
4 is a beneficial and cost effective item for
5 the City of Scranton.

6 Secondly, I would also like -- I
7 don't know, do we have an update on the
8 current status of Comcast -- of the Comcast
9 franchise?

10 MS. EVANS: We are still in
11 negotiations.

12 MR. MCGOFF: That again is something
13 that I think we need to really move forward
14 with hopefully before we break for the
15 summer in August. I think that the longer
16 we put this off the -- again, there are some
17 things that I believe -- I believe there is
18 some things beneficial to the city in that
19 renewal agreement. I also think that the
20 longer we put it off there would become some
21 detriments to the -- to it, so I would hope
22 to see it on the agenda in the near future.

23 Also, I noticed that we received in
24 the mail or in our mail bids for demolition
25 of hazardous structures, the bids for seven

1 structures in the South Side. I do not -- I
2 don't know if anyone has gotten -- I know we
3 asked at one point in time for a list --

4 MS. EVANS: A list, we never
5 received.

6 MR. MCGOFF: -- of structures. I'll
7 see if I can see if there is a kind of
8 priority list, but I know that these seven
9 were bid out and hopefully maybe by next
10 week we can see if they're -- again, when
11 these will take -- when the demolition of
12 these properties will begin and if there any
13 other others that are scheduled for the near
14 future, and that's it. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Mr. Rogan, any comments
16 or motions at this time?

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Thank you. Just a
18 quick comment on SAPA again. I don't want
19 to beat a dead horse, but --

20 MR. MCGOFF: It's already dead.

21 MR. ROGAN: You know, as was put in
22 the paper I said that I would be willing to
23 meet with the organizers from the group, and
24 what I said was I would be willing to meet
25 with anybody who has ideas for this city.

1 If they want to meet I would be glad to meet
2 with them. I do not see how this plan would
3 benefit the city. Again, the cost we don't
4 know what it is, it's a 20-year agreement.
5 Somebody else, a resident told me today,
6 it's like buying a car from a used car
7 salesmen, but you don't know what the actual
8 price is.

9 And again, it concerns me that
10 Dickson City and Taylor are not involved.
11 If you look for the past ten years much of
12 the development in this area has been in
13 Dickson City. It started off with the mall
14 and now we look at all of the growth that's
15 been up there. And again, the big thing I
16 think that I'm concerned with is coming into
17 Scranton is the taxes and that leads very
18 well into the presentation with PEL and
19 there is just a couple of things I wanted to
20 point out that I noticed. The real estate
21 tax revenues. In 1999 the millage increased
22 by 12 percent, the following year there were
23 a small increase in revenue because of the
24 tax increase and then we saw a drop off
25 immediately after.

1 Again, the same thing in 2007 when
2 taxes were raised. For one year we would
3 see an increase and again a drop off. The
4 real estate tax, the real estate transfer
5 tax. In 2007 they were increased, there was
6 a one-year increase in revenue followed by
7 steep drops the following two years, and
8 actually 2007 we received \$4,715,000. The
9 next -- that was the first year the new tax
10 rates went into effect, so we did receive
11 about a million more dollars from the tax
12 increase one year. The next year it dropped
13 down to \$3,334,000, and the following year
14 dropped to only \$2,207,000 which is less
15 than we were bringing in before taxes were
16 increased.

17 On the opposite side, the mercantile
18 business privilege tax, which was reduced in
19 1997, we saw one year of a drop off when the
20 taxes were reduced, then four straight years
21 of growth in that category because of the
22 tax increase, and seven of the eight years
23 following the tax decrease we received more
24 in revenue.

25 So I think the facts will speak for

1 themselves that increasing taxes may be a
2 good solution for one year, but in the
3 long-term it's only going to hurt us.

4 And I would look forward to the
5 Recovery Plan when it comes up, but I
6 sincerely hope it does not include tax
7 increases or increases in the fees for the
8 residents of Scranton.

