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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE  
(Not present.)

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. Mr. Joyce.  
10 Mrs. Evans.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

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

15 CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING  
16 JUNE 30, 2010.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE  
20 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON JUNE  
21 23, 2010.

22 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
23 If not if not, received and filed. Clerk's  
24 notes.

25 MS. KRAKE: Clerk's notes we just

1 have one, one response. We had a response  
2 from Tom Tell, who works for Representative  
3 Murphy's Office. He met with city engineer,  
4 Brian Swanson, concerning constituent  
5 complaints. 354 Lawler Street regarding  
6 standing water. They'll need a slight a  
7 trench along the curb so the water would  
8 reach the storm drain as per then Director  
9 of Public Works, George Parker's  
10 recommendation, on September 28, 2004.

11 1451 Bulwer Street regarding  
12 sidewalk flooding. Mr. Swanson suggested a  
13 small lip of blacktop around the handicapped  
14 sidewalk be installed directed by the runoff  
15 of water.

16 3248 Oak Avenue concerning basement  
17 flooding. Mr. Swanson will make contact  
18 with the person to address the problem and  
19 correct it if they find it is the city's  
20 responsibility.

21 3257 Birney Avenue regarding the  
22 flooding. This has within a longstanding  
23 problem for over 40 years according to the  
24 resident and photos of many floods  
25 throughout the years are provided. This

1 situation will require more in-depth  
2 research on the part of the state as well as  
3 contacting PennDOT officials, Scranton Sewer  
4 Authority, and city officials to discuss a  
5 solution. Mr. Swanson and Mr. Tell will be  
6 meeting frequently to discuss the necessary  
7 steps to find a solution.

8 In closing, he wants to -- Tom Tell  
9 would like to thank council members and also  
10 to make us aware that city engineer, Brian  
11 Swanson and the Department of Public Works  
12 Director Jeff Brazil have been responsive to  
13 these problems and that they have a good  
14 working relationship with them.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.

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

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

19 MR. MCGOFF: Please. First,  
20 announcement it says, "Celebrate the 50th  
21 anniversary of "To Kill a Mockingbird."  
22 There will at Jack's Draft House on 802  
23 Prescott Avenue, Thursday evening, July 29,  
24 readings from "To Kill a Mockingbird" will  
25 be performed by local people. Judge Tom

1           Munley will be Atticus Fitch and Wendy  
2           Wilson as Scout. Yours truly as Jim. My  
3           sister suggested that I be Boo Radley. Boo  
4           is never seen and never heard, so she  
5           thought that would be a more appropriate  
6           part, but this is Thursday night, this  
7           Thursday, 5:30 at Jack's Draft House.  
8           Donations will benefit the Pages and Places  
9           book festival which will held later in the  
10          year.

11                         Also, Scranton Tomorrow first annual  
12          Chalk and Walk, downtown Scranton, Friday,  
13          August 6 from 4 to 8 p.m. It says "Express  
14          yourself in chalk. Family oriented event,  
15          children's activities, chalk creations by  
16          local artists, live music and more," so if  
17          you are into chalk creations and sidewalk  
18          chalk and, you know, you're welcome to  
19          attend or just to go and enjoy.

20                         And the last thing that I wanted to  
21          mention was I received a letter from  
22          Neighbor Works America. It says, "I am  
23          writing to inform you of the accomplishments  
24          of one of your constituents, Michael J.  
25          Hanley, of the United Neighborhood Centers.

1 Mr. Hanley graduated from the "Neighbor  
2 Works Achieving Excellence in Community  
3 Development Program" in collaboration with  
4 Harvard University's Kennedy School of  
5 Government. Mr. Hanley is one of 49 leaders  
6 to graduate with this achieving excellence  
7 class."

8 So congratulations to Mr. Hanley and  
9 all of the fine work he has done through  
10 United Neighborhood Centers. That's all.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Anyone else?

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I do. On August  
13 14, the Fraternal Order of Eagles on  
14 Meridian Avenue is having an all-day event.  
15 There are a couple of different functions.  
16 One is a poker run and that's registration  
17 from 9 to 11 a.m. and this is to benefit the  
18 Hospice and the registration fee is \$20 per  
19 rider, \$10 per passenger, and the ride will  
20 end with a Fraternal Order of Eagles dinner.  
21 Dinner is from 4 to 7 p.m., and that's \$8  
22 per person and there will be live  
23 entertainment at 8 p.m., and the live  
24 entertainment features war time songs,  
25 vintage dancing by Roger Munchack and

1 Friends. That will be a basket raffle,  
2 50/50 plus other surprises.

3 Blanket and stuffed animal donations  
4 are encouraged, and 1940's Armed Services or  
5 civilian dress code is preferred. And if  
6 you need any additional information you can  
7 go on line at Leggat, L-E-G-G-A-T  
8 III@aol.com, and you will be able to receive  
9 some more details on that.

10 There is also a fashion show showing  
11 off various outfits from the 40's and World  
12 War II, and that will be from noon to 2 p.m.  
13 so at the Fraternal Order of Eagles on  
14 Meridian Avenue they have a full day of  
15 events on August 14, that's a Saturday.

16 Another one is "Enjoy a short stack  
17 for a tall cause at Applebee's. You are  
18 invited to an Applebee's flapjack fundraiser  
19 breakfast to support the West Side Falcons  
20 Youth Organization. The price is \$6 per  
21 person and that will be Saturday, July 31,  
22 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., and that will be at  
23 the Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar at  
24 the Viewmont Mall.

25 A benefit for Gene O'Malley, spinal



1 cord injury patient, will be held on August  
2 21, also a Saturday, at 12 East Parker  
3 Street, the Parker House, and the time is  
4 from 7 to 11, and tickets will be \$10. It  
5 includes food beer and music than they will  
6 be selling baskets chances, also. Gene grew  
7 up in the Greenridge area of Scranton and  
8 graduated from Scranton Tech in 1985. He  
9 suffered a spinal cord injury in April.  
10 This benefit will help with his medical  
11 costs as he completes his rehabilitation and  
12 regains his mobility.

13 And finally, a benefit Saturday,  
14 July 31, from 1 to 4 at the Clarks Summit  
15 Fire Department Hall for a good friend of  
16 mine, retired firefighter Jim Fanning who is  
17 battling several different illnesses at this  
18 time. Again, it's at the Clarks Summit Fire  
19 Hall, 321 Bedford Street in Clarks Summit  
20 from 1 to 4 on Saturday. It's a spaghetti  
21 tea dinner and the event is \$10 for adults  
22 and \$5 for children over the age three. And  
23 that is all. Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. In an effort  
25 to dispel misinformation provided by ECTV to

1 the public, I wish to state for the record  
2 that Scranton City Council is not pulling  
3 the plug on Channel 19, the Education and  
4 Government Channel. No such statement was  
5 ever made by any member of this council. In  
6 fact, this council adamantly supports  
7 Channel 19 and the rights of citizens to  
8 view government meetings live and  
9 uncensored. Only ECTV itself has the  
10 ability to pull the plug on Channels 19 and  
11 21. This was an irresponsible measure on  
12 the part ECTV, an action unbecoming a  
13 professional peg channel operator.

14 Further, there is no written  
15 contract between Comcast and ECTV and no  
16 contract between the City of Scranton and  
17 ECTV. ECTV previously received \$100,000  
18 through the Scranton Office of Economic and  
19 Community Development and council has  
20 proposed to award \$50,000 of a \$100,000  
21 grant to ECTV in accordance with the new  
22 Comcast contract.

23 Finally, ECTV will have the option  
24 to bid for continued service as the PEG  
25 channel operator under contract.

1                   The weekly schedule for street  
2                   cleaning is as follows: July 26 through  
3                   July 30, New York Street to Mineral Avenue;  
4                   August 2 to August 6, Wheeler Avenue to  
5                   Matthew Avenue; August 9 to 13, Cherry  
6                   Street to Breck Street; August 16 to 20,  
7                   Wintermantle Avenue and Moltke Avenue;  
8                   August 23 to August 27, Oram Street to Land  
9                   Street; and August 30 to September 3, St.  
10                  Ann's Street to Rundle Street.

11                  The annual "National Night Out"  
12                  celebration will be conducted on Tuesday,  
13                  August 3, from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Village  
14                  Park apartments in Scranton. Included in  
15                  this event will be magicians, clowns and a  
16                  DJ, and the community is invited to attend.

17                  On Friday, August 13, there will be  
18                  a CPW wrestling benefit for autism at St.  
19                  Mary's Center, 320 Mifflin Avenue. Doors  
20                  open at 6:30 and bell time is 7:00. The  
21                  cost is \$10 for front row and \$5 general  
22                  admission. Call 955-0923 for tickets.

23                  On Saturday, August 14, the  
24                  Northeastern Pennsylvania Minor's football  
25                  team will host the first annual "Pancreatic

1 Cancer Awareness Night" at Memorial Stadium  
2 to raise awareness of the disease and to  
3 help patients and their families with  
4 financial and education resources. For more  
5 information contact Tara Jones at  
6 570-498-9488 or Coach Dan Lamana at  
7 570-604-4438. Please support this very  
8 worthy event.

9 A spaghetti dinner to benefit breast  
10 cancer patient, Rebecca Barrett, will be  
11 held on Saturday, August 14 from 4 to 8 p.m.  
12 at the 20th Ward Social Club, 2028 Pittston  
13 Avenue. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8  
14 for children ages eight and under. Takeouts  
15 are also available.

16 And on behalf of Scranton City  
17 Council, I wish to congratulate two city  
18 residents for their noteworthy  
19 accomplishments. First, Michael Hanley of  
20 United Neighborhood Centers, as was  
21 mentioned previously by Councilman McGoff,  
22 and Mr. Robert Schmidt, who received his PhD  
23 from SUNY Binghamton this spring.  
24 Congratulations on your achievements.

25 Finally, Scranton City Council will

1 be recessing for the month of August.  
2 Regularly scheduled council meetings will  
3 resume on September 7.

4 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
5 PARTICIPATION.

6 MS. EVANS: And prior to our first  
7 speaker this evening, just one more  
8 announcement, if approved by council  
9 members, council will suspend it's rules  
10 this evening to move Sixth Order agenda  
11 items into Seventh Order for final adoption.  
12 If any speakers wish to address these agenda  
13 items, please do so at this time during  
14 citizens' participation. Thank you.

15 Our first speaker is Andy Sbaraglia.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
17 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians.  
18 Well, since you are moving it for final  
19 passage, look at your 6-D, that's your  
20 easement agreement. You realize that line  
21 is going to down the middle of the parcel of  
22 land and not exactly alongside the road?  
23 You should have a map up there that shows it  
24 to you. That sewer line is not going  
25 alongside of the road, but through property.

1 Now, if that property is ever developed that  
2 easement that you gave is going to make it  
3 very difficult to sell that parcel of land.

4 You got to look at these things  
5 before you just say, "Go do it," because  
6 that land belongs to the city and it could  
7 be developed at some later date, but when  
8 you got an easement there and you are going  
9 to put a foundation in and you can't break  
10 their sewer line, un-huh. That doesn't make  
11 sense, but they could put it alongside the  
12 road, dig up the road, but they don't want  
13 to spend the money to replace the road, but  
14 if they dig it. You got to look at all of  
15 these little things. Okay, that's your  
16 problem and not mine, whatever you do  
17 somebody is going to live with it, I'll be  
18 dead before that's developed anyway.

19 I'm not even going to get into the  
20 agenda items. It was too much with that you  
21 and PEL. As you know, we received money  
22 from the University of Scranton for the  
23 South Side Complex. We still own the South  
24 Side Complex. At what point do we have to  
25 return that money and that's another thing

1           you have to look at when you are talking  
2           about all of these awards that we could be  
3           stuck with. We also got that deal, and I  
4           don't think the federal government is going  
5           to let it go.

6                        I think they found out that when  
7           they were up there looking at the zoo and  
8           they found out there was federal money in it  
9           and they walked away. When you deal with  
10          the federal government it's not as easy to  
11          deal with it like they did down there at the  
12          South Side Complex with Mellow pushing it.  
13          That was shameful. I hope he gets  
14          reputation for it. But, anyway, it was done  
15          and what's done, but we still own it. And  
16          if you notice it was on our properties that  
17          we are paying taxes on, that we are paying  
18          insurance on I should say since it's a  
19          ballpark we didn't paying taxes, but we are  
20          paying insurance on that.

21                       The same with our little -- down  
22          there at the old Icebox, the old DPW site.  
23          We are still paying on that, too, and  
24          probably will forever and ever. 198 years,  
25          I don't know how long these people are going

1 to live, but that's how long that got a  
2 lease for and they are probably going to use  
3 it right up to it.

4 These things that were done, I don't  
5 blame you because you didn't sit up there.  
6 I did speak against it long before you were  
7 there when it happened because I foresaw  
8 what was happening. I hadn't no qualms that  
9 the DPW site was a wreck, okay, there was no  
10 question on that, but I still think that was  
11 a better site than the one they got now. If  
12 they had just knocked down the front  
13 building, the old barn and redeveloped that  
14 area in there I think that would have been a  
15 better -- it was in the center of the city  
16 and it was right by the expressway and  
17 Providence Road, all of the roads, instead  
18 of that back alley where they have it now,  
19 but that's the way the city operated and you  
20 wanted to do something and they did it.

21 And where are we now? You say this,  
22 that and whatever, true. PEL sat and  
23 watched while Rome burned. They also  
24 fiddled while Rome burned. They didn't even  
25 come up to say anything about it other than



1 the fact is raise taxes 25, 25, 25, which is  
2 probably the scenario this time, too. That  
3 was their scenario. They didn't take the  
4 fact that Scranton has what is it 31 percent  
5 of our real estate property is tax exempt.  
6 That's one thing. They didn't take into  
7 account all of the buildings in central  
8 city. A lot of them has been reassessed  
9 lower, hence, that's less money we are  
10 getting.

11 All of these things added to our  
12 burden, plus, whatever else that was done.  
13 They got to the point where they are  
14 talking, but we haven't defaulted anywhere.  
15 If you would say anything a city that hasn't  
16 defaulted how could it be in distress? We  
17 are paying our bills, I admit they are  
18 large, but we are paying them and we do come  
19 up somehow with a balanced budget. Well,  
20 thank you and have a good vacation.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Melissa  
22 Russo.

23 MS. RUSSO: Hello. Thank you for  
24 your time and consideration. I respectfully  
25 address the council as a Scranton resident

1 and small business owner who deeply believes  
2 in the mission of ECTV and the work of the  
3 station staff. I have collaborated with the  
4 station for the past year independently  
5 producing a kid's television program called  
6 "Yoga Journeys," that educates our  
7 community's children about exercise,  
8 nutrition, stress management, the  
9 environment, the arts and culture.

10 I could not have done this for our  
11 community without the support of ECTV and  
12 it's community outreach policy which loans  
13 it's production equipment to me for this  
14 purpose.

15 I know that I was one of the many  
16 communities voices that spoke up in support  
17 of the station after the last council  
18 meeting. The mission of ECTV and the  
19 programs that have been produced by the  
20 community and for the community is what  
21 makes public access stations great.

22 I travel a lot, mostly for business,  
23 and when I'm in small cities and large  
24 cities I love finding the public access  
25 stations and all that they have to offer and

1 that's really where this public access  
2 station is headed.

3 And I just wanted to speak up on  
4 behalf of the community that really supports  
5 where the station has gone and I really hope  
6 that it continues to move that direction.  
7 Thank you so much.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.  
9 Ozzie Quinn.

10 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Taxpayers'  
11 Association. In regards to the PEL meeting  
12 tonight, in the paper today they are talking  
13 about balancing the budget and property tax  
14 increases that Mr. Rogan, Mrs. Evans, Mr.  
15 Loscombe mentioned, you know, and if they  
16 use the 2010 budget, real estate tax  
17 revenue, for close at \$5,247,604 hole  
18 projected for 2011 they would have to  
19 increase the property taxes 38 percent, so  
20 I'm glad to see that you are looking for new  
21 streams of revenue to offset any increase in  
22 taxes.

23 And I'm also glad to hear the fact  
24 is that, you know, you sat here and Mr.  
25 Loscombe said for all of those years nothing

1           happened and nothing happened and nothing  
2           happened. Mr. McGoff was here, nothing  
3           happened, and you know, now it's just like  
4           it's so political it's unbelievable how they  
5           have from 2002 to present how we got  
6           increase that debt. It's just unbelievable  
7           and they didn't step in and put any  
8           sanctions and let them raise the salaries  
9           without any sanctions.

10                       Well, anyway, I hope that we can  
11           find these revenue and not increase these  
12           taxes. Thank you very much for going to bat  
13           for us.

14                       The other thing is this here, the  
15           CDBG applications are due this week, you  
16           know, and I would hope that you look at the  
17           people -- into these under nonprofits and  
18           public services to see if they would have to  
19           present financial statements, okay? They  
20           have to have a budget because I am a little  
21           leery, not all of them, but some of them  
22           might be using CDBG money for other programs  
23           while the money that they have in the bank  
24           they use them for pay increases and hiring  
25           people, and I don't like that. They should

1 be using their own money for any type of  
2 work like that, okay, and I think they are  
3 just using us as a way of smoke and mirrors.

4 Another thing is this here under the  
5 CDBG program I'm very much concerned with  
6 the fact a lot of people are contacting me  
7 in regards to emergency problems such as a  
8 roof leaking, they are worried about their  
9 furnace coming up in the winter, and there  
10 is no emergency program. Now, when I was  
11 with Habitat for Humanity we ran an  
12 emergency program and we spent several  
13 thousands of dollars for people especially  
14 in this area here in Scranton in the poverty  
15 range you mentioned, Mrs. Evans, earlier,  
16 and the number of elderly, you know? There  
17 should be some money available when  
18 somebody's roof is failing and they don't  
19 have enough money or you need a new furnace  
20 they could come to the city and get help,  
21 okay? Whether it's a deferred loan or a  
22 lien put on their property or a grant, okay,  
23 or something. Thank you very much.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Michael F.  
25 Reilly.

1 MR. REILLY: Good evening, Council.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

3 MR. REILLY: Mr. Loscombe, Mrs.  
4 Evans, Mr. Rogan, Mr. McGoff, Mr. Hughes,  
5 and Mrs. Krake. Congratulations to  
6 Mrs. Evans on a wonderful letter to the  
7 editor.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

9 MR. REILLY: Your letter was  
10 published and that in itself was an  
11 achievement. I attempted to send a letter  
12 to the editor, but it was rejected because I  
13 was told I had no proof. What I was trying  
14 to do was to state what happened at the  
15 meeting in June with you and Mr. Loscombe  
16 and Mr. Hughes and Father Pilarz and his  
17 attorney. I supported your point of view,  
18 but I was told the letter was rejected  
19 because I had no proof.

20 Mr. Kelly, whom I suspect to be a  
21 MENSA reject, made those accusations yet he  
22 admittedly was not at the meeting. His only  
23 source of information was Father Pilarz and  
24 Mr. Lavelle. When it comes to credibility  
25 and voracity, my vote goes to Mrs. Evans,

1 Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Loscombe. I believe  
2 that Father Pilarz misrepresented the facts.

3 Chris Kelly's retort to Mrs. Evans'  
4 letter reminds me of the child who was  
5 caught with his fingers in the cookie jar.  
6 Lashing out in a lame defense to seek  
7 absolution. Mr. Kelly talks about quote, "A  
8 parade of angry belligerence step into the  
9 public microphone week after week to spit  
10 out sentence fragments."

11 All right, Mr. Kelly, try these on  
12 for size. You and Father Pilarz should be  
13 castigated, excoriated and pillared in the  
14 900 block of Mulberry Street and left in the  
15 stocks for at least a week so that you could  
16 both be properly decorated by the birds and  
17 the pigeons. Mr. Kelly's articles are not  
18 without merit. They should be saved for  
19 emergency situations like when you run out  
20 of toilet tissue.

21 I am asking my fellow alumni to join  
22 with me and in refusing to make any  
23 contributions to the University until such  
24 time as they increase their paltry,  
25 insulting, less than 1 percent of their

1 operating budget, which is \$163 million and  
2 their endowment, which is 95 million.

3 They also receive fire protection  
4 and police protection when and if needed.  
5 This is a slap in the face to the taxpayers  
6 in the city. For the past ten years the  
7 University has changed the complexion of the  
8 Hill Section, buying up properties and  
9 businesses that were formerly on the tax  
10 rolls, but now it's become part of the tax  
11 free University of Scranton.

12 Father Pilarz is the behemoth behind  
13 this movement. He is bad for my alma mater  
14 and bad for the taxpayers of the City of  
15 Scranton. He should resign or be  
16 transferred. The bottom line is that Father  
17 Pilarz must go.

18 I wish all of you a happy August and  
19 we will see you back here in September.  
20 Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Reilly.  
22 Les Spindler.

23 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
24 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and  
25 homeowner and taxpayer. Last week



1 Councilman Rogan made a comment about  
2 department heads not responding to requests  
3 that were sent to them and I'm not sure  
4 exactly what he said, but he said maybe when  
5 it becomes budget time maybe heads should  
6 roll and I couldn't agree more. As  
7 Councilman Rogan said, these people don't  
8 work for city council, they work for the  
9 taxpayers and if they are not going to work  
10 for the taxpayers then maybe they shouldn't  
11 have a job.

12 Friday I read in the Doherty  
13 newsletter about the Appeals Court ruling  
14 against the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Yankees on  
15 records case. And the Times-Tribune is  
16 concerned how bids were awarded at the  
17 Lackawanna County Multi-Purpose Stadium.  
18 You know, who cares about the Yankees' bids,  
19 what doesn't the Times-Tribune worry about  
20 the bids that Chris Doherty is giving out.  
21 For instance, the steel contract for the  
22 Casey Garage that his brother-in-law got.  
23 I'd like to know how that came about. There  
24 is many no bid contracts that Chris Doherty  
25 gave out, why doesn't the Doherty newsletter

1 look into that instead of the Scranton  
2 Wilkes-Barre Yankees.

3 And while we are talking about the  
4 Doherty newsletter, I, too, heard about the  
5 Chris Kelly article from a coworker at work,  
6 I don't read his articles because they are  
7 just garbage, and I heard about him calling  
8 Mrs. Evans names and the speakers that come  
9 here names and that's -- to me that's not  
10 journalism, calling people names. How long  
11 did you have to go to school to learn that?  
12 I think he owes everybody an apology. For  
13 me, I will never read an article of his  
14 because it's just junk.

15 And, Mr. Loscombe, I read your  
16 letter to the editor the other day and it  
17 was outstanding. It was factual and to the  
18 point and I don't know how one could argue  
19 against you, so congratulations to you on  
20 that.

21 Today's paper, an article about  
22 ECTV. I, for one, think that they shouldn't  
23 be here anymore. I think the programming of  
24 Scranton Today was far more superior, I have  
25 commented about this for years now. I said

1 unless you are fan of Betty Boop cartoons or  
2 replays of people in Chicago celebrating the  
3 White Socks winning the 2006 World Series,  
4 ECTV's programming is a terrible and I think  
5 we should look elsewhere.

6 Mrs. Evans, you will be happy to  
7 know the graffiti I spoke about under a  
8 railroad bridge on Main Avenue is covered  
9 up.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes. Very good.

11 MR. SPINDLER: But that is, but the  
12 graffiti along the wall going down to the  
13 Expressway that wasn't. Now, someone told  
14 me that's PennDOT'S responsibility, I don't  
15 know if that's true or in the.

16 MS. EVANS: We will look into it.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Maybe a letter can be  
18 sent to PennDOT.

19 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, may we do  
20 that, please?

21 MS. KRAKE: Yes. In fact, if we  
22 could have the exact location?

23 MR. SPINDLER: It's the entranceway  
24 to the Scranton Expressway off Main Avenue.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Next thing, today I  
2 heard about Chief Elliott is going to be  
3 leaving in September, well, for one I think  
4 this is a long time coming. He has done a  
5 terrible job and he has lawsuits galore  
6 against him, I feel bad for the city. And  
7 another thing, you know, I heard about this  
8 yesterday I was on a website if people don't  
9 know called DohertyDeceit.com and that was  
10 on there yesterday. I knew about this  
11 before the Doherty newsletter knew about it,  
12 so maybe people should go to  
13 DohertyDeceit.com and not read the  
14 newspaper.

15 Moving on, oh, I think it's the 300  
16 block of Franklin Avenue where the Holiday  
17 Manor used to be there is I guess something  
18 being built there and ground was broken and  
19 I went by today and there is big pieces of  
20 machinery there, I didn't see anything being  
21 done, but there was another big hole in the  
22 ground, so I hope something is going to be  
23 built there, that's just what we need is  
24 another big hole in the ground. If we get  
25 anymore holes in the ground that Electric

1 City sign is pretty soon be the holey city  
2 sign, and I don't mean religious holy.

3 Lastly, since this is the last  
4 meeting for the summer, I again want to  
5 announce that the Tripp Park Neighborhood  
6 Association is having a picnic August 13 and  
7 14 at the Community Center parking lot on  
8 Dorothy Street. May I finish, Mrs. Evans?

9 MS. EVANS: Yes.

10 MR. SPINDLER: It's fun, food,  
11 games, EJ the DJ will be there, and again,  
12 it's August 13 and 14 at the Doherty Street  
13 Community Center parking lot. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Mr. Spindler, what time  
15 does it begin?

16 MR. SPINDLER: It's six to ten.

17 MS. EVANS: Six to ten. Thank you.

18 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you for asking,  
19 I meant to say that.

20 MS. EVANS: Ray Nearwood.

21 MR. NEARWOOD: Mrs. Evans, members  
22 of the council. My son came last week for a  
23 Boy Scout project looking to get -- by the  
24 way, it's Ray Nearwood, I'm from Cherry  
25 Street in Scranton. He came last week

1 looking to get a merit badge in the local  
2 government, so they were here last week and  
3 I found out that you were taking up an  
4 ordinance which I had come to speak to you  
5 about in March with regard to fees for  
6 police reports where you are a crime victim,  
7 and I want to thank you for taking that up.  
8 I do hope that it will be passed this  
9 evening.

10 I was also surprised because I  
11 talked a little earlier to Mr. Rogan because  
12 I'm looking for someone to sit down and talk  
13 to my son as part of this project and I  
14 decided to talk to Mr. Rogan to discuss some  
15 information for a couple of the Boy Scouts.  
16 Thank you, Mr. Rogan, for agreeing to do  
17 that.

18 MR. ROGAN: You are welcome.

19 MR. NEARWOOD: I found out that the  
20 PEL was going to be here to my surprise. In  
21 1992 I was in this room, I was a member of  
22 PEL and I spoke to council at that time.  
23 You know, we had a lot of hopes back then.  
24 Actually, I was thinking it was more like  
25 '93 that it was done, but time goes by and

1 memory isn't as good.

2 We had actually come in, there was a  
3 couple of us, three people signed in to come  
4 in here before the city went distressed to  
5 try to stop it, but the problem existed then  
6 that I see has existed for these 18 years,  
7 it's a lack of political will on the part of  
8 elected officials to deal with the problems  
9 in the city.

10 Mr. Loscombe, I'll tell you, we had  
11 200 firefighters at the time, I was one of  
12 the one that said that's too many, but quite  
13 frankly, you said 137 tonight I'm not sure  
14 if that's enough, okay? We shouldn't be  
15 doing it on the backs of city workers  
16 either. They need to give, but there has to  
17 be some other things.

18 I want to ask you one simple  
19 question, if you were a business person from  
20 elsewhere and you wanted to start a business  
21 why would you start it in the City of  
22 Scranton? Answer that question. You will  
23 answer some of our economic problems.

24 I worked for a month, I went and did  
25 some education, I had to do some training in

1 Philadelphia. It cost me \$8.50 a day to  
2 park my car in a parking lot in center city  
3 Philadelphia. Now, I think it's \$9.50,  
4 sorry, I think that's the same rate as to  
5 park in Scranton, the same as center city  
6 Philadelphia a lot of the parking lots if  
7 you get there early.

8 You have parking fees that are  
9 outrageous, you've got -- certainly the  
10 Parking Authority does a heck of a job on  
11 making sure they get to the parking meters,  
12 but if I'm going to put in a business, why  
13 am I going to put it in center city? Why am  
14 I going to have my employees have to pay for  
15 the parking fees that are out there. Why am  
16 I going to deal with -- and when is somebody  
17 going to do a study and look at the City of  
18 Scranton and say, "How do we live up and do  
19 we compete with the neighbors," whether it  
20 be the Abingtons or Moscow or these other  
21 places.

22 You have business privilege tax,  
23 mercantile tax, you've got real estate  
24 taxes, and you have a much higher earned  
25 income tax and, by the way, the medical



1 college and some of the others that are  
2 moving in everybody is saying, "Hey, look at  
3 all of that money that's coming into the  
4 city."

5 No, it isn't. Do you think those  
6 doctors are going to live in the city that  
7 are teaching there? Do you think the  
8 professors at the colleges are living in the  
9 city? Are they paying their income taxes?  
10 Who is living in the city? It's not those  
11 fellows.

12 I'll tell you I have looked in the  
13 past in my career at what happens to a  
14 center city. You are lucky if you are only  
15 31 percent, some other cities are close to  
16 50 percent tax exempt. You are right, Mrs.  
17 Evans, tax exempt should be paying their  
18 part, they are not providing their fair  
19 share and the expansion of them that the  
20 gentleman talked about earlier, that needs  
21 to be looked at very seriously.

22 I made proposals at one time when I  
23 was living in Altoona and working in Altoona  
24 when they are looking at expanding the  
25 nonprofit tax status, it's got to be looked

1 at. Nonprofits need to pay and I will say,  
2 I don't often --

3 MS. EVANS: Please finish.

4 MR. NEARWOOD: I don't often read  
5 the newspaper, but I did catch, for  
6 instance, the City of Lancaster which I  
7 believe is smaller and the City of Scranton  
8 gets significant more from it's nonprofits  
9 in contributions. You do need those  
10 contributions and these nonprofits need to  
11 realize that they have a responsibility.

12 Yes, they are providing some  
13 services, but they are not providing the  
14 services to the citizens of this city who  
15 are providing them with services. They are  
16 providing them to the suburbs, they are  
17 providing them to New York City, they are  
18 providing them all over the country, but  
19 they are not providing them here. It's time  
20 for them to step up as well.

21 I am sorry, I did want to get into  
22 all of that tonight, but I was sitting here  
23 listening to it and there are a lot of  
24 things that this city needs to be  
25 considering, but one is the political will.

1 Thank you very much.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

3 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. I  
4 didn't seem like that many people come up  
5 here. Well, I'd like to remind the two  
6 aspiring wannabe no talent journalists in  
7 the paper that council, all five of them,  
8 were elected to this position and it was the  
9 will of the people on election day. To me  
10 an attack on council is attack on the people  
11 of the city by the newspaper.

12 And quickly, I just have so much  
13 trouble controlling my potty mouth when I  
14 get mad like this, you know. The University  
15 today took two pieces of property, \$700,000.  
16 The taxes would have paid a salary here.  
17 Saturday, there was one piece of property on  
18 one page for 300 and some thousand, across  
19 of it was the article from the governor  
20 saying the schools are going to have to  
21 tighten their belt, Mr. King saying the  
22 school, you know, are just going to -- they  
23 are just out of money, they can't spend like  
24 they have in the past, and here they take a  
25 piece of property. In one week we have lost

1 almost a million and a half dollars worth of  
2 property which was, you know, the taxes on  
3 four pieces of property to those two  
4 institutions would have paid two of your  
5 salaries.

6 How can you make a budget when this  
7 keeps going on every day? You know, I don't  
8 see how Mr. Doherty just has a chance at  
9 making a budget when the school keeps taking  
10 stuff every single day. You open the paper  
11 they have done something like this. They  
12 are just over greedy, you know. It's just  
13 no end to it. I don't know how you can do  
14 business with people like that. When I was  
15 in the car business I don't think I had  
16 contact with people as unscrupulous and just  
17 no integrity like this University group.

18 I have had several people ask me  
19 about the house at 1500 Court Street, I  
20 mean, business people that are  
21 knowledgeable, nobody could figure out why  
22 that house -- a lot of people didn't believe  
23 me and have checked on it. It was made KOZ  
24 and they want to know why and they would  
25 like to know how many more houses in the

1 neighborhood that happened to or in the  
2 city.

3 And I got a question for someone  
4 from the University, the house on that  
5 Hitchcock Court is a delapidated piece of  
6 property that's never been worth no money at  
7 all. The taxes are \$2,000 a year. I'd like  
8 to know why ten times what it was worth was  
9 paid for it by the University, you know,  
10 it's just -- that's not kosher what went on  
11 here.

12 And I got one other thing, somebody  
13 is not going to like. When I was trying to  
14 find out something about the taxes on this  
15 house I came across a man's name named  
16 Anthony Tarimo. I found eight pieces of  
17 property that he owes five, six years on,  
18 every one of them. Now, why hasn't he been  
19 turned over to the NC -- you know, the  
20 collection, what is it NCC? You got three  
21 watchdogs that are supposed to catch things  
22 like this, you know, one man is just a dead  
23 beat like that and nothing happens to him.  
24 I paid my taxes twice in 2005 and I still  
25 haven't gotten anywhere trying to get my

1 money back. I mean, they turned me over to  
2 the NCC in a matter of days when my taxes  
3 weren't paid.

4 I hope everybody has a nice  
5 vacation. I bet you'll miss me, huh?

6 MS. EVANS: Oh, yes.

7 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Marie  
9 Schumacher.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
11 Council.

12 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Last week for the  
14 second time since council's ill-advised vote  
15 rejecting the Multi-Municipal Plan I made a  
16 reasoned appeal for council to hold a caucus  
17 with our city SAPA member and other  
18 executives of the association. I expect the  
19 transparency promised by the no longer new  
20 council majority would prevail. Instead, I  
21 received a retort from council's president  
22 with Einstein's definition of insanity, that  
23 is, doing the same thing over and over again  
24 and expecting different results.

25 Beginning on June 14, 2007, the week

1 after council passed File of Council 82 of  
2 that year which approved a penalty, interest  
3 and fees schedule for collection of  
4 delinquent real estate taxes Mrs. Krake  
5 began speaking out against this legislation.  
6 As a matter of fact, Mrs. Krake spoke out  
7 about this legislation for six consecutive  
8 weeks and in the three years since this  
9 legislation passed has spoken out no less  
10 than 29 times. Was Mrs. Krake insane for  
11 this repetition of her assessment of File of  
12 Council 82 of 2007? Of course not. Many,  
13 if not most, of us agree with Mrs. Krake's  
14 assessment and applauded her persistent.

15 As a matter of fact, Mrs. Evans not  
16 only expressed a similar assessment of File  
17 of Council 82 of 2007 at least 18 times  
18 these past three years, she moved to amend  
19 the legislation twice, once in 2008 and  
20 again in 2009. On February 10 last year,  
21 Mrs. Krake remarked, "These are all things  
22 that I had brought up before the last two  
23 times when Mrs. Evans or this resolution  
24 came before council. I tried to explain  
25 them to everyone. I know they are true, but

1 I still got -- I just seem to hit a brick  
2 wall with three members of council."

3 I know how she felt. Change the  
4 three members of the council to four and  
5 that's how I feel now. All of the foregoing  
6 drive several questions, what is in the SAPA  
7 plan that council majority doesn't want the  
8 citizens to hear? Why is the council  
9 adamantly opposed to hearing from it's  
10 representative where the questions raised  
11 could be answered? Why -- what happened to  
12 the transparency we were promised? Is  
13 council's tolerance for persistence issue  
14 dependent?

15 Why hasn't council amended File of  
16 Council 82 of 2007 in the seven months they  
17 have been in office? What has changed since  
18 the two defeated amendments of 2008 and  
19 2009?

20 The difference between File of  
21 Council 82 of 2007 and the multi-municipal  
22 comprehensive plan is File No. 82 of 2007 is  
23 an ordinance that can be addressed and  
24 amended at any time. SAPA is a one and done  
25 issue, either we go forward with this



1 implementation or we go it on our own. SAPA  
2 will become APA and there will be no turning  
3 back. We will now be in competition instead  
4 of cooperation.

5 A little off topic, but also, why  
6 hasn't the lower Greenridge Daron Northeast  
7 property been rezoned as recommended by the  
8 CDC during these last seven months?

9 Now, to my disappointment with  
10 Mr. Loscombe who appears to value cleverness  
11 over accuracy. You see, Mr. Loscombe,  
12 Scranton is the "S" in SAPA and with  
13 Scranton out the association is forced to  
14 default to APA. If Scranton's approval of  
15 the plan was to be dependent on an  
16 implementation cost, the planning ordinance  
17 should have included in requirement, but it  
18 didn't. The three times SAPA came before  
19 council since 2005, it was approved as  
20 presented unanimously.

21 Mr. Loscombe laments not knowing the  
22 cost of SAPA. My response to that is a  
23 please do the right thing and bring our  
24 city's represent and the association's  
25 executive committee to an open televised

1 caucus where you may ask questions and we  
2 will all be able to hear the answer.

3 I have two maps that show the  
4 existing land use and the SAPA draft use  
5 plan and there doesn't seem to be a lot  
6 whole lot of difference in the City of  
7 Scranton to me, so I will give them to  
8 council secretary and ask she provide them  
9 to you, Mr. Loscombe.

10 And since we have to do agenda items  
11 on 6-E I would just like to state that 15  
12 years is too long for a contract for a  
13 technology driven service. Thank you very  
14 much.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mike  
16 Lapolla.

17 MR. LAPOLLA: Good evening. Mike  
18 Lapolla, I'm a resident of North Scranton.  
19 I'm here to lobby for SAPA as well. I have  
20 been doing some research, I went to the  
21 meeting up in the Abingtons for SAPA just to  
22 learn a little bit more about it because I  
23 want to be educated on the issues, and I had  
24 the privilege of talking to Pat Rogan.  
25 Mr. Jamison and also Mrs. Sprowl -- not

1 Mrs. Sprowl, I'm sorry, Mrs. Prowl.

2 I see where city council has their  
3 hesitancy on the plan through the  
4 implementation of updating the zoning  
5 ordinances, but since 1993 they have not  
6 been updated and it needs to be done. If  
7 you join SAPA we will be able to tap into  
8 OECD and CDBG to get that done. It's not  
9 going to come out of the city coffers to pay  
10 for it and what better way to get our zoning  
11 updated through that plan that Ms.  
12 Schumacher has handed to you tonight.

13 Like I said, the initial cost is  
14 going to -- was paid for by the taxpayers  
15 already, so if we take this plan and not do  
16 it, we have taken the taxpayer money of  
17 Scranton and thrown it down the drain. I  
18 believe, and I'm hoping and lobbying to you  
19 guys here tonight to see if you could please  
20 sit down with the a group again and like  
21 Marie said and bat out the differences, ask  
22 the questions and see if we can come to a  
23 compromise.

24 If we don't join SAPA we are going  
25 to be in competition with not only -- right

1           now we are in competition with Dickson City  
2           like Mr. Rogan said, Taylor, Moosic, but now  
3           if we don't get in the plan we are going to  
4           be in competition not only with those  
5           cities, municipalities, but also now with  
6           SAPA. We just added another hurdle to the  
7           recovery of Scranton.

8                         If we do not -- if the City of  
9           Scranton does not take part in SAPA then I  
10          would request that city council please take  
11          a look at reducing the mercantile, the  
12          business tax and the wage tax to make it  
13          more acceptable for businesses to come in  
14          this area. What generates more revenue for  
15          the City of Scranton? Businesses. They  
16          hire more people, more revenue to the city,  
17          so if we are not going to join SAPA then  
18          please address the fact that we need to cut  
19          back on these taxes to make it more  
20          acceptable for businesses to come in the  
21          city. That's all I have and I appreciate  
22          you returning my call and everything else.

23                        MR. ROGAN: No problem, and although  
24          we may disagree on SAPA, the last part  
25          reducing the taxes that right on point.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: It's been our mantra  
2 for weeks now. I mean, if we had that now  
3 we would be in competition, we would be able  
4 to join SAPA. There is no guarantee, as  
5 I've stated before, that any business that  
6 is sent down from Abington to go into our  
7 industrial park is going to look at us right  
8 now until that's done, until we reduce our  
9 mercantile and business taxes. They are  
10 going to left, they are going to go right.  
11 There is no guarantee. So we have to get  
12 that step out of the way. That's our  
13 blockage right now.

14 MR. LAPOLLA: So it's the chicken  
15 versus the egg. Which came first.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Correct.

17 MR. LAPOLLA: I believe, in my  
18 belief, it can both be done, but that makes  
19 it more urgent for the tax cuts to come down  
20 so we can bring businesses into the city.

21 And also I just want to touch on  
22 another point, on the Boy Scout level I  
23 would appreciate you helping out the Boy  
24 Scouts and coming and getting that approved  
25 and I think that's fascinating how our

1           Scouts are taking part in the civic -- in  
2           the civic duties of the city. I think  
3           that's fantastic, but thank very much for  
4           your time.

5                         MR. ROGAN: Thank you, too. Dave  
6           Dobrzyn.

7                         MR. DOBRZYN: Pat, do we have a  
8           county planning commission?

9                         MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10                        MR. DOBRZYN: So where is the "R" as  
11           in redundancy.

12                        MR. ROGAN: I agree.

13                        MR. DOBRZYN: Everybody wants to be  
14           part of some important committee, you know,  
15           and personally I think we have too many  
16           committees looking to tell us all what to do  
17           and if you listen to them and it goes wrong  
18           they say, "Why did you let me make you do  
19           that?" So that's my opinion on SAPA. I'll  
20           have a little more to say about the news  
21           articles that have been coming out.

22                        Now, I had an idea yesterday on this  
23           PEG channel. I know we talked that it may  
24           be going to Seventh Order, but I think the  
25           University should be willing to buy the

1 second PEG channel, and then if we get -- we  
2 start getting crowded on our ECTV Channel 19  
3 then we won't have to wait until our  
4 information is dated in our meetings and so  
5 forth.

6 For instance, last year I asked  
7 Mr. Murphy to come when he was running for  
8 election, well, by the time I would have  
9 gotten him on the air the election would  
10 have been over. So, you know, you just  
11 can't do it, but I'm considering or right  
12 now we are -- we have got a lot of space on  
13 the single channel, but if the University  
14 would kindly buy that second channel between  
15 Scranton "U" and Marywood then somewhere  
16 down the line if we had a space problem they  
17 would have their own channel because they  
18 would have their own channel and they  
19 wouldn't have to -- and also might I point  
20 out that ECTV is probably spending money to  
21 present their presentations, also, and they  
22 are not necessarily a Comcast customer. I'm  
23 a Comcast customer. So, you know, if I want  
24 ECTV to do something I have a small right  
25 not, you know, I don't single-handedly

1 support ECTV, but I have a small right to  
2 say, well, gee can't you give me a break.

3 Now, moving on, the Chamber of  
4 Commerce. Once again, I don't see any  
5 purpose in the Greater Scranton Chamber of  
6 Commerce because I feel that they are merely  
7 using us as a bank to track businesses up  
8 valley and so forth, so as far as Austin  
9 Burke is concerned, "Honey, we got to talk,  
10 I want a divorce."

11 On this PEL meeting, I might -- my  
12 fire insurance went up about \$100 a year  
13 since I purchased my house in '02. Now,  
14 maybe that's just inflation, but I  
15 understand from talking with a few firemen  
16 that that is also a consideration that the  
17 robustness of the fire departments in  
18 insuring these houses, so I could be paying  
19 \$100 a year more property tax if my  
20 insurance was not raised \$100,000 a year, so  
21 it's like a rob Peter to pay Paul situation,  
22 possibly.

23 And on the University, there is so  
24 much that has been said, but I really wish  
25 that the University and the Times, the Times



1 would stop and start to recognize that you  
2 people were like aforementioned voted into  
3 office by us, we worked to get you in there,  
4 some of us harder than others, but so what,  
5 and any -- just constant, constant  
6 harassment of city hall -- the council by  
7 the newspapers is just really -- they are  
8 showing disrespect for us. We elected you  
9 to do exactly what you are doing right now.  
10 And so, in other words, the golden parrot  
11 award goes to the Scranton Times-Tribune for  
12 the week.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MR. DOBRZYN: For their constant  
15 balk, balk, balk.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Dave, just so  
18 everybody understands I just want to address  
19 the one thing you mentioned about the  
20 insurance. Scranton is a protection class  
21 four. It hasn't been changed, however, ISO  
22 could come in at any time and change it.  
23 There is a whole bunch of things they have  
24 to look at, but what you probably have is  
25 replacement cost policy, the value of the

1 coverage goes up every year, too, so  
2 therefore the increase in premium.

3 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: But as of this point,  
5 I mean, that is correct, they could come in  
6 and reclassify the city based upon fire  
7 apparatus, fire supply, stuff like that,  
8 manpower, it's a whole formula. At this  
9 point we are still at the same status that  
10 we were just so that you know.

11 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah, most of the  
12 small houses in Scranton are \$125,000  
13 policies. So, you know, maybe it's just an  
14 inflationary thing and they would like a few  
15 extra bucks in their pocket to --

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: You can always shop  
17 around and check other companies, too.

18 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah. Yeah. Well,  
19 you know, it's like I said, but eventually  
20 this could come back to bite us, maybe it'll  
21 be \$800 or \$900 box in a couple of years  
22 because our fire company can't meet it's  
23 demands. Thank you and have a good night.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Charlie  
25 Newcomb.

1 MR. NEWCOMB: Good evening, Council.  
2 A few topics I'd like to talk on. First of  
3 all, I'd just like if he is out there  
4 listening someplace a couple of questions I  
5 have for Chris Kelly. Number one is do you  
6 live in Scranton? Number two, how come in  
7 your article there wasn't any salaries  
8 listed in there of Father Pilarz, how much  
9 he makes, or all of these other tax free  
10 organizes like Allied Services, all of the  
11 CEO's up there who make six figures and  
12 there is some people at the University of  
13 Scranton that make that kind of money, so I  
14 just want to know why weren't their salaries  
15 in the paper along with yours, Mrs. Evans.

16 And as far as it goes I'd like to  
17 make a comment about the nonprofits and also  
18 what Mr. Kelly failed was we also have  
19 another gentleman up on council, but that's  
20 because Mr. Kelly agrees with Mr. McGoff,  
21 you know, ideas with this current  
22 administration. He also failed to tell the  
23 public that Mr. McGoff is also a retired  
24 school teacher getting taxpayers' dollars  
25 and also getting \$12,500 on city council and

1           that's a fact and he should have just been  
2           fair on both sides, but a lot of times  
3           people aren't fair.

4                        As far as it goes with these  
5           nonprofits, as you know, I mean, I'm a  
6           very -- a very conservative person and I  
7           vote for who I think could do the best job.  
8           I mean, as far as I'm concerned, Mrs. Evans,  
9           I have always supported you, Mr. Rogan,  
10          Mr. Loscombe, I will be supporting you if  
11          you run again, I vote for the person who I  
12          think can do the job, but if you look in the  
13          dictionary and see the word liberal democrat  
14          that would be Mr. Doherty's administration.  
15          Tax, spend and borrow.

16                       You four people up there on city  
17          council making all of these decisions,  
18          believe me when I tell you, the conservative  
19          community out there says that this is -- you  
20          are using common sense, you know, even  
21          though you are Democrats and Democrats and  
22          Republicans have their way of doing things,  
23          you know, you look out for the people.

24                       And as far as it goes with the  
25          University of Scranton, I feel that the

1 University of Scranton, Allied Services,  
2 hospitals, synagogues, the only people that  
3 shouldn't pay the city any money is the soup  
4 kitchen and the food kitchens because they  
5 do a good job.

6 I ran into somebody over Tripps  
7 Park, they were free rides coming over for  
8 these people, a guy said to me the other  
9 day, "I'm going to have to get rid of my  
10 house in Tripps Park."

11 I said, "Why?"

12 He said, "Because my mortgage is  
13 going up \$400 a month," because his taxes he  
14 estimated are going to be like \$4,800, and I  
15 said, "Well, you skated for ten years."

16 That's the bottom line, ten years  
17 and out, so you know what I said, "Well,  
18 somebody is going to pay it, whoever gets  
19 the house. "

20 So it's just about an idea that  
21 these people take what they can get, they're  
22 freeloaders and they run away and leave it  
23 up to everybody else, and I'm just going to  
24 give you a little bit of my experience what  
25 Chris Kelly put in that article, which I

1 think his article was horrendous, but when  
2 he put in that article about how much you  
3 make, Mrs. Evans, and he had about your  
4 salaries as a school teacher and your city  
5 council salary, and then in parentheses, you  
6 know, have and have nots, I wish I could  
7 make that kind of money, there is no other  
8 term for that but common, common, common  
9 jealousy. If people aren't educated  
10 they're not going to make the money and if  
11 they don't have a trade.

12 And I'll give you an example, as you  
13 know, back in 90's I had a guy, this guy  
14 used to -- I was fortunate enough to have a  
15 full-time job which I worked for 31 years,  
16 and I also, you know, was a musician in this  
17 area and I got the privilege of touring with  
18 -- every band I have ever worked with was  
19 one of the top bands in this area, whether I  
20 did sound engineer work I played the drums,  
21 but anyway, I toured with that Shawn Crush,  
22 we all know he is, he is the best in the  
23 world now, so I had five years experience  
24 working with him and I was fortunate enough,  
25 I bought a new Corvette, I bought this, I

1 bought that, and there was a guy that used  
2 to say to me, "Oh, you got this, you got  
3 that," and I used to say to this guy,  
4 "Instead of bringing me down, bring yourself  
5 up. I do what I do because I learned how to  
6 do it, and it's not my fault," because he  
7 said to me, "You made more money in one year  
8 than I have made in three."

9 That's not my fault, just like it's  
10 not your fault because you chose to get  
11 educated and not be some newspaper reporter  
12 or whatever the choice may be, you choose to  
13 do what you do, just like everybody else  
14 chooses to do what they do, and if somebody  
15 gets a job people say, "People shouldn't be  
16 able to retire when they are 50," like,  
17 yeah, they should if they worked the job for  
18 30 years and that's part of the way it  
19 works.

20 So by reading that article it was  
21 pure, pure, pure this guy is evil, jealous,  
22 and it was an unfair article. I believe you  
23 are 100 percent no matter what your  
24 political affiliation is you look out for  
25 the people in the City of Scranton, the four

1 of you do with your votes, and we are in the  
2 situation we are in with our debt because of  
3 past councils just giving the mayor  
4 everything he wanted and, fortunately, but I  
5 will tell you what in the 2011 budget it  
6 will be time hopefully that the taxpayers in  
7 the City of Scranton will finally get what's  
8 coming to them and get a break, and you  
9 could show this administration that even  
10 though you are -- you are liberal Democrats,  
11 not you but them, and you like to spend,  
12 spend, spend, well, even though we are  
13 Democrats, spend, spend, spend, we are going  
14 to cut the budget and give the people a  
15 break. Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Newcomb.  
17 Is there anyone else who cares to address  
18 council?

19 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city  
20 council.

21 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

22 MR. UNGVARSKY: I'm Tom Ungvarsky.  
23 I see where the Scranton Times is once again  
24 attacking the city council. I, too, saw the  
25 article in Sunday's paper. I think it's



1           time the Scranton Times realized that there  
2           was an election and their team lost.

3                   Two weeks ago city council explained  
4           what happened with the University of  
5           Scranton. It was in the next day's  
6           newspaper, however, it was one column and it  
7           was on page six. The following day the  
8           University of Scranton put their opinion in  
9           on how things happened that one made the  
10          front page. I think it shows just how fair  
11          the Scranton Times is.

12                   As far as the PEG channel goes, it  
13          seems we have short memories. It seems like  
14          about seven years ago Mr. Cordaro was  
15          appointed to negotiate a contract with the  
16          New York Yankees to bring their farm team  
17          here to Scranton. We seen the problems that  
18          having one person negotiate a contract can  
19          bring. I hope city council will hold to  
20          their guns and not let just one person  
21          negotiate for the PEG channel.

22                   And I wish to thank you and I hope  
23          you have a pleasant vacation. It doesn't  
24          look that way. Thank you.

25                   MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton,  
2 expressing my First Amendment Rights. I was  
3 listening to PEL and I can't even comprehend  
4 excuses. They are very quick to say raise  
5 property taxes and raise your taxes. They  
6 said, you know, have you a right to do it  
7 because you are a governing body. I mean,  
8 they were really pushing that, you must have  
9 noticed. Why didn't they say, "Stop the  
10 mayor from hiring everybody and giving them  
11 exorbitant raises, creating jobs for his  
12 friends," why didn't they once mention try  
13 to cut the mayor's staff?

14 I think you should get rid of PEL.  
15 Eighteen years of trying to get rid of a  
16 distressed city, why would they ever try to  
17 do that? They wouldn't have a job then.  
18 They are getting paid. Why would they ever  
19 get rid of distressed status, they wouldn't  
20 have jobs. I think you should work very  
21 hard to get rid of them and you should never  
22 have another Recovery Plan.

23 See, you got hoodwinked when they  
24 voted for that other one saying if you don't  
25 vote for it you are going to get a tax



1 the nonprofits then because if he was for  
2 the people he would immediately know where  
3 he stands because that's a wonderful bill  
4 that would be able to put a fee on these  
5 nonprofits. I don't like when any state  
6 representative says he doesn't know where he  
7 stands. This is like, you have to be brain  
8 dead not to know where you stand, so I guess  
9 Kenny Smith is with the nonprofits. I gave  
10 Kevin Murphy a call, but he hasn't gotten  
11 back to me yet.

12 ECTV, the City of Scranton does not  
13 have a contract with them nor does Comcast  
14 yet we under no obligation whatsoever to  
15 give them \$100,000 so please do not. It was  
16 very generous of you to offer \$50,000, but I  
17 think not one penny should go to them.  
18 There is no contract, so I should submit a  
19 bill to the city for work I'm getting done  
20 and maybe the City should pay my bills.

21 They have -- you mentioned,  
22 Mrs. Evans, that they had a -- part of their  
23 bill was for \$300,000 for -- not \$300,000,  
24 300 hours rather for carpentry work or  
25 something. It didn't say who did it, where

1           it was done. Their office every time you go  
2           there on Wyoming Avenue it's locked solid to  
3           the drum, I don't think anybody has ever  
4           been there, so where is this 300 hours worth  
5           of carpentry work then, for what? If I get  
6           300 hours of carpentry work done at my house  
7           I'd have whole new rooms built. I have had  
8           work done. It didn't take me 300 hours, I  
9           can tell you that. I'd love to have a tour.  
10          I think the City of Scranton should have a  
11          tour, 300 hours of carpentry work. I think  
12          we should really check into this. The  
13          taxpayers are paying for that.

14                   Also, how could ECTV say the \$90,000  
15          they got for a loan that's a grant now  
16          because it's forgiven, where is the bill for  
17          the equipment that they got? What does it  
18          state? What kind of equipment and how much  
19          of each, where is it in, and now ECTV is  
20          saying they own it, they don't have to give  
21          it back? I don't think so. That was  
22          government money, taxpayers' money. I'd  
23          like to see a law that says they could keep  
24          what taxpayers pay for if another PEG  
25          channel gets this. That equipment should be

1 taken over immediately by whoever is going  
2 to run this PEG channel.

3 All of a sudden last week when you  
4 mentioned this about the ECTV contract all  
5 of a sudden ECTV is having programs on every  
6 day, all day, every hour. Before that all  
7 you saw was a scroll of what was it then,  
8 the weather, what was going to happen, I  
9 mean, constant scrolling, you couldn't find  
10 anything on that station. Now all of a  
11 sudden they are getting nervous.

12 Now, I want to address something  
13 about the nonprofits. Mr. McGoff mentioned  
14 that he spoke to the mayor about getting --  
15 the mayor was going to go after the  
16 nonprofits. Well, I haven't seen it and I  
17 haven't seen the newspaper saying all about  
18 it. How come the newspaper isn't asking the  
19 mayor to do his job and go after these  
20 nonprofits. May I finish this one  
21 paragraph, please?

22 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23 MS. FRANUS: What boards of  
24 nonprofits does the mayor's wife maintain  
25 membership in? What nonprofit boards are

1           comprised of the mayor's friends and  
2           associates? Perhaps part of the answer to  
3           declining payments lies in the mayor's ties  
4           to these nonprofits. Maybe that would  
5           explain the mayor's hands-off approach to  
6           nonprofits. And what ties do the owners of  
7           the newspaper have to some of the large  
8           nonprofits. Thank you for much and I hope  
9           that you look into everything and get  
10          Right-to-Know on ECTV and please do  
11          something with the nonprofits. And I hope  
12          everybody calls their state representatives  
13          on this bill, Senate Bill 1175 and House  
14          Bill 2191. Call your state representatives  
15          and senators. Thank you very much.

16                   MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17                   MR. HALLERAN: I'll be quick, I know  
18                   you have been listening to people for awhile  
19                   so I'll be quick. My name is Judd Halleran,  
20                   I don't know if you had a signup list, I'm a  
21                   property owner in the City of Scranton and  
22                   prior to being a property owner I was a  
23                   resident in the City of Scranton, and I'm  
24                   here kind of to wear two hats, one as a  
25                   resident, and just that; and two as I'm the

1 chair of the local group of the State  
2 Chapter of the Sierra Club, and in that  
3 capacity I probably speak for roughly 700  
4 members within maybe the confines of the  
5 city, and I'm here to strongly, and I'll say  
6 strongly twice, encourage you to reconsider  
7 the adoption of the SAPA plan, the  
8 Scranton-Abington Planning Association  
9 Regional Plan, and that's the nuts and bolts  
10 of it, a few points that I would say that  
11 maybe make you or to make you think about  
12 potentially further encourage you to  
13 reconsider that.

14 It's just, you know, sometimes when  
15 I travel I look at places that, you know, if  
16 you kind of have a sense of history you look  
17 at places that people get out an travel to,  
18 you know. I'll use Portland, Oregon, as an  
19 example. If you were in Portland, Oregon,  
20 20 years ago it was a relatively distressed  
21 place, and it did a relatively good job of  
22 reinventing itself.

23 The point of that is there is a  
24 reason certain places are migration points  
25 and certain places are immigration points,



1           and I think we have the capacity to become  
2           one of those migration points, but doing  
3           that, you know, we can't continue to operate  
4           kind of as I think 20, 40, 30 fragmented  
5           municipalities that we kind of find compete  
6           against each other. I think we are wiser  
7           looking at ourselves as a collective single  
8           unit and we kind of use the infrastructure  
9           we have for the benefit of all, so that's my  
10          first point.

11                     The second, and my more tangible, is  
12           some of the benefits of this, you know,  
13           regional kind of planning cooperation is you  
14           get things like, you know, you can migrate  
15           to kind of more public transportation. You  
16           can kind of migrate to kind of mixed use  
17           center where you have a combination of  
18           employment and/or residential and/or  
19           recreation, so that's the second point.

20                     And I think sometimes when I look  
21           around and I look at like how Dickson City  
22           does super well, I look at how Moosic  
23           Borough does super well. They do super  
24           well, but it's really still this city that  
25           kind of is, and I agree, their heart or



1 reconsider adopting that plan. Thanks for  
2 your time.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, city  
5 council. My name is Dave Gervasi, city  
6 resident and taxpayer in the City of  
7 Scranton. I have two points that I'd like  
8 to make, and two hot subjects that are going  
9 on and I just want to share my opinion with  
10 you.

11 First is the SAPA plan. I read that  
12 plan, the comprehensive plan in it's  
13 entirety, and it is very well-written, a  
14 very well researched comprehensive plan. My  
15 feelings on the whole thing is I think you  
16 shouldn't just shut the door on it, I think  
17 we should have future talks on it, but I  
18 think, Mr. Loscombe, I think you articulate  
19 it pretty well last week that until you can  
20 do regionalization, I have a little bit of  
21 experience, a little bit of knowledge of  
22 regionalization in other areas of the state  
23 that I have been talking to with my  
24 colleagues, and I think until you do some  
25 equalization of the municipalities involved

1           it's going to be real hard.

2                        What I mean by that is reading the  
3           plan, and I couldn't help but notice, it  
4           seems like its' a protectionist plan for  
5           certain areas, certain municipalities, and I  
6           understand their concern, you know, they  
7           have to build schools, they have spend more  
8           money on traffic controls, they have to  
9           spend more money on public safety because  
10          people are basically leaving this urban area  
11          and going out into the suburbs.

12                      But again, I don't think it's the  
13          right approach to -- and this is my take on  
14          it, to prohibit certain commercial/  
15          industrial entities to prohibit them from  
16          going in certain communities and steer them  
17          toward, which would normally be Scranton and  
18          Dunmore, because they are not going to come  
19          anyway. Until businesses can move in the  
20          City of Scranton and not lose money on the  
21          mercantile and business privilege tax, which  
22          to me is the most unfair tax that there ever  
23          was, you pay on your gross receipts even if  
24          you didn't make much profit on the product  
25          you sold or the service you provided. I

1 think, and it's not a lot of money in the  
2 budget, I think until Scranton finally once  
3 and for all, now I think we finally have an  
4 opportunity to do it, again, with competent  
5 leadership in the tax office and bring in  
6 more revenue and a council majority that it  
7 willing to tackle the things that people  
8 have been yelling about for 50 years.

9 You mode to cut expenses, you need  
10 to raise, creatively raise revenues without  
11 your normal taxation that we are all getting  
12 clobbered with in the city. You need to  
13 eliminate the mercantile business privilege  
14 tax. That will even the playing field out  
15 for all businesses and then hopefully people  
16 with businesses will move into Scranton  
17 because they are not paying a penalty for  
18 moving into Scranton. They would probably  
19 would like to move into Scranton because  
20 this is where the people are. More traffic,  
21 more congestion, more people living per  
22 square mile than in other areas of the  
23 county.

24 And I think the other part is the  
25 wage tax. Everybody has been yelling and

1 screaming about the wage tax forever, since  
2 as long as I can remember. Something has to  
3 be done about the wage tax. I don't think  
4 people would care having the size of our  
5 police department, the size of our fire  
6 department, the closest we have to churches  
7 institutions, hospitals, libraries, I don't  
8 think people would spending an extra \$500 a  
9 year in taxes to have the convenience of  
10 living in Scranton, but they do have a  
11 problem with paying an extra \$3,000 a year  
12 when they can live in Dunmore, Dickson City,  
13 Taylor, Old Forge or the Abingtons, so I  
14 think you need to get your house, our house,  
15 in order before we start even talking about  
16 regionalization. That's my thoughts on  
17 that.

18 Another issue, Mrs. Evans, I haven't  
19 been here in awhile and it seems I don't  
20 have to come here anymore, it seems like  
21 there is people up there that are talking  
22 the truth for a change, the majority, and I  
23 wouldn't get upset when, you know, you are  
24 the flavor of the week I guess with the  
25 Scranton Times. I have been the flavor

1 numerous times, you know how I feel. You  
2 get a little more than I do though. I  
3 wouldn't worry about that because let's talk  
4 a couple of facts. This is the first time  
5 that anyone seriously, seriously tried to  
6 call more money out of the nonprofits. This  
7 is not a problem that's just a Scranton  
8 problem. Statewide, talking to firefighters  
9 throughout the state who are in budget  
10 processes and they are having tough times in  
11 their municipalities, there has been  
12 probably to date that I know of five pieces  
13 of legislation never made it out of  
14 committee that was trying to tackle the  
15 problem of nonprofits, one was the Johnstown  
16 Liquor Tax. Anyone who has a municipality  
17 with more than 25 percent nonprofit within  
18 it's boundaries would qualify for that tax,  
19 and it never made it out of committee.

20 Currently I was just reading  
21 yesterday State Represent Sallabay wants to  
22 put a service tax on students, so they are  
23 trying to tackle this statewide and I think  
24 because of the lobby of the powerful  
25 institutions it's not going to be coming out

1 of committee.

2 So let them beat you up, Mrs. Evans,  
3 that's okay, I know you can take it and  
4 don't worry about it because everyone I ever  
5 talked to about this issue is with you.  
6 They understand that people have to pay, the  
7 nonprofits have to pay their fair share, and  
8 it's hurting ever single municipality in the  
9 State of Pennsylvania, and I think you are  
10 doing a good job, I think keep the pressure  
11 on them, and I think in the end we are going  
12 to get it from them. Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,  
15 Council. Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton  
16 resident. There is 14 metropolitan areas  
17 within the State of Pennsylvania, I've  
18 talked about this for seven years now, and  
19 again, the Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Hazelton  
20 area has the highest unemployment rate in  
21 the state. Did I mention Clarks Summit or  
22 Abington or any of these other communities  
23 that are involved in SAPA or did I just  
24 mention Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, and  
25 Hazelton?



1                   So am I against the SAPA plan? I  
2                   think we need to find more out about it, and  
3                   I also would recommend that council bring  
4                   the people in and sit down and talk with  
5                   them and see what they have to offer and see  
6                   if they have anything to offer to the city.  
7                   If they don't, then vote it down, but if  
8                   they do have something to offer them I say  
9                   let's go for it. I mean, we have been  
10                  burnt, we have burnt with Wall Street West.  
11                  Where is Wall Street West? 500 block of  
12                  Lackawanna Avenue, Brannigan's, I mean, I  
13                  can go on and on and on, but let's give them  
14                  an opportunity and a chance to explain  
15                  themselves.

16                  As far the University of Scranton,  
17                  well, we know the University of Scranton is  
18                  cheap. They are not going to help the city.  
19                  They don't have to help the city. As far as  
20                  Father Pilarz goes, he wrote his little  
21                  letter to the editor he wrote, he wants to  
22                  be a good neighbor, well, be a good neighbor  
23                  and help the taxpayers out, help the senior  
24                  citizens out in this city, help the people  
25                  who are this unemployment line, help them

1 out. Don't help yourself.

2 You got all of these beautiful  
3 buildings over there, that's fine. Is that  
4 an improvement for the city? Yes. But are  
5 you doing anything? You know, why don't  
6 they start their own fire department. They  
7 could do that. They could buy one fire  
8 engine, build a fire department, have their  
9 own fire department. They could also have  
10 their own police department. They have a  
11 public safety office now. All they got to  
12 do is get them certified to be a police  
13 agency, arm their guards, and they can --  
14 they don't need the city then, and they  
15 could have their own little hideaway up  
16 there up in the Hill section.

17 Father Pilarz, open up your wallet,  
18 give some money to the residents of the City  
19 of Scranton, quit making excuses. Scranton  
20 Times, print the truth for once, Scranton  
21 Times, seriously. Listen to both sides,  
22 don't give six page news to city council and  
23 front page to Father Pilarz just because he  
24 happens to be a Jesuit, you know, seriously.

25 I got to say, Mr. Loscombe and

1 Mrs. Evans, you guys are hit big time now.  
2 Scranton Times, yesterday Steve Corbett on  
3 WILK, that's big time there. Big time. You  
4 know, all five of us listeners were calling  
5 in.

6 Again, as far as SAPA goes, give it  
7 a chance. We'll see what they have to  
8 offer. Mr. Loscombe, I agreed with your  
9 letter, I thought it was very well written,  
10 I thought it was factual, but I still  
11 believe -- I believe in giving everybody a  
12 fair shake and, you know, I'm giving council  
13 a fair shake, you know. You guys got six  
14 more months left. So, you know, I'm waiting  
15 for the budget, I'm waiting for a lot of  
16 other things to happen, let's give SAPA a  
17 chance. Let's just look at it again anyway.

18 As far as mercantile taxes and wage  
19 taxes, talk to the people who have moved out  
20 of the City of Scranton. I work at a place  
21 where there is over 5,000 people that work  
22 up there and the majority of them lived in  
23 Scranton at one time or another. I asked  
24 them, "Why did you leave Scranton?"

25 "Because of taxes."

1 I talk to business people, "Why did  
2 you leave Scranton?"

3 "Because of taxes."

4 That's our problem. If I moved out  
5 of Scranton I would give myself a \$2,500 a  
6 year pay raise just in wage tax. That's  
7 \$2,500 a year that I could have in my pocket  
8 by moving into a community that has a 1  
9 percent compared to the 3.4 that I'm paying  
10 now. That's the problem.

11 Look around, all of the food chains  
12 where are they? They are all in Dickson  
13 City. They go everywhere but Scranton  
14 because they aren't going to pay it. They  
15 are just not going to pay it, and I don't  
16 blame them, I wouldn't pay it either.

17 I see where the owner of  
18 Brannigan's, you know, he might be right.  
19 His article in today's paper, he might be  
20 right. Maybe did have to move because they  
21 just weren't making any money here. Then  
22 again it could have been bad management, I  
23 don't know, but I do know this, that  
24 building is a beautiful building, it's  
25 sitting on the corner empty. Right across

1 the street from it is a whole block sitting  
2 there empty with over \$30 million of  
3 taxpayer money tied up into it. When are  
4 they coming? When are they coming, Mayor  
5 Doherty, Scranton Chamber of Commerce? When  
6 are they coming? When is the unemployment  
7 rate going to drop? Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

9 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,  
10 Council, Charlie Newcomb. Just to touch on  
11 this, I don't want to call it debate back  
12 and forth with the University of Scranton, I  
13 personally think \$250,000 is a generous  
14 offer from this city. Just to give you a  
15 plain example, when my grandmother was alive  
16 she paid over \$1,800 a year in taxes so she  
17 can stay in her home and she was fortunate  
18 enough to stay in the home until she left  
19 us, that was about 29 almost 30 percent of  
20 other income went to pay taxes. Nobody  
21 seemed to care then when she had to pay 30  
22 percent of her income to taxes. I mean, if  
23 she didn't pay those taxes somebody would  
24 knock the door sending her a letter asking  
25 for it, so if you're a \$163 million

1 institution in my opinion and you are only  
2 giving off 1 percent that's greed.

3 As far as to go back on how many  
4 properties did they take off the tax rolls,  
5 was it about 150 did you say?

6 MS. EVANS: 166, but growing. It's  
7 without all of the latest developments.

8 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: So it's \$1,000  
9 for each piece of property that they took  
10 off the tax rolls that they are giving back,  
11 give or take a couple of dollars. That's  
12 greed.

13 PEL, I listened to some of what went  
14 on here, it's been now for 18 years trying  
15 to get the city out of distressed status.  
16 If, and that's a big word, if they get the  
17 city out of distressed status they lose the  
18 income from Scranton; correct?

19 MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

20 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Well, I think  
21 that says enough, so I can't see they would  
22 truly want to be successful in my opinion or  
23 it would have happened a long time ago.

24 ECTV, no contract. Doesn't take a  
25 PhD to figure out what the problem is there.

1 I personally, nothing is in my house,  
2 Nickelodeon more than anything else, but  
3 when I do occasionally look at their channel  
4 it's terrible, terrible programing. It's  
5 just in my opinion I think Scranton Tomorrow  
6 did one heck of a job on a bare string  
7 budget than what they are doing so I  
8 encourage city council and this city to get  
9 other offers to see what could be better.  
10 They've promised it to be on the Internet, I  
11 still haven't seen that coming to fruition.  
12 I just think it was a backdoor political  
13 deal that is still going on, and I'm glad  
14 that council is standing up and saying  
15 enough of the political deals.

16 As far as what other people had  
17 stated, the article in Sunday's paper, I  
18 haven't purchase the Scranton Times paper  
19 probably since 2004. Not one day in my life  
20 have I purchased that newspaper. I take  
21 advantage of their free on-line stuff when I  
22 went to read it, and I read the first couple  
23 of paragraphs of the article on Sunday that  
24 Mr. Kelly wrote as far as Mrs. Evans goes  
25 and like other people had said, jealousy is

1 a terrible, terrible disease. I could care  
2 less if anybody on council down to the mayor  
3 makes a million dollars a year. That has no  
4 impact on what they are trying to do for  
5 this city, what you accomplish in your  
6 lifetime. Anybody can accomplish what  
7 anybody wants to if they really want to do  
8 it, whether you're poor or rich, you can do  
9 whatever you want to do. There is lot of  
10 people that have proved that.

11 Like I said, if there was a pill for  
12 jealousy, boy, we would be rich. I see it  
13 every day. It's a terrible, terrible thing.

14 Another question off topic, where is  
15 the pothole machine? Remember that infamous  
16 pothole machine that we paid I think \$80,000  
17 for.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: It fell in the  
19 potholes.

20 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: It fell into the  
21 potholes somewhere on the side streets, and  
22 also speaking of the University of Scranton,  
23 I was coming up Mulberry Street yesterday to  
24 get up here to the corner where the  
25 Houlihan-McLane Center is where they are







1 four-way?

2 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: It's more of a  
3 dangerous intersection now that they made it  
4 three than it was when it was two.

5 MS. KRAKE: We didn't receive a  
6 response, however, I do know the city  
7 engineer was on vacation and he is back now  
8 so we looking forward to some responses that  
9 we have all been Awaiting.

10 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Thank you. Enjoy  
11 your summer.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

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

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

16 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Up, Jack, a little  
17 higher? Up a little?

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's good right  
19 there.

20 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jack, one thing I  
21 had message I'm going to put on the air  
22 tonight, you guys on the air tonight, all  
23 you guys tonight on the air, told him I was  
24 on the air, he told me to. Well, Joe, what  
25 did you think, now, buddy? Well, the picnic

1 up at St. Joe's was great, Jack, you should  
2 have came up that night. It was packed.  
3 Thank you.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

5 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.  
6 Nelson Ancherani, First Amendment Rights,  
7 I'll be brief. During that PEL meeting I  
8 wanted to ask him a question, I wanted to  
9 ask him where in the 2002 plan is the  
10 Department of Public Safety created, what  
11 page? I did ask Mr. Cross after the meeting  
12 and he said it's in there. I couldn't find  
13 it. He supposedly is going to send or  
14 contact Mrs. Krake and give her the page  
15 number. I don't believe it's in there. I  
16 can't find it, I've looked through it.

17 Also, they talked about the health  
18 care going from 7 million to 14 million. We  
19 have been asking for years for them to give  
20 us the figures, the actual figures on paper.  
21 They haven't done that at all. We are doing  
22 that for negotiations. What he may not  
23 know, Mr. Cross may not know, is that the  
24 city forced out the 100 employees, they  
25 forced them out at the end of 2002. Those

1           100 employees went with the full benefits.  
2           They hired 100 employees to replace them  
3           with full benefits, so that's where we will  
4           have an increase in health care, but 7  
5           million?

6                         And they also forgot that that  
7           health care consultant that was hired, Sara  
8           Pickard, saved the city millions, maybe 5  
9           million, and they fired her, so if there is  
10          an increase they should prove it, come up  
11          with the figures and give them to us then  
12          we'll know exactly what they have paid.  
13          Thank you.

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

16                        MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

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

19                        MR. MCGOFF: Yes, please. Just to  
20          reiterate on a number of issues that have  
21          spoken on this evening. First of all, it's  
22          been described as beating a dead horse  
23          talking about SAPA, I'd prefer maybe to look  
24          at it as performing some CPR and hoping to  
25          revitalize it. We have heard from a variety

1 of proponents of the SAPA plan, the speakers  
2 at the podium to Mr. Barrett, who sent a  
3 letter, and Mr. Barrett from the Sewer  
4 Authority who sent a letter in support of  
5 the SAPA programs that would hopefully help  
6 them with the grants and funding for the  
7 projects that they have. We have heard from  
8 members -- a member of the Sierra Club  
9 speaking on the plan, from DCED who is in  
10 support of it for funding purposes that  
11 regionalized plans are looked on more  
12 favorably by the state, so there are large  
13 numbers of proponents to this plan.

14 I have been involved in coaching  
15 athletics for a number of years and one of  
16 the things that as a coach that you do is  
17 you gather information about your opponents  
18 and you formulate a game plan. The idea of  
19 formulating a game plan is to give yourself  
20 the best opportunities to be successful.  
21 It's not a guarantee. When you formulate  
22 the plan there is no guarantee that you are  
23 going to win, and I think that's what the  
24 SAPA plan is. It's a game plan. It's an  
25 attempt to enhance what the strengths of the

1 city in an attempt to make the city more  
2 successful. Is there a guarantee to it?  
3 No, but it's a plan. And it's a plan that's  
4 been thought out, it's a plan that's been  
5 developed, and it's a plan that can work if  
6 given an opportunity, and think that that's  
7 what we need to do. We need to give it an  
8 opportunity.

9 I know the criticism that we have  
10 listened to, the one about taxes, obviously,  
11 taxes in the city, business taxes are too  
12 high. That doesn't mean that we can't  
13 implement the plan. Why can't we do both?  
14 Why can't we lower taxes and implement the  
15 plan? There is nothing saying that both of  
16 those cannot occur. Why not take the step  
17 towards implementing the SAPA plan and at  
18 the same time look into reducing mercantile  
19 taxes and others.

20 As far as the zoning is concerned, I  
21 know, you know, Mr. Loscombe had his little  
22 fruit pies and all to explain, but we are  
23 going to need to look at zoning in the near  
24 future anyhow. The SAPA plan does that  
25 already. It helps us. It moves us forward

1 a rezoning of the city. Let's update zoning  
2 by adopting the SAPA plan.

3 We have also heard the funding  
4 aspects of it, because there is no funding  
5 -- or because there has not been a definite  
6 amount set for funding, well, implementing  
7 the plan probably costs nothing, just  
8 adopting it there is no cost. We have  
9 already paid the cost of researching the  
10 plan and developing the plan. That money is  
11 going to waste if we just vote the plan  
12 away.

13 Also, DCED has already said that the  
14 state is going to look favorably upon these  
15 types of regional plans for funding.

16 Also, we thought, as Mr. King has  
17 said, that some of costs are maybe all of  
18 the costs could be absorbed through OECD so  
19 that that argument starts to fall apart for  
20 voting against the plan.

21 I think that we need to look at this  
22 again. I am going to ask that on September  
23 7 when we return that we have a caucus with  
24 members of SAPA and hear what they have to  
25 say. I think that unless we receive --



1 unless we get more information that we have  
2 made a bad decision. Let's get the  
3 information that's available and once we  
4 have heard from the people at SAPA and we've  
5 heard what the plan is and we have received  
6 the information that's available to us then  
7 let us make a decision.

8 So I'm going to ask council, at this  
9 point in time I'm going to ask that we would  
10 set the caucus for September 7 with the  
11 representatives of SAPA, if we would seek to  
12 do that.

13 MS. EVANS: My feeling on it, which  
14 I have said too many times now is that the  
15 vote was already taken, the issue has been  
16 decided, and that minus those costs it's  
17 irresponsible to move ahead. I'm sorry, I  
18 have read the plan, I have spent a great  
19 deal of time on it, and I have more  
20 information over the last several years than  
21 probably most people do, unless they have  
22 all kept on this as much as I have through  
23 the years and retained all of the e-mails,  
24 etcetera, and so it really wouldn't change  
25 my opinion, though I was not present for the

1 vote it wouldn't be changing my opinion.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Well, we have already  
3 two members who voted against it say that  
4 they had not had any contact with the  
5 members of the SAPA to hear what the plan  
6 was.

7 MR. ROGAN: We did read the plan.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me?

9 MR. ROGAN: We did read the plan.

10 MR. MCGOFF: But you've never spoken  
11 to anybody from SAPA or involved with the  
12 plan.

13 MR. ROGAN: I don't have to be won  
14 over by a representative from SAPA.

15 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not asking you to be  
16 won over, but we conduct caucuses here and  
17 we ask for all -- many people to come in  
18 here to get information and yet we refuse to  
19 do that with this plan and I think that  
20 that's irresponsible. Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Well, we do --

22 MR. MCGOFF: The second thing I  
23 would like to speak on is ECTV and the  
24 Comcast renewal. As I said last week, I was  
25 opposed to the amendment that was presented

1           because I think the sole purpose of that  
2           amendment was to avoid paying the bills that  
3           ECTV has, bills that I feel should be paid.

4                       When ECTV was chosen as the operator  
5           of the PEG channel it was done so by a  
6           committee, I know that we may not have  
7           agreed with the way in which it was done  
8           through that committee, but I think the  
9           implication when that was done was that ECTV  
10          would be funded through the city and other  
11          sources and I think that we are not  
12          fulfilling our commitment to ECTV by holding  
13          up the payment of the bills that they have  
14          at this time. Some of those bills being the  
15          salaries to the employees of ECTV. They  
16          have performed the services that were asked  
17          of them, they have operated the PEG channels  
18          and I think that they deserve to be paid.

19                      At the same time, we have negotiated  
20          a contract with Comcast and presented it to  
21          or put it on the agenda and nearly amended  
22          it after we had negotiated it. I think that  
23          I don't know what the response of Comcast  
24          would be to the fact that we are now  
25          amending something that they had agreed to.

1           Are they going to now go back and seek to,  
2           you know, review the amendments to the  
3           agreement? I just think that we have done  
4           the disservice to ECTV with this amendment  
5           and I think that we should reconsider.

6                         Also, I did receive a number of  
7           e-mails, as I'm sure other members of  
8           council did. One from Maureen McWiggan,  
9           Deputy Director of Arts and Cultures for  
10          Lackawanna County stating that the county  
11          has, in fact, provided funding to ECTV and  
12          the PEG channel for the last three years, so  
13          the fact that it was being solely funded by  
14          the city -- the statement that it was being  
15          solely funded by the city was incorrect.

16                        The third thing I'd like to address  
17          is all of the talk with the University of  
18          Scranton. Should council and should the  
19          city seek out payments in lieu of taxes from  
20          the nonprofits? Absolutely. I don't think  
21          there is anyone that would disagree with  
22          that. However, I think that what we have  
23          done over the last couple of weeks is  
24          singled out the University of Scranton for  
25          one reason or another and characterized it

1 as some kind of evil empire when they are  
2 the only nonprofit that offers us anything  
3 in payment of in lieu of taxes.

4 The University of Scranton has been,  
5 in my opinion, a good neighbor to the City  
6 of Scranton. Twenty years ago the Hill  
7 Section was a haven for drugs and  
8 prostitution and through the efforts of the  
9 University and the City of Scranton it's  
10 revitalized. It's revitalized the lower  
11 Hill Section. I think it's done quite a bit  
12 to benefit the city in many ways. I don't  
13 think that the way in which we work to  
14 encourage nonprofits such as the University  
15 to offer more in payment of lieu of taxes is  
16 to constantly demean them, I think there are  
17 better ways of achieving our purposes.

18 And lastly, just to respond to  
19 Mr. Newcomb, the only tax dollars that I  
20 receive are my salary. My retirement income  
21 is based solely on the money that I put into  
22 a pension plan, and that's what I am  
23 receiving, so to characterize it as I'm  
24 taking money from the taxpayers is  
25 absolutely incorrect. Thank you.

1 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Again, on  
2 SAPA, as is the first time we talk every  
3 week after Mr. McGoff, but Mr. McGoff said  
4 that SAPA is a game plan. I believe the  
5 proper game plan is to use fiscally  
6 conservative policies and reduce spending  
7 and reduce taxes to attract businesses to  
8 the city and SAPA is a zoning plan. You can  
9 zone all you want. It doesn't mean the  
10 people are going to come.

11 And, you know, I have heard a few  
12 people mention as well as Mr. McGoff that we  
13 could use OECD money for the implementation,  
14 but OECD money is not free money, it's still  
15 taxpayers' dollars. There is no free money,  
16 whether it's federal tax dollars or the  
17 city's tax dollars at the end of the day the  
18 taxpayers pay the bill.

19 Secondly, I got a lot of response  
20 from the comments I made last week about  
21 many of the department heads who have been  
22 answering our requests and it just very  
23 frustrating when each week we all read off  
24 all of our requests, we go out to  
25 neighborhood association meetings, house

1 calls, we go to the people who have the  
2 problems and, you know, sometimes I just  
3 feel like, you know, say it's a pothole  
4 issue, I'd just go to the DPW and fill it  
5 myself because it would be easier, but I  
6 would just like to reiterate what I said  
7 that the people we are representing are the  
8 taxpayers.

9 Like the woman who sent this letter  
10 to council, the elderly woman who is  
11 concerned about losing her home, she talks  
12 about not being able to afford medicine and  
13 not being able to pay her bills and this  
14 person is paying taxes and at the very least  
15 should be providing the services to those  
16 people.

17 And again, come budget time for the  
18 department heads that don't do their jobs  
19 it's going to steep -- there are going to be  
20 steep cuts in their department if I have it  
21 my way.

22 Secondly -- thirdly, the article in  
23 paper, "PEL says Scranton faces tough  
24 choice, reassessment or tax increase."

25 I never thought I would ever say

1           this, but I agree with what Mr. Renda said  
2           in the article. He said that everything  
3           except for a tax increase is on the table to  
4           deal with the structural deficit, and he  
5           said, "Mr. Renda declined to provide  
6           specific means of addressing the issues. He  
7           said cuts in spending are one option."

8                         So that is definitely what we are  
9           looking for on council is for cuts in  
10          spending, creative ways to generate new  
11          revenue. One of them, which I believe was  
12          Mr. McGoff's amendment last year, was the  
13          rental registration fee. And I had a  
14          conversation with Attorney Patterson on  
15          Friday about that, I didn't hear back from  
16          her today, but again, there is something  
17          passed by council and the administration is  
18          just stalling and it's something that needs  
19          to get done because we need that revenue  
20          coming in.

21                        I have two memos from OECD, the  
22          first one is on the Crisp Avenue bridge  
23          project, and I'm glad to report there were  
24          eight bidders, so hopefully we will be  
25          seeing this project moving very shortly.





1 harshly to avoid going through the  
2 windshield of the oncoming car, and there  
3 are also many drugs concerns in the area.  
4 So I have these written out, I'll give them  
5 to you, Mrs. Krake, to forward them to the  
6 proper departments.

7 The second one is on Linden Street,  
8 the block between Adams and Jefferson, there  
9 is a situation with the lines on the street  
10 that it's confusing for some drivers, so I  
11 think that would be forwarded to PennDOT,  
12 but I'll give it to you, Mrs. Krake.

13 And the last one is there is a large  
14 tree in the 800 block of Quincy Avenue, and  
15 it has been tagged for removal months ago.  
16 It still hasn't been taken down and the  
17 residents report that the sidewalks are  
18 buckling, the sewer systems aren't working  
19 well and the roots from the tree are so  
20 extensive they are going into the  
21 foundations in some people's homes.

22 And finally, I have a list of  
23 potholes that need to be fixed: The 100  
24 block of Meadow Avenue in front of CVS; the  
25 200 block of Penn Avenue in front of the

1 Forum Plaza; the 1600 block of Olive Street;  
2 and the 1800 block of Olive Street as well,  
3 and that is all. Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

5 Mr. Loscombe?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you, Mrs.  
7 Evans. First I have a couple of requests.  
8 I have had several complaints by some  
9 emergency responders regarding the  
10 Jefferson/Mulberry Street area which I had  
11 mentioned back sometime ago. They are  
12 having trouble turning that corner, and I  
13 believe it was Mr. McGoff said that, you  
14 know, they are eliminating the parking, but  
15 there was no parking on that area where the  
16 vehicles would turn and they have eliminated  
17 at least six feet of that street. I thought  
18 in the initial plans they are supposed to  
19 keep the corner area the original width and  
20 then flare it in. I was just wondering if  
21 there is any possibility, Mrs. Krake, if we  
22 could get a copy of the original approved  
23 plans and if PennDOT was involved in this  
24 approval, also? God forbid we have a  
25 tractor trailer turning up there and there

1 is emergency vehicle trying to go up.

2 I have two other ongoing issues,  
3 which I'm working on and I'll report back  
4 later on, but I had met with some people in  
5 the Anthracite Auto area, along with the  
6 mayor, to discuss some concerns there and  
7 we'll be actively working on those. And  
8 also down in the farmer's market area I'm  
9 working with a few people there who have  
10 some problems, and now in the next few weeks  
11 we will be hopefully getting these resolved.

12 One other thing I would like to make  
13 a motion to appoint a temporary chair for  
14 finance, Mr. Rogan, since Mr. Joyce is not  
15 here this evening.

16 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the  
17 floor, do we have a second?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: All those in favor -- or  
20 excuse me, on the question? All those in  
21 favor signify by saying aye.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

1 have it and so moved.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Also, I received a  
3 letter this week, it's not signed, of  
4 course, but they told me I'm a disgrace  
5 because I didn't wear a suit last week, so I  
6 apologize, I really do. I just thought the  
7 dog days of summer we could go business  
8 casual for the last two meetings, but I  
9 sincerely apologize and I will wear a suit  
10 if that's what my constituents want. She  
11 even said that two persons who were watching  
12 with her at the served on council couldn't  
13 believe what they saw. So again, I'm very  
14 sorry, I mean, sincerely. I don't think my  
15 decisions are changed because I'm casual or  
16 in a suit, however, I will respect the  
17 wishes.

18 I do have -- I know it's been a long  
19 meeting, I apologize, but I would be remiss  
20 if I didn't make a comment on everything  
21 that's been discussed here this evening.

22 First, I'm going to mention ECTV.  
23 To suggest that this council would pull the  
24 plug on our PEG channel or public access  
25 channel is ludicrous. In case you don't

1 remember, the previous council along with  
2 the blessing of the current administration  
3 made every attempt possible to remove these  
4 cameras from city hall. For several months  
5 the story that council chambers was under  
6 renovations was the excuse used to keep the  
7 citizens in the dark, then at the request of  
8 one of the prior councils with the  
9 cooperation of the mayor, the cameras were  
10 removed from these chambers. Thanks to a  
11 visible protest by many residents along with  
12 the urging of Mrs. Evans and Mr. Courtright  
13 the cameras were brought back. I might add  
14 that Mr. McGoff, to his credit, also voted  
15 to bring the cameras back to council  
16 chambers.

17 You see, the last thing any one of  
18 us on council here would like to see is the  
19 elimination of the public access channel,  
20 which is truly our only avenue to discuss  
21 the issues of concern to you in an open,  
22 unbiased forum that we cannot realize with  
23 other forms of media which only use sound  
24 bites and have been edited and manipulated  
25 on many occasions to destroy the full story.

1                   The real facts are as follows: We  
2                   are not trying to dismantle ECTV. We are  
3                   only trying to make the operator, any  
4                   operator, of our public access channel  
5                   accountable. Right now there is no contract  
6                   between ECTV and the city. You don't think  
7                   that a business of this magnitude should  
8                   have a written contract for their own  
9                   benefit? Let alone the fact that if there  
10                  is nothing in writing how are we supposed to  
11                  know what services are to be provided by  
12                  ECTV.

13                  They have stated that they would  
14                  post council meetings and other issues of  
15                  importance on the Internet for people like  
16                  me without Comcast service, but since there  
17                  is no written agreement ECTV is neither  
18                  obliged to provide -- is not obliged to  
19                  provide this service and so they haven't.

20                  ECTV received a \$10,000 grant to fix  
21                  up a studio in East Scranton and then they  
22                  were moved out. In essence, a waste of the  
23                  taxpayers' money which can never be  
24                  recovered. ECTV also received a \$90,000  
25                  loan from OECD and has had the loan forgiven

1 before even making a single payment on it.

2 According to the newspaper, the  
3 county has also provided ECTV with at least  
4 \$25,000 in each of the last three years. If  
5 my memory serves me correctly, the former  
6 provider was able to maintain the public  
7 access channel for \$13,000 over a nine-year  
8 period.

9 When asked by a member of the PEG  
10 channel oversight committee, the member was  
11 told that ECTV only answers to the mayor.  
12 Wrong. If ECTV is running as a nonprofit  
13 with taxpayer funding they will have to  
14 answer to all of us.

15 The invoices that were recently  
16 provided to us after our request were vague  
17 at best. The amendment that I proposed not  
18 only opens the door to public access channel  
19 providers to provide their services through  
20 a request for proposals, but will also  
21 provide us with a written contract to hold a  
22 successful PEG channel provider accountable  
23 and provide us all with the best bang for  
24 our buck.

25 I hold no animosity towards ECTV and



1 I would certainly hope that they would  
2 provide us with proposals to continue their  
3 programming. ECTV was offered \$50,000 of  
4 the new franchise fee with the other \$50,000  
5 to be offered to the successful provider for  
6 start up costs or to ECTV if they were a  
7 successful candidate. This offer was  
8 rejected as was an alternate offer of 60/40.

9 Without a written contract ECTV has  
10 taken a serious gamble and if there was a  
11 verbal contract then that person or persons  
12 should be held solely responsible.

13 SAPA. I do not want to continue  
14 this back and forth banter that the Times  
15 has been playing in their effort to have  
16 them change my mind on SAPA, but I do want  
17 to address their distortion of my statements  
18 that they are so adept at. No where in my  
19 letter to the editor do I denigrate the low  
20 to moderate income folks, of which I am one.  
21 Whether the Times knows it or not, they are  
22 the increase in majority of the population  
23 that this city is made up of. The fixed  
24 income, the hard working, low paid taxpayers  
25 of this city and they are the constituents

1 that I represent, not the other 11  
2 communities north of us. Perhaps the  
3 revival of the commuter tax will place  
4 Scranton in a more positive position for  
5 regionalization and provide us with a more  
6 even competitive edge with our neighbors.  
7 And if you don't like that idea you are just  
8 going to have to be patient until we get our  
9 wage and business taxes reduced in this city  
10 through sound fiscal management that we are  
11 trying to provide, something this council  
12 has been attempting since January in spite  
13 of the numerous roadblocks that have been  
14 thrown at us by the administration and  
15 various forms of the media.

16 I will certainly entertain joining  
17 SAPA if they can provide me with definitive  
18 budgets and guarantee grants and financing,  
19 not rhetoric, and I would be open to  
20 listening to them, but I don't want them to  
21 come here and then say they wasted their  
22 time if we don't vote for it either. But,  
23 you know, I'm open to listening to anybody  
24 since I wasn't here on council at that time,  
25 but I don't believe until we get our city

1 taxes in line it's going to be benefit at  
2 all.

3 Just one final thing, and the last  
4 subject of the evening, the U of S. Again,  
5 not wanting to continue the back and forth  
6 banter with the Times that they have been  
7 playing with us, I do have to address  
8 Mr. Chris Kelly's rant against Mrs. Evans in  
9 this Sunday's paper because in essence this  
10 is a rant against the majority of council  
11 members who support the initiative of  
12 collecting payments in lieu of taxes. That  
13 was all we have set out to do, start a  
14 dialogue with the larger nonprofits  
15 regarding their help and charity to their  
16 whole city in our time of need.

17 The whole hullabaloo, I believe, was  
18 started because we initiated our talks with  
19 the largest institution and the one with the  
20 strongest ties to this administration, the  
21 mayor's own wife sits on the board and the  
22 Lynett family of the Times is one of the U's  
23 biggest contributors. It is nothing more or  
24 less than seeking payments in lieu of taxes  
25 for our financially distressed city. Do not

1 let the Times persuade you that it is  
2 anything different. After all, it was the  
3 University's own edit piece published in the  
4 Times which state that they contribute more  
5 than \$4 million in economic benefits to the  
6 City of Scranton.

7 I do not nor have I ever disputed  
8 the fact that the "U" contributes to the  
9 city's well-being, but we cannot pave  
10 streets with that.

11 This article was then followed by an  
12 article in the Times portraying us as  
13 extortionists, among other things. You have  
14 to remember, we have been conducting ongoing  
15 conversations with the University for some  
16 time, first through personal meetings with  
17 Father Pilarz and Attorney Lavelle, and then  
18 though numerous conversations between  
19 Attorney Hughes, Attorney Lavelle, and a  
20 third party representing the University.

21 I was told that a gentleman's  
22 agreement had been reached and then the next  
23 thing you know the University balked and  
24 started this campaign through the news media  
25 to discredit us. Again, we had kept our

1 discussions confidential up to that point  
2 all the while being chastised from this  
3 podium for not going after the nonprofits,  
4 so for those of you who don't like our  
5 approach, remember who took the first sucker  
6 punch.

7 I noticed that just in this last  
8 week the University has spent over \$1.1  
9 million gobbling up more taxable property  
10 that will now become tax exempt. The total  
11 combined taxes lost from the tax rolls on  
12 these properties is \$10,712.31 per year,  
13 three properties, or nearly \$110,000 over  
14 ten years.

15 Now, you tell me how long Scranton  
16 can survive on a shrinking tax base before  
17 your taxes are raised again as one of the  
18 only real solutions that PEL has provided us  
19 over the past 18 years? If we don't put our  
20 foot down there won't be enough anyone left  
21 here to do it, and I do have the listing the  
22 properties two of them are the addresses  
23 Semark, LLC, which appears to be the Marquis  
24 Art Shop on Center Street owns two of those  
25 buildings. The one on Hitchcock Court was

1 purchased for \$27,000 on May 11, 2006, and  
2 sold for \$505,000 to the University.

3 Let's see, the one at 918 Vine  
4 Street was purchased on April 3rd of '06 for  
5 \$100,000 and sold for \$205,000, and then a  
6 James and Louise Phillips sold their  
7 property at 417-419 Quincy Avenue which they  
8 purchased back in '90 for \$52,000, they sold  
9 it to the University for \$410,000, thereby  
10 eliminating, like I said, another ten  
11 thousand plus off the tax rolls this year  
12 and those charts I showed you will have to  
13 be updated again as we go along, and that's  
14 all I have to say. Thank you.

15 Oh, wait, I do have one  
16 announcement. I'm going to scoop the  
17 newspaper and TV here. You saw today the  
18 headline, this a county official is sued by  
19 a creditor, I'm not going to mention names,  
20 you saw it there, it was a credit card  
21 problem or whatever, I'm not endorsing  
22 anyone, but I too received a letter for a  
23 credit card that I owe some money on. I'm  
24 in the same boat as a lot of people in this  
25 town. I just took on another job to help me

1 pay my bills, but my first priority is my  
2 home and my family and my credit card will  
3 be paid, but they can embarrass me all the  
4 time down the road, I'm letting you know  
5 first where I stand, and that's all I have  
6 to say. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MR. DOBRZYN: Restore the pension.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: I also paid into my  
10 pension, but I don't have it.

11 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah, restore the  
12 pension and you can.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good  
14 evening. Before I begin just a few comments  
15 to some of the statements made earlier.  
16 First of all, no caucuses are held on issues  
17 that are previously voted down, at least I  
18 can't remember that having occurred during  
19 my seven years on council, and I do think we  
20 need to move forward and we have very  
21 significant pressing issues before us in the  
22 fall, just to name two, the revised Recovery  
23 Plan and the development of a 2011 budget,  
24 and rather than living in the past and  
25 trying to revisit a vote that occurred now I

1 don't know how long ago, I think we need to  
2 move on.

3 In addition to that, Mr. McGoff, I  
4 was wondering if you know how much of the  
5 salaries of the ECTV employees would be?

6 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know offhand.

7 MS. EVANS: I don't either, and  
8 that's part of the problem. That's not  
9 included in the bills that were given to us,  
10 not to mention the fact that that  
11 information along with all other financial  
12 information was never provided to city  
13 council in these two and a half years, to my  
14 knowledge was not provided to the Oversight  
15 Committee when they requested information,  
16 and as Mr. Loscombe said, they were -- they  
17 received a response of "We answer only to  
18 the mayor."

19 I couldn't tell you, frankly, how  
20 many employees work for ECTV or what the  
21 salary of any one of them would be, and in  
22 addition to that what I found very unusual  
23 as I was rereading through the Right-to-Know  
24 request that I had submitted and received,  
25 oh, probably about six weeks ago



1 approximately, very noticeably an OECD loan  
2 was granted I believe on September 25, 2010,  
3 to ECTV and that loan was forgiven within  
4 three months. The first payment, I believe,  
5 wasn't even due to be made until 2011, but  
6 according to the information that I have  
7 from the administration under that  
8 Right-to-Know request we have at least for  
9 the first time in my experience someone  
10 receiving loan forgiveness in three month's  
11 time.

12 Also, I do agree with Mr. McGoff, I  
13 read in the paper that ECTV received \$25,000  
14 per year from the county, but again, that  
15 was brand new information because ECTV never  
16 provided financial information or answers to  
17 this council or to the Oversight Committee.

18 I might also add though that I  
19 believe Scranton Today also received funding  
20 from the county and may have received it  
21 from the school district as well.

22 I'm going to return to you to my  
23 original remarks. You know, each day of my  
24 seven years as a city councilwoman I have  
25 received phone calls, e-mails, and letters

1 from citizens most of which are sincere  
2 requests for assistance with problems,  
3 whether they are specific to the  
4 individual's neighborhood or general to the  
5 well-being and survival of all Scranton  
6 taxpayers, and throughout these years  
7 thousands of requests have been addressed  
8 through phone calls to the department heads,  
9 through city council's office staff, and  
10 sometimes through my weekly citizens'  
11 requests, and I rarely if ever have read the  
12 original letter or e-mail publically, and  
13 ironically Mr. Rogan I both selected the  
14 same e-mail to bring to your attention  
15 tonight. You know, I'm not going to read it  
16 again, but I'm going to add what Mr. Rogan  
17 didn't read.

18 This was a special friendship gift  
19 of prayer. "You are being enrolled in a  
20 spiritual association and you will be  
21 remembered in the daily prayers of the  
22 sisters of Saint Benedict and praying for  
23 you that God's love and blessings may be  
24 with you," and that is contained in that  
25 plea, that desperate plea for help.

1                   Now, the resident asks for the  
2                   cities help on behalf of all citizens, not  
3                   just himself or herself, the young and old  
4                   who live on meager incomes and this resident  
5                   prays for council to succeed in it's efforts  
6                   and also prays for God's intervention in the  
7                   city to put suffering taxpayers first in  
8                   it's considerations, and I am deeply  
9                   grateful to this residents for his or her  
10                  prayers and blessings as they are the  
11                  greatest, most priceless and powerful gifts  
12                  that can be offered.

13                  Since January 2010 this council has  
14                  and will always put the people of Scranton  
15                  first as it's demonstrated by it's repeal of  
16                  a Library Authority, it's initiative to urge  
17                  the administration to switch electricity  
18                  providers, it's advocacy of the hybrid  
19                  payment system for rate payer's sewer bills,  
20                  it's partnership with State Representative  
21                  Kevin Murphy to separate city tax bills and  
22                  repair the Crisp Avenue bridge, it's budget  
23                  amendments to cut government costs, it's  
24                  support of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley  
25                  Trail, it's legislation to lower the bidding

1 threshold and put professional services out  
2 to bid, it's legislation exempting victims  
3 of crimes from having to pay for police  
4 reports, it's support of putting more beat  
5 officers on the street and it's pursuit of  
6 fair share payments from large city  
7 nonprofits, and that's among many other  
8 actions and accomplishments of this council.

9 You may be certain that council will  
10 work tirelessly on your behalf to try to  
11 prevent any future tax increase and fee  
12 increases for city residents. According to  
13 the Pennsylvania Economy League, our city  
14 faces a \$5.2 million deficit in 2011 alone,  
15 and this figure doesn't include the  
16 potential multi-million dollar court award  
17 to the police and fire departments.

18 Based on past experience, it seems  
19 that the city's administrations and PEL's  
20 solution to this deficit will be a tax  
21 increase, maybe a garbage fee increase,  
22 property reassessment or additional  
23 borrowing or any combination thereof.  
24 However, city council does not approve of  
25 these burdensome measures as the only or

1 best solutions to Scranton financial  
2 problems.

3 Earlier tonight during council's  
4 caucus meeting with PEL, I suggested that  
5 the possible leasing of Scranton Parking  
6 garages as a significant measure for raising  
7 new revenue and addressing the 2011 budget.  
8 Therefore, with the consent of my honorable  
9 colleagues, I would like to send a letter to  
10 Mayor Doherty indicating city council's  
11 significant interest in the possibility of  
12 leasing Scranton's parking garages and  
13 requesting the issuance of requests for  
14 proposals or RFP's on or before September  
15 10, 2010. Is that agreeable?

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, definitely.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. EVANS: Next, Mrs. Krake,  
19 council would like to send a letter to  
20 Mr. William Courtright, Scranton tax  
21 collector, requesting the following  
22 information from the Scranton Tax Office:  
23 Trended tax revenue receipts for 2007, 2008,  
24 2009, and 2010. Trended unpaid taxes turned  
25 over to NCC during these years and a

1 schedule of NCC's payments to the city  
2 during these years. Council would like to  
3 analyze this data to obtain a more accurate  
4 picture of 2011 revenues.

5 And that just jogged my memory about  
6 something Mrs. Schumacher had stated earlier  
7 regarding the amendment passed by the prior  
8 council that placed 23 additional fees,  
9 costs and fines on delinquent taxpayers in  
10 the City of Scranton culminating in the  
11 sheriff's sale of their property. Yes, I  
12 did bring that up, I didn't bring it up  
13 every week, we never had another caucus on  
14 it. We never really had another vote on it,  
15 I made amendments to it, they didn't pass.  
16 I believe I did that twice, once in one  
17 year, probably once in another year. As  
18 soon as this council took office I asked  
19 Attorney Hughes about how best this council  
20 could approach that legislation and amend or  
21 repeal it and after investigation on his  
22 part he learned that this is a very tangled  
23 web involving municipal revenue services,  
24 the Scranton Redevelopment Authority, the  
25 City of Scranton and NCC, and so it's not an

1 issue that has been dropped, but it's an  
2 issue we continue to look at and I know that  
3 over the recess our solicitor will be  
4 reexamining that, but again, these are the  
5 issues moving forward, these are the issues  
6 that effect the people of our city, these  
7 are the considerations for the city council.

8 Also, Mrs. Krake, please send a  
9 Right-to-Know request to by certified mail  
10 to ECTV for the following information: A  
11 complete inventory of equipment and any and  
12 all invoices for the purchase and payment of  
13 all equipment with OECD funding and a  
14 complete list of any and all sponsorships,  
15 donations, underwriting and all other income  
16 sources and for any and all purposes for  
17 2008, 2009 and 2010 to include the name and  
18 the address of each sponsor, donor, etcetera  
19 and the dollar amount of each.

20 And finally I have citizens'  
21 requests for the week. A city resident  
22 reports that weeds and grass are overgrown  
23 in the Rear of 317 17th Avenue in the alley  
24 behind his vacant house. Report this  
25 complaint to Mr. Oleski.

1 Hill section residents report an  
2 abandoned property at 909 Ridge Avenue  
3 located between Ash Street and Myrtle  
4 Street. The property is overgrown with tall  
5 weeds and grass and the rear deck and shed  
6 are collapsing. Residents also state that  
7 their surrounding neighborhood has  
8 experienced a problem of rats and skunks  
9 that they believe are coming from this  
10 property. Please send an inspector to this  
11 location as soon as possible, and I do have  
12 two photos that I have copied that I'd like  
13 the office to send with that request,  
14 please.

15 Residents of West Scranton report  
16 that dog owners are walking dogs without  
17 leashes in the vicinity of Luzerne Street  
18 and West Scranton Intermediate School.  
19 Further, the owners do not clean up after  
20 their dogs. Send a memo to the appropriate  
21 party to keep an eye on such occurrences  
22 when possible.

23 A resident requests that the 1100  
24 block of Curtis Lane be paved. The resident  
25 already contacted the DPW because potholes



1 that were patched two months ago have opened  
2 and enlarged.

3 Residents of the 800 block of  
4 Woodlawn Street request the installation of  
5 a "No Trucks Permitted" sign at North  
6 Washington Avenue and Woodlawn Street.  
7 There is currently a sign posted at Wyoming  
8 Avenue and Woodlawn Street which is  
9 ineffective in stopping truck traffic. By  
10 the time the truck driver views this sign he  
11 is already one block onto Woodlawn Street  
12 and no driver turns around, rather, drivers  
13 continue down to Boulevard Avenue and  
14 tractor trailers have yanked electrical,  
15 phone, cable, etcetera, wires from houses on  
16 the 800 block of Woodlawn Street.

17 Approximately one month ago a truck  
18 from Quebec, Canada, bound for the Recycling  
19 Center not only tor down wires, but also  
20 disconnected a meter from a home in the 800  
21 block of Woodlawn Street. Please install  
22 this sign immediately for the safety and  
23 welfare of all Woodlawn Street residents.

24 Residents of Pike Street, which is  
25 located off the Morgan Highway, report that

1           their small street has not been paved since  
2           1987 at which time the paving was performed  
3           by the DPW. A large portion of the street  
4           is now missing and motorists are driving on  
5           dirt in many places and dodging holes while  
6           simultaneously attempting to avoid hitting  
7           oncoming vehicles and that's a very windy  
8           stretch of road I'm told.

9                         For the last 15 years a resident of  
10           Pike Street has asked the city to resurface  
11           the street. During that time a young  
12           resident hit a hole, fell from his bicycle  
13           and suffered a broken nose. The road is a  
14           safety hazard to pedestrians, bikers, and  
15           motorists and is traveled not only by  
16           residents, but also by contractors and  
17           employees on route to an auto parts business  
18           and billboard locations along the  
19           expressway. Also, a drainage ditch beside  
20           Pike Street is blocked causing water runoff  
21           in warm weather and icing on the road in  
22           cold weather.

23                         Now, this is was I think is most  
24           noteworthy and probably most shameful about  
25           this situation. Residents of Pike Street

1           were told in the past that the street would  
2           not be paved because there are few residents  
3           and thus few voters. Whether a street has  
4           four homeowners or 44 homeowners they are  
5           all taxpayers and they all deserve the city  
6           services for their taxes. Please address  
7           both the paving of Pike Street and the  
8           drainage ditch as soon as possible and  
9           should this not occur then I'm going to know  
10          that is the philosophy of the City of  
11          Scranton how many voters live on the street.

12                         South Side residents report that  
13           foul words were painted on new sidewalks at  
14           Connell Park about two weeks ago. If this  
15           has not already been addressed, please  
16           remove this vandalism as soon as possible.

17                         At the corner of Breck Street and  
18           Rosen Court, which is located in the 400  
19           block of Breck Street, there is a 12-inch  
20           deep hole which is four feet in length and  
21           parallel to that is another very deep hole,  
22           I'm going to say maybe six to eight inches  
23           and maybe five feet in length, and the  
24           distance between these holes is so narrow  
25           regarding the pavement that remains that

1           it's almost impossible to drive in there  
2           without your car falling -- the wheels of  
3           your car falling into these holes. Please  
4           address this situation immediately.

5                         At 1435 Academy Street a white  
6           privacy fence was installed that the  
7           backyard in half. The half facing Division  
8           Street and 15th Avenue is overgrown. The  
9           trees are covering the one-way street sign  
10          and the stop sign at the corner of 15th and  
11          Division Street. As a result, vehicles are  
12          traveling the wrong way creating a safety  
13          hazard. Please address this problem  
14          immediately.

15                        Finally, I received a response from  
16          a husband and wife, and this is another  
17          shameful situation, a response from a  
18          husband and wife, both senior citizens,  
19          which I found very troubling and noteworthy,  
20          the husband who suffers from a heart  
21          condition and his wife patched potholes in  
22          their street and carried heavy bags of  
23          filler. They only ask that the Department  
24          of Public Works instead of misleading people  
25          should tell citizens honestly that they have

1 no plans for assisting them, and I'm using  
2 the words of this senior couple. This  
3 couple waited patiently for two years  
4 believing that the DPW was going to arrive  
5 any day.

6 These problems should be addressed  
7 by the city and these are the services for  
8 which homeowners pay taxes. No one,  
9 particularly the elderly, should have to  
10 fill potholes in their streets. No one  
11 should have to pave their own roads, and I  
12 am ashamed of the city's lack of action and  
13 the lip service to residents and I apologize  
14 on behalf of those who misled this lovely  
15 couple and failed to do their job. And  
16 that's it.

17 MS. KRAKE: 6-A. READING BY TITLE -  
18 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 29, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE -  
19 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
20 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
21 TRAIL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY  
22 OF SCRANTON AND LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY  
23 AUTHORITY FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP OF  
24 THE LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL (THE  
25 "TRAIL").

1 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by  
2 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

3 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A  
4 pass reading by title.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
12 have it and so moved.

13 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
14 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 30, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE-  
15 CLOSING FUND 02 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT AS IT  
16 IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR THE CONDUCT OF CITY  
17 BUSINESS AND TRANSFER ING THE FUNDS IN THIS  
18 ACCOUNT TO THE GENERAL FUND.

19 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by  
20 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure.

21 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B  
22 pass reading by title.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
5 have it and so moved.

6 MS. KRAKE: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -  
7 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 31, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE-  
8 TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM SPECIAL CITIES  
9 ACCOUNTS TO GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT TO PROPERLY  
10 REIMBURSE THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND.

11 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by  
12 title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?

13 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C  
14 pass reading by title.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -  
24 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 32, 2010 - AN  
25 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

1 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
2 ENTER INTO A UTILITY EASEMENT AGREEMENT FOR  
3 A SANITARY SEWER LINE OVER LANDS OF THE CITY  
4 OF SCRANTON SITUATE ALONG OLYPHANT AVENUE  
5 ON BEHALF OF MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY.

6 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by  
7 title of Item 6-D, what is your pleasure?

8 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-D  
9 pass reading by title.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 6-E. READING BY TITLE -  
19 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 33, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE  
20 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
21 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
22 ENTER INTO A CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT (AS  
23 AMENDED) BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND  
24 COMCAST OF COLORADO/PENNSYLVANIA/WEST  
25 VIRGINIA, LLC.



1 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by  
2 title of Item 6-E, what is your pleasure?

3 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-E  
4 pass reading by title.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

6 MS. EVANS: On the question?

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question, I  
8 would like to make a motion to amend 6-E.  
9 Should I read my amendment?

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: I make a motion that  
12 the ordinance, as amended, be amended so  
13 that the mayor and other appropriate city  
14 officials are not authorized to execute and  
15 enter into the cable franchise agreement  
16 negotiated with Comcast, including all of  
17 the terms and conditions contained herein,  
18 and attached to the ordinance and marked as  
19 Exhibit A and incorporated herein by  
20 reference thereto, until Article 7.3(1) is  
21 deleted from the cable franchise agreement,  
22 Exhibit A, and the amendment to 7.3 (1) is  
23 deleted from the cable franchise agreement,  
24 Exhibit A, and a new article 7.3 (1) and 8.5  
25 is inserted into the cable franchise

1 agreement, Exhibit A, as follow:

2 Section 7.3. EG Grant. The sum of  
3 \$100,000 payable by check listing the payee  
4 as "City of Scranton." Such grant is to be  
5 paid by Comcast within 60 days of written  
6 notice accompanied by a certified copy of an  
7 ordinance enacted subsequent to the  
8 effective date authorizing said payment.

9 Section 8.5. Cable Advisory Panel.  
10 The City reserves the right to continue  
11 and/or establish a cable advisory panel to  
12 assist the City in the regulation, oversight  
13 and/or administration of all or a portion of  
14 the provisions of the agreement in  
15 accordance with applicable law and the terms  
16 and conditions of the agreement.

17 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the  
18 floor to amend Item 6-E, is there a second?

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

20 MS. EVANS: On the question? I just  
21 wanted to add very quickly, and if I am  
22 incorrect in any way and I require  
23 clarification I'd ask Attorney Hughes to add  
24 a few remarks, the city administration is in  
25 agreement with this amendment. I believe it

1 was discussed among the administration,  
2 Attorney Cohen, who represents the city in  
3 negotiations with Comcast and Comcast all  
4 are aware and all are in agreement.  
5 Attorney Hughes, if you have anything to  
6 add?

7 MR. HUGHES: I'll be very brief.  
8 After last week's meeting I talked with  
9 Attorney Cohen, I sent him out the  
10 amendment, he wanted to know why I didn't  
11 send it out before it was adopted by council  
12 and I told him that I had been out of town  
13 and it came back and that I put that  
14 together that Tuesday just before council  
15 meeting what the amendment would be.

16 He said he would discuss it with  
17 Comcast, Comcast was a little upset that,  
18 you know, about the language because they  
19 had read it into the paper or someone had  
20 sent them what was in the paper the next day  
21 on Wednesday after council meeting, I told  
22 them that was not the case. I sent it out  
23 to him.

24 He discussed with Comcast, they had  
25 a conference call on Friday with the city

1           solicitor, Comcast agreed to the language  
2           with these revisions. Prior to that time I  
3           also discussed with Attorney Cohen that the  
4           statement or his comparative analysis  
5           between the old contract and the new  
6           contract did not set forth what was called  
7           the Consumer Advisory Panel that that was  
8           not in the new agreement. He and I  
9           discussed that it was council's position  
10          that they wanted the Consumer Advisory Panel  
11          put back into the contract.

12                         That was discussed with Comcast,  
13           Comcast did agree with that, we are putting  
14           that back in as Section 8.5, which was just  
15           read. The EG Grant, that that would be --  
16           it's just the language has just been, when I  
17           say massaged around a little bit, to include  
18           that this check could be payable to the City  
19           of Scranton within 60 days after Comcast  
20           receives the ordinance subsequent to the  
21           effective date, so that's the way that it  
22           is.

23                         It's all agreeable with Comcast to  
24           put these two items back into the -- or  
25           actually amend Section 7.3 (1) as Jack

1 Loscombe read it and also to reinsert the  
2 cable -- we call it now the Cable Advisory  
3 Panel instead of the Consumer Advisory  
4 Panel. It's all agreeable and from what  
5 Attorney Cohen told me that it is agreeable  
6 with the administration.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
8 anyone else on the question? All those this  
9 favor signify by saying aye.

10 MR. MCGOFF: This is on the motion,  
11 correct?

12 MS. EVANS: On the motion to amend,  
13 yes. All those in favor signify by saying  
14 aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

18 MR. MCGOFF: No.

19 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and so  
20 moved. And if we may return to 6-E, I  
21 believe that we need to move Item 6-E, as  
22 amended. Do we have a motion to do so?

23 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-E, as  
24 amended, pass reading by title.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
7 have it and so moved. At this time I'll  
8 entertain a motion that council suspend it's  
9 rules and place all items that have passed  
10 Sixth Order into Seventh Order for final  
11 consideration.

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
20 have it and so moved.

21 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
22 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -  
23 FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 27, 2010 -  
24 SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE  
25 COMMONLY KNOWN AS 714-716 MCKENNA COURT,

1 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO. 14677-  
2 030-019 TO CHRISTOPHER AND LORETTA DOHERTY,  
3 HIS WIFE, 715 MONROE AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
4 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, FOR THE CONSIDERATION  
5 OF \$2,500.00.

6 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
7 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
8 passage of Item 7-A.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
11 call, please?

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

19 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
20 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

21 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR  
23 ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 28, 2010 -  
24 ENACTING FEES FOR COPIES OF FIRE, POLICE,  
25 DETECTIVE AND AMBULANCE REPORTS, EXEMPTING

1 CRIME VICTIMS FROM PAYING FEES FOR REPORTS  
2 AND ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT FOR  
3 DEPOSIT OF THE FEES.

4 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the  
5 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
6 passage of Item 7-B.

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

8 MS. EVANS: On the question?

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I make a motion to  
10 amend 7-B that all copies of the fire,  
11 police, detectives and ambulance reports,  
12 except for motor vehicle accident reports as  
13 provided in Pennsylvania Vehicle Code Title  
14 75, Section 3751, reports by police, Section  
15 (b) (2), shall be remain \$15.00 provided the  
16 City of Scranton Police Department and the  
17 City of Scranton Fire Department shall be  
18 furnished for a fee of \$25.00 per report  
19 except any person who is requesting a report  
20 who is the victim of a crime and who  
21 obtaining a copy of the report shall be  
22 exempt from paying the \$25.00 fee for the  
23 report.

24 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the  
25 floor.



1 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

2 MS. EVANS: On the question?

3 MR. ROGAN: On the question, this is  
4 just because of the state regulation they  
5 can't be more than \$15 for a traffic report.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. All those in  
7 favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye. Those Opposed?  
12 The ayes have it and so moved. I believe  
13 now we have to return to Item 7-B as  
14 amended. As Chair for the Committee on  
15 Rules, I recommend final passage of Item  
16 7-B, as amended.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MS. EVANS: On the question?

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I would like to  
20 thank Mr. Nearwood again for bringing this  
21 situation to our attention. We really  
22 appreciate it and we are glad we are able to  
23 do something.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Roll call,  
25 please?

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
9 Item 7-B, as amended, legally and lawfully  
10 adopted.

11 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION-  
13 RESOLUTION NO. 25, 2010 - APPOINTMENT OF  
14 JERRY WEINBERGER, 611 NORTH WEBSTER AVENUE,  
15 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, AS A MEMBER  
16 OF THE SCRANTON LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE  
17 AUTHORITY FOR A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM. MR.  
18 WEINBERGER'S TERM EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31,  
19 2009 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON  
20 DECEMBER 31, 2014.

21 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the  
22 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
23 passage of Item 7-C.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: On the question.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question,  
2 again, I do not believe we received a resume  
3 or cover letter from this person, so I will  
4 be voting no.

5 MS. EVANS: Well, that is all  
6 council has required of these individuals  
7 and I think it's -- well, there is really no  
8 reason that I can determine why someone  
9 wouldn't want to send their information in.  
10 Thank you, Mr. Rogan. Anyone else on the  
11 question? Roll call, please.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: No.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

19 MS. EVANS: No. I believe the  
20 legislation dies through a tie.

21 MS. KRAKE: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION-  
23 RESOLUTION NO. 26, 2010 - APPOINTMENT OF  
24 DAVID V. PHANEUF, 1812 ACADEMY STREET,  
25 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER

1 OF THE SCRANTON LACKAWANNA HEALTH &  
2 WELFARE AUTHORITY FOR A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM.  
3 MR. PHANEUF'S TERM EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31,  
4 2009 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON  
5 DECEMBER 31, 2014.

6 MS. EVANS: As chair for the  
7 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
8 passage of Item 7-D.

9 MR. ROGAN: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Same as the last  
12 item, we did not receive a resume, so again,  
13 I will be voting no.

14 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the  
15 question?

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would just -- I do  
17 know this gentleman, I'm disappointed, all  
18 we asked for is a simple letter. Knowing  
19 him and knowing his quality I will be voting  
20 in the affirmative, but I do believe that  
21 they owe us what we requested and I'm a  
22 little disappointed because I know we did  
23 send a letter out from council also  
24 directing to him requesting this, but  
25 knowing his character I have no problem

1 voting "yes" for this gentleman.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Anyone else?

3 Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: No.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

11 MS. EVANS: No. I believe that 7-D,  
12 therefore, dies due to a tie vote.

13 MS. KRAKE: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION  
14 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR  
15 ADOPTION- RESOLUTION NO. 27, 2010 -  
16 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S  
17 PARTICIPATION IN THE NEPA COOPERATIVE  
18 PURCHASING ALLIANCE PROGRAM WITH LACKAWANNA  
19 COUNTY AND THE NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA  
20 ALLIANCE.

21 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
22 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
23 passage of Item 7-E.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll

1 call, please.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

9 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
10 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

11 MS. KRAKE: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION  
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
13 FOR ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 28, 2010 -  
14 RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND  
15 SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE  
16 CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF 317 LINDEN,  
17 LLC, TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT  
18 OF COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR A  
19 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE  
20 PA RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT,  
21 FOR A REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
22 LOCATED AT 324/326 PENN AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
23 PA, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
24 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
25 SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL

1 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT  
2 LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
3 TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE  
4 AMOUNT OF \$472,317.00 AWARDED BY THE  
5 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH  
6 PROJECT.

7 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
8 Committee on Community Development, I  
9 recommend final passage of Item 7-F.

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

11 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
12 call, please?

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
21 Item 7-F legally and lawfully adopted.

22 MS. KRAKE: 7-G, which was formerly  
23 6-A. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
24 RULES - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
25 29, 2010 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

1 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
2 ENTER INTO A TRAIL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT  
3 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND LACKAWANNA  
4 HERITAGE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR THE  
5 MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP OF THE LACKAWANNA  
6 RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL (THE "TRAIL").

7 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the  
8 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
9 passage of Item 7-G.

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

11 MS. EVANS: On the question. Roll  
12 call, please?

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
21 Item 7-G legally and lawfully adopted.

22 MS. KRAKE: 7-H, which was formerly  
23 6-B - FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
24 FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
25 30, 2010 - CLOSING FUND 02 SPECIAL CITY



1 ACCOUNT AS IT IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR THE  
2 CONDUCT OF CITY BUSINESS AND TRANSFERRING  
3 THE FUNDS IN THIS ACCOUNT TO THE GENERAL  
4 FUND.

5 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
6 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
7 passage of Item 7-H.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

9 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
10 call, please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
19 Item 7-H legally and lawfully adopted.

20 MS. KRAKE: 7-I, which was formerly  
21 6-C - FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
22 FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
23 31, 2010 - TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM SPECIAL  
24 CITIES ACCOUNTS TO GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT TO  
25 PROPERLY REIMBURSE THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND.

1 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
2 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
3 passage of Item 7-I.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

5 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
6 call, please?

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
15 Item 7-I legally and lawfully adopted.

16 MS. KRAKE: 7-J, which was formerly  
17 6-D, FOR CONSIDERATION FOR THE COMMITTEE ON  
18 RULES - FOR ADOPTION -FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
19 32, 2010 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
20 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
21 ENTER INTO A UTILITY EASEMENT AGREEMENT FOR  
22 A SANITARY SEWER LINE OVER LANDS OF THE CITY  
23 OF SCRANTON SITUATE ALONG OLYPHANT AVENUE  
24 ON BEHALF OF MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY.

25 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the

1 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
2 passage of Item 7-J.

3 MR. ROGAN: Second.

4 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
5 call, please?

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
14 Item 7-J legally and lawfully adopted.

15 MS. KRAKE: 7-K, which was formerly  
16 6-E - FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
17 RULES - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
18 33, 2010 - AS AMENDED - AUTHORIZING THE  
19 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
20 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CABLE FRANCHISE  
21 AGREEMENT (AS AMENDED) BETWEEN THE CITY OF  
22 SCRANTON AND COMCAST OF COLORADO/  
23 PENNSYLVANIA/WEST VIRGINIA, LLC.

24 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the  
25 Committee on Rules, I recommend final

1 passage of Item 7-K, as amend.

2 MR. ROGAN: Second.

3 MS. EVANS: On the question?

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. While I have some  
5 reservations about the amendments, I feel  
6 that it's important to finalize this  
7 agreement with Comcast and, therefore, I  
8 will be voting affirmatively.

9 MS. EVANS: Anyone else? Roll call,  
10 please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
19 Item 7-K, as amended, legally and lawfully  
20 adopted.

21 I wish all of you a wonderful end of  
22 summer and we'll see you in September. I'll  
23 entertain a motion to adjourn.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, please.

25 MS. EVANS: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER