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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, January 4, 2011

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

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce. Mrs.

11 Evans.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
15 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON POLICE PENSION
16 COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 17,
17 2010.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
21 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
22 ON NOVEMBER 17, 2010.

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

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

1 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
2 HELD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2010.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
6 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING
7 HELD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2010.

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

10 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. APPLICATIONS ALONG
11 WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE
12 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING HELD ON
13 DECEMBER 8, 2010.

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

16 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. AGENDA FOR THE
17 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION FUND
18 MEETING HELD DECEMBER 15, 2010.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: 3-G. AGENDA FOR THE CITY
22 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD DECEMBER
23 15, 2010.

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

1 MS. KRAKE: 3-H. CONTROLLER'S REPORT
2 FOR THE MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2010.

3 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
4 If not, received and filed. Clerk's notes,
5 please?

6 MS. KRAKE: I have a report council
7 concerning the PEL meeting on Monday, which
8 I attended on behalf of council. Suddenly
9 the Pennsylvania Economy League wants to
10 keep close track of the revenues coming in.
11 Now they are asking for the cash reports
12 which are supposed to come out monthly, but
13 have always been quite delinquent. You can
14 see you just received October's in the mail.
15 They were not overly concerned with these in
16 the past for the 2010 year that I have been
17 attending. This appears to be so they can
18 check the revenue figures since council's
19 amendments include additional revenue.

20 They were not checking on the
21 mayor's budget like this for all of 2010,
22 but they said that they will begin, that's
23 their words, this process now.

24 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, if you would
25 keep notes on these meetings for us, please,

1 Pennsylvania Economy League is supposed to
2 forward summaries of meeting notes to us and
3 that has been very erratic, but I would like
4 to keep track of the differences that are
5 being initiated right now because this is
6 council amended budget versus the eight
7 previous budgets of the mayor. So if we
8 could please keep track of PEL's comments
9 and actions.

10 (Mr. Joyce joins the meeting and
11 takes the dais.)

12 MS. KRAKE: I will. And also, I
13 would like to report regarding the blight
14 problems on 435 and 436 Ripple Street.
15 Executive Assistance Kathy Carrera attempted
16 to contact Mr. Oleski several times and he
17 did not respond. I also attempted to
18 contact Mr. Oleski, leaving a message, again
19 with no response. Also, I attempted to
20 contact the business administrator,
21 Mr. Renda, Monday to get the information
22 Mr. Morgan requested, he did not return any
23 of my calls.

24 MS. EVANS: I think this is most
25 unfortunate that the administration or

1 someone members of the administration
2 apparently are cutting lines of
3 communication with city council. Again, as
4 has been said in the past, council will
5 continue to do it's work. This does not
6 negatively impact as much it hurts you, the
7 people of the city. You are looking to us
8 to help you with your problems and if
9 administrators will not communicate with
10 council and it's office that, in fact, means
11 the administrator's don't want to help you
12 and that's a very sad and unacceptable state
13 of affairs.

14 MS. KRAKE: I do have one more part
15 of the PEL meeting, I forgot to mention
16 this, Mrs. Evans. When the Pennsylvania
17 Economy League said to Ryan McGowan, who
18 will be our new administrator who was at the
19 meeting, they wanted these reports, Ms.
20 Moran spoke up to say that don't forget they
21 are short a person in that office now. But,
22 of course, they weren't short a person all
23 of 2010 and the reports were far from
24 timely, so it doesn't appear that they have
25 directed the management to do work that

1 should be done in the office.

2 MS. EVANS: In other words, what you
3 are saying is although these reports have a
4 history of delinquency, Ms. Moran pointed
5 out that they will continue or suggested
6 they could well continue to be delinquent
7 due to the loss of one employee in that
8 department and PEL has no response to that.

9 MS. KRAKE: Exactly.

10 MR. JOYCE: -- also --

11 MS. EVANS: In addition to that
12 though, I think my concern is as in any
13 business, government, any industry, any
14 entity, when there is a downsizing within a
15 department, the other employees are expected
16 to pick up the job duties and
17 responsibilities of the individual who has
18 been laid off.

19 Unfortunately, from what Mrs. Krake
20 is saying, that doesn't appear to be the
21 case within city hall as well. I'm hoping
22 that the employees are going to do a good
23 day's work for a good day's pay and assume
24 the responsibilities, dividing it among
25 themselves, for the work of any person who

1 has been laid off.

2 MR. JOYCE: Also, Mrs. Krake, if I
3 may add, the total compliment in the
4 business administration's office is the same
5 in the budget amendments as it was in the
6 original budget provided to council, so
7 technically while they did lose one person
8 they did gain another, so Ms. Moran's
9 statement is only half true.

10 MS. EVANS: Is that all?

11 MS. KRAKE: That's it.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.
13 Are there any announcements from council
14 members?

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I have three
16 announcements. The first one is mainly
17 towards the residents of the Tripp Park area
18 and the Hyde Park area, over the last few
19 weeks there have been a lot of break-ins in
20 cars, they have been stealing GPS systems
21 that people have been leaving in cars, and
22 even the change that many people keep in
23 their cup holders, and although losing a few
24 dollars in change to most people isn't a big
25 deal, but the way they are getting in is

1 they are smashing the window, and because
2 most people their deductible is \$500 for car
3 insurance they have to pay to replace the
4 window out-of-pocket, so I would urge
5 everyone especially in West Scranton and all
6 across the city to take GPS systems, pocket
7 change, money out of their vehicles because,
8 you know, this has been going on for a few
9 weeks now, especially in the West Scranton
10 area.

11 Secondly, we received our first snow
12 storm of the year, even though it was only a
13 few inches, I would also ask residents not
14 to throw their snow from their sidewalks
15 into the road. It creates a safety hazard
16 for school, for school buses, fire, police.

17 And third, a few people mentioned to
18 me, and I know Mr. Loscombe spoke about this
19 early in the year, many people are grilling
20 on their porches because of the cold
21 weather, I guess it's a little warmer on the
22 porch. Again, it's a fire hazard and we
23 would ask you that you be very careful, and
24 that's all. Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: As we enter a new year

1 and the 2011 sessions of Scranton City
2 Council, I'd like to review the Rules of
3 Council which pertain to the public. Turn
4 off cell phones before entering the council
5 chambers. State your name and address
6 clearly before addressing council and be
7 sure to provide your list of questions or
8 problems in writing to Ms. Carrera. Please
9 adhere to the five-minute time limit for
10 citizens' participation in order that all
11 may have an equal opportunity to speak. You
12 are welcome to return to successive meetings
13 to continue your comments, suggestions and
14 questions. Thank you for your continued
15 cooperation in these matters as we strive to
16 maintain a working environment of respect,
17 concern and professionalism in Scranton City
18 Council Chambers. That's it.

19 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
20 PARTICIPATION.

21 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this
22 evening is John Judge.

23 MR. JUDGE: Good evening, city
24 council. My name is John Judge, I'm the
25 secretary for IFF Local 60, Scranton

1 firefighters and a resident of the City of
2 Scranton. I came tonight to just give you
3 an update on what's happening with the fire
4 department, I'm sure you have read some
5 different things in the local newspaper over
6 the past couple of days, our structure has
7 currently changed the way we are deployed.
8 We are currently working a 24-hour shift,
9 which is something that our guys are
10 adjusting to right now, but some of the more
11 important details of what has happened is we
12 are starting to experience closing of
13 companies.

14 Engine 9, which is located on Main
15 Avenue has been closed, has not been opened
16 since January 1, and according to the city
17 will not open, reopen. That was the second
18 busiest engine in the city and that is now
19 closed. It serves Tripp's Park area, most
20 of West Side, some parts of North Scranton,
21 Bull's Head area, first due in area to the
22 new neighborhood in Tripps Park.

23 The second thing that we have had
24 happen is Engine 4, which is the engine
25 that's located right here on Mulberry

1 Street, has within browned out, what the
2 City is referring to a brown out. Depending
3 on staffing levels, we have several people
4 off injured right now from different fires
5 that we have had over the last year, some
6 shoulder injuries, some different injuries,
7 depending on the staffing level that date
8 they will not call in overtime so what they
9 are doing is they are browning out that
10 company. We asked for a pecking order from
11 the city on how they are going to brown out
12 companies.

13 In the event that we have several
14 people off injured, and let me just go back
15 to Engine 4 real quick. Engine 4 is
16 probably for the rest of the year going to
17 be closed, by the numbers we have done, 70
18 percent of the time, so about 70 percent of
19 the time Engine 4 will be closed.

20 In the event that they need to close
21 another engine company, what they are going
22 to do is they're going to close Engine 8.
23 Engine 8 is the engine that's located on
24 Market Street in North Scranton. If they do
25 close that, what they are going to do is

1 they are going to relocate Rescue 1, which
2 we had this discussion before is not an
3 engine, okay, does not supply water or
4 suppression to the fire, they will relocate
5 that from Wyoming Avenue, 940 Wyoming Avenue
6 to the firehouse on Market Street.

7 The city talked -- I read some
8 comments briefly in the paper today about
9 brownouts and our chief likened to the City
10 of Philadelphia which, yes, is doing
11 brownouts right now. Here is the problem
12 with the way it's being done here, there has
13 been no rhyme or reason of how they are
14 closing the companies. There is no special
15 statistics that they have looked at. If you
16 look at Philadelphia, and I called one of
17 the friends that worked there today, big
18 difference is between the way we operate.

19 First primary difference is every
20 piece in the City of Scranton whether it's a
21 rescue truck, the ladder trucks or the
22 engines ride with three people. In the City
23 of Philadelphia the engine rides with four,
24 a ladder truck rides with five, their
25 squads, which are a combination of engine

1 and rescue, they have two of them ride, with
2 five as well and they have one citywide
3 rescue truck which rides with six.

4 The other thing in Philly you have
5 12 chiefs working every shift, 52 engines,
6 25 ladders, two squads and one rescue truck,
7 all right? So I just did some quick math
8 with you. The equipment reduction proposed
9 by our city will be 28 percent of our
10 equipment could possibly be down at one
11 time. If Engine 9, Engine 4 and Engine 8
12 are closed. That's 28 percent of our
13 equipment. The way the City of Philadelphia
14 is operating right now they are doing
15 rolling brownouts based on different
16 statistics and proximities of other
17 companies. Which was not done here, and
18 they are only closing one ladder and two
19 engines per shift which works out to a 3
20 percent reduction, 3 percent and we are
21 talking 28 percent here.

22 They actually there is a rhyme or
23 reason to how they are doing it. They are
24 closing the companies that are dual-housed
25 companies with close proximity of other

1 companies, so they have done some homework
2 on this because they understand the public
3 safety aspect.

4 Our concern is response times are
5 absolutely -- we gave you the response
6 times, probably one of the worst case
7 scenarios that we did was within Engine 8
8 out of service and Engine 9 and Engine 4, so
9 if you live in North Scranton, live in the
10 Bangor Heights area or Rockwell Avenue you
11 are probably going to be waiting for the
12 engine from West Side, which is on Luzerne
13 Street, and you will be waiting for it most
14 likely as long as they are not, you will be
15 waiting for the engine from Petersburg, from
16 all the way down Ash Street, go down
17 Greenridge and go up there. A significant
18 time delay, which begs another problem,
19 Rockwell Avenue bridge. Our equipment
20 cannot go over that.

21 Anything else that you need, let us
22 know. We just want to give you an update of
23 what's happening with our department at the
24 current time, but some definite concerns
25 that we had at this point on the safety

1 impact.

2 MR. JOYCE: I have a quick question,
3 when I heard about what was being done in
4 the City of Scranton in regard to the
5 brownouts, I read in a San Francisco
6 newspaper that they, too, were carrying out
7 the same procedure based on the usage of
8 certain fire stations, they are browning out
9 fire stations that happen to have a lesser
10 number of calls than others, but they are
11 not doing this in the city, they are just
12 randomly selecting, is what that you are
13 saying?

14 MR. JUDGE: Yeah. I could speculate
15 on why they are doing it, it's appearances
16 that certain companies or certain firehouses
17 will remain open, but the fact remains and
18 we have talked about this before, Engine 4
19 and Engine 9 have always been our most
20 important engine companies, busiest as well.
21 Engine 8 is a really busy engine company as
22 well so it's not on the bottom of the list
23 as far as run volume. Jack, you would know
24 this from when you were there, nothing has
25 really changed that much since you have been

1 gone.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Exactly.