9 I have two responses from the OECD
10 office. The first one was regarding the 500
11 block of Lackawanna Avenue project and the
12 question was, "Have any of the companies
13 that worked for the above-referenced project
14 not been paid for the work? If so, please
15 list each of them and the amounts owed."

16 The response was that, "We are
17 currently in litigation with Sardoni
18 Construction Services against the City of
19 Scranton," and they said, "As the litigation
20 proceeds, further information may become
21 available."

22 The second question was, "Have there
23 been federal and state funds committed to
24 this project, and if so, how much from each
25 source?"

1 And the Lackawanna Avenue project
2 has three stages: Phase I, which was the
3 street scape project, was funded through
4 PennDOT in the amount of \$1,230,3256.10.
5 Phase II of the project, the Park Plaza and
6 pedestrian court, was funded in the amount
7 of \$2,088,000. That funding was made
8 available through PennDOT once again, and
9 additional funding was made available from a
10 grant to complete the park from the
11 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of
12 Conservation and Natural Resources.

13 Question three, "Are there any
14 tenants who have committed to leasing space
15 in the above-referenced project? If so,
16 please list them."

17 And the response we received was,
18 "The information must be provided by the 500
19 block of Lackawanna County Development
20 Company."

21 And, "Do you have a target date for
22 full occupancy?"

23 We received the same answers, "The
24 information must be provided by the 500
25 Lackawanna Development Company."

1 So at this time, Mrs. Krake, I would
2 ask that we forward those last two questions
3 to that company so we can see where we stand
4 with that.

5 And secondly, also from OECD, and I
6 think we touched on this last week, it was
7 about the loans that are considered open, I
8 think we talked about it for a few weeks
9 actually, and they list seven that are in
10 arrears right now, and they are in
11 litigation and the others are listed as
12 open, but it doesn't say whether they are
13 paid up-to-date, so could we please send
14 that request again asking for clarification?

15 And finally, I have two citizens'
16 requests for the week, and one is the court
17 between the 1200 block of Euclid
18 Avenue and the 1200 block of North Rebecca
19 Avenue needs to be paved as soon as
20 possible. Residents complain that ruts from
21 garbage trucks over the years is making it
22 almost impossible to use the alley. It
23 hasn't been paved in nearly 40 years, and
24 traffic -- it's very difficult to drive
25 around there in the wintertime because the

1 snow can't be collected because of the ruts
2 in the road. Could we please send that to
3 the DPW?

4 And also to the DPW, the one-way
5 sign on the corner of the 300 block of North
6 Bromley Avenue and Lafayette Street is down,
7 and that is all.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
9 Mr. Loscombe, do you have motions or
10 comments at this time?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you,
12 Mrs. Evans. First of all, I would like to
13 welcome my daughter Tara and my son-in-law
14 Bill James in here from West Lafayette,
15 Indiana for their third anniversary. She
16 wanted to see her dad in action here. Happy
17 anniversary, and the little guy, their
18 15-month old son is at home with my wife.

19 MS. EVANS: She is a lucky lady.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: She is babysitting
21 for them tonight. I, too, I have several
22 citizens' concerns I'll be getting to our
23 city clerk, no sense reading them all off,
24 but there are two that I just wanted to
25 mention. Mulberry Street, a lot of the

1 signs for the side streets are missing, and
2 that's a main drag. A lot of people coming
3 in from out of town looking for the
4 hospitals or whatever, it's causing a
5 problem. I was just wondering if there is a
6 reason the signs are down, if it's because
7 of the project going on or if they could put
8 something up there in the mean time until
9 they get to that point. If you can forward
10 that, Mrs. Krake?

11 Another one I have been asked a few
12 times is the Molly Brannigan's restaurant.
13 I know they opened up back on St. Patrick's
14 Day and according to the newspaper at that
15 time they were supposed to be opening up as
16 a full-fledged restaurant sometime in April.
17 I was just wondering if we could find out
18 some information on the status of that. Is
19 there a restaurant coming in there, who
20 collected the rent or whatever that day and
21 how it was dispersed or whatever.

22 And now my next discussion is what
23 we have already been discussing tonight is
24 SAPA. Now, let me preface it by saying I
25 have a lot of friends in the Abington area,

1 I know a lot of the officials up there, I'm
2 looking at the list of SAPA representatives,
3 I know quite a few of them, and I'm just
4 trying to explain my comprehension of the
5 SAPA plan in plain English to those of you
6 out there who really don't understand it.
7 This is my interpretation, I'll show you.

8 Look at this as a fruit pie. There
9 is a bunch of fruit mixed throughout it.
10 Right now the way it's setup is each piece
11 of the pie has to have all of the pieces of
12 fruit in it. By the SAPA plan they could
13 slide the raisins down into Scranton and
14 keep the apples up here. That's what this
15 plan does. It eliminates the zoning that
16 each individual municipality has to have and
17 it pushes it towards us. Now, the way it's
18 been portrayed in the newspapers and
19 editorials and whatever is that we're going
20 to greatly benefit from that.

21 Well, here's the other pie. This is
22 an exact same fruit pie, however, this is
23 the Mid-valley, the down valley, the up
24 valley. Their pie cost half the price. So
25 you think someone is going to buy a piece of

1 Scranton pie when they could put their
2 industrial business next door to us? We
3 have to get our taxes, our regressive taxes
4 in order before anything benefits us. They
5 can say all we want. We have invested 25,
6 \$28,000 to this point. I didn't invest it,
7 I wasn't on council, it was passed by
8 council at this time, but I don't think I
9 would have at this point.

10 Don King is a great man. I know Don
11 for over 20 years, he has done a lot of hard
12 work on this and I'm sure he believes in it.
13 I have never spoken to him personally about
14 it or anything like that. This has nothing
15 against -- I'm representing our community
16 not the 11 or 12 other communities. I'm
17 looking at our best interests. We cannot
18 look at a blank check for the next 20 years
19 when we don't know what the consequences are
20 going to be and funding is drying from the
21 state, the federal government and all them.
22 We can't look forward to that being a
23 benefit down the road either.

24 Our best case scenario, and if you
25 think about, we might have been in a more

1 competitive situation, but several years ago
2 a commuter tax was wiped out by those same
3 communities that want to benefit right now.
4 We might have been a little bit more
5 competitive, you know, but we are not, and
6 that is why I'm against it.

7 Maybe down the road regionalization
8 will work, but we have to be on the same
9 playing field. We have to be on the same
10 plain. Again, as I stated with these pies,
11 there is no guarantee if someone wants to
12 build an industrial park in South Abington
13 is going to be steered to Scranton. Sure
14 they will be steered to Scranton, but when
15 they find out they can get that same piece
16 of pie for half the price next door, just
17 like Wal-Mart, just like Dickson City, where
18 are they going to go?

19 So the newspaper can put all their
20 editorials in, they could put all their
21 articles in, but the newspaper if they want
22 to put their money where their mouth is let
23 them build a new production plant in
24 Scranton if they believe in it so much, and
25 that's all I have to say. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: If I could just add one
2 thing to that because I believe I was
3 probably the only council member here this
4 evening that met with SAPA back in 2005, and
5 my question to the them was, why only
6 Scranton? What about Scranton neighbors?
7 And I specifically named Dickson City,
8 Throop, Old Forge, Taylor, Dunmore. And
9 happily thereafter Dunmore received an
10 invitation to join, but I was told by the
11 SAPA representatives, no, we will not allow
12 other boroughs and townships into this
13 organization because it would make -- it
14 would make the organization too large and
15 unmanageable, and that has the adverse
16 effect then of making us, as Mr. Loscombe
17 said, in competition then with all of our
18 neighbors who have much lower tax rates than
19 we do.

20 And so I don't believe that this
21 plan can force or can guarantee that anybody
22 business, industry or even homeowners are
23 going to locate into Scranton. That's
24 something that's already available to us and
25 any zoning changes that need to be made, the

1 city can make. Mr. Joyce, do you have any
2 motions or comments this evening?

3 MR. JOYCE: Just a few brief
4 comments. A few weeks ago I believe it was
5 Mrs. Schumacher who asked what exactly was
6 the amount of revenue that the city will be
7 generating when KOZ's expire and we did -- I
8 did some research and with the help of our
9 office and Mr. Courtright we received
10 notification back that in 2010 \$221,000 was
11 the amount of abatement. To date, that's
12 what the Single Tax Office has abated in
13 2010. I know that 2010 is still current, so
14 I'm not sure if that will be -- if there
15 will be additions onto that. But,
16 Mrs. Krake, can we please send a letter back
17 over to Mr. Courtright and ask him if he
18 could gather the amount that the tax office
19 abated in 2009.

20 Just to further inform, a list has
21 never been generated by the Commonwealth of
22 Pennsylvania showing all of the KOZ
23 properties in a taxing district as they have
24 informed, so we are just going by what they
25 have provided us in their records, and

1 that's all for tonight.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
3 evening. Prior to this evening's regularly
4 scheduled council meeting the Pennsylvania
5 Economy League presented it's plan -- or
6 it's planning I should say for a revised
7 Recovery Plan for the City of Scranton
8 during the public caucus. Because PEL was
9 unable to complete it's presentation, an
10 additional public caucus will be scheduled
11 at 5:30 next Tuesday, July 5, in council
12 chambers.

13 Following completion of PEL's public
14 presentation, city council will read and
15 review the planning portion of this and
16 formulate it's responses and suggestions
17 during the forthcoming weeks. I urge you,
18 the taxpayers, to carefully consider this
19 plan which will directly impact your daily
20 lives, your money and your services. All
21 comments and suggestions can be he mailed to
22 council members and our office may be
23 contacted at 348-4113.

24 It's important to remember that
25 historically Scranton has been a distressed

1 city for 18 years and during this time more
2 than one Recovery Plan has been written in
3 the past, but all have been failures since
4 Scranton remains distressed and has amassed
5 more debt in the past eight years than
6 during any time in it's history.

7 In addition, the previous Recovery
8 Plan expired effective December 31, 2005,
9 and as was noted earlier this evening, five
10 years have transpired since the presentation
11 of a new plan. Consequently, it's
12 imperative for the survival of Scranton and
13 the success of the potential Recovery Plan
14 that we take our time in considering it. We
15 can't afford to rush to judgment, to ignore
16 impending financial crises or to turn a deaf
17 ear to the cries of our already overburdened
18 taxpayers. In short, we can't afford to
19 fail this time.

20 As a result, as much time is
21 necessary will be allotted and attention
22 will be focused on every aspect of the plan,
23 and equally important, council fully
24 recognized the weighty financial problems of
25 the majority of Scranton residents and as a

1 result intends to examine and propose
2 alternatives to some of PEL's suggestions in
3 a determined effort to protect you and to
4 ensure the economic recovery of Scranton.

5 Next, approximately five years ago a
6 three-way stop sign was installed at the
7 corner of Providence Road a state-owned
8 street and Diamond Avenue and that occurred
9 after a resident was struck and killed by a
10 motor vehicle. With increased property
11 development and traffic on Providence Road
12 serious accidents are on the rise. As
13 recently as election day, a serious accident
14 occurred when one driver failed to stop and
15 both vehicles were towed on flatbeds. The
16 Weston Field playground is adjacent to the
17 intersection and hundreds of Scranton High
18 School and Bancroft Elementary students
19 cross there dangerous intersection daily.
20 As a result, residents of the area request
21 the installation of a traffic light at the
22 corner of Providence Road and Diamond
23 Avenue.

24 I have learned from PennDOT District
25 Office 4-0, that a municipality can approach

1 budget for rental registration.

2 So, Mr. McGoff, I was wondering if
3 you would please find out why the
4 administration is holding up the legislation
5 and when council can expect to receive it in
6 order that the position of rental
7 registration coordinator can be advertised
8 and hired.

9 MR. MCGOFF: I will do that. I will
10 ask. I have spoken to some people in the
11 law department and one of the problems they
12 have with the legislation is the reluctance
13 to amend the budget in light of the Court
14 hearings on amending the budget.

15 MS. EVANS: I spoke with them, also,
16 and that was one of the responses they gave
17 me in addition to the fact that they don't
18 work for city council, but, you know, and
19 that's true. But, on the other hand, they
20 don't work for the mayor either, they work
21 for the city, they work for the people of
22 the city, the taxpayers are paying their
23 salaries, so they should be working on
24 legislation.

25 But beyond that, this is coming from

1 the legal department on the advice of the
2 business administrator, so it is -- it is
3 generated by the administration and the
4 mayor, therefore, the mayor did request
5 opening the budget to do this. It's been
6 done countless times in every year of the
7 seven years I have sat on council, I
8 probably spent half an hour reading off the
9 many times the budget has been opened and
10 amended, year after year after year, and so
11 I think what they are going to find though
12 is a big budget hole if they don't do
13 something.

14 And, you know, council has put a lot
15 of work into it thus far, had an ad
16 developed and ready to go, gave it to the
17 Human Resources Department so that they
18 could advertise, receive the applications
19 and qualifications and the mayor could make
20 his choice, but, you know, this is going on
21 now week after week, month after month, and
22 I guess it will be up to the administration
23 then to fill the hole.

24 As I was saying, revenues are the
25 most crucial part of a city budget and once

1 revenues are determined for a fiscal year
2 expenditures should be designed to meet, not
3 exceed, these revenues. In a lingering
4 recession, particularly budgetary
5 expenditures must be decreased, but in
6 Scranton's case revenues must also be
7 increased in order to meet our historical
8 debt. I am concerned by the preliminary
9 census reports I have been reading which
10 demonstrate a population decline in Scranton
11 despite the downtown economic development
12 projects, and the reputation for attracting
13 young families that the mayor and the
14 Scranton Times endlessly touted in an effort
15 to change our perceptions of reality.

16 Regardless of the PR, the city has
17 lost approximately 6 percent of it's
18 population since Mr. Doherty became mayor of
19 Scranton. That trend can only be reversed
20 through decreased taxes and strong public
21 safety departments. The exodus occurred
22 primarily as a result of oppressive taxes
23 and the frustration of living in
24 neighborhoods that are no longer safe and
25 clean. Scranton's task to is heal itself

1 Jackson Street and Cameron Avenue and
2 despite this there was an accident at the
3 this location in July of 2009, and residents
4 report there are frequent near misses. Like
5 many other intersections city-wide that have
6 a four-way stop sign installment, this
7 intersection seems to require a fourth stop
8 sign. Residents of the neighborhood have
9 requested this for several months. If the
10 DPW chooses not to install the sign, please
11 provide city council with an explanation on
12 or before July 8, and this is I believe our
13 second or third request on this matter.

14 The corner of Olive Street and
15 Wheeler Avenue, there is a vacant apartment
16 house with overgrown grass which has become
17 a haven for skunks and snakes. On Saturday
18 evening, June 26, a family was forced to
19 cross the street to avoid a snake at the
20 this location while walking to the concert
21 and fireworks display at Nay Aug Park. This
22 is an ongoing problem and last summer the
23 property was maintained by a neighbor and by
24 my husband. Please contact or cite the
25 owner of this property for it's blighted

1 condition and the health and safety problems
2 it presents to Scranton residents.

3 The corner of McDonough Avenue and
4 Oak Street, trees and brushes are highly
5 overgrown and obstruct the vision of
6 motorists at this intersection. Please cut
7 the overgrowth this week for the safety of
8 the public.

9 Residents continue to report that
10 numerous catch basins citywide remain
11 clogged with debris. Residents are
12 requesting a cleaning schedule for each
13 section of city neighborhoods similar to the
14 street sweeper schedule. It was suggested
15 if a DPW employee accompanies the driver of
16 the sweeper, he can compile an inventory of
17 clogged storm drains and the problems could
18 be addressed in an organized manner. Street
19 and property flooding has escalated this
20 summer, as we all know, and cleaning catch
21 basins may help to prevent or alleviate
22 future flooding.

23 Let me see now. City residents
24 report that the Washburn Street Cemetery is
25 once again overgrown. Please contact the

1 owner and ask him to maintain his property
2 as soon as possible in the manner that other
3 local cemeteries are properly maintained.

4 Also, a dumpster in the 10 block of
5 Hitchcock Court is overflowing and the
6 stench of the garbage permeates neighbor's
7 properties. The yard is also littered with
8 garbage. Please send an inspector as soon
9 as possible.

10 And we have potholes in the 1100
11 block of Roth Street that are in need of
12 repair by the DPW.

13 And I also received today an e-mail
14 from citizens in the area of Bancroft
15 School. This is at the corner of Cooper and
16 Ward Place. As the DPW this morning was
17 collecting the trash, they entered a "Do Not
18 Enter" block and in so doing they took out,
19 not the workers, but obviously the truck,
20 took out a piece of brand new curb and
21 neighbors witnessed this and were very upset
22 by it and naturally because they waited
23 decades to have their street paved and when
24 at long last, you know, there is an
25 improvement it's unfortunately being

1 destroyed, and so if we can notify the DPW
2 we need someone to get a back there and
3 repair that curb.

4 Also, in response to Mr. Ellman,
5 United Way contributes \$90,100 to Arc or the
6 Association of Retarded Citizens each year.
7 \$70,000 is for advocacy for autism. The
8 remaining \$20,000 is for different projects
9 such as Robinson Park, and the home on Court
10 Street that you had inquired about was
11 designated a KOZ, you are correct, since at
12 least 2006.

13 And I believe the car that you had
14 mentioned awhile back on School Street, an
15 inspector went out about that and there is a
16 carport that's over it and at the time he
17 visited the location, the car was half-way
18 out of the carport. No one was home at the
19 time so the inspector left a note for the
20 owner of the car to pull the car into the
21 carport and cover it up and keep it out of
22 the way of the sidewalks, and that's it.

23 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. RATIFYING THE
24 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
25 EXECUTION OF THE DECLARATION OF EASEMENT AND

1 RIGHT-OF WAY BETWEEN HORSHAM INDUSTRIAL AND
2 COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND
3 GF/PENNSYLVANIA PROPERTIES, INC. NOW BY
4 CHANGE OF NAME PENNSYLVANIA LTC, INC.,
5 ("GRANTORS") AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON
6 ("GRANTEE") FOR A STRIP OF LAND TEN (10')
7 FEET IN WIDTH AS SHOWN AND DEPICTED ON THE
8 "PROPOSED DRAINAGE PIPE AND DITCH EASEMENT
9 TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON" AND AUTHORIZING THE
10 FILING OF THE DECLARATION OF EASEMENT AND
11 RIGHT-OF-WAY IN THE RECORDER OF DEEDS OFFICE
12 OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

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

16 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
19 those in favor of introduction signify by
20 saying aye.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

24 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO
3 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. NO
4 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

5 MS. EVANS: I'll entertain a motion
6 to adjourn.

7 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

8 MS. EVANS: Meeting adjourned.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

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