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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, JANUARY 25, 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.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

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

16 CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING
17 DECEMBER 31, 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 DECEMBER 15, 2011.

23 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
24 If not, received and filed. Do we have
25 clerk's notes this evening?

1 MS. KRAKE: No, we don't have any
2 this evening.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.
4 Do any council members have announcements at
5 this time?

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have one.

8 MR. ROGAN: After you.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: The Fraternal Order
10 of Eagles on Railroad Avenue is having a
11 Chinese auction which benefits the CMC Heart
12 Fund on February 12. Tickets will be sale
13 at 2:30 with the auction at 9:30. The heart
14 dance starts at 8 p.m. with DJ Joey playing.
15 Come out and help us support a great
16 organization. For more information you can
17 call the club at 961-5495, and this past
18 Saturday they hosted a chili cook off there
19 and that was a fundraiser for the cancer --
20 for a cancer benefit and that was well
21 attended.

22 The Eagles it seems like they're
23 pretty much putting something on a weekly
24 basis or as much as they can, but it's all
25 to benefit some worthy cause and I would

1 hope everyone would go. Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Mr. Rogan?

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes. On Sunday, January
4 30, from 1 to 5 p.m. there will be a pasta
5 dinner at the Radisson benefiting the
6 Griffin Pond Animal Shelter. Tickets are
7 \$12 per person, the buffet will run
8 continuously from 1 to 5 p.m., and there is
9 no snow date. The benefit will be held
10 rain, shine, sleet or snow.

11 MS. EVANS: The Scranton Lackawanna
12 County Taxpayers' Association will meet this
13 Thursday, January 27, at 6:00 p.m. in
14 Scranton City Council chambers.

15 The West Scranton Invader Mat
16 Wrestling Boosters will conduct it's annual
17 Night at the Races on Saturday, January 29,
18 2011, at the Tripp Park Community Center at
19 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 and includes food
20 and refreshments. Tickets are available at
21 the door and you must be 21 to be admitted.

22 There will be 15 horse races and you
23 may wager any dollar amount on any or all
24 races. You need not purchase or bet on a
25 horse to attend. Come to Tripp Park

1 Community Center and join the Invader Mat
2 Boosters for an inexpensive night of fun
3 this Saturday, January 29.

4 "Rock On" with the Little Sisters of
5 the Poor third annual rockathon on Saturday,
6 February 5, from noon to four p.m. at the
7 Holy Family residence, 2500 Adams Avenue in
8 Scranton. Bring the family for an afternoon
9 of fun, music, food and prizes. And that's
10 it.

11 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
12 PARTICIPATION.

13 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this
14 evening is Giovanni Piccolino.

15 MR. PICCOLINO: Good evening, city
16 council. Giovanni Piccolino.

17 MS. EVANS: Good evening and
18 congratulations.

19 MR. PICCOLINO: Thank you. Finally,
20 right?

21 MS. EVANS: Yes.

22 MR. PICCOLINO: So today is the
23 final day of week of prayer for Christian
24 Unity so I think tonight is going to have
25 sort of a religious overtone to it. I would

1 just like to start off by thanking God for
2 everything that me and my family have. I
3 would like to thank God for Mr. Boyd Hughes
4 when he used the phrase "My four-year-old
5 nephew could write a better legal paper than
6 this," or "it's a slam dunk," or constant
7 over and over again his constant telling me,
8 "It's fine, it's fine," and sorry I'm out of
9 breath, I ran here from outside before, year
10 after year him telling me, "It's going to be
11 fine. It's going to be fine with the pizza
12 shop," and after five and a half years we
13 finally had justice and what a waste of
14 money. I don't know how much it's going to
15 ride the taxpayers this time around, I don't
16 know if that's something you guys could find
17 out.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. PICCOLINO: Mr. Greco will have
20 to pay for this not to mention for us being
21 reimbursed for our fees for what? Nothing.
22 Okay. I would like to thank God for the
23 president of city council right now. As I
24 was on my way to mass today I realized just
25 how smart your idea with the parking meter

1 is. When I pulled into a spot it had 30
2 minutes on it already today, so before I
3 went to mass I got in and I pulled in, I put
4 one quarter in, I have to admit, but later
5 on in the course of the day I pulled into
6 another spot, I only had to run in somewhere
7 for about a couple of minutes and that had
8 eight minutes on it so I thought, wow, you
9 know, a pretty good idea, Guys.

10 So I think God for you guys, you are
11 actually bringing things into the city that
12 makes a lot of sense, a whole lot of sense,
13 but the Lackawanna Avenue still doesn't have
14 meters at all on our block. I don't know if
15 that's something, you know. Also, on my
16 block the sidewalk from the vacant parking
17 lot of the city that they bought next door
18 to us, during this whole Lackawanna Avenue
19 project is never, ever shoveled. Like right
20 now it's a sheet of ice. So, I mean, it's a
21 liability. I would imagine since the city
22 owns it they should at least salt it and
23 shovel it off, you know, it's enough I
24 shovel out front of ours and I kind of
25 actually even shovel a little path here and

1 there, you know, I don't want our customers
2 slipping and falling. We do appreciate our
3 customers and we will be servicing them
4 another 45 years, again, thank the good
5 Lord, and that's really it.

6 And since we will be in the city
7 another 45 years servicing the community I
8 would like to continually give back to the
9 community, so on Valentine's Day, that's
10 Monday, February 14, I would like to invite
11 all of the senior citizens down to the pizza
12 shop, I will be there from 5:00 on, for a
13 slice of pizza, a soda and a cannoli on us.

14 MS. EVANS: That's very generous and
15 kind.

16 MR. PICCOLINO: And we will be
17 giving back to the community much, much
18 more. And again, we appreciate you guys,
19 what you are doing, and it's a fabulous idea
20 and I just noticed just that one little
21 thing today with the parking, it's very,
22 very intelligent. Thank you very much.

23 MS. EVANS: Ms. Carrera, if you
24 would make note of Mr. Piccolino's comment
25 about the city-owned parking lot and the

1 sidewalks never salted or shoveled and we'll
2 send a letter out on that, please.

3 MS. HUGHES: Madam President, the
4 city does not own that lot. That lot is
5 owned by the 500 Lackawanna Development
6 Corporation and whoever the entity is down
7 there. It was purchased by the
8 Redevelopment Authority from MS, who I also
9 represent in the condemnation action, but
10 they ended up coming to terms, sold it to
11 the-- resold to the Redevelopment Authority,
12 the Redevelopment Authority immediately
13 conveyed it to 500 Lackawanna Development
14 Corporation or whoever the entity is. They
15 own that lot. They are private entity under
16 the ordinance of the city, they are
17 responsible to have those sidewalks cleared
18 within 24 hours after it snows.

19 MS. EVANS: Yes. I'm sorry, Ms.
20 Carrera, we can make that correction then
21 and forward the letter to the appropriate
22 party, developer, 500 block, and perhaps you
23 might include with the letter a copy of the
24 city ordinance requiring snow removal.
25 Thank you. Andy Sbaraglia.

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
2 Citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
3 five and a half years ago he is right, I
4 came before council and said it was a bad
5 idea. That was my favorite pizza place and
6 my favorite hot dog place and they wanted to
7 tear them down or change them, so forth and
8 so on and I spoke again against it.

9 But let us look at this thing
10 realistic today. We got a new governor,
11 isn't it funny what the new governor coming
12 in all of a sudden they threw it out. There
13 is no office building. Remember that office
14 building that they were going to build,
15 where is it? You people got to realize
16 these people are dreamers. They come before
17 you with all kinds of propositions. I
18 always said, give me a 20 million and I'll
19 build a damn across East and West Mountain
20 and have a generation plant there, we can
21 all have free electricity, but this is the
22 plans they give you.

23 And when you get down there to -- I
24 worked in the Lackawanna Lace, I took care
25 of the elevators there, okay, I know what is

1 there and what conditions it was in toward
2 the end, and the fact of the matter is if
3 this thing was a viable project why would
4 the banks give them 4 1/2 million, why do
5 they need a grant? And then aren't you
6 leery about anybody telling you they are
7 going to do something five years in the
8 future? That alone would spell trouble with
9 me. If you put something in the stipulation
10 or if they get the loan that if they don't
11 do what they said in five and a half years
12 they would have to return the money, that's
13 a whole different thing.

14 Like I told you before, I'm in favor
15 of loans, I'm not in favor of giveaways,
16 especially with the climate today. Too many
17 people are losing their homes, but we have
18 money to throw away. How much do we spend
19 for the downtown project? Do you remember
20 when they were supposed to do the sidewalks
21 that the mayor said unless you come in with
22 us we aren't going to fix your sidewalk and
23 their sidewalk wasn't done.

24 You got to look at what's going on.
25 I have saw all those buildings in town and

1 so on and so forth, but I believe in this,
2 viable project means the bank will lend them
3 the money, not after you give me 4 1/2
4 million then I'll bring you the money. That
5 doesn't cut ice.

6 Well, let's go. I mean, they can
7 tell you anything, but five years in future
8 that alone would be a warning sign to me
9 being you see what happened with the office
10 building down in the 500 block of Lackawanna
11 Avenue. It's a dream. A lot of people have
12 dreams, but when it comes to being a
13 realist, that's a whole different project.
14 It's too bad they couldn't redo that back
15 into what it was before, some kind of a
16 manufacturing plant because it's in the
17 middle of no where, lots of parking around
18 it, and so forth and so on. Just too bad
19 they want to turn it into another loft
20 building so how the heck they plan to do.

21 Now that we are down there, you
22 remember Lackawanna College was given money
23 for that project down there, too. I don't
24 know if they returned the money because they
25 never fulfilled the project, but we gave the

1 money for there, too. You got to look into
2 the history of these things before you go
3 off and say, "This is wonderful project."

4 You know, Sardoni is a good
5 contractor, I'll say that because I worked
6 for Sardoni on some of the jobs he worked
7 on, but I'm leery of anything five years in
8 the future, but let's -- let me look at
9 something more realistic now.

10 Up there I got a notice in the paper
11 where they said because they made the light
12 show they wouldn't have to raise the fees at
13 Nay Aug for the kids because they had this
14 money. Tell me actually what to they do up
15 at Nay Aug? I believe we pay the liability
16 on everything up there, okay? I believe we
17 even take care of the lifeguards up in that
18 project. In fact, the only thing I know
19 they do was they bought the chlorine for the
20 pool, and that's is, or they are putting a I
21 guess a pavilion up there. Who is paying
22 for the pavilion? Us. They are going to do
23 the green house, who is paying for the green
24 house? Us. And who makes the money on any
25 of these things that are up there? They do.

1 But who pays off all of these
2 projects that they are doing up there, the
3 citizens of Scranton. Why the heck are we
4 paying to use any of the facilities up
5 there? In the original deed the only thing
6 they were supposed to charge for were
7 amenities and the amenities at that time was
8 a snack bar, that was it. You were able to
9 do everything else for free. True they
10 spent a lot of money up there, I know it,
11 but did we need a tree house? Not
12 necessarily. Did we need a bridge? Not
13 necessarily. Did we need a place for the
14 kids could swim for free? That's what we
15 needed. More than anything else they did up
16 there.

17 Nay Aug was never envisioned as a
18 cash cow. It was gift to the city and to
19 all of the people of the city. Somehow or
20 some way that was turned. Now it's looked
21 at like a cash cow. Everything they do up
22 there has to return money to where, to the
23 Rec Authority? But yet we pay for
24 everything else up there. I can't wait to
25 until I get to look at the audit to see what

1 the heck they are spending their money on up
2 there. Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
4 Mr. Sbaraglia. Doug Miller.

5 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
6 Doug Miller, Scranton.

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to begin
9 tonight by asking council if they received a
10 response in regards to the request I had
11 made last week about the pools?

12 MS. EVANS: The letter was sent,
13 Mr. Miller, but we have not yet received a
14 response.

15 MR. MILLER: Okay. You know, I
16 just -- I just find that totally
17 unacceptable, and this isn't a criticism on
18 council by any means because it's not a
19 problem that just happened overnight we have
20 had this problem for a long time getting
21 answers to questions, and I just think that
22 if a department can't respond to a simple
23 question within a week I think we have
24 serious problems and I think that maybe
25 council in the future should look at maybe

1 removing some of these people. It might
2 sound out of line, but that's my opinion and
3 I think that a lot of residents are
4 beginning to express a lot of frustration,
5 and I know council is because I just I don't
6 see why we can't get answers to questions.
7 We are paying these people to do a job and
8 they are not performing.

9 Mr. Rogan, you talked about what I
10 just mentioned, if it's necessary we'll
11 start cutting back, you know, if we have to
12 take the budget apart for next year let's
13 start removing these people because you know
14 what, if they're not going to do their job
15 then they don't belong here because if
16 council or myself or any resident comes up
17 here with a question we expect the answer.
18 You know, I just think we have been playing
19 too many games here week after week and it's
20 leading us no where and we pay people to
21 represent the residents of this city and do
22 the duty that they were appointed to do and
23 if you can't do it then you shouldn't even
24 be here.

25 The second thing I have tonight is

1 in regards to Chief Duffy. You know, I'd
2 just like to take this time to personally
3 commend him for his performance up to this
4 point, and this isn't a disrespect to other
5 chiefs we've had in the past, everybody has
6 done their job, but since my involvement in
7 the city, you know, I just can't recall a
8 chief doing some of the things that he has
9 done here and I just think that he obviously
10 knows that in order to get the job done
11 sometimes you just have to take that extra
12 step to get the job done and I just want to
13 thank him for that. You know, it's not a
14 secret he has been doing his job ever since
15 he has been in office, not just since he's
16 been a chief, but now that he's a chief
17 people are really seeing what's going on.

18 The other thing I have tonight is in
19 regard to the special account that was
20 created to accept donations to possibly
21 staff additional police and firemen, you
22 know, I'd just like to suggest tonight that
23 possibly we could consider raising funds
24 towards this effort. You know, putting
25 ideas together to possibly host a fundraiser

1 because, you know, when it comes to public
2 safety I take that very serious and I hope
3 others do as well. You know, I think maybe
4 we can possibly look at holding another
5 basketball game as I did -- when we did with
6 Junior Council a year or two ago where we
7 raised \$3,500 that went towards the
8 monuments that you have here out in front of
9 city hall and the other one in front of the
10 police station, so maybe we can possibly
11 look at doing something like that again,
12 just something to, you know, entertain.

13 The other issue I have tonight was I
14 received some information from an individual
15 who approached me earlier in the week and he
16 is a volunteer down at the Scranton Rescue
17 Mission and he had just asked that I bring
18 up some information to the public tonight.
19 Apparently they are going to be having a
20 coat drive this Saturday from 1 to 3. They
21 are asking people in need to come for coats
22 and other items that will help keep you warm
23 in the winter. You know, I really
24 appreciate the effort and time that a lot of
25 these dedicated individuals put to this, you

1 know, they are not getting paid for it.
2 They are taking the time on a Saturday and
3 go down, you know, and serving their
4 community and give back and I just want to
5 commend them for that and hopefully people
6 out there listening tonight will go down and
7 possibly give a couple of hours and, you
8 know, support their efforts.

9 I finally tonight, on Griffin Pond
10 it's been brought up the last couple of
11 weeks, but I'd just like to piggyback on
12 what everybody else has been saying. You
13 know, I really encourage other towns and
14 municipalities in the area to consider
15 making a donation to benefit their shelter.
16 When we look at the services they provide
17 they do an excellent job and I just feel
18 that we should be supporting them. Again, I
19 want to thank council for putting aside the
20 funding to support them. I know recently a
21 lot of other towns have followed your lead
22 and done the same and just moving forward I
23 would hope that others areas would do the
24 same thing, and that's all tonight. Thank
25 you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Bob Bolus.

4 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
5 Bob Bolus, Scranton. Actually tonight I'd
6 like to really congratulate Mr. Hughes,
7 Attorney Hughes, Mr. Piccolino, and, of
8 course, Coney Island. I understand that we
9 are going to have hot dogs and pizza for
10 free for the next two years now. It was a
11 great victory I think for the city and the
12 people in the city and the businesses and
13 the perseverance paid off and they are to be
14 commended for staying the course. And I
15 hope you have great success in your
16 continued ventures here in the city.

17 On another issue that brought me
18 here actually tonight is the East Mountain
19 Residents Association I know sent council a
20 letter, they sent letters to everybody.
21 Well, I'm here to take issue with
22 Mr. Wexler's comments so he gets it
23 straight, he didn't want to name names, Mr.
24 Wexler, it's Bob Bolus in case you forgot
25 who I am. This has been an ongoing issue

1 that's been happening up on East Mountain,
2 it's regarding an easement issue. It's been
3 an issue created by a neighbor. The term
4 that Mr. Wexler puts in here the parking of
5 illegal storage trailers. I think Mr.
6 Wexler should kind of confine his statements
7 and not become a practicing attorney or a
8 description what he may consider illegal
9 without the full fundamental knowledge of
10 what's going on and I intend to take him to
11 issue on it.

12 First of all, East Mountain
13 Residents Association has no standing in the
14 litigation since they are not a party to it.
15 What they want to yap about or complain
16 about they can go do that, that's the right
17 of our democracy, but don't sit here and try
18 and hide who the players are, they are
19 already listed on here. This is not an
20 issue I raised or started, this is an issue
21 I've had to defend and I've spent
22 considerable money doing it without any
23 assistance of the East Mountain Neighborhood
24 Association that this issue started a long
25 time ago.

1 So if Mr. Wexler wants to practice
2 be an attorney I think he better get his
3 terminologies in order or suffer the
4 consequences of his ambiguous statements.

5 The purpose of those containers are
6 there for a reason and that reason is going
7 to be determined in a Court of law not by
8 Mr. Wexler, not by the neighbors, it's going
9 to a courtroom where a judge will decide who
10 is right, who is wrong, what's legal, and
11 what isn't legal. I have copies of the city
12 ordinance, in one part it says one thing and
13 the other part it says another thing. They
14 will get the opportunity to defend their
15 statements or what the regulations states in
16 Court. I'm not here to give my legal
17 arguments away tonight, but I can say we
18 intend to vigorously defend against the
19 accusations of Mr. Wexler and the City of
20 Scranton as the zoning violation.

21 And I must say today, Chris Doherty
22 took time, I met with the mayor this
23 morning, we had a discussion with regarding
24 this, and I think we are all of the opinion
25 let the Courts make the determination what

1 will be and will not be on East Mountain
2 regarding my property and the situation
3 that's been ongoing, and that's why it's in
4 Court.

5 So all the wannabe attorneys and the
6 wannabe complainers learn to spell my name
7 correct when you talk about me or you write
8 a letter because I don't hide behind anyone
9 and I'm not an unknown, that's for sure.

10 However, they could have came
11 forward when we had the issue regarding the
12 neighbors building on city-owned property
13 which I have raised before this council on
14 numerous occasions. Yet, Mr. Wexler, Paul
15 Kelly, I've gone to the solicitor on
16 numerous times to have a discussion with him
17 regarding it and he refuses. The issue
18 there is it's city-owned property, it's a
19 deeded waterway, it's owned by the city,
20 nobody has a right to build on it, nobody
21 has any right to use that land but the city
22 of Scranton unless you buy it. You can't
23 just get it for an action to quite title,
24 you just can't get it because you know
25 somebody in the city, you need to purchase

1 the property.

2 So what I'm requesting council
3 tonight to have the solicitor actually do
4 his job instead of worrying about trailers
5 that are there for a purpose and not a valid
6 reason which he didn't want to hear. Deal
7 with the city-owned property that someone
8 illegally built on in an illegal subdivision
9 and let's put the property up for sale to
10 the highest bidder whether you built it on
11 it or not, it's buyer beware, builder
12 beware, that's why you have title companies
13 to do your search. These individuals were
14 notified prior to building by certified
15 letter, which they accepted, that they were
16 building on city-owned property and went
17 ahead and did it.

18 We need to take this task and
19 resolve this issue. They want to play with
20 the big boys and run with the big dogs now
21 is their opportunity because that's where
22 this is going. The property needs to be put
23 out for sale, it's tax dollars, it's revenue
24 to this city, and it shouldn't be ignore.
25 Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bill
2 Jackowitz.

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
4 South Scranton resident and member of the
5 Taxpayers' Association. Mr. Sam Chera,
6 Recreation Authority Chairman and Doherty
7 appointee stated that the Nay Aug Christmas
8 Light Show raised \$42,207 this year, but yet
9 Mr. Chera went onto say that they will not
10 have to raise the fees at Nay Aug Park pool
11 and slide this year. Mr. Chera, how about
12 lowering the fees or rather yet doing away
13 with these fees that you charge children
14 between the ages of 6 to 15 every day of the
15 swim season.

16 First we have a DPW supervisor
17 threatening the citizens with no garbage
18 pickup or snow removal because he lost his
19 job. Now we have an appointed recreation
20 board member threatening to kick raising the
21 pool fees at Nay Aug Park. How about
22 gathering up your 135 volunteers that act as
23 lifeguards this summer. Also, Sammy, you
24 can send a check to "Kids Swim Free" 1416
25 South Webster Avenue, Scranton,

1 Pennsylvania, 18505, ask the other 134
2 volunteers to contribute, also. Make some
3 children happy for a change.

4 City council has the perfect
5 opportunity to review the qualifications,
6 education and background of an appointed
7 cabinet member. Mr. McGowan's appointment
8 is currently in front of city council for
9 approval. We know from Mayor Doherty's
10 sworn testimony 14 September 2010, that he
11 was not aware of the qualifications of the
12 police chief, public safety director and
13 human resource director prior to appointing
14 these individuals to cabinet positions. How
15 do we know that he is aware of Mr. McGowan's
16 qualifications and experience?

17 Has anybody on council checked into
18 Chief Davis, Mr. Brazil and Mr. Dougher's
19 qualifications to be department heads and
20 cabinet members? By the way, Chief Duffy,
21 is doing a fantastic job. What about a
22 resume from Mr. McGowan listing all his
23 education, work-related experience in the
24 field of finance? Also, does he have any
25 sexual harassment training, ethics training

1 or supervisory experience? Remember, one
2 cabinet member, prior police chief Elliott,
3 has already cost the taxpayers of Scranton
4 \$153,000 in embarrassment. Chief Davis has
5 a 93 percent "No confidence" vote and has
6 not backed the city firefighters yet.

7 I understand the mayor has the final
8 say and not council but at least council
9 should be aware of cabinet member's
10 qualifications and experience. This should
11 be public information. Their salaries will
12 be paid with public money, not private
13 money.

14 Remember, city council, Mr. Rinaldi
15 came before city council telling them how
16 important the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue
17 project was, how jobs were going to be
18 created, boutiques and apartments. I ask,
19 how many jobs have been created so far? We
20 have a church that moved into the Coney
21 Island building more than likely not paying
22 taxes. Now we have a chocolate factory
23 relocating from Old Forge. How many
24 full-time jobs are they bringing to the 500
25 block of Lackawanna Avenue? Are all

1 employees Scranton residents? What's their
2 salaries? Remember, this project cost the
3 Scranton taxpayers over \$30 million state,
4 federal and city tax money used. Where the
5 return to the taxpayers?

6 Congratulations to Mr. Piccolino and
7 Mr. Moran who stood their ground and won.
8 Mayor Doherty, "I'm happy with what came out
9 of the 500 block," he said. Jeremy Burton's
10 follow-up question should have been, "Mayor,
11 are you saying that you like empty buildings
12 that are not generating any revenue,
13 creating jobs or tax money for the city?"

14 I read a letter to the editor where
15 someone suggested a grocery store from the
16 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue. Great, a
17 \$30 million grocery store built with
18 taxpayers' money. Mayor Doherty, bring in
19 what you and Mr. Rinaldi promised
20 businesses, jobs, not a grocery store,
21 minimum wage jobs again.

22 As far as the garbage fee, I was
23 very disappointed council approved this
24 illegal fee. Until you impose fees on the
25 nonprofits and leeches then you should not

1 impose any fees on the residents/taxpayers
2 of Scranton.

3 Breaking news, Senator Casey,
4 Gang up on gangs." Senator, hold a meeting
5 with Mayor Doherty, District attorney
6 Jarbola and ask Mayor Doherty why he wants
7 to reduce the police department by ten
8 officers, why there are no scheduled testing
9 for new police officers, and why has Mayor
10 Doherty allowed the vehicle fleet to
11 deteriorate to a current embarrassing level.
12 Why does Scranton police officers lease
13 their own police cars?

14 As far as District Attorney Jarbola,
15 a few years ago he stood firmly with Mayor
16 Doherty and the Times-Tribune telling
17 Scranton residents that there were no gangs
18 in the Scranton area. Senator Casey,
19 Scranton needs more police officers on the
20 street and then maybe Chief Duffy can become
21 a manager, not a beat cop. Although, like I
22 said earlier, he is a doing the fantastic
23 job.

24 Now private citizens are
25 contributing to and to fund and hire police

1 officers in Scranton. What's next, Mayor
2 Doherty, everybody in the city using garden
3 hoses to extinguish house fires? Mayor
4 Doherty, you were elected to do just one
5 thing, lead the city, the whole city, not
6 just your family, friends and supporters.

7 And again, city council, I'm going
8 to caution you, be leery of developers
9 coming in here promising jobs, promising
10 development and promising everything under
11 the sun and they have never, ever come
12 through. If any one on council wants to
13 challenge that then give me an example. We
14 got the Southern Union building, we got the
15 500 block of Lackawanna County, we got the
16 Mulberry Street project, we got holes in
17 front of the Cathedral, we got everything.
18 We where are the jobs? Construction jobs
19 are nothing but temporary jobs. As soon as
20 the construction is done the jobs leave.
21 Are they going to be union jobs? Are all of
22 the construction workers going to be
23 Scranton residents? If they are not
24 Scranton residents, Scranton ain't getting
25 no wage tax. All I'm going to say, Council,

1 is be leery of any approval of any
2 development in this city because I'm
3 personally going to hold all five of you
4 accountable if you approve it and it doesn't
5 come through. Make sure it's in writing.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr.
7 Jackowitz. Pedro Gonzalez.

8 MR. GONZALEZ: Pedro Gonzalez, South
9 Side resident. Good evening, Council and
10 all in attendance. As always, I come here
11 tonight to just give thanks and to make
12 announcements of events, future events and
13 things to that effect. Since our friend,
14 Giovanni, has left we would like to
15 congratulate him and his family for their
16 win. Hopefully, our church will see victory
17 also at the end of the tunnel with our
18 situation. We have spoken many times and he
19 keeps telling us stay in this thing and we
20 are. We are going to stay in it to the very
21 end.

22 Since everybody also is speaking
23 about Chief Duffy, we also would like to
24 thank him, the members of Maranatha Ministry
25 and the Latino community would love to thank

1 Chief Duffy for all of the tremendous work
2 that he has done. It's the first time ever
3 that one of the two, three families have
4 come to us in the last couple of weeks and
5 they said it's the first time, first time
6 ever that they have seen any Scranton police
7 officer in a good light which is ashamed
8 because we have a lot of, a lot of hard and
9 good working men and women on the police
10 force of this city, you know, but hopefully
11 this is the beginning of a change in their
12 minds, you know, the community members, so
13 thank you again, Chief Duffy, for that.

14 And moving on, I know we gave thanks
15 to many individuals for the Three King's
16 event January 6, but as many of you know we
17 had an event on January 14, 15, 16, 17, the
18 Martin Luther King event that we had here
19 across the city. It was tremendously,
20 tremendously well-attended across the board.
21 We want to thank all of the individuals who
22 attended, the commission members who
23 volunteered their time and participated and
24 made this thing come to past, all elected
25 officials that showed up and spoke and

1 showed support, but to many organizations
2 that were there that do this every single
3 year are the United Neighborhood Centers,
4 St. Joseph's Center, Scranton School
5 District, Salvation Apostolic Temple, Shilo
6 Baptist Church, Latin Cultural Diversity
7 Center Group, the Lackawanna County Prison
8 Ministry, Voluntary Action Center, Friends
9 of the Poor, Center for Anti-Slavery
10 Studies, the Scranton Cultural Center, and
11 we want to thank all of the media, the
12 television crews, and all of the newspapers
13 teams that were out there that supported the
14 Martin Luther King event. Thank you all so,
15 so much.

16 And the last thing on my agenda is
17 more good news, Maranatha Ministries on 510
18 Prospect is proud to announce our brand new
19 food bank that we are opening and everything
20 is free as we normally do in the community,
21 and we are here to serve the South Side,
22 South Side area of this city, but anybody
23 that comes to our doors that need food and
24 are hungry we are there, we are providing
25 bags of food, canned product, meats, so on

1 and so forth and so on, it's an official
2 food pantry. We have been investing with
3 certain groups and organizations and we are
4 proud to announce on Monday, I believe the
5 date will be Monday the 31st from 5 to 7 our
6 doors will open for the first time as a food
7 bank, and also I believe Wednesday, February
8 2, going to be two days, every Monday and
9 every Wednesday from 5 to 7, 510 Prospect,
10 Maranatha Ministries Church, the very church
11 that certain individuals want to shut down
12 have, again, keep contributing to this city
13 and the well-being and the productivity of
14 our youth and the community members of this
15 city every single day. That's why we are
16 here. Every single Monday, every single
17 Wednesday starting from the 31st on, God
18 willing we have our doors open as a food
19 pantry.

20 We thank you all so, so much. It's
21 good to see you, Senorita Evans,
22 Councilwoman Evans, you know, I've always
23 got to throw my Latin slang in there, may
24 God bless everybody. And once again, as
25 always, my name is Pedro Gonzalez, thank you

1 for allowing me to express myself.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Gonzalez.

3 Our next speaker is Ozzie Quinn.

4 MR. QUINN: Good evening. Ozzie

5 Quinn, Scranton Taxpayers' Association.

6 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

7 MR. QUINN: I have three reasons or
8 purposes why I'm here tonight, the first
9 one, Councilman Joyce, could you give us a
10 status on the city audit?

11 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I'll be discussing
12 it in some brief detail during motions and I
13 did attend the exit conference yesterday, so
14 I know at this point Ryan McGowan, our
15 business administrator, did state that he
16 was going to pass the audit along to IT to
17 post on-line, so I'm not exactly sure how
18 long that's going to take, but the audit is
19 now complete.

20 MR. QUINN: Thank you.

21 MR. JOYCE: You are welcome.

22 MR. QUINN: Second issue is my
23 neighbors are complaining in my neighborhood
24 in regard to the pickup of Christmas trees.
25 A lot of them are senior citizens, low

1 income, and the trees are just left there.
2 Now, we pay taxes and taxes are supposed to
3 be for services and they already deduct a
4 garbage fee out of the taxes so what do we
5 do with the Christmas trees, wait until they
6 turn to the earth or what? Is there going
7 to be a pickup or anything like that?
8 Usually they pick them up by now, I don't
9 know what happened.

10 MS. EVANS: Ms. Carrera, if we could
11 please notify Mr. Brazil about the lack of
12 Christmas tree pickup, particularly in the
13 Hill Section of Scranton in the neighborhood
14 of?

15 MR. QUINN: Just East Scranton's
16 Little Leagues area.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

18 MR. QUINN: Thank you. The third
19 purpose I'm here for I have a proposal I'd
20 like to make to the administration via city
21 council, which is not unlike some of the
22 content of President Obama's State of the
23 Union address tonight, that is the creation
24 of jobs, mine is locally. My proposal will
25 also prevent blight and hopefully rebuild

1 our neighborhoods. I have the opportunity
2 to drive through city neighborhoods weekly,
3 obviously, there are many blighted vacant
4 boarded up residences condemned by the city.
5 These properties are not only eyesores and
6 non revenue producing, they cause unsafe
7 conditions and potential crime in the
8 neighborhood. When I was a former member of
9 the city planning commission, city planner,
10 Don King, and myself was instrumental with
11 creating the City's Vacant Property Review
12 Committee now administered by the SRA. Our
13 vision was to expedite the sale of
14 city-owned vacant parcels. In that period
15 of time, Nancy Krake, presently city clerk,
16 was a clerk at the Treasurer's Office. She
17 and I did complete a survey and catalogued
18 all of the vacant tax land throughout the
19 city where it's located, how much the taxes
20 were, was it was a biddable property, so and
21 so on.

22 Obviously, it was never used for
23 it's purpose and it's presently outdated and
24 probably collecting dust somewhere in city
25 hall. Recently I read a city neighborhood

1 crime watch held a meeting with city
2 officials to address the crime problem in
3 their neighborhood. The city responded that
4 the blighted properties are scheduled for
5 demolition in their specific neighborhood to
6 resolve part of the crime issue.

7 We all know that hundreds of
8 residential homes are demolished in the past
9 thus leaving vacant non taxing producing
10 land. Also, many have been condemned and
11 remain standing for years, thus, cannot be
12 rehabilitated. My proposal follows:

13 To the best of my knowledge the SRA
14 is presently without an executive director.
15 I would voluntarily serve with the SRA to
16 help create jobs for many of the over 400
17 home improvement contractors throughout the
18 county who because of a poor economic
19 conditions are under dire straights
20 financially from slowdown of home
21 improvement jobs.

22 Without giving the appearance of
23 sounding arrogant, my resume will show I
24 have the experience and knowledge for
25 rehabilitating properties. I hope to save

1 many condemned and boarded up houses and
2 place them back on the tax rolls. Of
3 course, some of them have been boarded up,
4 like I said, for so long they could never be
5 replaced.

6 My resume: I formerly served for
7 four and a half year as the executive
8 director of Habitat of Humanity of
9 Lackawanna County. At that period of time
10 under the guidance of the former habitat
11 board of directors and the habitat policies,
12 I was able to renovate and construct 32 tax
13 producing, affordable city homes. These
14 renovations were a new source of revenue for
15 the city. Also, I created emergency home
16 repair program that benefit more than 300
17 low income homeowners in need of furnace
18 repair, leaky pipes, handicapped ramps,
19 electric problems, etcetera, some of which
20 would have been lead to the city condemning
21 the home.

22 Previously I worked on the SRA staff
23 as a community organizer working with the
24 neighborhood project residents. The SRA
25 rehabilitation at that time was able to

1 rehabilitate and save several hundred homes
2 in the project which included the South Side
3 and Minooka neighborhoods. Riverside
4 projects including in and around Third and
5 Fourth Avenue developer section and the
6 Diamond project in North Scranton on the
7 1100 block of North, Piece and Boyd Street
8 section. Again, I don't want to give the
9 appearance of arrogance. I am using my
10 experience and knowledge to support my case.

11 We cannot continue to condemn homes
12 and demolish them. Our tax base continues
13 to decrease thus leaving vacant non revenue
14 land in all of the neighborhoods for years
15 to come. We must start to be creative to
16 spruce up our neighborhoods and bring
17 properties back on the tax roles. The
18 initial step will be to arrange meetings
19 between city officials, banking institution
20 reps and contractors to discuss feasibility
21 and finances. Of course, some of public
22 money could be used on that economic
23 development investment. I sincerely request
24 that you follow up for consideration on my
25 proposal. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.
2 Mr. Quinn, have you forwarded that letter to
3 the mayor and to the Chairman of the SRA?

4 MR. QUINN: No, I haven't. I
5 brought it here tonight to ask the council
6 to maybe send a letter and might have more
7 influence or maybe not with the mayor and
8 the Chairman of the SRA.

9 MS. EVANS: If you would like to
10 leave that with Ms. Carrera and she can make
11 a copy of it.

12 MR. QUINN: Sure.

13 MS. EVANS: And, Ms. Carrera, will
14 you send a letter to the mayor and to I
15 believe it's Mr. William Laser of the
16 Scranton Redevelopment Authority indicating
17 Mr. Quinn's expressed interest in serving
18 with the SRA and the vacant property review
19 committee at no cost to the city and this
20 offer was expressed publically during city
21 council meeting. Thank you. Les Spindler.

22 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
23 Council. Les Spindler, city homeowner and
24 taxpayer.

25 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

1 MR. SPINDLER: First of all, I want
2 to talk about last week Bob Bolus made an
3 offer to repair a police car at no cost to
4 the city, I thought that was very admirable
5 on his part. I think we need more people in
6 the city to step up and do stuff like that,
7 so I hope they take up his offer on that and
8 we'll have one police car that doesn't
9 really look that bad, and I think it was a
10 great gesture.

11 MS. EVANS: Yes.

12 MR. SPINDLER: I, too, want to thank
13 Mr. Piccolino or congratulate Mr. Piccolino,
14 Mr. Moran and thank Attorney Hughes for the
15 great job he did in that lawsuit. It was
16 five years of wasting the taxpayers' money
17 in this administration, it has gone on for
18 nine years in Chris Doherty's
19 administration, all he has done is throw out
20 taxpayer money and I thank God we have a
21 council that's overseeing that somewhat now.
22 Maybe it will stop. Again, congratulations
23 on winning that lawsuit.

24 Last week Mr. McGoff said he wants
25 to oversight on how the Griffin Pond Animal

1 Shelter is going to spend the money. Well,
2 Mr. McGoff, it's funny that you want
3 oversight on that, but you never asked for
4 oversight on all of the millions of dollars
5 that Chris Doherty has thrown out over the
6 past years such as giving raises to all of
7 his crony hires which was a violation of his
8 recovery plan, losing all of these
9 arbitration appeals, I have to put on my
10 glasses, I can't read my own writing. Also,
11 hiring outside companies to plow the DPW lot
12 and our police station when we have DPW to
13 do that. Mr. McGoff, how come you never
14 wanted oversight over those situations?
15 Mr. McGoff, are you awake?

16 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me?

17 MR. SPINDLER: I'm asking you a
18 question. Never mind. What a waste. A
19 citizen, who is a friend of mine, called me
20 today he lives on North Merrifield Avenue, I
21 brought this up before, in back of his house
22 where it's Dewey Avenue, it's a small
23 street, when it's snows I guess it's not on
24 the plow list he asked if they could get on
25 the plow list. He can't get out of his

1 garage when it snows and I do have that in
2 writing, I will give that to Ms. Carrera.

3 MS. EVANS: Very good.

4 MR. SPINDLER: And I like I said,
5 this happens every winter. He is a heart
6 transplant patient and he can't get out and
7 shovel his garage out, so I'd appreciate it
8 if you can help him out.

9 Lastly, everybody is here blowing
10 Chief Duffy's horn tonight, he doesn't need
11 anybody to do that, the Doherty newsletter
12 is doing just fine, but I have to disagree
13 with the great job he is doing. As I have
14 said in the past, and many people might be
15 tired of hearing this, I approached Chief
16 Duffy at the National Night Out, which was
17 in September, about the police report
18 identifying two city employees who stole
19 Gary DiBileo's signs and threw them in the
20 river, which was a crime, whether minor or
21 not it was a crime, and the police chief
22 should be arresting people that commit
23 crimes. He said it's not a priority but he
24 would speak to Bob Martin, who was the
25 investigating detective. Over four months

1 later he still hasn't spoken to Bob Martin.
2 He lied right to my face. He is nothing but
3 another Doherty puppet and I challenge him
4 to come here and prove me wrong. He hasn't
5 done it and what he is doing being out on
6 the streets is illegal to be a police chief
7 and I know Thanksgiving Eve when he was out
8 trying pull people over for DUI as soon as
9 Detective Martin heard that, he had to call
10 into Mr. Jennings, their attorney, filling
11 an Unfair Labor Practice grievance.

12 So what he is doing isn't right,
13 whoever thinks he is a doing a great job I
14 think they are wrong and, as I said, he is
15 nothing but another Doherty crony. What
16 else is new. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
18 Mr. Bolus, if you could please provide the
19 specifics of your very generous regarding
20 the police vehicles --

21 MR. BOLUS: I will.

22 MS. EVANS: -- to Ms. Carrera so that
23 can be forwarded to Chief Duffy and the
24 mayor as well.

25 MR. BOLUS: I could send it down

1 tomorrow. I'll fax it over with a fax
2 number and I'll fax it over to you.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Appreciate
4 that very much.

5 MR. BOLUS: You're welcome. Thank
6 you.

7 MS. EVANS: And our next speaker is
8 Ron Ellman.

9 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

10 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

11 MR. ELLMAN: I found out this week I
12 can blame something adverse on Dave if
13 people get us mixed up since we both need a
14 haircut so bad. Our brother Jack, I missed
15 your rebuttals last week because I had to go
16 home and watch the "Walking Dead." I went
17 home to watch that Barrett-Jackson. Jack,
18 Jack, Jack, what are we going to do? All I
19 do is relay what people are expressing to me
20 mostly up here, and I have heard people say
21 that you do listen to us and you do hear us
22 that you don't care about this parking
23 meters. I don't know, you all seem like
24 you're hell bent on going that way.

25 I got a question, the paper said

1 there was a \$30 per space, but it didn't say
2 if that was for the 60 months or every month
3 or what. That's a lot of money.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: The \$30 per space is
5 continuous. The \$5 per space is 60 months
6 for the installation. The monitoring, they
7 cover -- it's all their equipment, it's all
8 their monitoring, they change the batteries,
9 everything. The city wouldn't have to pay
10 for anything as far as equipment wise. Now,
11 if someone came up to me and said, "Here's a
12 hundred dollars, you know, give me \$20 back
13 and you can keep the 80," I'd certainly go
14 for it because it's \$80 more than we have
15 right now.

16 MR. ELLMAN: That might be true, but
17 they are saying the capture rate has to go
18 from 1 percent to 10 percent to do this.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, no, no.

20 MR. ELLMAN: That's what the paper
21 said.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, you believe the
23 paper?

24 MR. ELLMAN: Well, that was what
25 people, you know, discussed in here two

1 weeks ago was the capture rate.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: If you read the paper
3 you wouldn't even know we discussed the
4 insurance quotes last week, but basically
5 I'll give you a copy of everything we have.
6 They have quoted from 1 percent capture rate
7 up to 10 percent capture rate. At 1 percent
8 is where they base the -- we are getting the
9 significant increase.

10 MR. ELLMAN: They say -- they used
11 what the city gets now is their 1 percent.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Correct.

13 MR. ELLMAN: So in order to get the
14 big money they have to go up to 10 percent.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: We are going to get a
16 significant increase at 1 percent just
17 utilizing the system that's going to be in
18 place, but a system that makes it more
19 efficient would actually increase your rate
20 of collections anyway, but if we keep it at
21 status quo there is still an amount that's
22 not collected there. That would be -- I
23 could sit down with you explain it, I don't
24 want to use up your time here.

25 MR. ELLMAN: When Clinton was

1 running for president and people kept saying
2 he flip flops and all the time on the issues
3 somebody in, you know, in his group said he
4 wasn't flip flopping, he considered both
5 sides of the argument more and decided that
6 the other side was better so, you know, I
7 could change my mind, but so far I just
8 don't agree with this.

9 I was downtown yesterday, I came
10 down Penn Avenue to the Forum and I would
11 say there was, I don't know four or five
12 parking spaces, I just pulled up, but it
13 looked like maybe a quarter to a third of
14 the cars were parked, there was spaces
15 everywhere. This looks like it is going to
16 be the death nail for downtown if you ask
17 me. That's what people tell me.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm sure that's what
19 you hear. Like I said last week after you
20 had left, you have to speak to people who
21 have it in effect already to learn what
22 their experience is. Anyone is going to be
23 skeptical, trust me, I'm probably most
24 skeptical of anybody and I looked into this
25 for several months and made several calls

1 and spoke to people that I thought to be
2 adversely affected and I got quite the
3 opposite response, and their first response
4 and their first impulse was exactly like you
5 are getting from the business people here.

6 MR. ELLMAN: Well, I heard from
7 somebody at the mall that people will park
8 there and walk in to town. It's going to
9 ruin their business they said.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

11 MR. ELLMAN: I've already done that
12 to be truthful, you know, that I have -- I
13 parked over here at the Parking Authority
14 and it cost me \$5 for I don't know a couple
15 of hours or something, but I would rather do
16 that than worry about a ticket, but I don't
17 mean to be argumentative about this.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Oh, no, we appreciate
19 it. This is the kind of commentary we had
20 we need.

21 MR. ELLMAN: To change the subject,
22 anybody see where ARC got another house last
23 week, \$209,000? How can you budget with
24 this keep going on and on and on and it's
25 nonstop? It's not fair to the people of

1 this city to just keep -- just keep going
2 on. There has to be some kind of
3 legislation to stop it, you know, there is
4 already no tax base in the city and here is
5 ARC they don't need to do this buying a
6 house, they are a business. They are
7 taking -- putting a business in the middle
8 of residential neighborhoods and that is no
9 good. They've got to be stopped. That's
10 why last year I know everybody didn't like
11 it, I won't give the United Way a penny.
12 You give them money and they give it to ARC,
13 ARC buys a house with that money and takes
14 it off the tax roles and the people that are
15 supporting all of this have to pay the tax
16 on the house. We have to make it up.

17 But you multiply that by six, 800
18 houses that have been taken off the last 15
19 years it's millions of dollars in loss to
20 the people. It's got to stop somewhere.
21 There is just -- you just -- the place is
22 just full of empty houses and empty
23 apartments. I mean, you know, I'm not
24 yelling at you all, it's just got to stop.

25 And before when you talked about the

1 sidewalk, I think I can safely say half the
2 people in my neighborhood don't clean
3 sidewalks anymore. There is no inducement.
4 I get out there with my lawn mower and use
5 \$5 worth of gas up and everybody around me
6 when I walk my dog nobody does their
7 sidewalks no more. Where the old bar up the
8 street used to be they cleared up the whole
9 place with a snow plow and didn't do the
10 sidewalk. You know, the bar is empty. It
11 doesn't make sense. All over place where I
12 walk people, I'd say half the people just
13 don't do their sidewalks no more in occupied
14 houses. It doesn't make sense. You know,
15 there is no inducement for me to get out
16 there.

17 And I'd like to say something about
18 Mr. Miller real quick. We didn't hit it off
19 too good politically, but he has sure come a
20 long way the last year and I'd just love to
21 see more young guys like this get involved
22 in politics. I don't how you could do it,
23 you know, maybe we could get some more
24 people back here like when he was here a
25 couple of years ago. I have young guys talk

1 to me now and then, I tell them to come down
2 there and they said nobody wants to come
3 anymore, so I don't know. Maybe you could
4 have him do it, but that's the future of
5 this city right there, that young fellow,
6 right there. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.
8 Lee Morgan.

9 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

10 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

11 MR. MORGAN: Well, you know, the
12 first thing I have here is on 7-B, Scranton
13 Lace again. You know, I really think that
14 this plan should be rejected. To be really
15 honest with you, you know, I've listened to
16 all of these arguments, Mr. Loscombe I
17 listened to what you are trying to say about
18 these meters and, you know, to be very
19 honest with you I don't claim to possess a
20 wealth of knowledge, you know, I don't hold
21 myself up as being anything special, but the
22 one thing I have done is, you know, in the
23 last election I ran for state representative
24 part of the district was in the city, hit an
25 awful lot of doors, I don't think anybody

1 has ever run for an office that his hit more
2 doors than me and I don't care who they are,
3 okay? It was just finally something I
4 decided I was going to do is I was going to
5 run for public office, I was going to hit
6 doors and I was going to talk with people.

7 You know, Mr. Quinn brought up
8 something that's been discussed here,
9 Mr. Ellman brought up something that was
10 discussed here, a lot of people come up here
11 and they have talked about a lot of things
12 that were discussed here, the truth of the
13 matter is, okay, it always sound great to
14 raise revenue. We are taking the same money
15 from the same people and we have the same
16 excuses that we have tons of debt and
17 allegedly we are electing people that are
18 really listening to us, but the truth of the
19 matter is the city's situation really hasn't
20 changed much. In my opinion, it's probably
21 gotten worse and I think in my own opinion,
22 and I talked to Mr. Austin Burke about this
23 project and about the Scranton Lace
24 building, we need an economic engine here.
25 Go down there and take a look around the

1 site.

2 Now, you know, parking meters,
3 Mr. Loscombe, if you think you are going to
4 raise revenue that way I respect your
5 opinion, but the truth of the matter is we
6 are going to raise revenue by creating jobs
7 that employ people that have discretionary
8 funds to spend in the community. Condemning
9 a ton of houses I think, you know, was
10 allegedly the answer to our problems at one
11 time because we swore that the reason we had
12 all of the problems we had is drug influence
13 in the neighborhood and the conditions of
14 the neighborhoods, but for the life of me I
15 can't understand, you know, when you look at
16 the Scranton Times article dated I believe
17 January 7 we got more money coming for more
18 improvements to the downtown. When are we
19 going to spend money on the neighborhoods?
20 Why would he want to keep developing
21 apartments?

22 We need an economic engine, okay,
23 and that economic engine is the Scranton
24 Lace building. There is not one building,
25 like I said here once before, that has the

1 abilities that building has. We have talked
2 about the open space around it, I think
3 there is enough room around it to build a
4 parking garage. I think it's totally
5 possible to employ 5,000 people there. I
6 think it's time to really have some
7 heart-to-heart conversations with anyone in
8 the Chamber of Commerce that will listen and
9 who wants to really develop jobs.

10 Everybody talks about creating jobs
11 and everybody talks about being a
12 businessman, but the truth of the matter is
13 we want to create rental spaces because in
14 my opinion they are going to be subsidized
15 either by the state or the federal
16 government on some level. It's not the
17 answer. The answer is to increase
18 something. Employment. Employment is our
19 problem.

20 Now, council says that is doesn't
21 see any need for SAPA. I totally disagree,
22 but you know something, if that's your
23 opinion then let's start developing jobs in
24 the city and let's sit down with these
25 developers and say, "We think you are taking

1 this project in the wrong direction."

2 We don't need a museum to the
3 Scranton Lace Corporation that was there
4 once, we need jobs. We have a lot of
5 museums in this country. We brag about our
6 high speed internet and it's really not high
7 speed. We talk about all of the technology
8 we have in our country as we are falling
9 away in every field and we have all of the
10 politicians, not a personal shout at the
11 people in council, I have run for public
12 office myself, but we have everybody making
13 a ton of promises and leading us allegedly
14 in a new direction when even the federal
15 government says the problems we have in our
16 nation our jobs.

17 The one thing we to do is for once
18 we have to be honest with ourselves. We
19 can't turn this city around without jobs.
20 Andy I think got up and spoke about how
21 everybody is going to do something with
22 their projects. Lackawanna College was
23 going to something with the Scranton Lace
24 building, as a matter of fact, OECD walked
25 through that building, okay, but there is

1 plenty of money for grants and loans for
2 people that are connected as the
3 neighborhoods fall apart.

4 I would like to see Mr. Quinn
5 appointed to the position he is asking for,
6 I don't think it's political. I think you
7 have to put a person in office who has the
8 ability to be successful and I think
9 Mr. Quinn has that ability. I don't agree
10 with everything Mr. Quinn says, but on this
11 issue I wholeheartedly agree with him, but I
12 think the one way forward for this city is
13 to table this. We don't need to give people
14 more money. We need to give money to the
15 people in our neighborhoods. We need to
16 start reclaiming or neighborhoods, Mr. Quinn
17 hit it on the head, I've talked about it
18 many times before.

19 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Morgan, the Lace
20 Works is located in a neighborhood.

21 MR. MORGAN: Yes, it is, but what
22 you are going to do is you're going to
23 create rental spots, you're going to creat
24 things and what we really need, Mr. Rogan,
25 are jobs and employment. We need a business

1 incubator and light manufacturing with the
2 ability to expand which is all around that
3 project. We did flood control projects
4 there, we have a lot of room there to expand
5 and we need some vision, we need to look
6 ahead. We need to stop giving people money
7 because they are connected to somebody
8 politically and I think that's the one
9 problem this city has continually had. We
10 have let politics drive the argument and not
11 facts. Thank you.

12 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Morgan, I don't
13 think any of us up here are connected
14 politically to the group that was here, the
15 Lace Works project.

16 MR. MORGAN: Decisions are made in
17 this government based on politics. Politics
18 controls everything in this country and when
19 somebody doesn't believe that I don't know
20 what to say to you because why --

21 MR. ROGAN: How does this decision
22 I'm making have to do with politics? We are
23 trying to restore a building that's been
24 vacant for ten years.

25 MR. MORGAN: Yes, it is. What's

1 wrong with putting a small business
2 incubator there and creating 5,000 jobs?

3 MR. ROGAN: Nothing, but nobody is
4 in front of us willing to put a small
5 business incubator there.

6 MR. MORGAN: Well, maybe somebody
7 needs to take --

8 MR. ROGAN: Where is the money going
9 to come from?

10 MR. MORGAN: Well, evidently it's
11 going to come from -- I think there is a
12 great amount of discussion going on in
13 Harrisburg about creating small business
14 incubators and light industry. I know it's
15 going on in Washington because they are
16 saying they can't seem to turn the
17 unemployment numbers because we have given
18 all our jobs away to other countries and we
19 are continually talking about revenue and if
20 we are going to raise revenue then we have
21 to do one thing, we have to create capital.
22 Think about it.

23 MR. ROGAN: We agree that we need
24 jobs and we need capital, but when we have a
25 proposal in front of us --

1 MR. MORGAN: Let me ask you this
2 question -- let me ask you one question --

3 MR. ROGAN: Can I finish?

4 MR. MORGAN: Go ahead.

5 MR. ROGAN: That will transform a
6 blighted building in the lower Greenridge
7 neighborhood, will create construction jobs,
8 will create jobs, will beautify the
9 neighborhood versus tabling it, doing
10 nothing, and leaving it in the current state
11 it's in.

12 MR. MORGAN: No, see, I think your
13 argument is flawed for one reason, we have
14 blight in the hill with condemned homes,
15 South Side, Hyde Park, okay? We are
16 creating apartments in the downtown, we are
17 going to create apartments there, okay, and
18 we have people that own properties in city
19 that can't rent their apartments. We don't
20 have a lack of rental property, okay, we
21 have a lack of the employment, and I think
22 to keep creating more rental units, okay,
23 when you have an overabundance of them, as a
24 matter of fact, you have so many condemned
25 homes I can't understand why they weren't

1 homesteaded or sold for a dollar and let
2 somebody reclaim them. I mean, I just think
3 we are directing redevelopment in this city
4 in totally wrong direction and the thing we
5 lack here are jobs. We have plenty of
6 vacant properties, we have plenty of
7 abandoned properties, we have plenty of
8 blight, and the thing we need to change that
9 is capital and I hope you consider my
10 argument, okay, and look at it. You know
11 what I mean? I appreciate your time.

12 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there
13 anyone else who would like to address
14 council?

15 MR. DOBRYZN: Good evening, Council.
16 Dave Dobrzn, resident of Scranton, member
17 of the Taxpayers'. First I'd like to
18 congratulate the victims of eminent domain
19 for having their case dismissed, and might I
20 remind them that that case was based on a
21 Supreme Court decision from three or four
22 years ago that made it possible for eminent
23 domain seizures to hand over to developers,
24 so they get two golden parrots for that.

25 Now, these audits, if info can't be

1 turned over in the timely basis the people
2 that are responsible to turn that info over
3 have no place in the Authority, so maybe
4 they should be dismissed, I think I've said
5 that before.

6 And on property taxes, I have
7 another DVD for a willing viewer. How about
8 you, John?

9 MR. ROGAN: I'll pass mine along to
10 Mr. Joyce or Mrs. Evans.

11 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah. Yeah, you can
12 share them back and forth. These are all
13 done in real time, but -- oh, well, here.
14 That's based on Bill 1275 which is currently
15 dead in the house, but they are trying to
16 renew it.

17 Now, I have another thing I printed
18 up here, I got it out of the hospital, and
19 anybody that thinks they are not paying for
20 someone else's health insurance right now if
21 they see this they might be -- they might
22 change their mind, so you guys can pass it
23 around, and I also have there is different
24 levels on that. A single person who earns
25 less than that \$21,660 is qualified for

1 uncompensated charity care services, so if
2 they get hit by a car, they get an
3 appendicitis attack and you are sitting out
4 in the room, the waiting room at the
5 emergency and you are taking a heart attack
6 hopefully the hospital won't be too bankrupt
7 to have a few extra doctors hanging around
8 because these amounts are significant. A
9 family of four, \$44,100 uncompensated
10 medical care.

11 And then another little thing of
12 interest, Taliban have lovers executed by
13 stoning. This is true, it happened, this
14 couple eloped, they were tempted back to
15 their village and they were sentenced to be
16 stoned to death. Great democracy in
17 Afghanistan so --

18 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

19 MR. DOBRZYN: It has nothing to do
20 with local politics, but then all politics
21 are local, so -- okay, the golden parrot
22 award this week goes to Septa Southeast
23 Transportation Authority, they took stimulus
24 money and they bought high speed rail cars
25 from Korea, from Hyundai. Where are the

1 jobs, Congress, where are the jobs? And
2 well, that's about it for tonight, but keep
3 in mind that that was a Supreme Court
4 decision that made it entirely possible for
5 these eminent domain seizures and to me it's
6 entirely ridiculous. What rights do you
7 have if you can't hold onto your business
8 and your property?

9 One other thing I'd like to
10 reiterate from last week, these banks that
11 were given 9 trillion dollars in loans
12 between early '09 and '08 and last year
13 maybe in May, 9 trillion dollars by a
14 Federal Reserve and if you are in the
15 reserves and you were called up to go to
16 Iraq or Afghanistan and your house falls
17 behind, your mortgage, well, guess what?
18 They are kicking people right out.
19 Servicemen that are serving overseas not
20 making a wage in this country, they are
21 reliant on whatever wages they get paid by
22 the military, and if you are behind on your
23 mortgage, well, that's too bad. They'll
24 seize your house, so they get a triple,
25 super duper golden parrots. Have a good

1 night.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
5 cares to address council?

6 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.
7 I would just like to inquire about St.
8 Mary's school. The Scranton School District
9 is renting from the Dioceses. I would
10 imagine. Wouldn't that be a taxed property
11 now because it's a rental property, it's no
12 longer a school, same for the church and the
13 rectory, they are no longer a church or a
14 rectory, so couldn't you get taxes from them
15 because now they are taking rent, it's
16 rental property?

17 MS. EVANS: But it's being used as a
18 school?

19 MS. FRANUS: Yes, but -- it's being
20 used as a school, the school district is
21 paying rent to the Catholic Church, it's a
22 rental property.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Who is the rent being
24 paid to, the Diocese?

25 MS. FRANUS: Probably. St. Mary's

1 School, I'd imagine they own it. It's not
2 their school, they are getting rent from it.

3 MR. MCGOFF: I understand, yeah.
4 That's a good question.

5 MS. FRANUS: So is there any way you
6 could -- even the church and the rectory
7 because they are no longer being used. And
8 also someone mentioned to me about St.
9 Stanislaus up on Oak Street it's the same
10 situation up there, no longer a church and
11 maybe you could check into that.

12 Also, what is happening with the \$11
13 million from that audit from OECD, did
14 anything ever come of that or I never heard
15 anything more about that?

16 MS. EVANS: Council will be holding
17 a public caucus in the future with hopefully
18 a representative of the Investigator
19 General's Office to discuss the \$11 million
20 finding.

21 MS. FRANUS: So you are definitely
22 going to get to the bottom of that; right?

23 MS. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. FRANUS: And hopefully this
25 won't ever happen again and someone will be

1 watching OECD, I hope. It's almost like the
2 Kenny McDowell tax debacle. I'm thrilled
3 the chocolate store is coming. Who could
4 not want a chocolate store coming? I think
5 it's great. Don't you think? You like
6 chocolate.

7 And I also think people should
8 really take care of their animals now with
9 this cold weather and don't let them out.
10 If you have a dog out bring him in. Put him
11 in bed. I mean, you just have to take care
12 of these dogs and cats. Anything. Bring
13 them in. It's just totally nuts. Ask
14 yourself would you want to be outside, well,
15 why would they. And if anybody has any
16 extra money, not even that Griffin Pond
17 wouldn't appreciate that you got the money
18 for that the shelter, but any other animal
19 rescue place or any place that takes care of
20 animals, don't forget them. I don't mean
21 you necessarily, I mean the people out
22 there, send donations and take care all of
23 the other places because they are very
24 important and they aren't doing it on their
25 own, they need people's help. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
2 cares to address council?

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
4 Council. Marie Schumacher, city resident
5 and member of the Taxpayers' Association.

6 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Since Fay was
8 talking about animals, I will happily report
9 that the Pepsi Refresh Project the Griffin
10 Pond is still in seventh place and there is
11 only a couple of days voting left for this
12 month, so it's possible they will get a
13 caption shortly, so anybody who hasn't voted
14 can do it once a day. Now, back to this
15 business, the --

16 MR. JOYCE: Sorry to interrupt you,
17 Mrs. Schumacher, do you know what the web
18 address is where you can go and vote for the
19 Griffin Pond Animal Shelter?

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I don't know
21 -- if you go to Pepsi.com and then you go
22 down to the Refresh Project, you go, that's
23 what you do and then it says, "Vote now" and
24 you hit the 50,000 -- there is three or four
25 different dollar categories. Hit the

1 \$50,000 category and then there is a pull
2 down screen where you can say "Near you," do
3 that, and then you can vote.

4 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: And you can do it
6 once a day. You bet. Item 3-A on tonight's
7 agenda is the controller's report for the
8 month ending December 31, 2010. That shows
9 that Act 511/Local taxes that the local
10 taxes realized were \$2.3 million less than
11 estimated. Now, does this mean the wage tax
12 was less than anticipated or is there some
13 other aspect of the local taxes that came in
14 under what was estimated, do you know?

15 MR. JOYCE: I'm actually looking
16 into all of that right now. I do have a
17 report from the tax office that outlines
18 what was actually collected and sent over to
19 the city in 2010 and I'll be talking about
20 that in Fifth Order tonight.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Good. Next,
22 7-B, is this \$4.5 million the amount that
23 was originally allocated for Lackawanna
24 College or is this RACP funding? Now,
25 tonight they mentioned you have paperwork

1 it is coming back to council in the form of
2 legislation, yes.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: But is that -- at
4 the state level has that been changed from
5 the Mulberry project to the Chamber? And
6 don't forget, all of that -- all of that
7 RACP funding is -- the value of whatever you
8 see that is given out is much less than what
9 we taxpayers end up paying in transferring
10 to a private entity because that's all
11 borrowed money. That why if you recall the
12 \$600 million issue at the end of the year
13 with the former governor, so we have a lot
14 of interest to pay. Look at what we pay on
15 that -- on the Scranton -- the Scranton
16 Parking Authority loan that they have. Big
17 time interest. So, you know, we are really
18 not -- you have to add all of that interest
19 in whenever you look at a principal amount
20 that we have transferring.

21 And then I have a question on going
22 back to the Medallis property, has that
23 situation been resolved the flooding that
24 the Medallis were suffering from the Tripp
25 Park Project or is the city still on the

1 hook for that if a developer does not come
2 through, does anybody know?

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe it's still
4 in litigation. It hasn't been resolved yet.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: The judge ruled.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the Medallis?
7 Property.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, yes, several
9 years ago, and if the developer doesn't make
10 the corrections the city is next in line
11 because we didn't properly, I guess oversee
12 for lack of a better term --

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: I misunderstood

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- what was done, so
15 I would like to know because I think that's
16 a significant dollar amount and I would like
17 to know if we are still on the hook for
18 that.

19 And then I'm happy to hear that the
20 exit audit on the 2009 audit was completed,
21 but I would also like to offer another
22 suggestion, which I offered to the prior
23 council and I don't believe anything was
24 done, but I do know that part of the
25 problems with the lateness of the audit is

1 that I think all of the authorities as well
2 as the city, of course, have their audits
3 done at the completion of their fiscal year.
4 The problem is some of the authorities are
5 on a July through June fiscal year, so they
6 are not going to have their audits done
7 until their fiscal year ends and then you're
8 automatically pretty much into August
9 depending on the Authority, so I had
10 suggested that you identify those
11 authorities and ask them if they would go
12 for a transition year and everybody would
13 be-- the calendar year would be a fiscal
14 year and then I think a lot of the problems
15 with late audits would go away. So I would
16 like you to consider that, and then -- can I
17 finish one more thing?

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: I still have
20 leftover for next week, but regarding bids,
21 I know there have been two in the paper
22 recently, one is for seasonal chemicals for
23 swimming pools, excluding Nay Aug Pool, the
24 other is for printing and mailing of the
25 2011 waste disposal bill. All of these bids

1 come in during the day when most people,
2 working people, cannot attend and find out,
3 so I believe -- I did before I was otherwise
4 engaged during the day I used to come to
5 several of those bid openings and I know
6 that the clerk usually came, and I was
7 wondering if you could add that to clerk's
8 notes whenever there is a bid opening if
9 that information would be brought back the
10 following week and tell us who the bidders
11 were and who the successful bidder is, I
12 think that would be helpful. The rest I'll
13 hold for next week. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
15 anyone else?

16 MR. PILCHESKY: Council, good
17 evening. Joe Pilchesky.

18 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

19 MR. PILCHESKY: This is another
20 presentation regarding the corruption at
21 city hall with the courthouse so it's a
22 city-related business. The legal system is
23 without question one of the most
24 intimidating places to be, most people
25 strive to avoid it considering the power it

1 has that can tax them financially and
2 inflict great mental and emotional suffering
3 in the course of litigating a case.

4 With such power comes great
5 responsibility. With that great
6 responsibility is a traditional obligation
7 and duty to conduct yourself ethically.
8 It's reasonable for litigants to expect that
9 the system will, in fact, conduct itself
10 ethically and fairly within it's own rules.
11 That's a very high expectation in our county
12 because our legal system, depending on who
13 you are and what you want, will join forces
14 with your opponent to place justice out of
15 reach with great additional expense of time
16 and money. Expense is the intimidating
17 factor. How much is it going to cost to win
18 or defend?

19 A plaintiff, who should have won but
20 had a judge rule in favor of a defendant who
21 was a friend of the Court, is faced with the
22 heavy expense of an appeal. Most people
23 can't afford that and that's how the wrong
24 guys win time out and time in.

25 The truth of it is that the legal

1 system is about two things, and one of them
2 is not justice. First, it's about
3 reelection. Judges will give favorable
4 rulings to those who help them with
5 election. They, being campaign contributors
6 and politicians. The biggest contributors
7 of cash to elections are actually the legal
8 firms that appear before the judges and
9 that's a prejudice that's almost impossible
10 for any opponent to overcome and defeat.

11 Secondly, it's about the legal
12 community getting rich by agreeing to
13 disagree. It's a very old game actually,
14 it's a still very popular to this day. One
15 lawyer files meritless objections, the
16 opposing lawyers have to fight them off, and
17 50 hours later their clients are out another
18 \$7,000 and the case is back to square one
19 with both lawyers very happy.

20 Bottom line, the legal system is a
21 feeding frenzy and the only necessary food
22 on the menu is the plaintiff and a
23 defendant, whether it's a private citizen or
24 a corporation if you are not friendly with
25 our Court system in this county you might as

1 well sprinkle salt and pepper on yourself
2 because you know you are going to be some
3 judge's lunch in this county.

4 As a person who has sued the city
5 and various public officials many times
6 during the past six years, I can share with
7 you that I could not win any of my cases at
8 the county level. Not one of them. After
9 suffering through years of prejudice and bad
10 decisions imposed by bought and paid for
11 judges who loyally serve a very corrupt city
12 hall, I have had to repeatedly file appeals
13 to either the Superior Court, the
14 Commonwealth Court or the Supreme Court
15 where I have repeatedly won, and without an
16 attorney.

17 The action I filed to get the South
18 Side Complex back for the University, for
19 example, should have taken no more than two
20 or three hours in front of a fair and
21 impartial and honest judge. Instead, this
22 case is now six years old and thousands upon
23 thousands of legal papers have been filed in
24 this case. You can stack them from the
25 floor to the ceiling. I have scheduled the

1 month of April, the entire month of April
2 because it will take the whole month to
3 share the injustices of that case with you
4 and I promise that you will all be
5 overwhelmed with disbelief of how corrupt
6 that case is.

7 As uphill as the slope is to avoid
8 bad decisions and to reverse local judges
9 through appeals, they are not really players
10 to make the slope as slippery as possible.
11 The Office of the Court administrator likes
12 to participate. It's in charge of
13 scheduling your cases and what judges will
14 hear them. The public should know how this
15 office participates in judge shopping and
16 how -- and denying swift due process to
17 frustrated litigants.

18 Next week I shall present to you
19 various legal documents in support of
20 demonstrating to you how that office's
21 participation works on behalf of corrupting
22 the legal system at the command of the
23 corrupt judges. Thank you for your time.
24 I'll see you next week.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jack, always the
2 last one, Jack.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

4 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie. Here,
5 Jack. Here, Frank. I didn't forget you
6 neither. I never do. Here, Janet.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Chris.

8 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Pat.

9 MR. ROGAN: Thanks, Chrissy.

10 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Well, Jack, what do
11 you think our girls this week or what? The
12 boys did terrible last night now it's the
13 girl's turn. Remember, Jack, west is best
14 they're still best in the city. Thank you.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: All right, Chrissy.

16 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
17 cares to address council?

18 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

19 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, any
20 comments or motions?

21 MR. MCGOFF: Nothing this evening.
22 Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
24 Rogan, any comments or motions?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I would like to

1 start off by congratulating Mr. Piccolino
2 and Mr. Moran for their victory and their
3 lawsuit with the city. This was big
4 government at it's worse. When government
5 tries to take two businesses that are the
6 anchors of the block, the 500 block of
7 Lackawanna, they have been their for decades
8 and they are two of the most popular
9 businesses in the downtown and we
10 congratulate them and we hope that they are
11 there for decades more to come.

12 Secondly, the Lace Works project.
13 Now, I know Mr. Morgan and a few other
14 people would like to see it for more of an
15 industrial use, and believe me, I think if
16 all of us up here had the option to have
17 Ford come in and produce cars at that
18 location or to go through with the project
19 as planned, we could all be voting for Ford
20 to come in. But, unfortunately, Ford or any
21 other large manufacturers are not coming in.

22 And our options are to vote this
23 down and leave the building in the condition
24 it is and let it continue to deteriorate for
25 another ten years or to have some sort of

1 development there. It will be a much
2 improved piece of land for the neighbors,
3 there will be fewer vagrants on the land not
4 breaking in for a place to stay. It will
5 create jobs, it will create temporary
6 construction jobs which are well-paying and
7 it create some permanent jobs. Now, how
8 many pan out in the end is anyone's guess,
9 but if it works according to plan we will
10 see some new jobs, and most importantly, we
11 will get development in that neighborhood.

12 The levy project is complete, so
13 that those were the first steps and now
14 hopefully they said by fall if everything
15 goes according to plan they will seek
16 construction.

17 Next I have a letter from a resident
18 that couldn't make it tonight, they wanted
19 me to read it. It's about a couple of
20 issues, mainly the snow removal, and it
21 says, "Hi, Council. The purpose of our
22 taxes are to provide police and fire
23 protection, pave roads, and keep streets
24 clean and safe in a snow storm. First and
25 foremost, the city is yet again using rocks

1 on the street, I guess it is better than
2 glass.

3 Last year I addressed this at the
4 meeting and was ridiculed and mocked by DPW
5 workers over the radio frequency. This is
6 another example of lack of respect by some
7 city employees to their paycheck suppliers,
8 the taxpayers. Maybe, just maybe, if we use
9 salt on the roads they would be wet instead
10 of snow covered. These rocks will be in
11 people's homes, yards and in the sewer.

12 I'm getting infuriated that the
13 administration is choosing politics over my
14 family's safety and the safety of everyone
15 in this city. It doesn't take a college
16 degree to realize that these unsafe and
17 dangerous calls are being made by the
18 administration to one-up council. We
19 shouldn't tolerate this by any mayor. The
20 roads in the past storm were the worst I
21 have seen in years."

22 I just wanted to relay that and, you
23 know, it does seem from the articles that
24 are in the Scranton Times week after week
25 and from different commentary we have heard

1 from the departments that the department
2 heads at the DPW are trying to -- it seems
3 they are trying to drain the resources early
4 to embarrass city council and the budget.
5 That is completely unacceptable. The budget
6 that was sent down to the DPW was sent down
7 so they would execute it in a way that would
8 help all of the people of the city. The
9 snow must be removed on time, the streets
10 must be paved come spring, and they must do
11 the job for the people.

12 I have another letter here from a
13 resident about Kane Street between Stafford
14 and Winfield Avenues. Now, anyone that
15 travels up in that area knows how deplorable
16 those roads are, and this isn't the first
17 time council has received letters or phone
18 calls about this neighborhood and the roads
19 and every time we receive something we pass
20 it along to the proper authorities, in this
21 case the DPW. Unfortunately, the five of us
22 on council cannot go out and pave the roads.
23 Believe me, if we could we would, but once
24 again, we will be forwarding all of your
25 requests for potholes to be repaired, street

1 signs, anything that comes up to the proper
2 department and it is up to them to do the
3 job for the people. They don't answer to
4 the mayor, they don't answer to city
5 council, they answer to the people of
6 Scranton. And, Mrs. Krake, I have this
7 letter here, could we forward this to the
8 DPW and hopefully this will be taken care
9 of.

10 Finally, I have the OECD report for
11 December 2010 and January 2011 and I will
12 read some of the highlights:

13 The action plan for 2011 was mailed
14 to HUD on November 12, 2010, to the local
15 HUD Philadelphia office to ensure that it
16 arrives by Monday, November 15, 2010, 45
17 days prior to the start date for the program
18 new year which begins January 1, 2011.

19 HUD has completed and approved the
20 review of Scranton's action plan for 2011.
21 The funding will become available after the
22 city and OECD receives and executes the
23 contracts for HUD, CDBG, HOME and the ESG
24 programs.

25 The 2010 consolidated annual

1 performance and evaluation report caper is
2 being prepared by OECD. The report
3 summarizes accomplishments made with funds
4 from the CDBG, HOME program, ESG, HPRP, and
5 CDBG-R. The report is to due to HUD by
6 March 20.

7 Here are some of the highlights from
8 the HOME program over the last few months:
9 Lackawanna Neighbors has received an award
10 in the amount of \$104,923.95 to purchase,
11 rehabilitate, lead abate, and to sell it to
12 a first-time home buyer. This home will be
13 located in East Scranton or North Scranton.
14 No home has been selected of January 21.

15 I'm happy to see that it is not
16 another home in South Side. I know that
17 South Side has had a lot of problems with
18 blight, but I do think that they need to be
19 spread around. Hopefully the next one will
20 be over in West Scranton.

21 718 Cedar Avenue, the closing was
22 held on January 4. The buyer received
23 assistant from OECD under the Neighborhood
24 Stabilization Home buyer's Program and they
25 also received an FHA mortgage. They

1 completed the home buyer's counseling with
2 NHS.

3 311 Prospect Avenue, the home is
4 listed with Wayne Evan's Realty at a list
5 price of \$104,900. Lackawanna Neighbors
6 along with OECD held an open house at the
7 property on December 14 and have been
8 working with interested buyers. However,
9 this far the interested buyers have either
10 been over the income guidelines or have been
11 unable to secure a mortgage due to poor
12 credit.

13 550 Hickory Street, this home is
14 approximately 95 percent complete. The back
15 splash tile is being installed and the
16 appliances were installed on January 12.
17 Once these items are completed a final
18 inspection will be scheduled. Interested
19 home buyers are being provided with
20 information about the Scranton Home buyer
21 Program.

22 213 Steven Avenue, the home is
23 approximately 65 percent complete. Due to
24 inclement weather the siding work was
25 delayed, but is nearly completed. The

1 interior is a being painted and lighting and
2 kitchen cabinets and finish materials have
3 been purchased, ordered and trim work,
4 interior doors are being installed.

5 518 South Webster Avenue, the
6 contractor has begun working gutting the
7 interior and reframing walls where needed so
8 that drywall and spackling can begin. The
9 sale proceeds program income for the sale of
10 718 Cedar Avenue will be used to pay for
11 lead abatement and rehabilitation work at
12 this property.

13 The crisp Avenue Bridge, HUD signed
14 and approved the request for release of
15 funds on January 12, 2011. This activity is
16 categorically excluded under HUD Regulation
17 24 CFR Part 58 from the National
18 Environmental Policy Act requirements. This
19 is a project and it is very long overdue and
20 we hope that this spring this project will
21 finally be completed. The people on West
22 Mountain have waited far too long for this
23 bridge to be constructed.

24 United Neighborhood's Community
25 Development Corporation. On December 13,

1 2010, UNC requested to draw \$132,000 in
2 Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds for
3 the Cedar Avenue housing revitalization
4 initiative. This request was for
5 construction costs, architectural fees and
6 utility bills associated with the project.
7 During the month UNC did not receive any NSP
8 drawn down payments and have no pending
9 requests for the City of Scranton Office of
10 OECD.

11 UNC continued their work on Cedar
12 Avenue early in the month, the structure
13 that was located at 621 and 623 Cedar Avenue
14 was demolished to prepare for construction
15 of a new townhouse and parking at that
16 property.

17 Grim Construction is also continuing
18 rehabilitation work on the structure located
19 at 629 and 631 Cedar Avenue where they have
20 removed the rear portions of the structure
21 and preparing the remainder of the structure
22 for major renovations. Job site meetings
23 continue to take place at the property. The
24 project is progressing on schedule with
25 planned completion of Phase I of the Cedar

1 Avenue project sometime in late spring 2011.

2 UNC obtained additional funding for
3 Phase II of the project through the awarding
4 of an affordable housing program grant from
5 the Federal Home Loan Bank. The remaining
6 funding sources are in the process of being
7 finalized to ensure the project is completed
8 according to planned.

9 Additionally, UNC is prepared to
10 close on several properties that are
11 associated with the Cedar Avenue project.
12 Many of these properties are eligible for
13 purchasing NSP funds and we expect at least
14 two acquisitions in January 2011. UNC's
15 legal counsel continues to finalize plans
16 for the acquisition for the remaining
17 properties within the Cedar Avenue. This
18 project will be great once it's completed.
19 The Cedar Avenue area has been -- there is
20 blight everywhere, there is a lot of crime
21 in the area and hopefully by getting
22 families in there it will take pride in
23 their community and will turn it around in
24 the right -- moving towards the right
25 direction.

1 The Connell building, OECD submitted
2 the final payment to PA Office of Budget for
3 the RACP funding on October 5, 2010, and
4 final payment of RACP was received and
5 disbursed on January 14, 2011, in the amount
6 of \$838,155.15.

7 The sidewalks on North Washington
8 and Linden Street. The contractor began
9 work following the Italian Festival and the
10 project is approximately 90 percent complete
11 except for period lighting that will be
12 delivered during the week of January 24 and
13 it's expected to be installed shortly.

14 North Scranton Viking's Junior
15 Football construction. This project is
16 completed, inspected and the contractor has
17 been paid. In the Spring of 2011 OECD will
18 do handicapped bathrooms.

19 Sidewalks at 329 Penn Avenue.
20 Specifications were prepared on October 8,
21 2010, an ad in the Scranton Times appeared
22 October 13 and 14 for sidewalks at 329 Penn
23 Avenue. A pre-bid was held on October 20,
24 and a bid open on October 28. Stracha
25 Construction was deemed the most

1 responsibility bidder and a contract had
2 been prepared and will be executed in order
3 for work to begin in the Spring of 2011.

4 Fire and police memorials. Work
5 began in August 2010. The monuments are in
6 the process of being made. The base and the
7 pedestals of the monuments have been set in
8 place and the statutes will be completed and
9 installed in the Spring of 2011.

10 I won't go through the Scranton Lace
11 project, we spoke about that tonight.

12 317 Linden, LLC, a pre-bid
13 conference is scheduled for Thursday,
14 January 27, 2011, at 10 a.m., at the site,
15 and the bid opening is scheduled for
16 February 7, 2011.

17 Finally, I have the loan portfolio
18 from 2002 to present. There are many loans
19 listed, so I will only list the ones that
20 are in litigation because they are the ones
21 that seem to cause the most controversy.
22 Impanema Grill \$40,000 from 2007, in
23 litigation. Michael's Luxury Eyewear,
24 \$85,000 from 2006 in litigation. Paperless
25 Practice, Inc., \$250,000 from 2007, in

1 litigation. Cartenega Family Wines, \$35,000
2 2008, litigation. Vida Tapas Bar and Grill,
3 \$120,000, litigation. Cache Surplus
4 Limited, \$60,000, litigation. Of course,
5 Molly Brannigan's, \$650,000 from 2006 in
6 litigation, and that is all. If there is
7 anyone who would like a copy of the full
8 report I would be glad to provide that for
9 them, and that is it all for tonight.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, could I
12 mention one thing I forget but I did want to
13 mention, could we look into, I don't know if
14 anybody else has noticed, but if you are
15 traveling on Jefferson Avenue from let's say
16 from Spruce Street to Mulberry Street, as
17 part of the new street scape they are
18 putting in a new traffic signal -- or new
19 traffic light, the new traffic light is not
20 yet operational, yet it's obstructing, at
21 least I think it obstructs the view of the
22 one that is operational and at times can
23 make it very difficult to tell what color
24 and whether it's a red or a green light and
25 what the situation is, I was wondering if we

1 could possibly contact the developers there,
2 whoever is working on that, to find out when
3 they put -- if they can expedite making the
4 new signal operational so that there is no
5 obstruction of view.

6 MS. EVANS: Certainly. Thank you.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

8 MR. JOYCE: If I might just add real
9 quick, Mr. Rogan, I believe it was in the
10 Scranton Times where it was mentioned that
11 there are plans to tear down ten blighted
12 properties in West Side this year. I know
13 that you were concerned about that.

14 MR. ROGAN: I'm very pleased to hear
15 that and, unfortunately, I was feeling ill,
16 I didn't make it to the neighborhood
17 association meeting last week, but that's
18 definitely a step in the right direction and
19 I hope that the rehabilitation properties we
20 would see some in West Scranton, Pinebrook,
21 East Scranton, all around, but I'm always
22 looking out for my home in West Side so,
23 thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Councilman Loscombe, any
25 motions or comments?

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I have just a
2 couple of comments. Thank you. First of
3 all, to save some words I would like to echo
4 Mr. Rogan on his thoughts on the eminent
5 domain case of the 500 Lackawanna Avenue,
6 and also the Lace Works building. We have
7 given a lot of thought, we have read over a
8 lot here, we still have a lot to go over,
9 it's not a done deal at this point, however,
10 they did provide the information that we
11 requested to date, and I'm skeptical when I
12 saw the amount of jobs and I needed a little
13 bit more description on what they planned on
14 doing there, but it is a building that's
15 been vacant for ten years with nothing done.
16 Mr. Miller -- or not Mr. Miller, I'm sorry,
17 Mr. Morgan, mentioned an economic engine and
18 I don't think any of us here would disagree
19 that city needs an economic engine, but they
20 haven't been lining up at the door at this
21 point and any improvement I believe with the
22 proper safeguards and oversight are going to
23 benefit us, and I think this program will be
24 a benefit, but again, we will stay vigilant
25 on it.

1 This is a big project for us to
2 approve, and I'm sure as Mr. Jackowitz, too,
3 you know, I know our reputation lies on
4 this, too. We are looking for anything we
5 can to improve the city and the
6 neighborhoods, we are finally getting into
7 some of the neighborhoods.

8 And just to touch on that, I think
9 Mr. Quinn would be a perfect appointment to
10 the Redevelopment Authority with his
11 background, he would be a great asset for
12 the blighted properties and I know he's a
13 diligent worker, so I would hope that they
14 would consider that.

15 Last week, as I stated earlier,
16 anyone that was at the meeting and read the
17 paper the next day, the daily news paper,
18 wouldn't realize that we had a discussion on
19 bidding out our insurance coverages. With
20 that in respect, I'll give you a copy, Mrs.
21 Krake, but I think that in order to get
22 these -- get the information and the proper
23 information we would have to request
24 possibly through a Right-to-Know a copy of
25 our current loss runs and a claim's history

1 for the last three years, a list of our
2 policy premiums for each company for the
3 past three years, and a copy of all
4 currently renewed policies for 2011 in their
5 entirety spelling out the coverages that are
6 included, and I may have one or two items to
7 add to that, but specifically that would
8 give us a start.

9 And while I was reviewing the
10 insurance policies, the Library Authority
11 jumped out at us again. Last year we
12 repealed the Library Authority, the
13 Authority was formed prior to this majority
14 coming into office and apparently they have
15 not disbanded. The deeds have been turned
16 over to the Library Authority. One of the
17 arguments for the Library Authority was the
18 fact that they had to form an Authority so
19 they could get their own insurance at the
20 coverages that they felt were there and the
21 city couldn't get the proper coverages for
22 them. I don't know, they can't have it both
23 ways. They are holding the meetings, it
24 appears that the city on this year's
25 schedule is paying the insurance for the

1 library buildings and apparently they paid
2 for them in 2010. I don't know how that
3 could be since it's not city buildings now
4 they are deeded to the Library Authority and
5 the authorities are supposed to be
6 autonomous. So I would like to request a
7 letter to the business administrator and the
8 Library Authority requesting who paid the
9 insurance premiums on the buildings and
10 contents for the Year 2010, and also have
11 they paid the current policy, who has paid
12 the current policy for renewal for 2011.
13 Thank you.

14 MR. HUGHES: If I could, Jack, there
15 is a real issue here there you just raised
16 as to whether or not the city has an
17 insurable interest that's recognizable in
18 the event of the fire or any calamity. The
19 city does not own the property right now
20 even though council has moved to dissolve
21 the Authority it's up to the administration
22 to file an action against the Authority to
23 compel them to dissolve and to adopt a
24 resolution to dissolve and file it had the
25 Secretary of State so that the property

1 would be revested in the city at that time
2 and have an insurable interest, so I think
3 there is a real legal issue that the
4 solicitor's office should look into and also
5 on the insurances as to whether if the city
6 does pay the premium would there be a
7 defense by the insurance companies that the
8 city does not have a insurable interest so,
9 therefore, there is no insurance in the
10 event of any fire or anything.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: You said it better
12 than I could. I was getting at that point
13 exactly.

14 MR. HUGHES: I'm sorry to interrupt.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: It's like me putting
16 car insurance on your vehicle when I don't
17 own it, I don't have an insurable interest.

18 MR. HUGHES: Correct.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: And you have an
20 accident and I try to put a claim in.

21 MR. HUGHES: Even though council has
22 dissolved the Authority, that's of record,
23 but by the law, by the North Fork case, the
24 Borough of North Fork had to bring an action
25 against the Sewer Authority to compel them to

1 dissolve even though they dissolved them
2 they wouldn't voluntarily do it so that the
3 municipality brought an action against the
4 Sewer Authority which was ultimately upheld
5 by the Commonwealth Court. Council has done
6 it's job, it's now up to the solicitor's
7 office to file an action against the
8 Authority to compel them to file -- to do
9 the Articles of Dissolution and file them
10 with the State. Once that happens, at the
11 time that council dissolved the Authority
12 the deeds were not recorded. It wasn't
13 until months later, after council adopted
14 the resolution to dissolve the Authority
15 that they recorded the deeds even after
16 council took the action to have them
17 dissolved, so right now it's up to the
18 solicitor's office to bring an action
19 against the Authority to compel them to file
20 Articles of Dissolution and file them with
21 the State and also raise the issue that they
22 have to have the insurance and not the city
23 in my opinion.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Correct. Just
25 another position we have been put in. And

1 also I would like to, if we can, request a
2 status on the RFP for our parking meter
3 program. The clock is ticking and, you
4 know, if there any possible way we could
5 write our own RFP's or get this out. I
6 mean, we can't wait. They are trying to do
7 it to us, they are trying to force it so our
8 budget doesn't come out the way we planned
9 it, and I'm not going to stand by for that.
10 So please have them respond and see when
11 they're going to have their RFP completed.
12 Other than that, we will have to look at
13 other options.

14 And also the status on our rental
15 registration program, have we heard anything
16 on that? These are a couple of programs
17 that are going to generate revenue, but
18 obviously the administration is not
19 interested in that or they are interested in
20 embarrassing us because they believe we
21 won't fulfill our budget commitment, but
22 hopefully we can resolve this.

23 And being the chairman on the
24 Committee on Public Safety, it's still
25 aggravates me the way things are going with

1 our public safety. I had to stop over
2 Engine 7 the other day and Engine 7, which
3 is on Luzerne Street, was called to respond
4 to a gas leak at Main and Howells, which is
5 approximately 18 blocks from Engine 7.
6 Engine 9 is permanently out of service right
7 now since the beginning of the year. The
8 mayor will not place firefighters in there,
9 he will not use the overtime, and that
10 engine house is only four blocks away from
11 this situation. At the same time there was
12 nothing covering West Side at that point.
13 The closest company would be Engine 8 and
14 Engine 8 is one of the companies scheduled
15 to close as they brownout. Not only the
16 fire side, but if you have read the news
17 lately, watched TV, the police officers that
18 were killed an injured just in this past
19 several weeks is phenomenal, it's a record,
20 and we have openings in our police
21 department and it was quoted in the paper
22 there is one right now that he does not plan
23 on filling, plus we had pushed for a Civil
24 Service Test for vacancies which they have
25 not done.

1 I can't say it any stronger, you
2 know, I believe that the administration and
3 those that enable this administration are
4 guilty if anything happens to anybody,
5 firefighters or the people in this city,
6 they are guilty of no less than criminal
7 negligence and I hate to see it come to that
8 point, but safety is a major concern and I
9 will just -- I would just hope that the
10 public will let the mayor know. We have
11 received some letters here, I hope people
12 are contacting the mayor, but he just
13 doesn't seem to get it. And that's all I
14 have to say. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman
16 Loscombe. Councilman Joyce, do you have any
17 comments or motions?

18 MR. JOYCE: Yes, just a few.
19 Yesterday I had the opportunity to attend
20 the exit conference for the 2009 annual
21 audit and to highlight the 93-page document
22 in a few sentences: One, the balance of the
23 general fund at the beginning of 2009 was
24 \$9,895,364. The balance in the general fund
25 at the end of the 2009 was \$4,316,010. With

1 that being said, there was a shortfall in
2 2009 of \$5,579,354 in the operating budget.

3 Someone may ask, why was there such
4 a shortfall? Well, the answer is simple,
5 it's due to faulty projections by the
6 administration. For example, in 2009 the
7 administration projected that the city would
8 realize \$5.5 million in delinquent wage tax
9 collections, however, the city only realized
10 \$2,574,000. Thus, the administration, their
11 projection was nearly \$3 million short for
12 that revenue item alone.

13 In addition, the administration over
14 projected current wage tax collections, real
15 estate transfer tax collections, refuse
16 disposal fee collections as well as license
17 and permit collections, that's all from
18 2009. And being that some of our critics
19 have been so skeptical of our numbers for
20 the 2011 operating budget, I think that
21 maybe this should be on the front page of
22 the Scranton Times tomorrow.

23 While we're on the subject of
24 revenue, I wanted to inform everyone that
25 the Single Tax Office had submitted their

1 final report for the Year 2010. While there
2 were no great variations between the final
3 numbers from the tax office and numbers used
4 for council's projections in the 2011
5 operating budget regarding the business
6 privilege and mercantile as well the current
7 real estate tax and LST/EMS tax. There was
8 a significant variation in wage tax
9 collection. The amount of funds from the
10 current wage tax in 2010 was reported by the
11 tax office as \$22,268,528 which is actually
12 higher than what council had projected as
13 council projected \$21,537,000, and that was
14 a number that was very, very harshly
15 criticized, so we see from the tax office we
16 are bringing in 22.268 and in 2011 we are
17 projecting 21,537, so I don't think that
18 that 21537 figure is too farfetched as some
19 critics would like to say it is.

20 With that being said, the 22 million
21 268,528 dollar figure from the tax office
22 report that doesn't even take into account
23 new additions to the tax roles in the form
24 of the residents living in KOZ's paying into
25 the wage tax. Therefore, we should have a

1 larger tax base in 2011. This is just
2 further justification that council's
3 amendments and adjustments to revenue
4 amounts in the 2011 operating budget are
5 sound.

6 Next up, this snow removal business.
7 Approximately a week and a half ago the
8 Scranton Times ran story on overtime costs
9 associated with snow removal following the
10 snow storm that began after the January 11
11 council meeting. I remember it specifically
12 because I was walking out the door and it
13 began to snow and this storm lasted until
14 Wednesday morning, left roughly five inches
15 of snow. During this time it was stated --
16 or it was stated by Mr. Brazil in the paper
17 that \$10,000 was spent on overtime to send
18 out 17 workers to take care of roads.

19 Now, in no way, shape or form do I
20 think that Scranton should neglect roads by
21 any means or that roads shouldn't be plowed
22 or salted, however, I do question the
23 process and I wonder if we are handling snow
24 matters efficiently. Let's do the math
25 here, \$10,000 was spent on 17 workers. This

1 means that each worker put in an average of
2 about \$588 in overtime with some change, so
3 let's translate this into hours actually
4 worked. DPW highway employees earn between
5 \$18 and \$19 an hour depending on what their
6 actual title is. With this being said,
7 their overtime rate, which is time and half,
8 would be between \$27 and \$28.50 per hour. So
9 if you divide the 588, which is the average
10 amount that they earn, by 27 and 28.50 you
11 get about an average of 21 hours of overtime
12 for 17 people to take care of a storm that
13 didn't last for more than 12 hours. Not to
14 mention that some snowplowing and salting of
15 roads had to occur during normal work hours
16 and mostly all roads were cleaned by
17 Wednesday night.

18 With in this mind, I have some
19 questions for Mr. Brazil and, Mrs. Krake, if
20 you can issue these to Mr. Brazil in the
21 form of a Right-To-Know request it would be
22 much appreciated. Number one, is there a
23 standard operating procedure of how salting
24 and plowing operations are to be handled
25 during a snowstorm. If so, please provide

1 that procedure.

2 Number two, for the snowstorm that
3 occurred January is 11, please submit all
4 overtime records, specifically the names of
5 each worker that worked overtime and the
6 exact times that they worked.

7 Number three, if the January 11
8 storm began on Tuesday night and lasted
9 until Wednesday morning I'm assuming that
10 the workers who worked overtime would have
11 worked about 14 hours between Tuesday night
12 and Wednesday morning worked the regular
13 shift and then worked about an additional
14 seven hours directly after the regular shift
15 in order for all of the numbers to add up.

16 Since primarily all of the work
17 associated with the January 11 snowstorm was
18 complete on Wednesday night, I'm wondering
19 and please ask this, does this pose a safety
20 risk to the workers if workers are, in fact,
21 working 30 straight hours?

22 I'm not saying that we don't need to
23 salt our roads and plow our streets,
24 however, is there a more efficient way that
25 snow removal can be handled? For instance,

1 in Erie's budget less money was allocated
2 for roads and highways overtime, I believe,
3 than was spent last year in Scranton though
4 they received two and a half times more on
5 an average basis in snow than we do.

6 Secondly, let's talk about salt.

7 Recently Mr. Brazil had stated that the city
8 is running low on salt and will be seeking a
9 budget transfer in the future. To provide
10 some background, I just want to make this
11 clear so it's not cast on council
12 completely. Council did not reduce any
13 funding for salt in the 2011 operating
14 budget though we did make many amendments to
15 other things. The amount of funding that
16 was budgeted for salt was originally set by
17 the administration.

18 Secondly, if more salt is needed it
19 has already been stated by Mayor Doherty
20 himself that there is extra funding in the
21 other salary account which is funding the
22 foremen that were previously eliminated in
23 the 2011 operating budget by council and
24 hired by back by the administration against
25 council's wish. Perhaps a budget transfer

1 can be made from this account since the
2 administration has stated that there is
3 excess revenue available to fund the
4 positions eliminated by council.

5 I would hope that if more salt is
6 needed the decision would be made to take
7 care of a residents of Scranton by drawing
8 the funds from an account that is over
9 funded rather than choosing to take care of
10 one's own people and one's own supporters
11 and that's all I have for tonight.

12 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, if I could
13 piggyback on something Mr. Joyce said with
14 the Single Tax Office, I was just glancing
15 this over before the meeting, in 2009 the
16 earned income tax the office brought in
17 \$19.7, approximately \$19.8 million. In 2010
18 the office brought in \$22.2 million, and the
19 one big change between the 2009 and the 2010
20 was our tax collector, so I would like to
21 thank Bill Courtright for the great job he
22 is doing at the tax office.

23 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I would agree.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you both. Good
25 evening. We have some very special guests

1 in attendance at tonight's hearing, and
2 council would like to welcome the Boy Scouts
3 in the back row to these noble chambers as
4 well as a very special guest and handsome
5 young man up here in the front, I believe
6 his name is Jeremy, and I understand,
7 Jeremy, that you recently registered to vote
8 and you are very interested in city
9 government and city council meetings, you
10 watch them faithfully, and we are absolutely
11 thrilled to have both Jeremy and all of the
12 young men in the back row in attendance in
13 these noble chambers this evening, and we
14 encourage you to -- we encourage you to
15 continue your involvement in not only city
16 council, but local government. We look
17 forward to seeing you again.

18 I would also like to congratulate
19 Attorney Boyd Hughes for his Court victory
20 over the Scranton Redevelopment Authority
21 which prevents the Authority from seizing
22 two Lackawanna Avenue properties by eminent
23 domain. When I learned in 2006 that the
24 city and the SRA had not included Buona
25 Pizza, Coney Island, and 506 Lackawanna

1 Avenue in the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue
2 restoration project, and intended to take
3 two of these properties by eminent domain, I
4 stood firmly and publically on the record
5 with these businesses. I asked my council
6 colleagues at the time not to approve
7 legislation regarding this project unless
8 Buona Pizza and Coney Island, staples of our
9 Scranton downtown were included.

10 Later, I met with Mayor Doherty and
11 Mr. Giovanni Piccolino, he is a great guy,
12 Jeremy, and Mr. Giovanni Piccolino to try to
13 settle the issue in the best interest of
14 Buona Pizza and the city. The mayor stated
15 that he would contact Attorney Greco and
16 schedule a meeting between Attorney Greco
17 and Mr. Piccolino the following day.
18 Needless to say, the meeting never occurred
19 and Attorney Greco never contacted
20 Mr. Piccolino.

21 Buona Pizza and Coney Island are
22 synonymous with Scranton and were taxpaying
23 downtown businesses for decades before the
24 birth of the Steamtown Mall, the Southern
25 Union building and the purchase of the

1 majority of the 500 block of Lackawanna
2 Avenue by developer Bill Rinaldi. While
3 your state tax dollars paid for the
4 magnificent restoration of that city block,
5 sidewalks and streetlights among other items
6 were denied to businesses at both ends of
7 the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue.

8 In addition, Coney Island suffered
9 an arson fire during this time, a crime
10 which remains unsolved. However, Mr. Thomas
11 Moran remained undaunted by this fire and
12 immediately renovated not only Coney Island,
13 but his building because he believed in
14 downtown Scranton and loved our people
15 despite the harsh treatment he received by
16 the city administration.

17 I am proud, very proud of and
18 grateful to Mr. Piccolino, Mr. Standolny,
19 Attorney Hughes, and Mr. Moran for their
20 perseverance and for showing all of us that
21 right concurs wrong and you can indeed fight
22 city hall and win.

23 On a related note, Attorney Hughes,
24 perhaps you can, if not this evening but in
25 the near future, tell the people

1 approximately how much Attorney Greco's fees
2 and the SRA will have cost the taxpayers in
3 their attempt to arbitrarily condemn and
4 seize city properties through eminent
5 domain.

6 MR. HUGHES: I can only speak for
7 myself, I have no idea what the city has --
8 or the SRA has spent in fees in order to do
9 the condemnation of the -- actually, it was
10 the M & S property, it was the Buona Pizza
11 property owned by the Piccolinos and there's
12 the Standolny property. Mr. Moran's
13 property was not condemned by the SRA,
14 however, one of the findings Judge Mazzoni
15 made is that both -- he didn't make the
16 exact finding that Mr. Moran was to be
17 included in the project, but the Standolny
18 building was included in the project, they
19 were voluntarily- they were written out of
20 the project. Mr. Moran has never gotten any
21 money from the -- in the redevelopment grant
22 for the building. In fact, the city brought
23 an action against him to prevent him from
24 demolishing the second and third floor after
25 the mansard roof had been taken down, I

1 represented Mr. Moran in that, the junction
2 was issued by Judge Minora, it was dissolved
3 after the hearing, so that he can demolish
4 the rest of the buildings third and second
5 floor.

6 As part of my representation of
7 Mr. Moran, I tried to get the Redevelopment
8 Authority to provide a grant and assistance
9 to him so that he could redo the building,
10 he actually has plans for it, so there would
11 be a three-story building and Mansanard
12 roof, it would be a replica of the building
13 that the second and third floors have been
14 taken down. That was never even responded
15 to by the Redevelopment Authority even
16 though part of the grant, the \$9 million
17 grant, went for grants into the Moran
18 building and into the Standolny building,
19 they were written out of the project.

20 When the Standolny building was
21 condemned there was never any -- any
22 amendment to the plan, they never came back
23 to council, they just condemned the
24 Standolny to expand, the building was
25 supposed to be built on the vacant lot where

1 Buona Pizza was instead of from two lots to
2 three lots, totally a unilateral action
3 without any enacting resolution to do it.

4 As a result, that's one of the
5 reasons why the condemnation was held to be
6 arbitrary Standolny and the Piccolino
7 building, but Mr. Moran was to be included
8 in the project, did receive a developer's
9 agreement from 500 Avenue Development, when
10 he viewed it and started to question it the
11 Redevelopment wrote him out of project and
12 he has not received one dollar for all of
13 the work he has done there in rehabilitating
14 that building, and contrary to what was said
15 by one of the public speakers is that even
16 though Mr. Moran has leased part of that
17 property on the first floor to the church,
18 he still pays taxes on the entire property.
19 It does not make his property tax exempt.

20 MS. EVANS: And, Mrs. Krake, perhaps
21 we could send a letter to the SRA requesting
22 the total amount of fees from 2006 through
23 2011 paid to Attorney Carl Greco in this
24 case.

25 Next, during a West Side Crime

1 Watch--

2 MR. HUGHES: I would state, if I
3 could?

4 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

5 MR. HUGHES: One of the -- part of
6 the fees that were expended and, of course,
7 I have to keep track of all my fees, but
8 early in this project after I represented M&
9 S, Piccolino and Mr. And Mrs. Standolny, the
10 SRA moved to disqualify me for a conflict of
11 interest, there was a trial on that, Judge
12 Mazzone wrote about a 28-page opinion on
13 that that I did not have a conflict of
14 interest in representing any of the
15 condemnees. They were fees that
16 unnecessarily spent in my opinion, but they
17 were incurred by the Redevelopment Authority
18 in order to disqualify me, which Judge
19 Mazzone ruled against in that issue, that I
20 did not have a conflict of interest.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Attorney
22 Hughes. Next, during a West Side Crime
23 Watch meeting, it was announced that several
24 buildings in West Scranton will be
25 demolished in 2011 following demolitions in

1 South Side. I fully anticipated that the
2 Department of Licensing, Inspections and
3 Permits will demolish West Scranton
4 properties because City council provided the
5 tools to make this a reality by allocating
6 significantly increased funding for blight
7 demolition in the 2011 community development
8 block grant program.

9 In addition, city council approved
10 the purchase of blight removal equipment in
11 2010 for this purpose. Council will
12 continue to target blight removal and street
13 paving and repair among others for the
14 people of Scranton through it's ongoing
15 funding of these programs.

16 The bidding and purchase of road
17 salt and anti-skid materials occurred in
18 2010. In the 2011 amended operating budget
19 city council maintained, as was mentioned by
20 our knowledgeable finance chair earlier,
21 city council maintained full funding for
22 these materials and did not cut even one
23 penny from the dollar amount that was
24 allocated by Mr. Brazil, Mr. Renda and Mayor
25 Doherty. If council should receive

1 legislation to purchase additional road
2 salt, it should approve such legislation
3 while remaining mindful that two winter
4 months are already behind us.

5 Next, I am very concerned by the
6 lack of enforcement of the city's rental
7 registration program. This very important
8 program serves two essentially purposes:
9 First, to remove neighborhood blight by
10 regular vigilance over rental properties and
11 owners; and second, to increase revenue
12 which then lowers the burden on taxpayers.
13 While numerous other Pennsylvania cities run
14 highly successful rental registration
15 programs this administration has ignored
16 Scranton's program since 2008 which is a
17 great disservice to homeowners throughout
18 city neighborhoods.

19 Mrs. Krake, please inform
20 Mr. Seitzinger and Mr. Oleski that city
21 council requests a monthly report of the
22 rental registration program to include all
23 property and rental unit inspections,
24 monthly fees collected, addresses of newly
25 registered properties as well as annual

1 renewals, addresses of rental unit
2 inspections that were completed within the
3 report month, etcetera, effective January
4 2011. Copies of the monthly reports are
5 also to be sent to Mr. Gerald Cross and
6 representatives of the Pennsylvania Economy
7 League.

8 Further, Mrs. Krake, please check
9 for city ordinances regarding inspections of
10 rooming houses.

11 Additionally, please inform the
12 Pennsylvania Economy League of the lack of
13 enforcement of the rental registration
14 program throughout the last three years
15 during your next weekly meeting, please.
16 Since this program has been and is included
17 in operating budgets, city council requests
18 PEL's assistance in urging the
19 administration's enforcement and in
20 overseeing the progress of the program.
21 Inform PEL that manpower is currently in
22 place to enforce the program particularly
23 since city council reinstated two
24 inspector's positions.

25 Next, last week I asked Mrs. Krake

1 to schedule public caucus sessions with the
2 owners of the East Scranton Intermediate
3 School building on February 1, and with
4 Mr. Charles Jefferson, one of the owners of
5 the Mulberry Professional Plaza on February
6 8 in order to discuss their respective
7 projects which are under consideration for
8 funding by the Commonwealth of
9 Pennsylvania's Office of the budget through
10 grants from the Redevelopment Assistance
11 Capital Program. Since Lace Affiliates was
12 requested by council to present it's project
13 to the public, the remaining two applicants
14 for grants should receive the same
15 opportunities. Legislation for each of the
16 two projects will be included on council's
17 agenda for introduction following each of
18 the scheduled public caucuses.

19 Also, city solicitor Paul Kelly
20 responded to city council's letter of
21 January 5, 2011, regarding the 175 parking
22 spaces in the Medallion Garage given to the
23 Hilton Hotel. He states that the recent
24 buyer of the Hilton, Scran-Chris
25 Hospitality, L.P., receives the same rights

1 to 175 parking spaces per day at no cost due
2 to the terms of the parking garage use
3 agreement that was signed in November 2005.

4 Mrs. Krake, please send a letter to
5 Solicitor Kelly on behalf of Scranton City
6 Council requesting a copy of the parking
7 garage use agreement to which he refers in
8 his January 18, 2011, letter.

9 And finally, I have a few citizens'
10 requests for the week, and I think much of
11 this is going to echo previous requests, I
12 received numerous complaints from city
13 residents regarding the lack of snow removal
14 in West Scranton and South Scranton last
15 week. Streets in front of the Linden
16 Jackson and John Marshal Schools as well as
17 North Rebecca Avenue were in very poor
18 condition on Friday morning prior to the
19 two-hour delayed opening of city schools.

20 Also, city residents report that the
21 DPW's use of rocks rather than road salt on
22 city streets. They fear the rocks will clog
23 storm drains and wish to know when and why
24 the city stopped salting since their tax
25 dollars pay for these services.

1 In addition, a South Side resident
2 reports that streets in his neighborhoods
3 were not plowed.

4 I am grateful to those who informed
5 me of these problems. Council wants to know
6 the level of service or lack thereof that
7 city residents are receiving. However, city
8 council is a legislative body. It cannot
9 hire or fire a DPW director who in turn
10 takes his orders from the mayor.

11 I recommend that you register
12 complaints with Mr. Brazil and Mr. Dougher
13 as well as with city council regarding the
14 lack of snow removal. If your street hasn't
15 been addressed, the DPW head and/or the
16 administration make those decisions.

17 In fact, I have heard some troubling
18 comments from city workers that some
19 administrators are doing a lackluster job in
20 retaliation for salary cuts. I certainly
21 hope this isn't true because it sends a
22 clear message to the people of Scranton you
23 do not take pride in your work, you have a
24 poor work ethic in your primary job, and
25 most importantly, you have no concern for

1 your Scranton neighbors when you spite the
2 very people who pay your salary. In the
3 remaining winter weeks the people expect you
4 to perform your job properly.

5 Also, Mrs. Krake, if we can have a
6 letter to Attorney Kelly asking for his
7 opinion and verification of the ownership of
8 property in East Mountain that was discussed
9 during citizens' participation this evening
10 by Mr. Bolus.

11 Finally, I letter to Mr. McGowan,
12 council requests the following:
13 Corresponding bank financial documentation
14 that allowed the city administration to
15 remove \$2.9 million from the worker's
16 compensation trust fund.

17 Two: Documentation of the receipt
18 of the \$2.9 dollars and to what line items
19 in the 2009 budget it was applied. List the
20 exact expenditures for which the \$2.9
21 million was used.

22 Third: Provide the corresponding
23 bank financial documentation that the
24 worker's compensation trust fund was
25 refunded by \$2.9 million in 2010. When did

1 this transaction occur? What is the
2 expenditure line and account number in the
3 2010 budget that documents the \$2.9 million
4 repayment.

5 And, ladies and gentlemen, this is
6 your money. It's as if the city, well, the
7 city administration has taken your checkbook
8 and made deposits and written checks without
9 the appropriate entries. This is not
10 acceptable and council wants to see all of
11 that documentation that is so heavily
12 involved in the 2009 and 2010 operating
13 budgets, and that's it.

14 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. PROVIDING FOR THE
15 ACCEPTANCE OF MOUNT PLEASANT DRIVE IN
16 THE MOUNT PLEASANT SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN
17 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA. ALSO
18 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
19 CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT FOR THE SUM OF
20 ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) AND RECORD IN THE
21 LACKAWANNA COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS OFFICIAL
22 RECORDS A DEED FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED RIGHT
23 OF WAY.

24 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be

1 introduced into it's proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. JOYCE: Second.

4 MS. EVANS: On the question?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question,

6 Mrs. Evans, I happened to receive in my mail
7 today that this was coming up for a vote and
8 I took a ride out and I did take some
9 photographs. It's very hard for me to
10 determine whether the paving is complete
11 because there is no snow plowing done there,
12 and it says "Sewer." I only saw one sewer,
13 this is quite a big project for one storm
14 sewer. I imagine it was approved in the
15 plans, but I don't know how complete it is
16 without seeing a developer's agreement.

17 There is a gate down at the end of
18 the cul-de-sac here, is it supposed to
19 continue down there? There doesn't appear
20 to be any completed roadways down there
21 beyond that gate, the only thing is the --
22 the only thing I saw was a little bit of a
23 footing, a small footing in one area here,
24 nothing else completed in that development.
25 A blinking light at the entrance, and I just

1 don't want to see us get into the same
2 situation as the Tripp Park Development even
3 though this is a commercial development it
4 could still have the same consequences of
5 the school down the other side.

6 I do see that the city planner
7 signed off on it, but I do not see any
8 signoff from our city engineer.

9 MR. MCGOFF: The second paragraph in
10 the ordinance it indicates that he has.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Where is that?

12 MR. MCGOFF: In the ordinance,
13 "Whereas, the improvements were constructed
14 to the City of Scranton's specifications and
15 where the city engineer has inspected and
16 found the improvements to be satisfactory."

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, it states that,
18 but there is a signoff letter from Don King,
19 the city planner, I want to see a written
20 statement from the city engineer. I mean,
21 there is a liability concern there, the
22 engineers ENO has to cover or his liability
23 insurance.

24 MS. EVANS: Well, Mr. Loscombe, I
25 would suggest that you'd request tonight

1 exactly what documents you would like to see
2 and you would like to council read and I
3 know I will vote to introduce this evening,
4 but if we do not receive the documents as
5 requested prior to next week's council
6 meeting, then I might suggest to you that we
7 table the legislation until we do receive
8 the documents that you are requesting so
9 that we can make the best possible decision
10 for not only the project and developer, but
11 more importantly, the people of the City of
12 Scranton.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Exactly. I mean, I
14 have Tripp's Parks in the back of my mind
15 with this situation up there.

16 MS. EVANS: Which I think what you
17 alluded to earlier it was still in
18 litigation, it is in a sense in that the
19 developer, I believe, is suing the city.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, that's what I
21 had in my mind. I used the Medallis, but I
22 realize that had been resolved and now it
23 was on this end. But, you know, if a
24 developer is going to come in and make
25 promises they have to complete their

1 promises. The only thing I have here is an
2 ordinance that was written by the
3 administration. I cannot tell by driving
4 out there if the proper drainage is there or
5 if the road is blacktopped. I have
6 photographs, apparently, they don't even
7 plow their own streets there, that's why
8 they want the city to take it over, but
9 there is nothing there at this point to plow
10 for, but it's still a safety hazard and we
11 have a blinking light out on the main drag
12 there, but I do -- I would like to request
13 the copy of the, you know, any of the
14 developer's agreement as to what point, at
15 what stage of their development this was to
16 transferred over to the city. Usually, they
17 are transferred after the development is
18 complete, but -- and you all of the
19 infrastructure is complete.

20 And the other item would be a letter
21 from our city engineer putting his name on
22 there certifying that he is in agreement
23 that this project has been complete to his
24 satisfaction for our -- for transfer to the
25 city.

1 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on
2 the question? All those in favor of
3 introduction signify by saying aye.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
9 have it and so moved.

10 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. PROVIDING FOR THE
11 ACCEPTANCE OF A STORM WATER BASIN IN THE
12 MOUNT PLEASANT SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN THE
13 CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA. ALSO
14 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
15 CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT FOR THE SUM OF
16 ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) AND RECORD IN THE
17 LACKAWANNA COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS OFFICIAL
18 RECORDS A DEED FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED RIGHT
19 OF WAY.

20 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
21 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
22 introduced into it's proper committee.

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. JOYCE: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: On the question?

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question, I
2 would just echo the comments I made prior
3 with the same questions.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman
5 Loscombe. Is there anything else on the
6 question? All those in favor of
7 introduction signify by saying aye.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 6-A. READING BY TITLE -
15 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 7, 2011 - AN ORDINANCE -
16 APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT
17 LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY DEPE,
18 INC., 108-112 PROSPECT STREET, DUNMORE, PA
19 18512, LICENSE NO. R-14820 TO CARL VON
20 LUGER, LLC FOR USE AT 301 NORTH WASHINGTON
21 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA AS REQUIRED BY THE
22 PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A

1 pass reading by title.

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

9 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
10 have it and so moved.

11 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
12 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 8, 2011 - AN ORDINANCE -
13 CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY
14 ACCOUNT NO. 02.229598 ENTITLED "PUBLIC
15 SAFETY MANPOWER DONATIONS" TO ACCEPT
16 DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE CITIZENS AND/OR
17 ENTITIES FOR COSTS RELATED TO PUBLIC SAFETY
18 MANPOWER.

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

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

23 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION
8 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY FOR
9 ADOPTION- RESOLUTION NO. 2, 2011 - ACCEPTING
10 A TWO HUNDRED (\$200.00) DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION
11 FROM CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY OF LACKAWANNA
12 COUNTY PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON
13 FIRE DEPARTMENT.

14 MS. EVANS: What is the
15 recommendation of the Chair for the
16 Committee on Public Safety?

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: As Chair for the
18 Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
19 final passage.

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

21 MS. EVANS: On the question? I'd
22 like to thank the Christian Science Society
23 of Lackawanna County for their generous
24 donation to the City of Scranton Fire
25 Department. Roll call, please.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

8 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

12 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
13 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY FOR
14 ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 3, 2011 -
15 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
16 CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A
17 GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
18 CAPITAL PROGRAM ("RACP") THROUGH THE
19 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE
20 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR MILLION FIVE
21 HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$4,500,000.00); IF
22 THE APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, ACCEPTING AND
23 DISBURSING THE GRANT; AND COORDINATING THE
24 USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH THE "LACE
25 BUILDING AFFILIATES, LP", FOR THE PROJECT TO

1 BE NAMED THE "SCRANTON LACE COMPLEX
2 REDEVELOPMENT".

3 MS. EVANS: What is the
4 recommendation of the Chair for the
5 Committee on Public Safety?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: As Chairperson for
7 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
8 final passage.

9 MR. ROGAN: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question?

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question. I
12 would just like to reiterate what I said
13 earlier that, you know, this project will
14 take a blighted property that's been a
15 burden on the lower Greenridge community and
16 hopefully turn it into something that is
17 going to create jobs, it's going to make the
18 neighborhood a little bit nicer. They
19 mentioned they were looking for parking that
20 would also be accessible for the community
21 to come and walk around the riverbank, so I
22 am behind this project 100 percent.

23 I hope that they will meet all of
24 their goals to be -- for Phase I to begin by
25 the end of by the fall, to create job with a

1 total of \$2.5 million.

2 MR. MCGOFF: I, too, would like to
3 say that -- and Mrs. Evans said once before
4 that it's very easy to find fault with
5 something that's this complex, I'm sure that
6 we could go through and find little things
7 we don't like, some speakers, one speaker in
8 particular mentioned, you know, it could
9 something else. Well, there are a lot of
10 could be's, but we have something that is
11 concrete, somebody that is willing to take a
12 chance on developing something that would be
13 very beneficial, and I think it's a
14 necessity for us to approve this and
15 hopefully, as Mr. Rogan said, that will
16 begin quickly and finish quickly and add to
17 the overall development of the lower
18 Greenridge community.

19 MS. EVANS: And again, I believe
20 that the Scranton Lace Works actually closed
21 down in 2002 and in the intervening years
22 there has been increased deterioration of
23 that property and now that we are into the
24 ninth year I think it is well past time that
25 the property is appropriately redeveloped,

1 addressed and returned to the tax roles in a
2 very what can be anyway a very lucrative
3 manner eventually.

4 I know that since the current owner
5 purchased the complex it has been on the tax
6 roles, so as Mr. McGoff and Mr. Rogan have
7 said, this is a project like any other where
8 there is certainly a risk involved, but I
9 believe that the benefits far outweigh at
10 this point the disadvantages and I'm very
11 much looking forward to the redevelopment
12 occurring in this neighborhood.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: And I would just like
14 to add what I said before, I do believe that
15 this city council will be very, very
16 vigilant in watching every "I" and every "T"
17 on this project to make sure it's completed
18 the way it should be and I echo everything
19 else that was stated before that. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. JOYCE: I think everyone else
22 has pretty much said what I was going to say
23 on this matter, so I'm not going to offer
24 any further comment.

25 MS. EVANS: Very good. Roll call,

1 please? MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

8 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

12 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
13 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-
14 RESOLUTION NO. 4, 2011 - APPOINTMENT OF RYAN
15 MCGOWAN, 735 NORTH BROMLEY AVENUE, SCRANTON,
16 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 TO THE POSITION OF
17 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 10,
18 2011. MR. MCGOWAN WILL BE REPLACING STUART
19 RENDA, WHO RESIGNED.

20 MR. ROGAN: I would make a motion to
21 table Item 7-C.

22 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
23 floor to table Item 7-C, is there a second?

24 MR. JOYCE: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: On the question?

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes. The reason for the
2 motion, I know for all of our appointments
3 we require a resume and even though we all
4 know Mr. McGowan I think we need to
5 consistent across the board and request a
6 resume. Mrs. Evans and myself spoke very
7 briefly before the meeting and we agreed
8 that it would be a good idea.

9 MS. EVANS: And I might add there
10 have been comments and questions posed by
11 members of the public with regard to this
12 particular legislation and I think in a
13 spirit of continued transparency it is wise
14 for council to remain uniform to obtain the
15 information and then provide it to the
16 public.

17 MR. ROGAN: And hopefully by next
18 week we will have the resume and be able to
19 give approval.

20 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the
21 question? All those in favor signify by
22 saying aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

1 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

2 MR. MCGOFF: No.

3 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and so
4 moved. 7-C is tabled. If there is no
5 further business, I will entertain a motion
6 to adjourn.

7 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

8 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
9 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