3 MR. JUDGE: The call volume for
4 eight is still rather large. They cover a
5 significant area.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: I mean, again, I
7 believe I have asked this question, but they
8 have had no studies presented to us or to
9 the fire department that show their
10 reasoning behind why they are closing
11 certain stations?

12 MR. JUDGE: No.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: I mean, Engine 8
14 closing seems ludicrous after Engine 9 being
15 closed, there is only one company, Engine 7
16 covering the whole West Side which is more
17 than vulnerable right now with lack of water
18 and low water pressure in most areas. I'll
19 tell you, it's criminal. They are not using
20 any overtime or anything at this point?

21 MR. JUDGE: No, and the overtime
22 issue being one thing, and I know the mayor
23 said we read something in the paper today,
24 well, they got the money in the contract and
25 talking about violating the ordinance that

1 this council passed by not hiring anybody if
2 anybody leaves. Here is the problem, we got
3 25 -- 25, 27 people that we can leave today
4 with their, by the end of the year I think
5 it's about 27, they leave what are we going
6 to do? I can't imagine if the 27 layoffs
7 that he had proposed we would have three
8 other engine companies closed today.

9 So you would be closing Engine 4,
10 Engine 8, Engine 9, and one other. Pick.
11 Engine 15. You know, get a dartboard.
12 That's about the methodology that they are
13 using at this point. We have heard the
14 studies, public safety Director Hayes had a
15 file, a contingency file of when they were
16 going to implement their plan. Heard of it,
17 he spoke of it in the paper before. PEL did
18 a study, they didn't even do anything close
19 to PEL's study.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Exactly, we saw that
21 study.

22 MR. JUDGE: And San Francisco, if
23 you look at San Francisco staffing levels as
24 all. We ride three on a piece, which is --
25 we riding two on some of the outlying

1 pieces, but we are riding three now so our
2 safety has gone up a little bit as far as
3 what we have to do. But, I mean, you look
4 at most cities they are running, four, five.
5 I mean, it's comparing apples and oranges
6 when you compare us to Philly it just
7 doesn't make much sense.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Its is the truth.

9 MR. JUDGE: But I would imagine that
10 over -- if he is asking about -- the mayor
11 is asked about why Engine 8 we are assuming
12 that he may be called on Engine 8 I don't
13 why -- I don't know why. There is no rhyme
14 or reason to it. I could speculate why, but
15 it would only be speculation.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: What worries me is
17 like Mr. Judge just stated and I believe the
18 mayor in the newspaper is stating that as
19 these vacancies come up he is still not
20 going to fill them, even though we did an
21 ordinance for manpower. That ordinance was
22 for public safety. It wasn't to put more
23 men it for more pay or anything like that,
24 it was for your public safety, and it's
25 obvious that this administration has no

1 regard for anybody's public safety out here
2 especially when you see some of the things
3 and you are going to hear some of the things
4 they doing with the budget at this point
5 that we have amended, it has been angry as a
6 resident of West Side and West Mountain. If
7 anything happens to my family or any of my
8 friends somebody is going to be held
9 responsible. We did our part to protect
10 you and still cut your taxes and this
11 administration wants to play games with your
12 lives and I'm not going to stand for it,
13 trust me. I don't want to get any madder,
14 but that's all I have to say.

15 MR. JUDGE: And we'll continue to
16 keep you updated on any changes, we are just
17 concerned that these aren't being done
18 responsibly and we have a real issue with
19 it. But, you know, we are going to try our
20 hardest to continue, but it's tough to
21 continue the level of service we had before.

22 And just one other thing real quick
23 to kind of touch on, they say, "You have the
24 money." That's the what mayor said, "You
25 guys got the money."

1 move on anything, so we are trying as best
2 we can. That's all we can do.

3 MR. ROGAN: What I find unfortunate
4 is the mayor said he doesn't want to pay
5 overtime and that would be fine, but the
6 solution to that is hire more guys then we
7 wouldn't have the need for the overtime.

8 MR. JUDGE: Yeah, I mean, listen we
9 moved to a 24-hour shift. We are working 24
10 on 48 off with what's called a Kelly day in
11 there, it's a rotating day off. It's a big
12 change for us on the way we operate. We are
13 there 24 hours. You get a decent fire today
14 you are usually shot the next day after you
15 have a fire, you are spent, jack knows, and
16 now you potentially could be running two,
17 three, real fires along with all of the
18 other calls that we have to run.

19 So there wasn't a lot of thought put
20 into it. Our guys we are going to be out
21 there again doing a PR for the Tripp Park
22 Area and everybody that's affected by Engine
23 9. We are just trying to get our feet back
24 underneath us because of this change and the
25 city really didn't help much with this

1 change. They basically said, "Here it is,"
2 and we had to do everything to get it put
3 into place by January 1, and our guys have
4 health -- or child care issues and
5 everything else, working spouses that they
6 have to deal with and it was a change like
7 that, but we are resilient, we overcome and
8 adapt and we will every time, it's that
9 simple. Whatever they throw at us we are
10 going to make sure that you guys know
11 exactly what's going on because the right
12 thing needs to be done, it's that simple.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.

14 Bill Jacowitz.

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
16 South Scranton resident and member of the
17 Taxpayers' Association. Good evening,
18 Council, Hal Thomas, and Brown and CD. Do
19 you know that none of the hotels in Scranton
20 have ECTV on their hotel TV network? The
21 CEO's would not watch city council meetings.
22 Remember, Councilwoman Fanucci said the
23 number one reason business locate to an area
24 is city parks.

25 Furthermore, Mr. Renda's position

1 was filled immediately. Did not take
2 Mr. Renda long to run. Three years is not a
3 lot of experience, especially since you were
4 late with every report in violation of the
5 Home Rule Charter. Mr. McGowan might be
6 able to get the audits and capital budgets
7 in on time according to the Home Rule
8 Charter. Mr. Brazil will do a fine job as
9 assistant mayor for less money. And nobody
10 has yelled or scream at council meetings the
11 past year. Gatelli and Fanucci lost the
12 election.

13 Booya candy sorter, is that the same
14 as a fashion design graduate being director
15 of human resources for the city?

16 Hal Thomas, Mayor Doherty has been
17 wrong on just about everything, has that
18 ever occurred to you? Hal, people who sit
19 behind keyboards all day are miserable.
20 What is a doomer, a Doherty supporter? I
21 would change candy sorter with knowledge any
22 day. Booya, nothing booming in Scranton
23 except crime, vacant lots, unemployment and
24 broken promises from Mayor Doherty.

25 Figkeeper 19, when was the last time

1 you rescued anybody from a burning building
2 fat or not?

3 Not crazed, when was the last time
4 you investigated crime or arrested a felon.

5 As far as the business owners losing
6 business because of the new parking
7 situation, the city business owners have
8 been losing business for at past nine years.
9 Just look at the Steamtown Mall and they
10 offer free parking to their customers.
11 Highest vacancy rate in the state and three
12 times higher than the national average. How
13 many businesses have gone out of business
14 and left Scranton in the last nine years?
15 How many new businesses have relocated to
16 Scranton during that same period of time?

17 The handwriting has been on the wall
18 for years, but Doherty real people just
19 cannot read.

20 Slayings in Scranton few and far
21 between, must have been a slow news day.

22 Why would you interview Mayor
23 Doherty? Remember, he was not aware of
24 policies governing city employees and
25 departments or qualifications of the police

1 chief and public safety director.

2 Three stabbed and slashed in South
3 Scranton. Nine University of Scranton
4 students and residents broken into in the
5 Hill Section. Bank robbed by robber
6 wielding gun. Three shots fired in West
7 Scranton by Hispanic men. More guns on the
8 street. War is not crazed when needed.

9 According to the Times-Tribune Mayor
10 Doherty knows all. He seems only to go on
11 the streets and the Times-Tribune reporters.
12 I guess he realized that they would print
13 every word and quote that he mentioned
14 whether it's factual or not. How can Mayor
15 Doherty be correct about everything and
16 Mrs. Evans be wrong about everything?

17 According to Mayor Doherty and the
18 Times-Tribune there has been 9,000 new jobs
19 created in the city in the past nine years
20 by Mayor Doherty all by himself.

21 That's the questions that should be
22 asked: Mayor Doherty, can you name nine
23 accomplishments you have made to the City of
24 Scranton without using Nay Aug Park as one
25 of them? Mayor Doherty, do you like being a

1 lame duck mayor? Mayor Doherty, why do you
2 charge East Scranton children 6 to 15 years
3 old \$3 a day to use their neighborhood pool,
4 Nay Aug Park. Mayor Doherty, you stated
5 that city council is being vindictive. Are
6 you not being vindictive towards the
7 Scranton firefighters, police officers,
8 clerical workers and residents by not hiring
9 police officers and filling vacancies in the
10 fire department and removing fire apparatus?

11 Also, you took council to court for
12 the exact same issues that you were trying
13 to pull off with your phony budget? Mayor
14 Doherty, how many full-time jobs have you
15 created due to the renovation of the 500
16 block of Lackawanna Avenue? Mayor Doherty,
17 can you point me in the right direction
18 where I can find the studies and reports
19 that you are using to remove fire apparatus?

20 Furthermore, would you please
21 provide me with written documentation on
22 these findings? Mayor Doherty, going back
23 to your sworn statement, the testimony on 14
24 September 2010, you stated that you are the
25 elected leader of the city and that it is

1 your charge to run the City of Scranton, and
2 you further went onto state that you are
3 responsible for the day-to-day operations of
4 the city, but yet you are not capable of
5 answering simple questions on the 14th of
6 September 2010. "Um" is not an answer.
7 Mayor Doherty, if you were always right why
8 is the City of Scranton still distressed,
9 were have you created over hundreds of
10 millions of dollars of long-term debt for
11 the residents? Why has there not been a
12 policy in effect to assure that PPL responds
13 to fire scenes immediately and turns off the
14 power? Why does Scranton have the highest
15 unemployment rate in the state?

16 Nice cartoon, Mayor Doherty with a
17 dunce cap saying "Um." I know that these
18 questions will never asked of Mayor Doherty
19 or the administration? Why? My belief is
20 there is not a reporter, editor or media
21 person in the city who would ever dare to
22 put Mayor Doherty on the spot, plus, the
23 mayor would not be capable of answering the
24 questions. Truth, read his sworn deposition
25 14 September 2010.

1 I'm almost done. Headlines,
2 Scranton mayor not aware of the
3 qualifications of cabinet members, also not
4 aware of the City of Scranton's sexual
5 harassment and discrimination policy which
6 has been in effect for six years of his
7 administration. Make a good headline,
8 wouldn't it? Remember freedom of press,
9 freedom of speech, we are all given these
10 rights because of the blood that the war
11 fighters and veterans have sacrificed, not
12 some mayor of Scranton or reporter or
13 editor. Most of them aren't veterans
14 anyway.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Andy
16 Sbaraglia.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, City
18 of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I have
19 been reading a lot of articles in the Times
20 about that \$300,000 for Street Scape project
21 that the mayor decided he may not put in, he
22 may not do this, he may not do that, but
23 whatever the reason it's 300,000, but he
24 never explained why your budget allowed you
25 to keep a lot of people that were scheduled

1 for furlough to stay on the parole, and
2 being less than the mayors, and also he
3 didn't explain how the reduction in taxes
4 and mercantile were in the budget of your
5 budget not in his, but yet the balanced
6 budget went through. Even PEL talked about
7 a balanced budget. I'm just wondering what
8 happened to the \$5 million that we were
9 supposedly in the hole for year after year
10 after year with this DPW site being
11 transferred to everybody? In fact, I come
12 to the conclusion I don't even know who owns
13 it today, we may still be paying on it.

14 But you got to remember, every time
15 they took out loans, like, I think the
16 Scranton OECD I think it was up there in
17 Scranton Office in there, they took out a
18 loan I think, I think didn't the Parking
19 Authority at one time have a loan out? I
20 know the Sewer Authority had one, too.
21 These were all loans they took out that we
22 kept on transferring to DPW back and forth,
23 back and forth. The only person that made
24 out in them deals was the banks. I think it
25 was Scranton Redevelopment Authority that

1 owned it at one time.

