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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE: FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 52, 2010, (AS AMENDED)
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES FOR CITY
GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE 1ST DAY OF
JANUARY, 2011 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2011, BY
THE ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET FOR
THE YEAR 2011.

HELD:

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers
Scranton City Hall
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI - COURT REPORTER

1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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3 JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

4

5 PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

6

7 ROBERT MCGOFF

8

9 FRANK JOYCE

10

11 JOHN LOSCOMBE

12

13 NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

14

15 CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

16

17 BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

18

19

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1 MR. ROGAN: I call this public
2 hearing to order. The purpose of this
3 hearing is to discuss: FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
4 52, 2010, (AS AMENDED) APPROPRIATING FUNDS
5 FOR THE EXPENSES FOR CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE
6 PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE 1ST DAY OF JANUARY,
7 2011 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2011, BY
8 THE ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING
9 BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2011.

10 Roll call, please?

11 MS. KRAKE: The assistant clerk will
12 be right back in.

13 MR. ROGAN: I see Mrs. Evans is here
14 as well, so she can take over.

15 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please?

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Here.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

23 MR. JOYCE: Here.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

25 MS. EVANS: Here. Our first speaker

1 this evening is Mr. Andy Sbaraglia.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, City
3 of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I have
4 some information on the budget. I know you
5 want to tentatively cut the mercantile and
6 the business privilege taxes from 1 percent
7 down to what?

8 MR. JOYCE: Oh, it would be a 25
9 percent reduction, so it would be .75.

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: One and
11 three-quarters. It used to be two, they
12 already cut it one time way back now you are
13 cutting it again.

14 Now, the revenue, of course, that
15 we're losing someone has to make it up
16 because Peter and Paul won't go when it
17 comes to the city. You can't rob Peter to
18 pay Paul, so hence, people of the city is
19 going to be obligated for just a little more
20 somewhere along the lines.

21 Now, did you put in the new system
22 at all into the budget?

23 MR. JOYCE: The new system for --

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: For the parking
25 meters.

1 MR. JOYCE: There was an amount put
2 in for that, but it wasn't as elevated as
3 was presented in caucus.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, because I
5 don't believe them figures are going to bare
6 out. How much is -- is the system going to
7 be put in?

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: How much is the
9 system to be put in?

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: Is the system -- are
11 you going to institute the system?

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: We are.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: And that's going to
14 go in.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: Your original
17 figures called for people to be fined more
18 than the revenue, I don't understand that.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, this was --
20 this was done through studies through
21 experience on other cities. I spoke to the
22 administrator for Easton and they are
23 actually expanding their program now because
24 it's been so good for them. There is
25 several areas in Pennsylvania now, one of

1 our neighboring cities, who will be
2 implementing it, also, but they base it
3 strictly on the history, what the meters
4 pull in, they're experts in their field,
5 they have shown us documentation from other
6 areas and I have actually spoken to people
7 from other areas and I do believe firmly,
8 but we do need -- we do need the employees
9 to participate, also.

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: There is a lot of
11 things to this --

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: But the estimate that
13 was put in was a very, very conservative
14 estimate.

15 MR. JOYCE: The presenter, I
16 believe, stated that it could generate \$2
17 million dollars in extra revenue, we put in
18 \$300,000.

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: Right, but it also
20 says that you get paid three million and a
21 half in fines. In other words, what you
22 make on the meters you are making almost one
23 and three-quarters on the fines. In other
24 words, if somebody parks in Scranton there
25 is a good chance he is going to be ticketed.

1 A real good chance he is going to be
2 ticketed. That's what I don't like about
3 this system. That you are ticketing.
4 People come here for a reason and they
5 definitely -- I got a ticket, I was mad,
6 okay? I didn't have somebody that's going
7 to take this ticket and say, "You don't have
8 to pay it, I paid it."

9 But when you start ticketing almost
10 every other person that comes into this city
11 to park they get up against \$3 million and a
12 half there, they are going to be mad.

13 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Sbaraglia, I believe
14 when we had the presentation it was only 9
15 percent of violators would be ticketed.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: One out of ten would
17 be ticketed, also, but I believe when
18 someone gets used to the system they will
19 know. You know, maybe in the beginning
20 there will be a lot more tickets than -- but
21 would you rather have the taxes raised or
22 have people paying this?

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: I don't like to see
24 what's going to happen to the businessman.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: It's actually going

1 to generate business.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: I wouldn't even park
3 on the street. I wouldn't. I had a ticket,
4 I got one up at CMC, okay? I parked way in
5 the back of Nay Aug and walked in because I
6 didn't want to pay another ticket and there
7 is people that are going to do it, too. I
8 don't know if you remember when we used to
9 have parking down there at the D & L station
10 at the lower level. They used to come in
11 there and leave their car and go to town to
12 work. There is a good chance that could
13 happen again or even Boscov all of a sudden
14 decides to open up his parking garage and
15 pay the lousy ten bucks for each parking
16 space. That again would take away. I don't
17 think this revenue is going to be generated
18 and of everything in the budget I think
19 that's sky in the pie. Thank you.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thanks, Mr.
21 Sbaraglia.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bill
23 Jackowitz.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
25 South Scranton resident and member of the

1 Taxpayers' Association. First of all, I'd
2 like to start off by commending all five
3 members of Scranton City Council for
4 actually putting in a lot of time and work
5 this year on the budget. In the past four
6 to eight years in my opinion, and my opinion
7 and belief only, is that no work was put
8 into the budget except by Mrs. Evans. And,
9 I mean, our past finance chairperson week
10 after week would sit up there and say she
11 didn't want to be finance chairperson and
12 the only reason she was up there was because
13 nobody else wanted the job. She said that
14 every week for two years just about. So
15 again, I want to commend Councilman Joyce.

16 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: And Pat and
18 Mrs. Evans and all five of you because you
19 guys put some time and effort into this and
20 it's about time that somebody started
21 looking towards the citizens of Scranton.

22 Now, are there going to be some
23 hurdles? Yeah, I think there is going to
24 be. You know, again, I think that's
25 something that we all encounter even with

1 our own personnel finances and our own
2 personal budgets, you know. I'm not a
3 psychic and I don't think any of you guys
4 are psychics, if I was I would be winning
5 the lottery every day.

6 But again, I just want to commend
7 you all. I think you all put work into it.
8 I just hope you don't falter. I hope at the
9 last minute nobody changes their mind and
10 you push forward and we get Scranton back on
11 it's feet. I know from personal experience
12 this morning, I relayed this to Mr. Rogan on
13 the way in this morning, I ride on a van to
14 work every day and there is 15 people in
15 that van, 14 of them live in West Side and I
16 live in South Side, and I tell you what for
17 years I have been trying to get this people
18 involved in city politics and they just
19 ignore me and say nothing is ever going to
20 change, nothing blah, blah, blah, you know
21 the old story. This morning on the van
22 after they read the article in today's paper
23 they were grinning from ear to ear because
24 they are all property owners, they all own
25 their houses and they were grinning from ear

1 to ear and they were like, wow, we hope this
2 works because not only are they cutting
3 taxes they are restoring the firemen and the
4 police officers to their positions and
5 public safety is not going to be hurt and
6 for once we actually believe that someone on
7 city council is doing something, you know.
8 So that's a scud for you guys because I tell
9 you what these 14 guys are tough because
10 they keep telling me I'm just beating my
11 head up against the wall coming here every
12 week.

13 But anyway, I just want to commend
14 you all. I hope nobody back steps and I
15 hope you stand your ground. If the mayor
16 wants to take you to Court for any reason at
17 all I don't think there is a judge in
18 Lackawanna County or in the Commonwealth
19 that will side with him because I think
20 Judge Mazzone learned his lesson and if
21 judges don't like to be thrown under the
22 bus. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bob Bolus.

24 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.

25 Bob Bolus, Scranton. It's nice to see a

1 council for a change to take the bull by the
2 horn and, of course, there is criticism.
3 You are going to get a full account of
4 what's going on.

5 As an animal owner, I'd like to
6 thank you for contributing into the Griffin
7 Pond Shelter. It shows where the heart of
8 the people is, and I'm sure the shelter will
9 greatly appreciate what's being done by the
10 city. You have stepped up to the plate and
11 I think that's important.

12 What I'd like to see, and there is a
13 couple of things I didn't go really through
14 it, but I have a couple of questions and I
15 may be off so please correct me, at the DPW
16 I know you made cuts, is it true that there
17 is no parts and service that's been put in
18 place to repair the vehicles in the budget
19 like if a truck breaks down is there
20 anything allocated to repair these vehicles?

21 MR. JOYCE: There is funding in
22 there to repair the vehicles.

23 MR. BOLUS: Okay, I wasn't sure if
24 it was in there or not and I just think it's
25 hard to have one supervisor, one man going

1 to run 100 people, I think you need somebody
2 else in there to help take that workload. I
3 don't think one man, no matter who it is, is
4 going to be able to supervise DPW, Parks &
5 Recreation and be accountable for 100 people
6 and all the problems that come with it.

7 MS. EVANS: Mr. Bolus, actually
8 there are two.

9 MR. JOYCE: Correct.

10 MS. EVANS: There will be not only
11 DPW director Jeff Brazil, but Mark Dougher
12 who was previously the head of Parks and
13 Recreation. That position that was cut and
14 counted as a cut position in the mayor's
15 public release, but in actuality Mr. Dougher
16 was transferred over to DPW as the assistant
17 director of the DPW.

18 MR. BOLUS: Okay, I wasn't aware of
19 that. You hear things out in the street and
20 it's nice to come before council and have
21 council explain where people think skeletons
22 in the closet are.

23 The Boys and Girls Club, somebody
24 said there was no funding, is that true?

25 MS. EVANS: That's correct. Council

1 cut that funding because council provided a
2 great deal of funding through the Community
3 Development Block Grant program to the
4 organization.

5 MR. BOLUS: Okay, because when it
6 comes to kids I own the Holy Cross Hall and
7 they play free there and, you know, I see
8 something effecting kids, especially in this
9 area and as educators and parents and all, I
10 want to clear that up because people said:
11 "Oh, wait, the kids are being stepped on,"
12 and I thank you for the explanation. I
13 think that helps a lot of the people.

14 I think what we need to do possibly
15 in the budget, I brought this up in the
16 past, is charge for police and fire going to
17 an accident, what the cost of that apparatus
18 cost the department, a minimum of two hours.
19 It's done in the towing and recovery
20 business, people pay their tow bills, they
21 pay storage bills, I think we need to start
22 implementing that to cut the cost of
23 operation down, and I think we need to do
24 that.

25 And I know we need to go after the

1 KOZ's and nonprofits. We go in there, there
2 is a money pit there that's been getting
3 away with murder for years. It's time now
4 they contribute and they should be able to
5 pick up the deficit and where you are making
6 the costs where people are crying, geez, you
7 cut taxes, how do we pay expenses. I think
8 this is the time with this council and it's
9 historical that we are getting something
10 done, but it would be more historical to see
11 a KOZ, the University and the others start
12 paying their fair share once and for all
13 instead of literally prostituting the people
14 in the City of Scranton and come to the
15 plate, have a token amount that they feel
16 they should contribute, compel them to pay
17 just like everybody else does.

18 I think Scranton will get on the
19 right course where it's got to be, but we
20 can't play with kid gloves any more with
21 them. They have to pay, they have to pay
22 for the fire service on false alarms, they
23 have to pay for the police protection they
24 are getting that we are paying for and
25 giving them free while the majority of your

1 people live outside of the area and I would
2 like council to really take a hard look at
3 that either now or in the future and get
4 behind the politics and let them pay their
5 fair share. I know the "U" should pay a lot
6 and it's time. Thank you.

7 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Bolus, I just had
8 one quick question for you, were you
9 referring to a fee if the police or fire
10 would go to the scene of an accident?

11 MR. BOLUS: Yes. What you do is the
12 way I look at things or the way we operate
13 our companies, you take what it costs you
14 for the vehicle, the personnel, you
15 basically structure it as an independent
16 business, and you know how much that police
17 car cost with the officer in it. He is
18 dispatched to an accident say on Wyoming
19 Avenue, it's a minimum two hour charge. If
20 that officer and that car costs \$200 an hour
21 that's maintenance, every program,
22 everything, that's your cost of operation
23 and, of course, he attrition that would
24 happen out of it, that car is sitting out
25 there running for two hours we are paying

1 for the gas and then they get 15 bucks or
2 whatever it is to do the police report and
3 everything else, you need a charge a fee.
4 It could be \$200 an hour, it's a minimum two
5 hours. We have to start doing that. People
6 say it can't be done, we can legislate. We
7 could change our classification in the city
8 but we need to go there where the money is.
9 They get police protection and fire
10 protection when you pay your homeowner's
11 insurance or you pay your taxes, however,
12 remember, we implemented a garbage fee in
13 this city while we were already paying taxes
14 to have our garbage picked up so if that can
15 be done then what's to stop us from doing
16 something else.

17 MR. JOYCE: Right. And actually
18 that is something that a few of us I know
19 have been researching and is Attorney Hughes
20 here? Oh, actually, he is not here yet, but
21 one thing that Attorney Hughes did warn us
22 is that a lot of the insurance companies
23 that were getting charged these fees were
24 going and taking -- or taking the city to
25 magisterial district court and it ended up

1 costing the city quite a bit of money where
2 it was instituted.

3 Now, I'm not saying that it can't be
4 done in the future, we are still looking to
5 research that. Another thing with KOZ's and
6 nonprofits, I have been in contact with the
7 finance chair from the City of Pittsburgh as
8 well as some other municipal government
9 leaders and I know that Councilwoman Evans
10 has and I know that a lot of people are
11 looking for reform and a lot of reform has
12 to be done on the state level in order to
13 take action on some of these nonprofits in a
14 legal manner, and that is something that we
15 are definitely exploring and we are
16 definitely researching.

17 MR. BOLUS: Okay. I have the name
18 of the attorney that I brought up in the
19 past that will help you through this
20 process, I didn't bring it up and give it to
21 you prior because I didn't want to do
22 something that would have affected your
23 decisions where you are going now because
24 it's going to take legislation or his
25 counseling advice that you can make KOZ's

1 and nonprofits pay and I will see that you
2 have that tomorrow morning, Mrs. Evans, I'll
3 leave it in the council office for you.

4 MR. JOYCE: That would be greatly
5 appreciated.

6 MR. BOLUS: And you need to contact
7 him, he is waiting for your call and he
8 going to show you where you need to go. He
9 is one of the top guys in the country and
10 you will be surprised what he is going to
11 tell you. I have already met with him, so I
12 know where he is coming from.

13 As far as charging for police and
14 fire, I believe we could legislate it, we
15 could change how we do business in this
16 city, and this is what you got to pay, you
17 need to come in, hey, too bad if you got to
18 pay because you wrecked your car, that's
19 what car insurance is for. We don't provide
20 you free police and fire on our tax dollars
21 and that's where it's got to stop.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

23 MR. BOLUS: You're welcome. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Bolus, before you

1 for the last five or six years and it's
2 ashame that, you know, that had to happen,
3 but now with the mercantile and the business
4 privilege tax and with the StreetSmart I
5 think that we will be having good tool for
6 economic development, I really do. The
7 first genuine tool because of the fact
8 Mr. Doherty's theory of you build it and
9 they we'll come, well, they didn't come, you
10 know, but I think now they will come and it
11 would be easy to be a doubting Thomas and
12 pick on a lot of things, okay, but when you
13 have in the big picture I don't see how
14 anyone can refute this budget, I really
15 don't.

16 And I do want to say that this is
17 official, the county owes in long-term debt
18 \$230 million and the school board school,
19 school district owes \$139 million in
20 long-term debt, so that's \$369 million in
21 long-term debt. Now, we don't get the audit
22 yet, okay, so we have a long way to go. We
23 are probably talking that the taxpayers owe
24 a half a billion dollars, not all in the
25 City of Scranton, but in the City of

1 Scranton and I bet we owe two-thirds of
2 that, so we have a long way to go and I
3 think this is a big step we are taking
4 tonight to try and get back on track. Thank
5 you very much.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
7 anyone else who would like to speak?

8 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, city
9 council. My name is a Dave Gervasi, I'm
10 president of the firefighters' union. I
11 first want to on behalf of all of the
12 firefighters in the City of Scranton and our
13 families want to thank you all very much for
14 all of the work you did to dig out this
15 budget and look at it line to line and
16 prioritize what is truly important to the
17 residents of Scranton. Not that we didn't
18 have faith in you, but if you don't -- I
19 looked at the presentation at the
20 Pennsylvania Economy League just two short
21 months ago when they were talking about
22 reducing the salaries of DPW, the police
23 force, the fire department, clerical,
24 raising real estate taxes by 11 percent, and
25 actually 41.4 percent over the next four

1 years, increasing our garbage fee from \$178
2 to \$215, increasing our parking meters fees
3 and still according to them we would have
4 had a \$3,048,292 deficit in the Year 2011.

5 You have turned it around, I knew
6 the numbers weren't correct. I'm glad you
7 got a copy of the independent audit because
8 at least you knew the truthful numbers and
9 to cut taxes, to keep our level of public
10 safety where it is and to cut taxes on the
11 homeowners in the City of Scranton and very
12 importantly to cut the mercantile tax, for
13 all the businesses that stuck with the city
14 in bad economic times, I mean, promises were
15 made over the years to help our businesses,
16 you are the first one who is helping our
17 businesses hopefully now because everyone
18 needs a job, hopefully now you will level
19 the playing field, hopefully in the near
20 future you can reduce the mercantile tax
21 even more where businesses don't have any
22 excuse any longer to either leave Scranton
23 or be forbidden or prohibited from coming to
24 Scranton, relocating their business in
25 Scranton.

1 I think it's an absolutely
2 positively fantastic first step and you all
3 need to be commended and again, on behalf of
4 the Scranton firefighters, I can't speak for
5 the police officers, but I talked to Bob
6 Martin today and I know how they feel, thank
7 you so much for listening to us and
8 listening to the information we had and
9 listening to the people that were concerned
10 about a reduction in public safety. You
11 really went to bat and you really hit a home
12 run. I'm so proud of this council and I
13 want to thank each and every one of you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

17 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

18 Doug Miller, Scranton.

19 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

20 MR. MILLER: As you will notice, I
21 did sign-in on the sheet for the regular
22 meeting, however, I was unaware there was
23 going to be the caucus going on beforehand,
24 so I'll just make my statements now if you
25 don't mind?

1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2 MR. MILLER: I just want to begin by
3 just saying that I did have a few questions
4 on the budget, but those questions were
5 already asked and answered by council, so I
6 appreciate you clarifying that and making it
7 clear to me and I really appreciate that.

8 I would really like to thank this
9 council for taking the time you took to put
10 this budget together. I had the chance to
11 be here last night, Mr. Joyce, I thought you
12 did a great job of putting that together, an
13 excellent job.

14 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much, I
15 appreciate it.

16 MR. MILLER: It was really clear,
17 right to the point, made it real easy for
18 the residents to get an idea of what you are
19 trying to do here and I just really want to
20 commend you for the actions you took. You
21 know, I'm really pleased to see that you are
22 going to be restoring the police and firemen
23 and various other positions in city hall
24 including I believe, correct me if I'm
25 wrong, you mentioned you are going to add

1 another city inspector; is that correct?

2 MR. JOYCE: Actually two housing
3 inspectors.

4 MR. MILLER: Two housing.

5 MR. JOYCE: To help combat some of
6 the blight issues that we have in the
7 neighborhoods because we all know that
8 that's a primary concern of the citizens.

9 MR. MILLER: Yes. It certainly is.
10 I mean, you took a look at the
11 neighborhoods, unfortunately, blight is an
12 issue, I think we have all known that. A
13 lot of us have had a chance to walk
14 neighborhoods and we see firsthand the
15 conditions and I'm so glad you took actions
16 on that, I know the citizens are pretty
17 pleased about that.

18 I'm also pleased that you decided to
19 continue funding for Griffin Pond. I know
20 we had a lot of volunteers here last week
21 who, you know, last council to try and come
22 up with some funding and it certainly was a
23 generous amount and I'm sure they are very
24 satisfied with that.

25 And I'm also glad you stepped up and

1 you made administrative cuts. I think a lot
2 of us have come up here and requested that
3 council do that and you did and you should
4 be commended for that, so thank you for
5 doing that.

6 You know, it's a real treat for a
7 change that we had a council that, you know,
8 cut fat from a very bloated budget that was
9 handed down. You know, this isn't a
10 criticism on any mayors we've had in the
11 past or any councils we've had in the past,
12 but I just know since I have been involved
13 for which has been awhile now, I can't
14 recall a council, you know, doing some of
15 the things that you have done with the
16 budget, so I really thank you for that and I
17 know the residents thank you for that.

18 I'd probably call what we saw last
19 night an historic night in the city's
20 history because, like I said, we haven't
21 seen the actions taking place by a council
22 that we have seen with this council and this
23 budget, and again, I'm very grateful for
24 everything you did.

25 And just something I would request

1 in the future, I have brought this up in the
2 past, that's the idea of holding town hall
3 meetings and I think that any time you can
4 have the opportunity to gain more input from
5 the residents of this city I think that
6 would be an asset to you because I'm sure
7 later on down the road we are going to run
8 into issues where we are going to need new
9 revenue ideas and ideas from residents on
10 other issues, so I would really hope you
11 would consider doing that. I think getting
12 input from the residents is very important
13 and I know you did that with the budget and
14 I'm sure you will do that again with other
15 issues later on down the road, so thank you
16 for your time, what you did and I'd like to
17 wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy
18 New Year. Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

20 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS; we have time for one more
22 speaker. Mr. Ungvarsky.

23 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city
24 council. Thank you for the time and effort
25 you put into reaching this budget. For the

1 last eight years the mayor has passed his
2 budget and as you can see his budget did not
3 work. I hope he will reverse course and be
4 willing to accept your budget and
5 participate in it and give you some
6 cooperation.

7 While we don't agree with everything
8 that's on the budget such as StreetSmart, I
9 believe that you should wait on that until
10 you see what the revenue will be from that.
11 I understand that each meter would have to
12 turn over four parking tickets each month to
13 break out even on it, I hope you will
14 looking into that and see what you can do to
15 reverse it and I thank you very much for
16 your time.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

18 Mrs. Schumacher, actually Mr. Ungvarsky was
19 very brief and we do have time remaining if
20 you would like to address council.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes. Marie
22 Schumacher. First of all, I would say I'd
23 be absolutely delighted if I didn't have
24 real concerns that this budget will be
25 executed as submitted or approved tonight,

1 but I do have some questions and I'd like to
2 explain maybe before you vote on the final
3 passage tonight, how the \$115,000 roughly
4 will be saved on the Parking Authority
5 citation issuers and whether or not they
6 will be citing on Saturdays in your budget.

7 And with respect to HR, prorating
8 the professional services actuals through
9 September which I understood is how you did
10 that it's about \$127,000, but council added
11 another \$8,000 and I wondered why that
12 happened.

13 Again, human resources, the
14 liability and casualty insurance is budgeted
15 by council at one-twenty eight point six
16 thousand dollars less than the mayor's
17 budget and I wonder if that's based on an
18 actual quote.

19 IT, with the elimination of one
20 employee I would presume that IT might have
21 to reach out in more professional services
22 yet council's budget is \$4,000 less than the
23 actuals through September of this year for
24 professional services. With no overtime
25 provided I wonder what functions may not be

1 performed in a timely manner if at all.

2 And also, on their materials and
3 supplies, council's budget is almost \$54,000
4 less than what was already spent through
5 September and I presume this is where a new
6 service to replace a computer service for
7 specifically for LIPS primarily, which would
8 replace the highly deficient Community Plus
9 system that is currently in place that
10 tracks LIPS revenue and are we not going to
11 replace the COM-PLUS with a modern system in
12 your budget.

13 And then the rest I'll hold until my
14 next turn up. But with respect to the fire
15 department, the overtime through September
16 was \$665,000 because we have been told the
17 department was operating about a dozen
18 firefighters less than required. Now, the
19 average salaries are about equal between
20 council and the mayor's budget, so if the
21 ordinance on the table tonight requires a
22 full compliment of 137 firefighters and the
23 OT is reduced, won't there be additional
24 hires required to maintain the compliment
25 when firefighters are out on vacation or

1 sick time and won't there be expenses for
2 these additional firefighters?

3 MR. JOYCE: One thing I did want to
4 say is under the plan that was submitted to
5 us and in the Commonwealth Court cases you
6 know Mayor Doherty won management rights,
7 that was clearly specified for the fire
8 department, and one thing he did do was
9 change their shift schedule from a 42-hour
10 work to a 48-hour workweek, and thus
11 overtime was reduced in the administration's
12 budget by a great amount.

13 Now, since the firefighters will be
14 paid on a 48-hour a week workweek
15 technically I'm guessing that the mayor
16 reduced overtime because it's actually
17 embedded in the salaries because their
18 salaries are based on a 48-hour week instead
19 of a 42-hour week.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: But if there has to
21 be 137 on at all times how -- don't more
22 firefighters have to be hired for those who
23 are out on sick leave and vacation? And I
24 don't think there is any money in the budget
25 that I could see for additional firefighters

1 to be hired?

2 MR. JOYCE: Well, there isn't
3 funding allocated for the hiring of
4 additional firefighters beyond what's
5 specified in the ordinance, no, but I will
6 discuss this more during motions.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: And I'll finish up
8 with the rest of my questions -- so you can
9 start your next meeting -- during Fourth
10 Order. Thank you.

11 MR. JOYCE: Also, Mrs. Schumacher, I
12 did put in together, it's about a 40-page
13 spreadsheet of every single expense that's
14 included in each one of those accounts and,
15 Mrs. Krake, I know I said if you could run
16 off maybe one or two or three for the public
17 to look at while the meeting was going on I
18 think that something that Mrs. Schumacher
19 might be greatly interested in.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Might answer some
21 of the other questions that I have.

22 MR. JOYCE: Yes, exactly. I think
23 with the professional services in IT there
24 was a very high amount in there budgeted for
25 new computers and various equipment, that

1 was brought down a little bit and that's why
2 that account was reduced, but in that
3 spreadsheet it breaks down it's about 2,000
4 and some items and it goes through every one
5 of them.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes, I would like
7 to look at the detail and I am very pleased
8 that our public safety will be existing.
9 Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: This caucus is
11 adjourned. I should say, this public
12 hearing is 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.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
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