2 All of these things in your budget
3 coming in less than the mayor's, but having
4 all of these things in it, I just wondered,
5 has the city been hoodwinked all of these
6 years by the mayor with these budgets
7 because it doesn't make sense how you can do
8 so much and still be under the mayor's
9 budget. Either there was a lot of finagling
10 done within all of the departments or by the
11 mayor himself or he was sandbagging a lot of
12 money somewhere along the line. I wish
13 there was some way we can bring that out and
14 see what happened there, but I'm hoping your
15 budget works out really because if it does
16 then should we really look at what happened
17 within the mayor's budgets all of them years
18 in the people who voted for these budgets
19 because for one thing you did so much more
20 with so much less. It's really something
21 remarkable. Even that 300,000 that the
22 Times keep printing in their paper doesn't
23 even make sense. We are talking about \$5
24 million. We took money from our parks up
25 there when we took the money from the golf

1 course, we use them to fill holes in the
2 budget. You don't call for any holes in the
3 budget -- in your budget, but yet the mayor
4 needed all of this money for his budgets.

5 So really I think, Mr. Joyce, you
6 did a terrific job. I hope it pans out
7 because --

8 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: -- if it does the
10 mayor shouldn't even be in charge of
11 anything, even a kettle because he certainly
12 doesn't know finances, and I really don't
13 know what's going to happen now with your
14 business administrator because the man is
15 coming from OECD I think and they have \$11
16 million that's being questioned by the
17 federal government in OECD, so really I
18 don't put no faith in anybody coming out of
19 the department to come and help the city in
20 anyway. Thank you.

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

23 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
24 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
25 homeowner and taxpayer, and I want to wish

1 council and everyone else a happy new year.

2 MS. EVANS: Happy new year.

3 MR. SPINDLER: It was happy, but
4 it's not too happy to me right now, I
5 probably was as angry as Councilman Loscombe
6 is, more angry. This mayor he didn't get
7 his way with his budget, so now he is taking
8 it out on the taxpayers of this city. The
9 people don't deserve to be treated like
10 this. Taking Engine 9 down he is putting
11 people's lives in danger and he doesn't
12 care, but I take it personal because Engine
13 9 could probably be at my house in less than
14 a minute whereas the engine from Luzerne
15 Street will be the first one at my house,
16 probably triple the time or more take them
17 to get there. My house could be on the
18 ground.

19 I echo what Mr. Loscombe says, if
20 anything happens to somebody in my family
21 there will be hell to pay. I'm sorry for
22 the language, but I am very angry and I
23 called the mayor, I spoke to the mayor last
24 Wednesday and told him how I felt, I was
25 civil on the phone. He said, "Okay. Thank

1 you. Happy New Year."

2 Didn't say explain anything, why he
3 is doing this or -- he just doesn't care
4 about people's lives, he is like a little
5 baby because he didn't get his own way, and
6 Chief Davis in the paper this morning I
7 think he thinks the people of this city are
8 stupid as he is. He saying they are not
9 closing fire stations, Truck 4 is still on
10 Main avenue. Well, Truck 4 doesn't serve
11 the same purpose as an engine company.
12 People have to know this. The engine
13 company is the first one that would report
14 to the fire and putting Engine 9 down and
15 then maybe Engine 4 and Engine 8 this city
16 will be in a lot of trouble, and you know
17 what, I have no respect for anybody that's
18 supports this mayor, and that includes you,
19 Mr. McGoff. You voted not to override the
20 budget, your vote didn't count, but you care
21 more about streets not being plowed than
22 people's lives to me that's despicable.
23 People's lives are in danger and you care
24 more about streets being plowed. Grow a
25 spine, would ya?

1 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me.

2 MR. SPINDLER: That's all I have to
3 say on that.

4 MR. MCGOFF: That's insulting to
5 assume that I --

6 MR. SPINDLER: Well, my family
7 life's in danger and I'm insulted.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me, I have a
9 family that lives in Scranton as well.

10 MR. SPINDLER: But your truck is
11 fine.

12 MR. MCGOFF: I have lived here for a
13 long time.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Your truck is fine.
15 He is not doing anything to South Side. His
16 precious South Side he is leaving alone.
17 People in West Side and North Scranton are
18 the ones that are in danger. That's
19 pathetic.

20 Moving on, I'm sorry, Mrs. Evans,
21 but when it comes to my family if they are
22 in danger I get upset. Last Wednesday there
23 was a story on Channel 16, since 2004 57 new
24 businesses have moved into Wilkes-Barre and
25 Mayor Layton was on he said they expect

1 more. We have probably had more businesses
2 that move out of the city than move in, but
3 hopefully with council's help lowering the
4 mercantile and business privilege tax
5 hopefully some businesses will start to move
6 into the city because as -- I forget who it
7 was, the previous speaker spoke, it's like a
8 ghost town. My daughter was in the
9 Steamtown Mall the other night and there are
10 stores closing, Abercrombie and Fitch is
11 closing, Pac Sun has closed already, this
12 city is just a mess and that's very sad. I
13 have lived in the city all my life and I
14 know council is determined to do their best
15 and they are doing a great job, so I hope
16 maybe these tax cuts will help somebody move
17 into the city.

18 Lastly, Mr. Loscombe, this
19 StreetSmart program I know nothing about it,
20 can you -- I know you had something to do
21 with that, can you explain to me what it
22 entails?

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Not to tie up any
24 time --

25 MR. SPINDLER: I'm done.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, I will be
2 speaking specifically on the editorial this
3 evening explaining every line item, and I
4 will be explaining another public meeting
5 where everyone can hear again the whole plan
6 behind StreetSmart. I'd be happy to meet
7 with you after the meeting if you have any
8 additional questions, but I am going to lay
9 each line out in this editorial and I'm
10 going to respond to that. StreetSmart, it's
11 the use of modern technology in the meter
12 system that is accountable and transparent.

13 In other words, every nickle that
14 goes into those meters is logged in. Every
15 nickle that goes between the meters and the
16 bank is logged in. Every minute is logged
17 in. If you put money in a meter, and again,
18 I'll explain their fallacy behind 200 versus
19 600 parking tickets, which is a joke, it is
20 not that. If you're parked in a meter and
21 you put in enough money for two hours and
22 you might be in there for 15 minutes you
23 pull out of your spot right now somebody
24 drives by they see that spot there is 45
25 minutes left or an hour or whatever they

1 could pull in there and get the rest of the
2 time. The way these are setup as you pull
3 out of there that zeroes out. That's where
4 additional revenue comes in.

5 Also, if there is a coin stuck it
6 alerts them at headquarters that there is a
7 coin stuck in a certain meter. It tells
8 what meters have to be emptied so a guy
9 doesn't go to every meter and take out a
10 quarter out of this one, a quarter out of
11 that one. It just -- it's more efficiency
12 and, you know, it could improve the -- you
13 know, the staff over there and down the
14 road. We could have more meter enforcement
15 officers. It's not to put more tickets out
16 or put more pressure on businesses, this
17 will actually benefit the businesses, and
18 again, he will provide statements that it
19 was proven in these other areas. There were
20 some business people that were up in arms
21 thinking it was going to hurt their
22 businesses when in actuality it drove
23 business to them because those spots weren't
24 tied up all day employees or people not
25 using their businesses or whatever.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Okay.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: But, trust me, I made
3 contacts to the different areas and I know
4 the newspaper has made contacts, I have
5 provided every number that I possibly could
6 and Mr. Miskell was more than open with any
7 of the news media, it depends what news
8 media you read though to see the full story,
9 but I'll give a lot more on my comments if
10 that answers your question to this point.

11 MR. SPINDLER: No, I appreciate
12 that. That's very informative. Thank you
13 very much.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

15 MR. SPINDLER: And again, Mrs.
16 Evans, I'm very sorry, but, you know, when
17 somebody puts my families lives in danger I
18 take it personally, so thank you for your
19 time.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I just
21 wanted to add quickly two points. First of
22 all, the Scranton Times also neglects to
23 mention that this council has, indeed,
24 helped city business. For the first time in
25 my memory city businesses have been helped

1 by decreasing the mercantile and business
2 privilege tax on their gross receipts and it
3 is a significant advantage to them, and I
4 think to portray council as working against
5 business is quite fool hearty, and it
6 certainly does neglect the facts and the
7 truth of the situation; but secondly, Mr.
8 Spindler, we will be having a caucus again
9 next week which I'll elaborate on under
10 motions. That caucus will be with Mr.
11 Miskell once again. It will begin at 5:30,
12 I believe, and you are certainly very
13 welcome to attend and all of your questions
14 I'm sure will be answered in great detail.

15 Our next speaker is Lee Morgan.

16 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
17 Lee Morgan, you know the first thing I would
18 like to say today is that, you know, I have
19 been reading the paper and I would like to
20 congratulate Judge Munley for becoming
21 President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas
22 of Lackawanna County. It's taken a long
23 time to have a change in leadership in the
24 Court. I'd just like to say with all due
25 respect to the Court that I think that it's

1 been long overdue and I just regret that
2 Judge Harhut hasn't resigned from the bench.
3 I think in my opinion he has created very
4 serious breaches of public trust and
5 misconduct on the Court.

6 The other thing I would like to say
7 is, you know, last week I asked some
8 questions here about, you know, pension
9 funding and the cash reserves, are there any
10 answers to any of those questions?

11 MS. EVANS: Yes. First of all, as
12 Mrs. Krake noted earlier, the business
13 administrator is not communicating with city
14 council or it's office. The lines of
15 communication have been cut, so with regard
16 to your questions concerning the, I believe,
17 MMO, we do not have an answer. However,
18 your questions regarding the city's cash
19 reserve I can answer for you. The city, in
20 fact, has no cash reserve account, however,
21 it does maintain what we could call liquid
22 cash and as of today, January 4, there is
23 \$500,000 in liquid cash available for city
24 operations.

25 MR. MORGAN: Okay. You know I

1 brought this issue up before and it's no
2 disrespect to the council, but I think
3 our -- I think our elected officials, and
4 I'm not -- like I said, I'm not just
5 singling out council here, I think the
6 people in this country, not just here but
7 across this whole country have been very
8 seriously short-changed by not having
9 representative government. Now, in my own
10 humble opinion I don't see anyone can refuse
11 to answer questions city council poses to
12 them because you do have powers of subpoena
13 and I think that a lot of errors that were
14 made in the past could have been solved by
15 use of that. I really don't see how anybody
16 can refuse to answer your questions. You do
17 have a solicitor, you can use that power,
18 it's readily available to you.

19 We have talked a lot about super
20 majorities here, but, you know, when we
21 spend so much time talking about the same
22 issues over and over and over again it
23 doesn't lead us anywhere and then we are
24 wondering why nobody wants to come to the
25 city, and not only here to the city but, you

1 know, even across this nation, and I just
2 think that the people of this community have
3 a right to answers and if you are not
4 getting the answers then you know what,
5 maybe it's time to start issuing subpoenas.
6 I don't find how it could be so hard to
7 bring department heads and sit them down
8 under subpoena and determine what
9 information you wanted and tell them to
10 bring it with them. Your solicitor can
11 either agree or disagree. I don't see how
12 the mayor can say that he is not going to
13 come in because you have an oversight role
14 in the Home Rule Charter and it's just time
15 to move forward. It's time to stop talking
16 about the same issues and get no resolution
17 to them.

18 I mean, we need answers and we need
19 them now. Well, really we needed them
20 yesterday and yesterday may have been 20
21 years ago before the PEL took us no where
22 and we have just been, you know, driving
23 around the city I'm just thoroughly amazed
24 that the city is seriously deteriorating and
25 it's worse and worse all time and, you know,

1 a lot of people are just disgusted and I
2 think that if we want to give people the
3 idea that we want to be a progressive city
4 and we want to move along and get ahead and
5 do the right thing then we need to stop
6 talking about people who won't come, and we
7 need to compel them to come and we have got
8 to stop this silliness because it isn't
9 leading us anywhere.

10 And the other thing I have is, you
11 know, I think it's time and I might have to
12 do a request, but I think it's time for the
13 Scranton Recreation Authority and Nay Aug
14 Park to be begin a summer youth program.
15 The park is very large, I think we have a
16 lot of time to begin implementing that plan,
17 I just think we owe the youth in this
18 community something. Now, you know there is
19 some discussions about the Boys Club and the
20 Girls Club, but what role is the Recreation
21 Authority going to fulfill here? Collecting
22 fees at the pool or should they fulfill
23 role? You know, maybe we should be doing
24 something with these children with such a
25 large park, maybe we can partner with Colts

1 to move children, maybe we have to reach
2 across the county commissioners. Maybe we
3 have to take an initiative and move forward,
4 but we have to do something.

5 Now, you know, like I said, the
6 Courts have had a change here. I don't know
7 is it worthwhile to invest in the youth of
8 this community? Is it worthwhile to issue
9 subpoenas to get answers to question we
10 can't seem to get answers to? I just think
11 it's about leadership and having an idea and
12 which direction you want to go in.

13 I mean, you can drive around the
14 city, you can see all the abandoned homes,
15 all the condemnations, all of the "For Sale"
16 signs and what's going to change it? Well,
17 leadership is going to change it. Subpoenas
18 and investment in youth. Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I just
20 wanted to add, however, that, yes, indeed,
21 Scranton City Council is granted the power
22 of subpoena by the Home Rule Charter,
23 however, those subpoenas are issued in
24 conjunction with an investigation. I do not
25 believe it would be possible or practical to

1 subpoena city employees each time they
2 refuse to answer a question. Our next
3 speaker is Doug Miller.

4 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
5 Doug Miller, Scranton. Just wanted to begin
6 briefly by -- well, I want to first wish
7 everyone Happy New Year.

8 MS. EVANS: Happy New Year. I just
9 wanted to respond to the issue we seem to be
10 having with the lack of response from
11 various city departments. You know, as I
12 sit here listening to that I truly find that
13 to be really disturbing, you know, and I
14 take that as an insult, and you know not
15 only is it a lack of respect for this
16 council, but I think most of all council
17 would agree it's disrespect to the residents
18 of this city because you are trying to get
19 answers to their problems and we're trying
20 to find solutions here and there is just no
21 cooperation and I just think that, you know,
22 if it had something to do with them, you
23 know, just to think how fast they would jump
24 up if it effected them, but obviously they
25 have no heart and it seems like that's a

1 problem we have had here not just now but
2 for many years here.

3 I'd like to talk about the closing
4 of Engine 8. You know, I'm disappointed to
5 hear and read that. You know, when we take
6 a look at the area that it covers and how
7 it's really going to effect response times
8 as we have heard from Mr. Gervasi and others
9 who come up and explained it in detail to
10 us. You know, I'm just really, really
11 disappointed and I think that the residents
12 shouldn't have to put their lives at risk
13 because of politics being played and, you
14 know, I just hope that council really puts
15 some pressure on the people they need to put
16 the pressure on to make sure we don't have
17 any further closings. You know, we heard
18 rumors that we may have more and I just
19 certainly wouldn't want to see that, a lot
20 of people come up here tonight and express
21 frustration and, you know, they shouldn't
22 have to put their lives on the line.

23 And that leads me into issuing a
24 challenge for the new year to the residents
25 of this city. You know, I really would like

1 to see more residents get up and get more
2 involved, and I don't mean this in a
3 disrespectful way, you know, I know people
4 have their own lives and own things they
5 have to do, but at the same time a lot of
6 people they want to stand up and they want
7 to criticize others, but then at the same
8 time they don't want to do anything, you
9 know, they want to leave the problems to
10 somebody else, whether it's the council or
11 any other elected official.

12 You know, I do appreciate the fact
13 that people come here every week, you know,
14 a lot of the same people that come here
15 every week have been coming for many years
16 as myself and they are dedicated individuals
17 and they're concerned, but I would just like
18 to see more people fill these chambers, you
19 know, we have a lot of issues going on and I
20 also extend that challenge out to the
21 younger generation.

22 As I have said before, the decisions
23 we make today are the decisions that are
24 going to effect us tomorrow and I think we
25 all need to stand up and get more involved

1 and become a part of the government because
2 what we do here is going to effect all of us
3 in the long-run and residents do play a
4 vital role here, as we all know, and I'd
5 just like to see them become more involved
6 and that's all I would ask for the new year
7 and moving forward.

8 Also, two goals that I would like
9 see council fulfill in coming here, two
10 points I brought up before, and that's the
11 idea of town hall meetings in the city. I
12 would hope that over the next few months we
13 can begin to put together a few because I
14 think it's -- I think it would be in the
15 best interest of the council to do that, and
16 as we talked about last week the idea that I
17 brought up months back was the idea of
18 revenue committee, Mr. Joyce brought it up
19 last week, I would like to see that take
20 place. Let's bring the tax group in,
21 neighborhood associations and any concerned
22 residents in this city and bring them in and
23 start brainstorming where we need to be
24 generating revenue because that's what it's
25 all about as we are discussing this budget,

1 and I believe that's all for tonight, so I
2 appreciate it. Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Phyllis
4 Humphrey.

5 (Whereupon Ms. Humphrey takes some
6 items up to the dais.)

7 MS. HUMPHREY: I'd like to leave
8 this up for the police and fire department.
9 There is a (inaudible), a mirror to look at
10 and our American flag.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MS. HUMPHREY: Thank you very much.
13 My name is Phyllis Bernadette Fatima
14 Yasmine -- did you light it? Did you light
15 the candle?

16 MS. EVANS: I think we will light it
17 tomorrow.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: It might set off the
19 smoke detectors.

20 MS. EVANS: I don't know that we can
21 do that within council chambers because we
22 will set off the smoke alarm.

23 MS. HUMPHREY: Well, the lights not
24 -- it's dark tonight, but it's going to be
25 light tomorrow. My name is Phyllis

1 Bernadette Fatima Yasmine. I was also given
2 the name of Phyllis of Jesus and Mary. I
3 was not aware my mother named me also Mary
4 for my two parents, godparents, grandparents
5 on east side when my sister Nancy died.

6 I have a some questions, I was
7 looking at the Bill of Rights and everything
8 that has happened to me here in the City of
9 Scranton that's appalling to God, and
10 appalling to our FBI agents, and our CIA
11 agents, and I'm going to go up even higher.
12 You say as a body legislation you could go
13 to try to pass laws; right? Is that right?

14 MS. EVANS: Yes.

15 MS. HUMPHREY: Also, because of me
16 being Pro-Lifer, are you involved with
17 trying to help in passing laws because of
18 the magnitude of the killings of the unborn,
19 of the elderly, our people that are a
20 committing suicide, coming back for more.
21 Would you stand with me and as a body for
22 support of life and life with our firemen,
23 our policemen and the City of Scranton?
24 Would you? I have enough documents
25 radiological documents, not only my x-rays,

1 radiological documents from the North
2 American College that nobody talks about and
3 I have a whole set that I got out of the
4 garbage over by the University of Scranton
5 of Dr. Wilcox and in there there was --
6 where the womb there was some babies that
7 were dead for three days and they had halos
8 around them and the blessed mother Jesus was
9 around them.

10 Right now I feel our United States
11 is in a disaster, numerous people in this
12 area put our City of Scranton in the
13 disaster. I know that if you are a threat
14 against a building or you are a threat
15 against your country they will mow you down,
16 but when it comes to trying to straighten
17 out the United States of America and the
18 destruction, you got to stand up. This is
19 not treason, this is reality of the
20 corruption all the way up into Washington.

21 I have documents, I have letters,
22 I'm going to mention today the way I feel.
23 I am for our children. I am for the City of
24 Scranton and all children. A lot of
25 religious articles went into the Jesuits on

1 Sunday. I have asked everybody to help me
2 to get a trailer, to put it on the back of
3 somebody's thing so we could go from my
4 mother's tomb all the way through the towns,
5 into Pennsylvania, into Philadelphia, into
6 New York and into Washington. To no avail
7 has anybody tried to help me. While the
8 rapes and the violence and the violence is
9 still going on and breaking into my place,
10 harassment, taken and held in the hospital
11 for ten hours to find out they said it's
12 not the district attorney, to have district
13 attorneys know. My medical records show I
14 have been violated and how many other people
15 and to know avail have they done anything
16 especially the people that attacked me.

17 Now, what did you call that?

18 Corruption. Mayor Doherty, I know you are
19 watching this, and this is what I have to
20 say, and you can take it from there, you
21 asked me to get a lawyer. No lawyer wants to
22 help. Mayor Doherty and everybody knows who
23 they are. I, as an American citizen, you
24 are under arrest. Everything you say will
25 be held against you in a Court of law. You

1 have a right to a lawyer, and you have
2 brothers that's lawyers. You had done an
3 injustice to me and other people, city
4 council, firemen, all of the way up and this
5 goes for Hilary Clinton, Casey, the two
6 commissioners that were aware, see my
7 medical records, even you, and everybody
8 said, "Go get a lawyer."

9 How could you get a lawyer when you
10 live on a limited income? So that's what I
11 say. Tom Munley was aware of it, too. I
12 hate to say this. Have mercy, God Bless
13 yas. Happy New Year and have mercy on
14 everybody's soul because it went up into
15 Interpol. That's it. And our firemen we
16 need, and I called Hilary Clinton's Office,
17 I called President Obama's office to keep
18 our firemen and our policemen on because
19 this place is in danger and not because of
20 me, it's because what they did to me. Three
21 times I have been getting medication that I
22 could have died. My daughter is ran off the
23 road, Robeson wanted to help me, he got
24 electrocuted. Williams got killed, she
25 wanted to help me, and my fiance was shot

1 down. What does that tell you, what am I
2 going to do, walk out of here and get shot?
3 And they are pillaging my house even up
4 where I'm living now.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 MS. HUMPHREY: This is it. That's
7 it. Boys, I love you, and have mercy on
8 everybody's soul and God bless yas.

9 MS. EVANS: Fay Franus.

10 MS. FRANUS: My name is Fay Franus,
11 Scranton. I'd just like to comment on a
12 couple of things, the editorial in the
13 Scranton Times Brooklyn versus Lackawanna,
14 well, I happen to read the New York papers
15 every day my son is from Brooklyn, so I know
16 what's going on there. The Scranton Times
17 is one of the people that think because you
18 cut the budget and the DPW for snow removal
19 that we would end up like New York City in
20 the last couple of days with a big pile of
21 snow and we wouldn't have no DPW workers to
22 plow the snow. They forgot to mention, the
23 Scranton Times, that you have \$100,000 in
24 there for other contractors because we don't
25 have enough plows, they conveniently left

1 that out because they don't want the people
2 to know. They also forgot to say that the
3 reason Brooklyn and New York City and Queens
4 didn't get their snow picked up was because
5 the sanitation bosses directed the
6 sanitation workers not to plow the streets
7 to protest the budget cuts. They sat in
8 their trucks sleeping, they went up and down
9 the streets with the plows up, it was
10 deliberate. The snow could have been picked
11 up in New York, but the Scranton Times
12 implied that they didn't have enough money
13 just like Scranton is going to come up.

14 In other words, the Scranton Times
15 constantly lies to people of Scranton, they
16 don't tell the truth, just like they didn't
17 say that Mayor Doherty closed the West Side
18 Boys Club, but they bashed you for taking
19 money away from the Boys and Girls Club,
20 where does it end? It doesn't. They
21 conveniently leave out everything that Mayor
22 Doherty does or doesn't do.

23 Now, another thing, I read in the
24 paper today that you are -- or I saw where
25 you cut the foreman at the DPW, Mayor

1 Doherty put them back as casual workers, so
2 I have to ask you guys and woman, why are
3 you there if the laws that you make aren't
4 followed, why do you stay there? I don't
5 understand this. It's like a joke. You
6 shouldn't even be here. Just go home. I
7 mean, nobody is paying attention to anything
8 you do.

9 I can't believe that the law is not
10 followed and I personally think you should
11 take them to Court. I know you might feel
12 since you went to the Court last time and
13 you were right 100 percent and Judge Mazzoni
14 ruled against you, which was totally crazy,
15 and I'm sure because of all of the other
16 Court cases that the city has had to go
17 through where the judges ruled against the
18 people you think why would I go to Court.

19 Well, you are right because the
20 judges are in my opinion as corrupt as the
21 mayor and they are all tied in together and
22 there is no winning in this Court. No
23 winning. There is no chance of winning, but
24 I still think you should do it because why
25 not? You are right, he is wrong, I would

1 never allow him to get away with this.

2 As far as the casual workers, may I
3 ask does anybody know here do they get
4 benefits? Does anybody know do they get
5 benefits?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: As far as I know they
7 have no benefits.

8 MS. FRANUS: But these particular
9 people are --

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Their casual workers,
11 per se, receive no benefits this is
12 something we have to find out.

13 MS. FRANUS: Is there something in
14 writing that states that casual workers do
15 not get benefits just in case it's --

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe it's in the
17 DPW contract.

18 MS. FRANUS: Well, I would keep an
19 eye on that, and I saw in the paper one day
20 where it said it's going to be paid for by
21 casual fund workers and now today I see it's
22 going to be Park and Receptions money.
23 Could that money be paid, since you
24 eliminated Parks and Recreation, how could
25 that -- maybe you can explain it, Mrs.

1 Evans. How do they get paid then? I don't
2 understand. There is no money in the budget
3 for them, how do they get paid?

4 MS. EVANS: Parks and Recreation,
5 that department has not been eliminated.

6 MS. FRANUS: Okay.

7 MS. EVANS: They are still a
8 separate department within the 2011
9 operating budget. Now, the line items for
10 other salary, other salary is the title of
11 an account and a line item within the city's
12 operating budget. It appears within
13 Departments of the DPW. Council zeroed out
14 those line items, so that these four
15 reinstated positions cannot be funded from
16 other salary. Other salary was also used to
17 pay casual workers historically.

18 Now, the mayor cut at least half of
19 the casual workers in his proposed budget.
20 City council cut the remainder of the casual
21 workers in the amended budget, hence, there
22 should be no casual workers and, as I said,
23 other salary, those line items have been
24 zeroed out. Now, in order for the mayor to
25 be able to fund the positions he has

1 reinstated in violation of the budget, I
2 really can't tell you with certainty how he
3 is going to fund this, but according to
4 various newspaper reports he is targeting
5 now Parks and Recreation and within the
6 Department of Parks and Recreation there is
7 also an account entitled: "Other salary."
8 That account traditionally has been used for
9 payment of summer casual workers within the
10 Department of Parks and Recreation, most
11 specifically, lifeguards who man the city
12 pools.

13 The mayor is obviously now taking,
14 according to the newspapers I should say, I
15 do not know this for a fact, but the mayor
16 may be taking the funding for his reinstated
17 positions from that account within Parks and
18 Recreation, thereby, cutting down on the
19 number of lifeguards and I'm assuming his
20 intention is going to be to keep one or two,
21 maybe more, city pools closed this year,
22 this summer. And as you know, last year we
23 had I believe it was the Connell Pool park
24 closed for perhaps half of the summer, and
25 the Capouse Avenue Pool was closed

1 throughout the entirety of the summer. It
2 seems that Capouse Avenue has been targeted
3 once again to be closed for an entire
4 summer.

5 So I think, you know, the citizens
6 like yourself need to start asking --

7 MS. FRANUS: Who?

8 MS. EVANS: Asking -- ask yourself--

9 MS. FRANUS: What can we do?

10 MS. EVANS: Do I want -- do I want
11 my fire engine companies open and running or
12 do I want DPW foremen reinstated? Do I want
13 pools open for city children to be swimming
14 this summer or do I want some DPW foremen
15 reinstated?

16 MS. FRANUS: Well, we can ask
17 ourselves those questions but what could we
18 as citizens do other than do differently in
19 the election booth, which doesn't give us
20 much choice. There is not many people that
21 run for office that are worth electing.

22 MS. EVANS: Well, certainly the
23 public can contact the Office of the Mayor
24 and let the mayor know what your wishes as a
25 taxpayer and resident and a citizen of the

1 City of Scranton would be.

2 MS. FRANUS: I think it would be
3 good if you ask the mayor to come in for a
4 caucus or even go to a public hearing
5 someplace so people could ask him questions.
6 I don't think that will ever happen, but as
7 an elected official he should answer to the
8 people. I give you credit. I don't know
9 how you take. You pass laws and nobody
10 obeys them, I mean, I think it's outrageous.
11 There should be a law against him breaking
12 the law. I don't know if there is, I don't
13 think if Mr. Hughes can do something about
14 this, but I definitely don't think you
15 should let him get away with everything he
16 has been doing.

17 MS. HUMPHREY: It's called
18 obstruction of justice and corruption.

19 MS. EVANS: Phyllis, please, yes, we
20 would like to hear our speaker.

21 MS. FRANUS: Well, I don't really
22 have anything else to say except that I wish
23 the Scranton Times would start telling the
24 truth and leaving out very important
25 information. They do it deliberately and

1 it's not right. It has to stop. I don't
2 think it will, but I just hope the people at
3 home should never believe the Scranton Times
4 because they don't tell the truth and they
5 debunk the truth. And what's sad is Frank
6 Joyce had to write a letter to the editor
7 and you did, too, Mrs. Evans. It's sad that
8 you have to take the time to write a letter
9 to the editor got get the truth out to the
10 people. It's good that you do, but it's a
11 shame that the Scranton Times can't tell the
12 truth in the first place so you won't have
13 to go back and tell the truth. That's
14 what's sad. Thank you very much.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just one other issue
16 on the DPW that I heard today that, I mean,
17 they have 24-hour dispatchers and apparently
18 now if a dispatcher is off sick overnight
19 there is no dispatcher, so I don't know what
20 that's going to entail if we have snow or
21 anything like that. We will have to -- but
22 if we can check into that, also.

23 MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe, I'm going
24 to suggest that you ask for a Right-to-Know
25 request with regard to that question and

1 also the health care issues for the
2 positions that the mayor has decided to
3 reinstate. I think we need it in writing
4 that no benefits will be paid if, indeed,
5 that is the case because we do have to keep
6 an eye on any budget shortfalls the mayor is
7 creating.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Absolutely.

9 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
10 cares to address council?

11 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,
12 Council. Nelson Ancherani, resident and
13 taxpayer, recording secretary of the FOP.

14 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

15 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening. Well,
16 we are now in the new year, 2011. Recently
17 you have a come up with the budget that
18 saves the taxpayers \$900,000 plus a 10
19 percent reduction in real estate taxes,
20 businesses certainly can't forget the
21 reduction in the mercantile. As a taxpayer
22 I'm certainly grateful, especially since
23 this budget gets me 10 percent back from the
24 25 percent tax increase in 2008 that Council
25 persons McGoff, Gatelli and Fanucci passed

1 when presented to them by the
2 administration, and I could say that the
3 city didn't need at the time.

4 Never did that three person majority
5 that I can remember McGoff, Gatelli and
6 Fanucci, vote to save money for the
7 taxpayers in a budget prior to this 2011
8 amended budget. Never that I recall.

9 You withstood a veto after you
10 council person's voted for the amended
11 budget. The veto was overridden last week.
12 We, the people, thank you for remaining
13 strong for us taxpayers and the little
14 people. 25 percent -- I'm sorry. The
15 mercantile reduction tax is a start
16 hopefully to bring in new businesses. I
17 hope the message is being heard again by
18 those new businesses. Again, thank you.

19 I also thank Councilman McGoff for
20 his vote against the police and fire manning
21 ordinances. The negative votes certainly
22 were not a surprise to me, but the thank you
23 was a sarcastic remark. I really don't
24 thank him. I now know what you think about
25 police and fire protection for the citizens,

1 Mr. McGoff.

2 Now, on the tabloid, in their
3 editorial on January 3, 2011, "Meter Runs on
4 Parking Fable."

5 "Like the inexorable timer on a
6 parking meter the clock already has begun to
7 wind down on Scranton City Council's
8 unbalanced 2011 budget."

9 I have to ask, the city has been
10 distressed since 1992, that's 19 years, how
11 many of those 19 years have had deficits
12 even though they were balanced on paper? We
13 could not get three budget years together
14 without deficits to get us out of distressed
15 status. Did the tabloid forget this? Yeah.
16 Conveniently.

17 "Downtown parking has improved
18 substantially," this is another quote, "over
19 the last decade because the administration
20 and the Scranton Parking Authority have made
21 it a high priority. New and upgraded
22 garages have laid a foundation for greater
23 residential and business development
24 downtown."

25 Yeah, they, the tabloid, forgot the

1 \$35 million loan and the additional \$1
2 million secured by the Scranton Parking
3 Authority. They forgot about the \$94
4 million payback that includes \$59 million in
5 interest. What could we have done with \$59
6 million?

7 Then I have a question on that, are
8 their free parking spots in any of those new
9 and upgraded garages and who benefits from
10 the downtown parking garages? Again, yeah,
11 right, but don't forget to get to the new
12 and upgraded garages in the downtown you
13 have to dodge the old and delapidated
14 streets lined with potholes. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. PILCHESKY: Good evening,
17 Council, how are you?

18 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

19 MR. PILCHESKY: Happy New Year.

20 MS. EVANS: Happy New Year.

21 MR. PILCHESKY: Mrs. Krake and Mr.
22 Hughes, and certainly you, Ms. Carrera.
23 Council, I have a prepared statement.
24 Unfortunately, I couldn't narrow this down
25 to less than five minutes, it's just a tad

1 over if I may impose upon your patience.

2 Thank you.

3 For reasons that will become clearer
4 a little later, I would first like to share
5 with you that I'm extensively educated on
6 the constitutional provisions of the First
7 Amendment. That all times when I appear
8 here my words will be privileged. In a
9 constitutional context that means they will
10 be truthful, therefore, permitted.

11 I will also share with you that I
12 have already successfully sued the Office of
13 the District Attorney and the Pennsylvania
14 State Police in Federal Court on previous of
15 violations of my rights to free speech, so
16 I'm familiar with this territory and as you
17 might sense at the moment I take free speech
18 very seriously.

19 I am a life-long resident of this
20 city. For the last six years I have been a
21 dedicated advocate for free speech as well
22 as a political activist, aggressive in the
23 pursuit of exposing corruption and driving
24 corrupt politicians out of office, some of
25 whom used to sit exactly where you are

1 sitting right now as a matter of fact.

2 I'm the creator of and the
3 administrator for DohertyDeceit.com, a
4 politically charged and controversial
5 website that has probably exposed more
6 corruption in this area in the last six
7 years than all other media combined has
8 exposed over the last 50 years, which is why
9 corruption here has flourished and why has
10 confidentially adopted such an arrogant and
11 cavalier persona and a catch me if you can
12 one finger salute attitude to the people.

13 It's been my political experience
14 that the entire community best benefits when
15 corruption is exposed not only by naming the
16 public officials involved but by exposing
17 precisely how they pulled off their corrupt
18 deeds. Being in the business of
19 investigating and exposing corruption, one
20 discovers quickly that corruption pays huge
21 dividends. One also discovers that
22 corruption is a multi-tasking team sport.
23 One also -- I'm sorry, I already said that.

24 The team sport requires three
25 elements: Someone has to plan the

1 corruption, someone has to perform the
2 corruption; and three, most importantly, it
3 requires considerable assurance that will
4 fly under the radar undetected. It's the
5 third element, the radar, or to put it
6 another way, our judicial system that brings
7 me here this evening.

8 Regarding municipal-related legal
9 actions, our judicial system of Lackawanna
10 County has a broken moral compass and a
11 fractured ethical backbone. Dignity and
12 integrity or no longer staples of due
13 process in this county. They have been
14 vanquished. Under the black robe now are
15 weak men. Reachable. Water boys and
16 puppets of the political machine. Disabling
17 the wheels of justice to the benefit of
18 corrupt, arrogant and greedy politicians
19 like Christopher A. Doherty. It's time for
20 that disturbing betrayal of duty to come to
21 an end.

22 The old saying that you can't fight
23 city hall doesn't apply to this city
24 anymore. The supermajority sitting here now
25 is proof that you can fight city hall and

1 you can do it successfully. Fighting
2 corruption at the courthouse can be
3 accomplished the same way corruption was
4 fought at city hall, through free speech.
5 The fight against our corruption -- the
6 fight against our corrupt courthouse, I'm
7 sorry, will begin here. Using my
8 constitutional rights to free speech, I will
9 fire the first shot here and right now.

10 For the benefit of all residents of
11 this city from this public forum I'm going
12 to expose in explicit factual detail how
13 corrupt the Lackawanna County courthouse is,
14 at least regarding city-related actions,
15 which will include naming corrupt judges,
16 many corrupt lawyers, and I'm also going to
17 expose precisely how corrupt the system
18 works from the Lackawanna County Court of
19 Common Pleas to the Commonwealth Court in
20 Harrisburg.

21 As you might suspect, this exposure
22 will take a long time, so beginning next
23 week you can expect to hear from me for many
24 months on end until I am done or until I get
25 shot, whichever comes first, one never

1 knows. These explicit facts will come from
2 court documents gathered from actual court
3 case. I will always have these documents
4 with me to back up what I'm saying. A copy
5 will always be available upon request in
6 advance if you would like. I'm privileged
7 to these documents because I am the
8 plaintiff in all of them because I have sued
9 the city many, many times so basically I'm
10 going to be sharing my experience with you
11 and the viewing public.

12 It's fascinating information, but
13 it's also very disturbing because we have
14 dirty judges who conspire with dirty lawyers
15 and dirty politicians to violate public
16 trust and obscure justice to the harm of the
17 people of the City of Scranton.

18 We also have corrupt county
19 employees in the courthouse who assist in
20 this corruption, all of whom will be
21 exposed.

22 I will be happy to answer any
23 questions council or anyone else has at the
24 conclusion of any of these presentations.
25 That being said, thank you very much for

1 your attention and I shall see you next
2 week.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
4 anyone else who wishes to address council?

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: My name is Marie
6 Schumacher, citizen and taxpayer in the City
7 of Scranton. While I was reviewing the KOZ
8 properties to see how much additional
9 revenue was coming, I noticed that there was
10 at least one that was exempt from being
11 declared the property taxes. I have not had
12 a chance to track that down yet, but it did
13 make me question if whether someone from
14 council either sits on them or gets notified
15 of property assessment appeals and if the
16 body has ever challenged any of those
17 appeals?

18 MS. EVANS: Since I have been seated
19 on council I don't believe that council has
20 ever challenged any of those appeals and,
21 yes, we do receive an assessor's report I
22 would say bimonthly where we are aware of
23 what causes are forthcoming as well as what
24 the decisions on each case would have been.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. I would

1 think that's something that you might want
2 to look at a little bit closer.

3 MR. JOYCE: I would say on average
4 that there is probably about 20 to 30 cases
5 per report just to give you an idea of how
6 many cases there are.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Well, as I
8 say, you know, you might want to double
9 check some of those.

10 Then next, coming up, of course, you
11 have made a significant appeal to business
12 with the reduction of the mercantile and the
13 business privilege tax, but as I have asked
14 before and I will ask again tonight that you
15 contact our legislators. I do know the
16 School Property Tax Elimination Act will
17 becoming up in this session of the state
18 legislature and it would reduce, since
19 everybody looks at the Scranton wage tax in
20 a combined manner and says it's 3 1/2
21 percent, that would be a reduction of 2 1/2
22 percent to 2 1/2 percent and that would
23 certainly be a big step in reducing one of
24 the other road blocks to businesses coming
25 in.

1 So I would like for you to contact
2 our state reps and ask them to seek out the
3 information and be supportive of that
4 legislation on behalf of the citizens of the
5 Scranton.

6 I also in that regard, of course, I
7 think as you well know I believe the
8 Scranton-Abington Planning Association plan
9 was good for Scranton. I have no problem
10 letting Newton if all they want to have are
11 cows and people then, you know, and farms
12 that's fine with me. If they want to let us
13 have the business, and I would hope you
14 would look at that again and I will -- every
15 time I come I will bring my check for
16 membership with me.

17 And the last council, switching
18 subjects, voted now that the Home Rule
19 Charter is well over five years that it
20 might be time for a review, but I believe
21 council has to take action to get that on
22 the ballot and I'm wondering if you would
23 also consider that.

24 And I did notice also in the paper
25 that was it TMG is looking to the Jessup or

1 Valley View Business Park for an expansion
2 and if somebody has time on council I think
3 it might be beneficial to sit down and talk
4 with those people and ask them what drove
5 them out of Scranton instead of staying in
6 Scranton. I thought all of those medical
7 kinds of things were supposed to be an
8 offshoot from the benefit of the medical
9 college for which has been sucking up a lot
10 of our tax dollars, both the federal and
11 state and level, and I think it would be
12 nice to know and maybe we could learn
13 something from that that could be applied to
14 your city policies.

15 I also noticed on Grassroots.PA and
16 since the city is not in the Pennsylvania
17 League of City and Municipalities and Cities
18 this year I would urge you to check that on
19 a fairly regular basis, the
20 GrassrootsPa.gove. for state actions that
21 have occurred or things that are going on in
22 other areas, for instance, there was one
23 recently on an ordinance on solar panels,
24 and I don't believe our city has one and I
25 think we might be -- that's something that

1 we might want to be proactive on,
2 particularly since we do have a Scranton
3 Business pushing solar panels.

4 I would also like to know if we
5 still have with all of these drastic cuts
6 that are about to made in our -- about to
7 made in our fire department if we still have
8 the agreement with Dunmore or if --and if we
9 do should that policy not be reviewed and
10 possibly negate it. The rest I'll bring out
11 next time. Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
13 anyone else who cares to address council?

14 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. NO BUSINESS AT
15 THIS TIME. Excuse me, 5-A. MOTIONS.

16 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, do you have
17 any comments or motions at this time?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Very briefly, please.
19 First, my vote I'm glad that everyone
20 assumes that they know my feelings about
21 public safety based on a vote. I have been
22 a resident of the city for most of my 62
23 years on this earth. My family has been
24 here for much longer. My vote on the
25 manning clauses have nothing to do with my

1 attitudes towards public safety, they had to
2 do with I voted "no" because I believe
3 believed that it was an infringement on the
4 Home Rule Charter and that we did not have
5 the authority to pass that legislation. It
6 had nothing to do with public safety. In
7 fact, I stated and I feel that it was proper
8 to reinstate the firemen and policemen in
9 the budget and I voted accordingly on the
10 first vote.

11 I have great concern for public
12 safety in the city. I live here, my family
13 lives here, and would never do anything to
14 endanger them. And that is all. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
16 Rogan?

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. I would
18 like to start off some of -- a few people
19 mentioned, and it's a problem we have had
20 for the first year I have been on council,
21 is the lack of response from department
22 heads, and we just got through doing a
23 budget with significant cuts to department
24 heads, and I would just like to mention this
25 that, you know, if there is a department

1 head who is out there doing their job every
2 day, responds to every request from council,
3 every request from the citizen I would have
4 no problem giving them a small increase in
5 pay in next year's budget.

6 On the other hand, a department head
7 who neglects their duties to the public, not
8 returning phone calls, not answering to
9 council's requests, I would like to cut them
10 even further than we did in this year's
11 budget. Their job and our is to help the
12 people of Scranton. They don't answer to
13 the mayor, we don't answer to the mayor, we
14 answer to the people.

15 Secondly, there has been a lot of
16 talk in the newspaper and by the mayor about
17 the \$300,000 budgeted for StreetSmart, and
18 if Mayor Doherty refuses to execute
19 council's budget obviously the StreetSmart
20 program wouldn't be implemented and that
21 money wouldn't come, so I'm going to
22 challenge Mayor Doherty to put in the
23 StreetSmart system, implement it, and then
24 if the \$300,000 doesn't come in, the
25 additional \$300,000 the blame will lie on

1 council. If he refuses to put in the system
2 the blame lies only on him, and I see here
3 in the letter we have next week the mayor is
4 invited to a caucus with Mr. Miskell from
5 StreetSmart and council and the public, and
6 I would like to see Mayor Doherty there to
7 hear the presentation, to hear the views of
8 the public and of council members.

9 Next, Mr. Miller mentioned town hall
10 meetings, and I agree with him, I know I
11 brought it up once before, I think town hall
12 meetings would be a great idea for council
13 and one idea instead of taking a recess in
14 August we could take council on the road, we
15 could go four weeks in August. We can go to
16 West Side, South Side, North Scranton, Hill
17 Section, we could do one a week in a
18 different neighborhood. I think that would
19 be a great way to instead of taking the
20 recess to get out to the different
21 neighborhoods and listen to their concerns.

22 Finally, I have a few citizens'
23 requests, the first one is a list of the
24 potholes that we received. The 300 block of
25 South Webster Avenue, the 600 block of

1 Orchard Street, Lackawanna Avenue in front
2 of the Boscov's, the Steamtown Post Office,
3 the Oppenheim building and the Hilton Hotel.
4 The intersection of Hemlock Street and Crown
5 Avenue, the intersection of River Street and
6 South Webster Avenue, and the 200 block of
7 Meadow Avenue and, Mrs. Krake, would you
8 please send this over to DPW and hopefully
9 they will respond to our requests, and that
10 is all I have for tonight. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
12 Loscombe, any comments or motions?

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you,
14 Mrs. Evans. A couple of brief comments and
15 then one that's a little bit longer. We saw
16 in the media, news media and the printed
17 media, some things on First Night that
18 council took it out of our budget and, you
19 know, we are not interested in. We took it
20 out of the budget basically because I do not
21 believe or my colleagues believe that that's
22 something that we should pay for. However,
23 I took my family to First Night this year,
24 it was very well done, this is the first
25 opportunity I had to do it. There was a

1 nice crowd there and I would say it was put
2 together very well, and it was never our
3 intention to eliminate First Night. Now,
4 the mayor stated in the paper that he is
5 going to proceed with it somehow, I don't
6 know. I did speak to the people that ran it
7 and told them that council is definitely in
8 favor of discussing it with them, anyway we
9 could help them. But, I mean, we can give
10 them ideas or anything like that, perhaps if
11 the StreetSmart program works out at the end
12 of the year if it works out, I know it will
13 work out, if it's implemented and it works
14 out perhaps we can aid them at that point,
15 that's up to my colleagues. But to paint
16 the brush over all of us and state that we
17 are not in favor of something like that, you
18 know, we do believe that there is recreation
19 that should be done in this city, but it
20 shouldn't be paid at this rate by the
21 taxpayers. They have to look at innovative
22 ways, the committee, to raise funding just
23 as we have done, but again, we are always
24 open to conversation with them and we would
25 assist them in any way we can.

1 On the fire department issues, I
2 don't want to get started on that because
3 you know my anger from before, but I do hope
4 that the mayor comes to his senses and
5 realizes what risk he is putting the
6 taxpayers in this city and I don't
7 understand why. And, Chief Davis, you are
8 an old friend of mine, I urge you to put
9 them gloves back on and fight for the
10 taxpayers here.

11 Another issue, I just wanted to
12 touch on this, I'm working on several issues
13 with different people throughout the
14 community, flooding issues, a few other, you
15 know, I can't even think off the top of my
16 head, I have a whole list. We were
17 sidelined a little bit by the budget work,
18 we were sidelined by the holidays and
19 amongst other things, and I know colleagues
20 are working on issues themselves and I just
21 wanted to let those people know that I have
22 met with them and I have spoken with and you
23 haven't heard from me in a few weeks that
24 trust me, we are working on your issues, we
25 will continue fighting for them and you will

1 be hearing from us shortly, but we did have
2 some other major issues that came up
3 in-between and hopefully we could get our
4 budget implemented and that will be a big
5 step out of the way, implemented the way we
6 proposed it and amended it.

7 And finally, I do want to address
8 the article that was in the newspaper
9 yesterday, "Meter Runs on Parking Fable."
10 Apparently the meter on the Scranton Times
11 rhetoric never stops running. Scranton
12 Times through their outlandish number of
13 columns and editorials taking pokes at city
14 council's amended budget are exposing
15 themselves as a direct accomplice to this
16 administration's attempt to sabotage our
17 amendment budget.

18 I will address each issue laid out
19 in this kindergarten composition, and I
20 refer to it as a kindergarten composition
21 because all of these issues were clearly
22 explained and clearly addressed several
23 weeks ago by Mr. John Miskell, the account
24 manager for StreetSmart Technology, who
25 appeared here at a public caucus hosted by

1 city council. Obviously, the Times has a
2 reporter on their payroll that cannot
3 clearly understand what is presented here on
4 a weekly basis or else his editors will not
5 allow him to print the facts that are
6 presented to him at our caucus and meetings
7 or through his direct contacts with
8 Mr. Miskell or other clients of Smart
9 meters.

10 The piece starts out, and I quote,
11 "Like the inexorable timer on a parking
12 meter the clock already has begun to wind
13 down on Scranton city council's unbalanced,
14 2011 budget. Council created and passed a
15 budget that includes \$300,000 in revenue
16 this year from a new downtown parking meter
17 system that does not yet exist."

18 Folks, this editorial was published
19 on Monday, January 3, the first working day
20 of the new year. No one, not even the
21 Scranton Times, could expect this system to
22 be up and running on a very first day of the
23 new budget year, let's get real. This city
24 council majority experience with the
25 administration over the past year has made

1 us well aware and well prepared for the road
2 blocks that would be thrown in our path and
3 the path of our budget as we fight to
4 overcome these obstacles. City council has
5 estimated a very conservative \$300,000 in
6 revenue this year because of our prior
7 experience in dealing with this
8 administration.

9 The next quote from the newspaper,
10 "The budget does not provide the
11 administration with any information on the
12 StreetSmart meter system with which council
13 plans to balance the budget."

14 This is an outright lie. This
15 administration through business
16 administrator, Stu Renda, and the Scranton
17 Parking Authority Director Bob Scopelliti
18 have both had personal presentations by
19 StreetSmart in 2009 along with a letter sent
20 to the mayor regarding such. This was made
21 known to the public at our city council
22 caucus with Mr. Miskell of StreetSmart
23 Technologies several weeks ago. How did the
24 Times miss that revelation?

25 I refer to this editorial previously

1 as the kindergarten composition due to the
2 fact that these issues have already been
3 addressed. However, Mr. John Miskell of
4 StreetSmart Technologies was kind enough to
5 commit to another public caucus at 5:30 p.m.
6 next Tuesday, December 11, prior to our
7 regular council meeting. City council will
8 be personally requesting the appearance of
9 Mayor Doherty, Stu Renda, or the current
10 business administrator, Bob Scopelliti, the
11 Parking Authority director and, of course,
12 the editorial staff of the Scranton Times to
13 hear a preschool level presentation along
14 with pictures of the StreetSmart program so
15 it could be better understood by those who
16 just don't get it. P.S., bring your own
17 crayons.

18 The next quote, "The system monitors
19 parking and makes it easier to issue
20 tickets, but according to the
21 administration's estimates the average
22 number of tickets issued each day in the
23 city would have to rise 200 to 600 in order
24 to generate the revenue envisioned by
25 council."

1 The Scranton Parking Authority has
2 admitted at a recent article that their
3 capture rate is 1 percent, so they cannot be
4 writing 200 tickets per day, if they are
5 then they are not collecting on more than
6 half of them or the money is going somewhere
7 other than back to the city. Just lifting
8 the capture rate from 1 percent to 1.5
9 percent would generate an additional
10 \$900,000 in total net revenue versus our
11 \$300,000 projection, but only \$183,000 of
12 that comes from enforcement, the rest is
13 generated at the meters. \$183,000 divided
14 by 20, which is the parking fine, equals
15 9,150 additional tickets. Divided by 305
16 enforcement days equal 15.25 additional
17 tickets per day, not 400 tickets. Now do
18 you see why we need a more transparent and
19 accountable system?

20 Another quote, "Council has not
21 addressed the system's actual cost and has
22 not even considered it's residual costs if
23 it works as advertised."

24 As mentioned previously, everything
25 was explained at the prior caucus regarding

1 expenses and costs and will be explained
2 once again at our public caucus on January
3 11. To explain it briefly, there are no
4 upfront costs to the system and the
5 installation costs can also be included in
6 our agreement or the installation can be
7 performed in-house. Understand this, there
8 are no upfront costs and no out-of-pocket
9 expenses.

10 And the next item, "Downtown parking
11 has improved substantially over the last
12 decade because the administration and the
13 Scranton Parking Authority have made it a
14 high priority. New and upgraded garages
15 have laid a foundation for greater
16 residential and business development
17 downtown."

18 Folks, the only ones who have
19 benefited from the new parking garages are
20 those who are provided with hundreds of free
21 parking spaces in these garages. The
22 Commonwealth Medical College, the Connell
23 building, the Hilton, just to name a few.
24 Those who pay to park have seen the parking
25 rate rise significantly in the garages and

1 on the streets. At whose expense has the
2 parking improved in the downtown? Just you,
3 the taxpayers, who are on the hook for
4 millions in bond payments required for the
5 construction of these garages.

6 As the Scranton Parking Authority
7 struggles to meet it's debt obligations and
8 provide hundreds of free parking spaces for
9 a select few, they are now willing to fight
10 against one Scranton City Council's
11 initiatives to increase revenues and reduce
12 your taxes while bringing transparency and
13 accountability to you, the taxpayers.

14 No, it appears that the transparency
15 and accountability are what they don't want.
16 You won't read this in the newspaper, but as
17 of today the Scranton Parking Authority
18 budget, as amended by city council and
19 passed by the mayor, has already been
20 violated by the Director of the Parking
21 Authority, Bob Scopelliti. The position of
22 the Director of Finance has been written
23 out of the budget by this council. This
24 was a created position and the payroll has
25 been done by an outside vendor. This is a

1 position currently held by Liz Renda, wife
2 of Stu Renda. In a move by Mr. Scopelliti,
3 he has kept Mrs. Renda's position and
4 eliminated the one and only citation
5 processor position. This is a union
6 position and I understand that there will --
7 there is or will be a grievance filed
8 against the City of Scranton Parking
9 Authority. This is exactly what we have
10 been fighting for you for. We are trying to
11 eliminate the unnecessary administrative fat
12 in an effort to get taxes reduced and then
13 they go and maintain one of these positions
14 in what I can only surmise as attempt to
15 sabotage our parking plan and remove a key
16 position from the staff, the one and only
17 citation processor.

18 Then they go on and state in here,
19 "But the development also has made parking
20 much more expensive. Tripling the number of
21 tickets issued each day for overtime parking
22 would a powerful disincentive for downtown
23 business use."

24 I agree that the development of more
25 parking facilities has made parking more

1 expensive, however, as I stated before, if
2 hundreds of parking spaces were being paid
3 for and not given away for free perhaps
4 parking in our garages would be less
5 expensive. Saying that this plan will
6 triple tickets I would hope is only a scare
7 tactic or it would prove my point above that
8 the Director of Finance that would predict
9 that kind of solution is totally unnecessary
10 and the facts would prove that the on-street
11 parking will greatly improve the amount of
12 business experienced by the downtown
13 merchants, not the contrary.

14 It goes onto state, "According to
15 the administration, however, that might not
16 be cause for alarm because it claims that
17 some other cities using the system have not
18 realized the expected revenue."

19 Wow. Does that not sound like the
20 administration is hoping for this plan to
21 fail? You bet ya. If this claim is a fact
22 why doesn't the administration and it's
23 newspaper specify the other cities that the
24 system failed in. You will notice that they
25 said the system, not StreetSmarts. This is

1 a proven system and even when the Times
2 reporter, John Brozinski, called Reading,
3 whom they wanted to show as having a failed
4 program, he didn't receive the answers that
5 he was looking for even after some
6 persistence. The gentleman from Reading had
7 only praise for the StreetSmart system.

8 And the last paragraph, "Given that
9 the year has started without the system
10 being in place, council should be ready with
11 a Plan "B" if the system does not produce
12 the expected amount of revenue. And if it
13 does work, council should be ready to help
14 downtown businesses who are adversely
15 affected by people deciding to avoid tickets
16 by avoiding the downtown."

17 Folks, knowing the obstacles that
18 are constantly being thrown in front of us
19 by this administration, city council has a
20 Plan B, C and D. These plans will only be
21 revealed as necessary by council to reveal
22 further sabotage -- to prevent further
23 sabotage.

24 As I stated previously, this parking
25 plan will only benefit the downtown

1 businesses and not adversely affect them.
2 One of city council's objective with the
3 parking programs as is done in other
4 municipalities is to provide programs that
5 will provide additional benefits to the
6 downtown business district which in turn
7 benefit all taxpayers.

8 I have to say I bring this paper's
9 objectivity into question. When they can
10 harp on a \$300,000 revenue item that we are
11 proposing and yet pretty close to this time
12 last year a library authority was proposed
13 with a \$16 million library there wasn't one
14 question where a penny of that \$16 million
15 was going to come from. We are showing
16 where this \$300,000 is coming from. When we
17 start bringing revenue into the city like
18 this then we can start building the
19 libraries, and that's all I have to say, but
20 I hope the Times starts getting it right.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman
22 Loscombe. Councilman Joyce, any motions or
23 comments tonight?

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes, just a few. I was
25 going to echo on a lot of what Mr. Loscombe

1 spoke about it. In regards to Plan B, I
2 would just like to make note that the earned
3 income tax projection in council's budget
4 amendments is \$245,000 less than PEL's
5 projection which was presented to us in
6 caucus back in October, and that's not even
7 factoring in revenues that could be realized
8 from KOZ's since PEL apparently based their
9 projections on a 1.5 percent rate of growth
10 per year and, as you say know, there will
11 be-- KOZ's will be coming back onto the tax
12 rolls in 2011 and 2013, so this was a steady
13 rate of growth that they projected.

14 Secondly, council has received
15 notification from Robert Rossi & Company,
16 that they have provided the city with a
17 final draft of the 2009 audit report on
18 December 17, 2010, and that they are
19 currently waiting for the preparation of the
20 city management discussion and analysis
21 section of the audit report. After they
22 receive this, our exit conference will be
23 scheduled.

24 So, here it is, it's now 2011, and
25 we still are waiting for the 2009 audit

1 report to be issued so we could make
2 available to the public. I would also like
3 to point out the fact that this is the 13th
4 request that council has received from Rossi
5 & Rossi in regard to delinquent information
6 that the administration has failed to
7 provide the auditor in a timely manner.

8 In case you missed it before,
9 despite council's efforts to reinstate fire
10 positions back to the staffing levels that
11 were currently running in 2009, minus the
12 vacancies, the administration has decided to
13 permanently close Engine 9 in North
14 Scranton. In addition to this, as Mr. Judge
15 stated earlier, it had been stated that
16 there will also be brownouts and Engine 4
17 was the engine that he cited would be
18 browned out 70 percent of the time.

19 Just to educate the public a little
20 bit more, a brownout is a practice of not
21 staffing a fire engine when a vacancy
22 occurs. As one knows, a vacancy occurs when
23 a firefighter is sick, injured, on vacation,
24 attending training out of the area,
25 etcetera. In the event of a vacancy,

1 personnel would be moved from station to
2 station leaving additional engines without
3 personnel to operate it, and obviously,
4 Engine 4 is the engine that was being
5 projected to be affected by that.

6 With this in mind, since Mayor
7 Doherty has also stated publically that he
8 does not intend to fill vacant fire
9 positions as firefighters retire, additional
10 fire apparatuses and stations could possibly
11 close as a result.

12 Last, but not least, last year when
13 council presented budget amendments that
14 were passed and later defeated in Court as
15 per Judge Mazzoni's decision, I had a
16 meeting with both Mrs. Evans and Business
17 Administrator Stu Renda, and he even advised
18 us as that time that the money in the 2010
19 operating budget that was allocated for
20 First Night had already been spent, in fact,
21 he stated that it was spent as of the first
22 of the year 2010 since that money was used
23 for the 2009/2010 celebration.

24 With this in mind, Mrs. Krake, I
25 would like you to send a Right-To-Know

1 request to our future business administrator
2 inquiring whether or not any of the --
3 anything was provided to First Night this
4 year since nothing was funded in the budget.

5 And with that being said, I also
6 have a motion tonight that I would like to
7 make. In accordance with Article II,
8 Section 6.4 of the Administrative Code, I
9 make a motion that Jamie Marciano fill the
10 position of confidential secretary in city
11 council's office.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

18 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

21 MR. JOYCE: In accordance with
22 Article II, Section 4, of the Administrative
23 Code, I would also like to make a motion
24 that Kathy Carrera fill the position of the
25 executive assistant in city council's

1 office?

2 MR. ROGAN: Second.

3 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
4 floor that Kathy Carrera fill the position
5 of executive assistant in the city council
6 office, we have a second, on the question?

7 MR. MCGOFF: Just were these
8 positions advertised?

9 MS. EVANS: No, the positions were
10 not advertised, they were offered to the
11 individuals who have held the same position
12 throughout 2010. The positions were removed
13 from the clerical union according to the
14 Administrative Code which states
15 appointments and removal of employees, city
16 council and the city clerk will be
17 responsible for the appointments and removal
18 of employees under the jurisdiction of the
19 Office of City Council, City Clerk, and
20 since Ms. Carrera and Mrs. Marciano had held
21 those positions throughout the 2010 calendar
22 year and council removed those positions
23 from the bargaining unit and made them in
24 effect nonunion positions, they were offered
25 first to those who have worked in those

1 positions and fill them. Had they not
2 accepted the position, had they decided to
3 remain within the clerical union then, of
4 course, council would have advertised the
5 position and conducted interviews.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Is there
7 anyone else on the question?

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

10 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
15 have it and so moved. Is there anything
16 else, Councilman Joyce?

17 MR. JOYCE: No, that's it.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
19 evening. Scranton City Council opens it's
20 2011 session tonight with great hope and
21 firm goals for the forthcoming year, as well
22 as valid concerns that require our steadfast
23 vigilance and which will be reported to you
24 weekly. Unfortunately, Mayor Chris Doherty
25 has permanently closed Engine 9 located on

1 North Main Avenue, which serves Keyser
2 Valley, Tripp Park, Bull's head, portions of
3 North and West Scranton and the downtown.

4 In addition, his new shift schedules
5 for the fire department will create a
6 brownout of Engine 5 on Mulberry Street.
7 During each shift that more than one man,
8 because right now the fire department has a
9 cushion of only one man, so during any shift
10 that more than one man is off duty for any
11 reason there will be brownouts of Engine 8
12 on West Market Street. Consequently, those
13 of you who reside in Keyser Valley, Tripp
14 Park, Bull's head, the downtown, the upper
15 Hill and North Scranton can no longer expect
16 or rely upon the same response time you had
17 before Saturday, January 1.

18 It's important to note, that if
19 Scranton City Council had failed to place 27
20 firefighters back into the 2011 budget, four
21 engine companies rather than one, four
22 engine companies would now be permanently
23 closed. While the remainder of the city,
24 for example, may be South Side or Minooka
25 may feel temporarily secure because your

1 engine company hasn't been shuttered this
2 year, it's important to remember that your
3 neighborhood fire engine will be responding
4 across town to substitute for Engine 9, to
5 substitute for Engine 8 and Engine 4, and
6 brownouts of the Mulberry Street and West
7 Market Street firehouses will occur.

8 The bottom line is that some areas
9 of Scranton will be more affected than
10 others, but all neighborhoods will have to
11 survive the overall affects of the losing
12 Engine 9 and nearly daily brownouts of
13 firehouses this year.

14 Mayor Doherty is also on record
15 stating that he will not replace any future
16 vacancies in the fire department. His
17 actions may cause additional closings
18 citywide so that no neighborhood, no
19 neighborhood is guaranteed it's firehouse in
20 the future.

21 At the same time, the mayor is
22 already causing a budget shortfall by
23 rehiring DPW foremen who had been removed in
24 council's amended budget. Are DPW foremen
25 worth more than keeping fire engines

1 operating and putting police officers on the
2 street? Are these DPW foremen worth more
3 than having swimming pools open this summer
4 for our children? The mayor stated in "Go
5 Lackawanna", the Scranton edition of the
6 Times Leader that he intends to fund these
7 four management positions by using money
8 council allocated for lifeguards at city
9 pools.

10 In January of this brand new year he
11 announced that he will be closing the
12 Capouse Avenue pool again this summer and
13 the Novembrino pools as well. It is
14 shameful that the underprivileged children
15 of Pinebrook will once again be denied their
16 neighborhood swimming pool by Mayor Doherty.
17 The Capouse Avenue pool was ignored during
18 the spring, summer and fall of 2010. While
19 the public was assured by the Doherty
20 administration that it would be repaired and
21 opened in the Summer of 2011.

22 A man is only as good as his word.
23 The mayor kept his promises to his circle of
24 management employees, friends, and campaign
25 contributors. He takes from the people,

1 their public safety and their pools to take
2 care of his friends. What is his word worth
3 to you?

4 In addition, Mayor Doherty and
5 Business Administrator Renda raised
6 questions and provided misinformation to the
7 Scranton Times regarding the StreetSmart
8 Parking Program, a new revenue generator
9 included in the amended budget. As a
10 result, city council, as was noted earlier,
11 has scheduled a second public caucus on
12 Tuesday, January 11, at 5:30 p.m. with
13 Mr. John Miskell, representative of
14 StreetSmart Technology, for the purpose of
15 addressing Mayor Doherty's and Mr. Renda's
16 questions. Council is inviting Mayor
17 Doherty, Mr. Scopelliti, executive director
18 of the Scranton Parking Authority, and new
19 city business administrator, Ryan McGowan to
20 attend this public caucus and discuss the
21 program publically in order that all
22 misinformation can be corrected and all
23 concerns can be satisfied.

24 Next, in response to the request of
25 City Solicitor Kelly regarding CMC Hospital

1 parking permit legislation, city council
2 requests the attendance of Mr. Robert
3 Markowski, facilities management director of
4 the CMC, at a public caucus in order to
5 discuss parking surrounding the hospital.
6 Although city council previously held the
7 caucus for this purpose at which
8 Mr. Markowski to appear, we remain willing
9 and available to hold this public
10 discussion. We cannot place this
11 legislation on our agenda until such time as
12 the caucus occurs in order to fully inform
13 the public of the impact on visitor's
14 hospital parking.

15 Therefore, Mrs. Krake, please send a
16 letter to Mr. Markowski requesting his
17 attendance at a public caucus of the Council
18 of the City of Scranton at 6 p.m. on January
19 18, January 25 or February 1. He may select
20 the date which coordinates best with his
21 schedule. Again though, I emphasize there
22 will be no legislation until this public
23 meeting occurs.

24 Finally, I have a few citizens'
25 requests for the week: A letter to the DPW,

1 remove the "Heavy Truck Traffic" sign
2 located before the underpass at Seventh
3 Avenue and Lackawanna Avenue going toward
4 Railroad Avenue. Replace with a sign
5 stating, "Trucks over 10 tons gross weight
6 prohibited."

7 This type of signage is posted at
8 the entrance to Railroad Avenue in other
9 locations such as Luzerne Street and
10 Meridian Avenue and on Broadway near both
11 churches. This is a cave-in area protected
12 by city ordinance, I'm sure all of us have
13 been keeping abreast of the cave-in that has
14 occurred within the last several days in
15 Dunmore, yet we have truck traffic pointed
16 right in the direction of a Railroad Avenue
17 cave-in section. I don't know where the old
18 sign went. I don't know why there is a sign
19 in it's place encouraging truck traffic, but
20 it needs to come down and the sign stating
21 "Trucks over 10 tons gross weight
22 prohibited" needs to go up immediately.

23 Again, this sign is located on
24 Seventh and Lackawanna next to Verrastro's.
25 Mrs. Krake, could you also find the

1 ordinance from perhaps 1994 or 1995 that
2 prohibits truck traffic within the cave-in
3 area of the Bellevue section of Scranton and
4 forward it to me, please.

5 A letter to the DPW: City council
6 requests the addition of the 300 block of
7 Hamm Court to the 2011 paving list. The
8 road is cracked and littered with potholes
9 created in prior years by Linde Corporation
10 heavy equipment and truck traffic. Each
11 year residents of the block call DPW and
12 request paving and each year they are told
13 the money has been spent and try again next
14 year. Next year has arrived and this block
15 must be paved. Also --

16 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, just on
17 that issue.

18 MS. EVANS: Sure.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Could we also perhaps
20 send something to Linde Corporation?

21 MS. EVANS: Absolutely. They're the
22 ones that caused the damage.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Since they are the ones
24 that caused the damage, yes.

25 MS. EVANS: Absolutely.

1 Mrs. Krake--

2 MR. MCGOFF: They should be
3 partially responsible for it.

4 MS. EVANS: Actually, I agree with
5 you, partially. They should, in fact, be --

6 MR. MCGOFF: Entirely.

7 MS. EVANS: -- entirely responsible.
8 They should be paving that portion of the
9 road.

10 Also, a vacant lot in the 300 block
11 of Hamm Court attracts crime according to
12 neighbors including two armed men running
13 from police and out-of-state vehicles whose
14 owners sell jewelry among other items.
15 Residents are requesting the city's help to
16 plant grass or provide fencing to prevent
17 these dangerous activities.

18 A letter to Daron Northeast: During
19 the last few weeks high winds in excess of
20 40 miles per hour have blown dirt and debris
21 from your Dickson Avenue property onto the
22 properties and inside the homes of Dickson
23 Avenue residents who report health problems,
24 destruction of computers and other property
25 as well as additional intolerable issues.

1 City council requests an immediate cleanup
2 of the Dickson Avenue property.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Can I just ask,
4 again --

5 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

6 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry to keep
7 interrupting you, are they still operating
8 from Dickson Avenue?

9 MS. EVANS: No, they do not --

10 MR. MCGOFF: Or is it just materials
11 that's left there?

12 MS. EVANS: It's material that has
13 been left. I believe that they relocated
14 quite, oh, a number of months ago outside
15 city limits.

16 MR. MCGOFF: That was my thought.

17 MS. EVANS: But they -- a remainder
18 of let us say, I don't know if you want to
19 call it their equipment, but let's say
20 cinderblocks as well, remain on their
21 property. They do, indeed, still maintain
22 or retain ownership of the property and
23 we're asking that they would maintain the
24 property because, you know, as I said,
25 during these very adverse weather conditions

1 it's now reached a point where not only is
2 the dirt on the cars and the properties and
3 the exterior of the homes it's actually now
4 entered the homes.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Could we also inquire
6 as to if there is a timetable for removal of
7 all of that?

8 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, did you
11 get --

12 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

13 MS. EVANS: -- what Mr. McGoff had
14 said?

15 MS. KRAKE: I did.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Again, just
17 to return very briefly to what had been
18 discussed very early on tonight regarding
19 the lack of cooperation that council is
20 receiving from the administration, council
21 members will always continue to respond to
22 you personally, take your requests, and
23 submit them to the appropriate department
24 heads. Unfortunately, we cannot promise
25 that your problems will be addressed now.

1 We want to help you and we have worked very
2 hard to solve your problems. Sadly it seems
3 the Doherty administration -- some of the
4 Doherty administration, I should say,
5 doesn't wish to help you and these
6 vindictive actions towards council and it's
7 office won't dissuade us from our work and
8 it doesn't impact us, but I am deeply
9 concerned that this lack of cooperation
10 displayed by the mayor and his
11 administration is very harmful to you, the
12 people of the city.

13 And just one last update, Mr. Tom
14 Tell, Chief of Staff for State
15 Representative Murphy, was informed by
16 Mr. Brian Swanson, the city engineer, that
17 the Crisp Avenue Bridge project should be
18 underway in the spring as the money has been
19 applied for from PEMA and is in place, and
20 that's it.

21 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, I also
22 forgot one request. Mrs. Krake, can you
23 include this with the request to the DPW?
24 The "Do Not Enter" sign on the 300 block of
25 North Hyde Park and Swetland Street has been

1 removed and a business owner told me that
2 people have been driving up the wrong way
3 going the wrong direction. Thank you.

4 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER.

5 MR. JOYCE: I would like to make a
6 motion to take Resolution No. 52-2010 from
7 the table.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

17 MS. KRAKE: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION
18 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-
19 RESOLUTION NO. 52, 2010 (PREVIOUSLY TABLED)-
20 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
21 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
22 CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH
23 PENNSYLVANIA CLAIMS SERVICES, INC. FOR THE
24 THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY'S
25 WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS.

1 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the
2 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
3 passage of Item 7-A.

4 MR. ROGAN: 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: Mr. Joyce.

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

16 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
17 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted. If
18 there is no further business, I'll entertain
19 a motion to adjourn?

20 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

21 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
22 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
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER