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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, February 8, 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: 3-A. MINUTES OF THE
16 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
17 DECEMBER 15, 2010.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE
21 ZONING HEARING BOARD TO BE HELD FEBRUARY
22 9, 2011.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. APPLICATIONS ALONG

1 WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING
2 HEARING BOARD ON JANUARY 26, 2011.

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

6 MS. KRAKE: Yes, we have some
7 responses this evening. First, Don Rinaldi
8 offered in response in our letter concerning
9 snow removal in the 500 block of Lackawanna
10 Avenue, he tells us his snow removal company
11 made an error in what areas they were
12 supposed to clean and have since cleaned the
13 snow on Friday and Saturday of that week.
14 He assures us this will not happen in the
15 future.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MS. KRAKE: We received a response
18 from Linde Corporation concerning the issues
19 that residents had of the 300 block of Hamm
20 Court, the complaints included crack road
21 surface and potholes in their vacant lot
22 which Linde utilized for storage in that
23 area. They tell us they are currently
24 coordinating with John Hazzouri, pave cut
25 inspector for the City of Scranton to have a

1 site visit after the inclement weather to
2 makes a visual inspection. Determination of
3 the responsibility will happen at that time.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake,
5 and if you might send another correspondence
6 to them indicating that we would like their
7 decision in writing at such time as it
8 occurs.

9 MS. KRAKE: Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Anything else,
11 Mr. McGoff?

12 MR. MCGOFF: No, I drove through
13 there the other day and it was actually
14 pretty good. The snow and the ice filled in
15 all of the potholes so it was bad driving
16 through there.

17 MS. EVANS: Well, I guess maybe Hamm
18 Court hopes winter will last all year.

19 MR. MCGOFF: I guess so.

20 MS. KRAKE: Our next response is
21 from the Scranton Parking Authority. They
22 are advising us that the terms of the
23 parking garage use agreement, the successor,
24 I believe they trying to say interest, i.e.,
25 the recent buyer, SCRCCHAF Hospitality,

1 L.P., receives the same rights to 175
2 parking spaces per day at no cost due to the
3 terms of the agreement that was signed in
4 November of 2005.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes, and I believe we
6 followed up on that by requesting the
7 agreement so that Attorney Hughes can review
8 it.

9 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MS. KRAKE: This is a response also
12 from Attorney Kelly concerning the Harley
13 Davidson, which I believe we've also we've
14 acknowledged.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. KRAKE: This is from Alfred
17 Weinschank from Daron Northeast. It's
18 a letter that contains several paragraphs,
19 but I believe the final -- the first and
20 final paragraph would be the answers. They
21 say our letter fails to indicate what city
22 ordinances or codes we're in violation of
23 and we did send them a copy then of those
24 codes.

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

1 MS. KRAKE: We received a letter
2 from SLIBCO concerning the Mount Pleasant
3 Corporate Center, which I believe council
4 should have received in their in boxes just
5 today, so I think we will hold this until
6 council has time to review it.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Yes. I
8 haven't seen it yet.

9 MS. KRAKE: Right. We did receive a
10 response from city controller concerning the
11 2010 and 2011 UDAG repayment vouchers.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MS. KRAKE: We had a request from a
14 complaint from a citizen telling us that the
15 sidewalks along Keyser Oak Shopping Center
16 were snow covered and barely passable. We
17 were directed to ask PennDOT and the city
18 and also we were able to find the owners of
19 the Keyser Oak Shopping Center so we did
20 send a letter to all three. PennDOT sent us
21 their response, as did the owners and the
22 city did not. The owner tells us, they
23 actually phoned us, Harriet Weiss, and said
24 that they do not own the sidewalks as part
25 of the shopping center and they are saying

1 that it's not their responsibility to clean
2 up.

3 However, PennDOT states part of the
4 law of the Pennsylvania State Highway that's
5 indicated here as maintenance, all driveways
6 and adjacent areas within the highway
7 right-of-way shall be continuously
8 maintained by the property owner so as to
9 conform to the permit and so as not to
10 interfere or be inconsistent with design,
11 maintenance and drainage of the highway or
12 the safe and convenient passage of travel
13 upon the highway.

14 So when PennDOT is saying they are
15 not responsible it seems to me they feel
16 that the owner is responsible and the owner
17 is saying that it is not³⁴⁰⁹ part of their
18 maintenance.

19 MS. EVANS: I suggest that we
20 forward a copy of PennDOT's correspondence
21 which includes the law that obviously the
22 owner has been in violation of --

23 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

24 MS. EVANS: -- and perhaps after
25 seeing what the law actually states they

1 will realize that they are responsible for
2 the maintenance of the sidewalks on their
3 property by state law.

4 MS. KRAKE: Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 MS. KRAKE: And we received a
7 request from Ryan McGowan, business
8 administrator, that he is saying he needs an
9 extension of 30 days to answer our request
10 for the DPW procedure for snow removal,
11 overtime, and all the shift information that
12 we requested on January 31.

13 MS. EVANS: Very good.

14 MS. KRAKE: And that's it.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.
16 Do any council members have announcements at
17 this time?

18 MR. JOYCE: Yes. On Saturday, April
19 2, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. there will be a
20 "Social for Saunders." In case you don't
21 know, Mr. Jay Saunders is a former city
22 clerk who once held the position that
23 Mrs. Krake has today who is suffering from
24 cancer. This will be held at the Ice Box
25 Complex on 3 West Olive Street in Scranton,

1 PA. There will be food, refreshments, a
2 50/50 raffle, basket raffles, a silent
3 auction and there will also be entertainment
4 provided by the EJ the DJ & Company. A \$20
5 donation could be made at the door or
6 tickets could be purchased at Garrity's
7 Supermarket or Bottler's Tavern in Jermyrn,
8 Pennsylvania, on 200 Delaware Street.

9 In addition, there will be a
10 Lithuanian flag raising ceremony held,
11 Saturday, February 12, at Scranton City Hall
12 at 11:00 a.m. For those of you who are a
13 Lithuanian heritage and may be interested in
14 attending you are encouraged by Mr. Dick
15 Lake, a very involved resident of North
16 Scranton in his community, and that's all I
17 have.

18 MS. EVANS: If I could just
19 piggyback on that comment, Marie and her
20 husband, Dick Laske, consistently present an
21 outstanding ceremony and we thank them for
22 their annual contributions to our city. Is
23 there anyone else who has announcements?

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes. On Monday,
25 February 14, Valentine's Day from 5 p.m. to

1 10 p.m., Buona Pizza will be holding a
2 social for seniors where the senior citizens
3 will receive a free slice of pizza, a free
4 soda and a free cannoli, so any of Scranton
5 seniors that would like a good meal and have
6 some friends around Valentine's Day you are
7 welcome to go to Buona Pizza.

8 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I have two. The
10 Fraternal Order of Eagles at Railroad, right
11 of Luzerne Street, is having a Chinese
12 auction which benefits the CMC heart fund.
13 It will be held on February 12, and tickets
14 will be on sale at 2:30 with the auction at
15 9:30. The heart dance starts at 8 p.m. with
16 DJ Joey playing. Come out and help us
17 support a great organization. For
18 information you can call the club at
19 961-5495.

20 And one more announcement, David and
21 Janet Wenzel, and the performance music at
22 the University of Scranton cordially invites
23 you to attend the third annual Gene Yevitch
24 memorial concert featuring the Whitecliff
25 Gordan Quintet to be held, Saturday February

1 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the University of
2 Scranton Houlihan-McLean Center, which is at
3 Mulberry and Jefferson. Admission is free
4 and the concert is open to the public and is
5 sponsored by David and Janet Wenzel. David
6 and Janet want you to join them for a
7 post-concert reception in the
8 Houlihan-McLean atrium and Gene Yevitch was
9 a former fire superintendent in Scranton.
10 And that's all I have. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. The Single
12 Tax Office is collecting the 2010 real
13 estate taxes for the City of Scranton. The
14 office has sent out a delinquent notice for
15 residents who have not yet paid their 2010
16 house tax. 2010 delinquent real estate
17 taxes may be paid at the Single Tax Office
18 located on the second floor of the Steamtown
19 Mall. Prior years, meaning 2009 and older,
20 may be paid at the City Treasurer's Office
21 in city hall, 340 North Washington Avenue,
22 Scranton.

23 And finally, I would like to wish
24 everyone a very happy Valentine's Day, and
25 that's it.

1 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
2 PARTICIPATION.

3 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
4 tonight is Andy Sbaraglia.

5 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
6 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
7 the paper stated that the Parking Authority
8 is going to be \$1 million short in this
9 year, and it's really something that nobody
10 mentioned it because it's a lot of money,
11 and it's ashame how it all came about and it
12 all started back when they are going to
13 develop the Hilton.

14 Governor Casey allocated money for
15 the fix up of what they call the Medallion
16 Garage today, but it was the Casey garage
17 and the Casey Hotel. So when the developer
18 came in they decided to rip down the Casey
19 Hotel and they were supposed to put up a
20 garage there. It was the developer who was
21 supposed to put up that garage that sits
22 there now, not the city. So, hence, we
23 started on the path to where we are today.

24 Then we gave the Hilton -- the
25 mayor, I don't know how we got in there or

1 why he got in there, but you know he gave
2 some of the space, free spaces way to the
3 Hilton. I don't know, and also while you're
4 at it, when they built the garage over the
5 theatre, some of those spaces were given to
6 Osco's, too, I guess for theatre parking.

7 Now, I don't know exactly the whole
8 story on the Connell, if they got free
9 spaces or cut rate spaces or what, but
10 that's where we are now. It's just so
11 surprising that nobody looked in the future.
12 I think about six years ago I told you this
13 was going to happen. It's unsustainable.
14 Anybody with common sense they can add one
15 and one and get two would know that it
16 wasn't sustainable, but it fell upon deaf
17 ears that I spoke about this long ago.

18 It's just too bad now we are going
19 to be a million dollars short. Now, I don't
20 know how they are going to make it up, but
21 you know it's the Board of the Parking
22 Authority that's responsible for this, not
23 Mr. Scopelliti, it's the board, and I
24 suggest you meet with the board to find out
25 who this occurred, where they got the

1 figures to do these things and as you know
2 you can't just keep building garages and
3 preparing garages without the income coming
4 in. It's just too bad that nobody could
5 add. Now, we are going to be \$1 million
6 short. Now, you know all of the parking
7 revenue that we collect for them years that
8 you increased the fees for are mortgaged to
9 the PNC Bank, you know that, so all of the
10 money if the parking garage can't come up
11 with that million dollars they are going to
12 foreclose on the parking meter revenue
13 because that was given back when another
14 deal way back when. All warning signs and
15 it kept telling us everybody turned all of
16 the previous council turned their head that
17 it was there. Now we are going to have to
18 bite the bullet.

19 \$1 million is lot of money to makeup
20 and even if you put that system in the city
21 it's no where it's going to be able to come
22 up with a million dollars in this year, so
23 they're in -- they are going to either have
24 to borrow or declare bankruptcy, there is
25 only two ways they can to it, so I don't

1 know how much they are going to borrow
2 again, but I guess they got to borrow at
3 least a million to pay off these bonds.

4 And like I say, it didn't make sense
5 back then and it certainly don't make sense
6 today, but it's just the way life went and
7 it's just too bad that we got to bite the
8 bullet with higher rates if we park in the
9 garage or if we park on the street. We are
10 paying for free parking to giveaway. Every
11 citizen that use the meter should be happy
12 they are paying for people at the Hilton to
13 park for free and you should be glad and do
14 it with a smile because we are making all
15 kinds of money of the Hilton.

16 Not only have we lost \$1.5 million
17 we lost the Hilton. You didn't listen then
18 when I warned you about it when they said
19 they were going to declare bankruptcy, I
20 said, "let them. Let them go bankrupt."

21 But nobody listened. They ended up
22 going bankrupt anyway and they just sold it
23 for \$13 million. That was like a \$33
24 million garage, I mean, hotel, they sold for
25 \$13 million. That alone should tell you

1 something. Real estate values in this city
2 ain't worth nothing.

3 Now you are going to give money to
4 the chamber or put in toward -- what's get
5 me is how could they get that loan so fast
6 when they just acquired the Chamber, so
7 apparently this was all in the works before
8 they acquired it. Okay, thank you.

9 MS. EVANS: Yes. Mr. Sbaraglia,
10 they indicated tonight that they were
11 involved in the application process for many
12 months prior to the actual closing on the
13 building. I think Mr. Jefferson also
14 indicated that the tenants of the Connell
15 building pay for parking in the garage
16 that's situated right next to that building.
17 I think people -- I think he said, I
18 believe, that it was \$80,000 or upwards of
19 80,000 that's paid to the Parking Authority
20 on those particular parking spots.

21 But I think, too, the last think I
22 wanted to say to you, was I do understand
23 what you are saying and how you feel in
24 terms of the decisions of the past, but I
25 can remember that I was probably the only

1 council member who didn't vote for that deal
2 on the Hilton Hotel and who didn't vote for
3 the \$35 million borrowing of the Scranton
4 Parking Authority, so somebody was
5 listening.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Thank you.

7 MR. JOYCE: I think just to add a
8 little bit more, I believe the figure he did
9 state was \$88,000 if I'm not mistaken. As
10 far as the Scranton Parking Authority and
11 their shortfall, I would also like to hear
12 from the board how they would -- how they do
13 plan on addressing this. I know currently
14 from their budget that they submitted to
15 Scranton City Council they do currently pay
16 I believe it's \$3.5 million in charge in
17 debt services based on bonds that were
18 issued in the past. I'm not sure if
19 shortfall -- with the shortfalls if
20 they plan on trying to refinance their debt,
21 I'm not sure if they have any alternative
22 ideas for boosting parking garage revenue,
23 so it will be interesting to hear what they
24 have to say.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: And I just have one

1 comment, maybe we -- I don't know who to
2 address this to, but Mr. Sbaraglia jogged by
3 memory, those free parking spots supposedly
4 at the Hilton they are charging the patrons
5 \$10 a night to park there. I would -- are
6 we requesting information as to how that's--
7 if they are paying the city for those
8 parking spaces the \$15 or --

9 MS. EVANS: No, they're not. The
10 city turned over those spaces to the Hilton
11 free of charge and the Hilton has been
12 charging and making a profit on those spaces
13 and when we sent the communication asking if
14 now that the Hilton is longer the owner and
15 you have a new -- a new owner for that
16 hotel, were those spaces now going to be
17 profitable for the Scranton Parking
18 Authority? Mr. Kelly -- or Attorney Kelly's
19 answer was, no. According to a parking use
20 agreement, I guess it transfers from owner
21 to owner to owner for all of infinity, and
22 so I have asked to see that agreement so
23 that Solicitor Hughes can review it and see
24 if perhaps there is something in there that
25 we might be able to work with.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure. But, I mean,
2 like you said, they received it free and
3 they are charging their patrons \$10 a spot
4 per evening.

5 MS. EVANS: Um-hum, and evidently
6 the new ownership would intend to follow
7 suit.

8 MR. HUGHES: If I could, Madam
9 President, just to correct something I
10 believe was improperly stated by
11 Mr. Sbaraglia. First of all, the original
12 footprint to the hotel conference center,
13 the hotel was to be built along Lackawanna
14 Avenue from Adams down to the Scranton
15 National Bank building, pretty close in that
16 area. The conference center was to be built
17 where Preno's is where the hotel is now, and
18 the city-owned Casey Garage that was to be
19 given to the developer free of charge to be
20 rehabilitated, it actually sold for \$1, to
21 be rehabilitated to provide parking for the
22 hotel and the conference center.

23 The first two developers agreed to
24 that proposal. Finally when the second
25 developer stepped out of the project, Lane

1 Ellis came into the project, they wanted
2 nothing to do with the parking, so the city
3 kept the parking garage, that was excluded
4 from their project, but the original -- they
5 were going to comply with the original
6 footprint to build the hotel lengthwise
7 along Lackawanna Avenue, build the
8 conference center over where Preno's was in
9 the vacant lot, and Pearl Vision was there,
10 it was Preno's, Pearl Vision and a vacant
11 lot, and there was going to be a bridge
12 connecting the hotel to the conference
13 center.

14 When they came in to do the design
15 the site for where the hotel was going to go
16 was not sufficient for the design that was
17 necessary so they ended up combining the
18 hotel and the conference center over on the
19 site what was going to be the conference
20 center alone. The city retained ownership
21 to the Casey Garage. That was to be
22 rehabilitated into a parking facility and
23 still would have been valet parking,
24 however, that plan fell through when the
25 hotel was being built, but that was never

1 envisioned as a garage over there.

2 It was only subsequently when they
3 did that redevelopment agreement called for
4 the developer, the Lane Ellis Corporation
5 chain of hotels, they had a two-year option
6 to develop a multi-story complex, it would
7 have been office space, commercial space on
8 that site. They did not do that and as a
9 result that reverted to the SRA which then
10 ultimately became a parking garage where it
11 is, but that was the original story as to
12 that whole complex.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Attorney
14 Hughes. Mr. Jackowitz.

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
16 South Scranton resident where police
17 officers purchase their own police vehicle,
18 private citizens take up collections to hire
19 more city police officers, and firefighters
20 and citizens collect money so children can
21 swim at Nay Aug Park during the swimming
22 season and private business owners offer to
23 repair city-owned vehicles such as police
24 cars.

25 Like I stated last week, I am not

1 against the projects that are taking place
2 in Scranton being paid for with taxpayers'
3 money. If our elected official feel that
4 more apartments and retails and boutiques
5 will stimulate the Scranton economy and
6 generate revenue, so be it. I just hope
7 that they are right this time. Murphy's,
8 DiBileo's, Gatelli's and McGoff's councils
9 were wrong and now we find ourself in a
10 giant economic whole which the City of
11 Scranton may never find there way out of
12 because they listened to Mayor Doherty and
13 not the public. He goes directly to the
14 Times-Tribune who will print every word that
15 he speaks as though it is gossip.

16 I still have not received any
17 donation from the Scranton Recreation
18 Authority for the "Kids Swim Free" program.
19 Again, make the check payable to "Kids Swim
20 Free," mail it to 1416 South Webster Avenue,
21 Scranton, Pennsylvania, 18050. Come on, Mr.
22 Chera, do something good for the children.

23 For years Andy and others have come
24 before city council to speak about the
25 financial hole that the Parking Authority

1 and other authorities were created for the
2 taxpayers of Scranton, and for years the
3 citizens have be ignored by the Murphy,
4 DiBileo, Gatelli and McGoff city councils.
5 Now it appears that the markers are being
6 called in and the city and the authorities
7 have no money. Lawyers caution against
8 Parking Authority restructuring and debt.
9 Restructuring would provide \$1 million
10 abandoned relief through 2013, but after
11 that it would actually add \$770,000 annually
12 for 13 years.

13 To find an alternative, the
14 Authority will have to take a hard look at
15 it's revenue and put everything on the
16 table. Well, Mr. Scopelliti, let's start
17 with your salary. How about a 30 percent
18 reduction to start with and a 20 percent
19 reduction in Mrs. Renda's salary. She is
20 being paid far too much to be a secretary.

21 Then maybe we can look at Attorney
22 Kelly's salary. When was the last time he
23 represented the Parking Authority in Court?
24 Also, I do believe that we might have an
25 ethics violation with Mr. Kelly being a city

1 solicitor, Parking Authority solicitor and
2 Park and Recreation solicitor. If not, it
3 sure looks like an ethics violation.

4 Furthermore, the Sewer Authority.
5 Recreation Authority and defunct Library
6 Authority will soon be in the same boat as
7 the Parking Authority without a paddle. I
8 would like to thank Mayor Doherty and all
9 the elected council members who voted lock
10 and step with the mayor. He has been wrong
11 about everything and now the taxpayers will
12 pay.

13 Thank you, voters, who voted for
14 Mayor Doherty three times. You sunk your
15 own ship, but most really do not care until
16 it starts coming out of your pockets and
17 bank accounts. Borrow and borrow and more
18 just like fast Eddie Rendell and Chris
19 Doherty have done for eight.

20 I see where Carl Greco raped the
21 Scranton taxpayers for an additional \$20,000
22 with the help of Mayor Doherty and Linda
23 Aebli.

24 Judy Gatelli's attorney has
25 withdrawn from her case due to lack of

1 payment. The city insurance paid the first
2 \$30,000, but there is still a balance of
3 \$52,473.67 due to the insurance company and
4 they refuse to pay the balance.

5 Approximately \$27,500 of the \$30,000 was for
6 Judy Gatelli's private suit which should not
7 be paid for by the Scranton taxpayers. Judy
8 needs to pay for that out-of-pocket. The
9 law firm will be suing the taxpayers for
10 nonpayment. This case is still in
11 litigation, but I strongly believe that Judy
12 will lose. She has no proof of any
13 wrongdoing by anyone except for her
14 imagination.

15 Lackawanna County Judges are now
16 being monitored closely for fair and honest
17 rulings, not like in the past. About time.

18 Well, I see where Mr. McGowan is off
19 to a good start as Scranton business
20 administrator. He has already lost \$1
21 million and attempted to blame the Single
22 Tax Office for shortchanging the city.
23 Mr. McGowan, some simple advice, get your
24 facts straight before you go running to the
25 Times-Tribune. I completely understand that

1 the staff writers will print anything that
2 you say without actually checking into the
3 facts, but at the end you embarrass yourself
4 and the city administration. Again,
5 qualifications do matter. Do not follow
6 your leader and hide behind the
7 Times-Tribune and refuse to make public
8 appearances and speak with the public.

9 By the way, has anybody seen Mayor
10 Doherty in public lately? Maybe he was been
11 riding in one of the snow plows helping DPW
12 with snow removal. I guess Mayor Chris
13 Doherty is putting our feelers for the
14 county commissioner's position, several
15 people have received phone calls. Words are
16 just thoughts and they mean nothing until
17 they are put into action. When council
18 members cast their vote that is the action.

19 I'm almost finished. Once you
20 approve the legislation it is no longer in
21 council's hand. It transfers to the
22 administration and OECD and Chamber of
23 Commerce. Sorry to say, council didn't have
24 very little to say after approval, that is
25 why I believe that so many mistakes were

1 made. Same thing happened with the Murphy,
2 DiBileo councils, Gatelli and McGoff's
3 councils were nothing more than rubber
4 stampers. That needs to stop immediately.

5 And I am glad to see that the
6 Lombardi trophy has been returned back to
7 Tidal town in Greenbay, Wisconsin, and
8 hopefully there will be a 2011 football
9 season.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
11 Mr. Jackowitz. Our next speaker is Marie
12 Schumacher.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
14 Council. Marie Schumacher, city resident
15 and taxpayer.

16 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

17 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: It's not often that
19 I call attention to my attire, but I do want
20 to tonight because this is a souvenir from
21 the grand opening of a new restaurant in the
22 Elm Street corridor right across from Miller
23 Beam Funeral Home on Cedar Avenue, excellent
24 food, wonderful family, and I just want to
25 say welcome and it's nice to have a

1 business.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Should have brought
3 some samples.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Say what?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: You should have
6 brought us some much samples.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: This is -- forget
8 it. Now, I want to talk about tractor
9 trailer on city streets. Most progressive
10 cities, of course, make the cable companies
11 bury their cable when they lay cable, but
12 not Scranton, we still have utility poles
13 and Comcast was allowed to string their
14 cable on those telephone polls and, of
15 course, in some instances such as South
16 Webster Avenue the -- if the pole happens to
17 be on one side the cables have to go across
18 the street to a residence if they're a
19 subscriber across the street. The problem
20 is that apparently there was no height that
21 was required that they had to clear.

22 So now -- and I hope that this is
23 the reason, is because of all of the utility
24 work that's being done in lower South Side
25 by either the water or gas company and the

1 streets are such a mess, but there has been
2 a lot of tractor trailer traffic on the
3 avenues, such as South Webster Avenue. And
4 I know in one block there have been at least
5 five times the cable has been snapped by a
6 tractor trailer going past, so it's not fair
7 to the ratepayers and I just wonder if there
8 is some fix that might be available or if
9 Comcast maybe could be required to raise
10 them if tractor trailers are going to be
11 allowed on city street or are they not
12 allowed on city streets. I mean, we are
13 talking the 53-foot variety, so if something
14 can be done that would be nice.

15 Next, on 7-G, I have been long
16 awaiting this project, as you all know, but
17 now I would like some investigation, and
18 it's a little unfortunate that it's in
19 Seventh Order tonight because I do not know
20 whether I -- I do know that the problem at
21 Mulberry Street and Harrison Avenue was
22 because of LED lights and I'm sure you have
23 already read about the problems that
24 Philadelphia had with their LED lights not
25 producing enough heat to melt the snow and

1 ice, and I just wonder if there is anything
2 we could do at this late stage of the game
3 to see if we can keep incandescent lights so
4 we don't end up with that same problem in
5 the future so all of these are going to be
6 redone in the city with this signalization
7 project, so somebody at state should know
8 that certainly.

9 Next, I guess it's 5-C tonight, you
10 are all way aware that I'm against the FRACP
11 as a project, as a program, because the
12 private personnel gets the dollars and we
13 taxpayers get to not only pay back that
14 principal, but the interest on those bonds
15 over a significant period, so in general I
16 am. I do congratulate Charlie Jefferson on
17 a wonderful job they have done with the
18 Connell building and the speed once it got
19 going, but I have a lot of problems with
20 this particular project. I think I asked
21 you once before if this \$3 1/2 million was a
22 transfer of the \$3 1/2 million dollars that
23 had been promised to the -- whatever that
24 Mulberry Street project was down there where
25 the Warhorse had been that went belly up and

1 that building is already sold, because last
2 week, and I may be off a little bit on the
3 year, but I recall it being said that with
4 the Madison Project that it was on an RACP
5 project list that had been approved in 2006.
6 So if projects had to be approved before
7 Mr. Rendell left office, and this project
8 has just happened now, I think there is lot
9 of risk there on this project because I
10 understand the --

11 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to answer
12 and then I have a question for you, I did
13 see the approval letter from the Governor's
14 Office tonight following the caucus, Ms.
15 Aebli showed it to me, and actually it's --
16 I can't recall the date, forgive me, but I
17 know it was still within 2010 that the
18 Governor gave his -- it was an award letter
19 for \$3.5 million for the Mulberry Loft's
20 project and, of course, there are a number
21 of requirements and hurdles that must be met
22 thereafter before the grant is finalized,
23 but I just wanted to let you know that much.

24 But if I can go back to the Warhorse
25 project, can you tell me about that again

1 because I was asking Ms. Aebli for some
2 information after you had spoken not last
3 week I believe, but at the previous meeting?

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, prior to
5 that, yeah, I think it was called Mulberry
6 Plaza.

7 MS. EVANS: The Mulberry Plaza, and
8 you want to know if the money --

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: That had been
10 allocated and promised and had gone through
11 the process, as flimsy as it is for that \$3
12 1/2 million, and now that that project is
13 gone if that's money that's being
14 transferred to this project.

15 MS. EVANS: Okay.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: And then if I may
17 just finish up on that and next one week I'm
18 going to start with something that's near
19 and dear to my heart that I've had and not
20 gotten to for the last several weeks, but
21 the other thing I think with this project it
22 speaks volumes to me about the future of the
23 downtown. I think it reflects that we want
24 the downtown to be a residential area and we
25 don't really want or we don't -- have given

1 up on the fact that maybe we can have
2 doctors and lawyers and professional persons
3 in our buildings, and I think that's
4 unfortunate.

5 And also with respect to that
6 garage, I believe that garage already has --
7 I believe that garage --

8 MS. EVANS: Please turn off the cell
9 phone. I'm sorry.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: But I believe that
11 garage has several, quite a few -- maybe
12 that's mine. I don't think mine is that
13 loud. No, that's not mine. I don't know
14 how to turn off though, so it's new. But,
15 yeah, the Commonwealth Medical College is
16 already using some there and I wonder how
17 much it's going to be a public parking
18 garage if this goes through and if it
19 doesn't go through where will those people
20 park. Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is Doug
24 Miller.

25 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

1 Doug Miller, Scranton.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to start
5 off tonight on the agenda regarding 7-C. I
6 see it's on here for final reading and it
7 was previous tabled, I'd just like to ask if
8 we finally received a resume and cover
9 letter from this individual.

10 MR. JOYCE: We have.

11 MR. MILLER: We have? Okay, very
12 good. The other thing I have tonight is I
13 was asked by Mr. Bolus, he is out of town
14 tonight, in regards to his offer that he
15 made to the city to repair city police
16 vehicles, he had asked if I submit a letter
17 that, Mrs. Evans, you had requested from
18 him, and if I may, if you would like me to
19 leave it with Ms. Carrera --

20 MS. EVANS: Yes, please do. Thank
21 you.

22 MR. MILLER: -- I will do so at this
23 time. Also, as this time I'd like to
24 present a check to council in the amount of
25 \$50 on behalf of the Tax group. At our last

1 meeting I had made a motion that we make a
2 contribution to benefit the account that you
3 had setup a few weeks back where you are
4 accepting donations to hire additional
5 police officer and firemen, so at this time,
6 if I may, I'd like to leave this check with
7 council, if I may do so?

8 MS. EVANS: Oh, thank you very much.
9 We thank the Taxpayers' Association and you,
10 Mr. Miller, for your generous donation and
11 your thoughts for keeping our police and
12 firefighters working on the streets where
13 they belong. Thank you very much. You are
14 to be commended.

15 MR. MILLER: You're welcome. I just
16 think as a group we felt it was in the best
17 interest to participate in this generous
18 opportunity that we were given by council to
19 make a donation. You know, as previous
20 speakers stated, you know, public safety is
21 a priority here and we need to all do our
22 part and give back in any way we can. So
23 hopefully that will help in some way.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes, it will.

25 MR. MILLER: In regards to the

1 StreetSmart, I had the opportunity to read
2 the article in morning that the city is
3 going to entertain the idea of using a trial
4 version to see how this meter program might
5 work. You know, I personally find that to
6 be the best route at this time. I think
7 that in any project that you are
8 entertaining it's always wise to do studies
9 and try various trial techniques to see how
10 it's going to work and I just hope moving
11 forward that it proves to be successful and
12 I want to thank you again, Mr. Loscombe, for
13 introducing this proposal, and as I said, I
14 hope it proves to be successful in the long
15 run.

16 In regards to the rehabbed homes in
17 South Side, I had the chance to see that in
18 the paper as well, we know this is all being
19 done with the intention of restoring that
20 part of the neighborhood in South Side, but
21 I am just curious to know that if this
22 program has the potential to expand in other
23 parts of the city and, council, I don't know
24 if you have any idea of that or if we can
25 look into that, but I just think it would be

1 a great thing. I think with all of the
2 blight in the neighborhood, as we all know,
3 I'm hoping we can consider expanding this
4 program everywhere because it certainly
5 needs it all through the neighborhoods.

6 I feel strongly about investing in
7 the neighborhoods. You know, tonight we
8 heard from a group who wants to turn the
9 former Chamber building into apartments, and
10 although I appreciate the fact that we want
11 to develop apartments in the downtown, I
12 just feel it's time to shift our attention
13 in the neighborhoods and make more
14 investment in the neighborhoods. Look
15 around, they are falling apart. It's no
16 secret. I have walked the neighborhoods,
17 you've walked them, and I just think the
18 overall consensus from the residents of this
19 city is they want to see us invest in the
20 neighborhoods.

21 And finally tonight, one last issue,
22 I had a complaint from a few parents over in
23 West Side. I was told that the crosswalks
24 on Eynon Street near Francis Willard were
25 left as a sheet of ice. I don't know who is

1 responsible, I would have to think it would
2 be DPW, was told that students are slipping
3 and some have fallen down and I just think
4 we can all agree that the city does do a
5 deplorable on the city streets and I just
6 find this to be totally unacceptable that,
7 like I said, we know we do a bad job with
8 the streets, but, I mean, we can't clean
9 streets in front of a school? I just
10 think-- I find that to be unacceptable.

11 And I would ask council to send a
12 letter to DPW and maybe we can get a reason
13 why we are leaving streets in front of
14 schools this way. It's a safety hazard and
15 it's unacceptable and I'm hoping we can get
16 a response next week because it shouldn't
17 take more than a week to get a response to a
18 simple request. I know we've had a hard
19 time getting responses to issues we've had
20 and I don't see why this should take more
21 than a week and I appreciate that. And
22 that's all for tonight. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Les
24 Spindler.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,

1 Council. Les Spindler, city homeowner and
2 taxpayer, city resident.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. McGoff, I stand
5 back while other speakers are speaking here
6 and you don't pay the least bit of attention
7 of what anybody is saying. I asked you a
8 question when I was here two weeks ago you
9 didn't even know what I was talking about.
10 You were elected by the people to work for
11 the people and I think it's a slap to the
12 face to the people to come here and speak
13 and the citizens that you don't pay any
14 attention to anybody. It's very
15 disrespectful, it's an insult and I think in
16 the best interest of taxpayers of this city
17 if you don't want to be here you should
18 resign and let somebody be here that wants
19 to be here.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Why do you assume that
21 I don't want to be here.

22 MR. SPINDLER: Let me speak, please.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Well, you are making an
24 accusation, I just want to respond.

25 MR. SPINDLER: You can talk later

1 on. When Andy come up here you were
2 thumbing through a magazine not paying
3 attention. When I asked you a question two
4 weeks ago you didn't even know what I was
5 talking about. You should just leave and --

6 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, but I just
7 didn't want to answer.

8 MR. SPINDLER: Let someone be here
9 that wants to be here that will work for the
10 people. I hope the people remember that
11 come May.

12 Moving on, last week the one day in
13 the Doherty newsletter the business
14 administrator said that we we're a million
15 dollars short from the tax office, then the
16 very next day it seems like we weren't a
17 million dollars short that he blamed a clerk
18 on the mistake. Now, I don't think it was
19 the clerk that made the mistake, I think
20 it's just another example of the
21 incompetence of this administration and the
22 people that Chris Doherty has hired and he
23 just hires all of his crony friends and I
24 don't know when it's going to stop. I guess
25 that's why the city is in the bad shape it's

1 in.

2 But, thank god for this council and
3 I think we are going to be going in the
4 right direction.

5 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Spindler, I agree
6 with you about Mr. McGowan, and I plan on
7 voting "no" on the appointment tonight, but
8 luckily for my sake if the vote with a week
9 previous and he submitted resume I probably
10 would have voted "yes," but now after this
11 in the newspaper with losing track of a
12 million dollars and then trying to push it
13 off on somebody else that's completely
14 unacceptable.

15 MR. SPINDLER: Absolutely. Moving
16 on, I have two requests, the 300 block of
17 Penn Avenue, it's like a minefield with the
18 potholes there and I have it in writing, and
19 there is one like in the middle of the block
20 that if somebody hits that I think they are
21 going to do some serious damage to their
22 car.

23 And also, the streetlights on the
24 McDade Expressway from Seventh Avenue to the
25 Main avenue exit, including the exit ramp,

1 there is not a light, that they are all out,
2 so I think that's -- I don't think they are
3 out, I think there is a problem there. I
4 don't think they are burned out. I see
5 Mr. Loscombe shaking his head yes.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, that was on my
7 notes to mention.

8 MR. SPINDLER: I'll give this to Ms.
9 Carrera. Next thing, last week I wasn't
10 here, but I heard the meeting and I heard
11 Councilman Rogan talk about the poor job
12 that he thought DPW did clearing the streets
13 after Tuesday's snow and then we got that
14 ice storm on Wednesday and I couldn't agree
15 more I think they did a terrible job. The
16 downtown I got stuck going to work Thursday
17 where I usually park, I did get out, and you
18 couldn't park at the meters, you couldn't
19 park down town at all and I'd like to read a
20 letter to the editor, I don't know if
21 anybody saw it from a city business owner.

22 "As I stood in front of my small
23 business on Adams Avenue watching a man
24 attempt to push his friend's vehicle out of
25 a snow and ice covered metered parking

1 space, I couldn't help but wonder why the
2 city would leave the meter parking spaces in
3 such a deplorable condition. I want my
4 customers to be able to come downtown and
5 safely park their vehicle. I don't want
6 them concerned that their car will get stuck
7 or that they will fall and hurt themselves.
8 Otherwise, they will avoid coming downtown.
9 Shouldn't this city care at least as much as
10 I do?

11 I understand that the city is
12 financially strapped, but it's such a small
13 downtown area it would not have taken much
14 time or money to simply clear the metered
15 parking spaces after the recent winter
16 storm. The temperature was above freezing
17 Wednesday. Why didn't the city plow the
18 slush away from these parking spaces? Of
19 course the Scranton Parking Authority will
20 expect people to pay the meter or face a
21 stiff fine even if the vehicle gets stuck
22 and what are now solid chunks of the ice and
23 snow that will remain that way for weeks.

24 I love our city and that is why I
25 chose to open my business downtown more than

1 two years ago and hope to expand here.
2 Scranton needs to do it's part to attract
3 businesses and people to the downtown, not
4 deter them. Little things like this become
5 the big things that people will remember.
6 People are frustrated enough with the winter
7 weather. The city should not by neglecting
8 it's own downtown frustrate them more and
9 drive them and their dollars elsewhere."

10 And that's from Christian Pelosi,
11 owner of the -- I think it's Eden Vegan
12 Cafe, and I couldn't agree more with him.
13 We want to get people downtown and, like I
14 said, it was impossible to park in these
15 spots and hopefully DPW will do a better
16 job.

17 And I have one more quick comment, I
18 was glad to see that hopefully something is
19 going to done with the old East Scranton
20 Intermediate School because growing up that
21 was my grade school. I went from
22 kindergarten to eighth grade there and it
23 brings back lots of memories. I hope
24 something is done good with that school.

25 MS. EVANS: Yes, so we do.

1 MR. SPINDLER: I was glad to see
2 that. Thank you for your time.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Spindler.
4 Edwin Tobin.

5 MR. TOBIN: Good evening, Council.
6 My name is Edwin Tobin, I'm a resident of
7 Washington West. May I ask the attorney a
8 question?

9 MS. EVANS: Yes.

10 MR. TOBIN: Mr. Hughes?

11 MS. EVANS: Yes, you may.

12 MR. TOBIN: What is handicapped? Am
13 I handicap?

14 MR. HUGHES: I would think it would
15 depend on the definition whether it's local,
16 state or federal. Certainly by looking at
17 you, sir, I would agree that you are
18 handicapped since you are in a --

19 THE WITNESS: The reason I ask that
20 there is a federal law, I believe, that
21 intersections in the city are to be cleared
22 at all times for handicapped people to get
23 around; am I right?

24 MR. HUGHES: I have no idea. I
25 would assume that that would be accurate,

1 but I don't know.

2 THE WITNESS: What is an automatic
3 door?

4 MR. HUGHES: One that opens
5 electronically when somebody is near it.

6 MR. TOBIN: You have a sign on your
7 door down here, automatic. Above it says,
8 "Push."

9 The same way with downstairs. I
10 turned this in to Ms. Krake last year and
11 she checked on it, "We'll look into it."

12 Last Sunday I wanted to go to
13 church, which I did. I come down North
14 Washington Avenue, got down to -- onto
15 Linden Street, where the parking garage is
16 and that alleyway, driveway, roadway,
17 whatever you call it comes out, I couldn't
18 get across. Snow and ice that thick. So I
19 turned to go down the little handicap ramp,
20 I got stuck. Snow and ice that thick.

21 I had to finish my trip down to the
22 Cathedral in the middle of Linden Street.
23 Got down on Wyoming Avenue, went right
24 across and went to get into up onto the
25 sidewalk at the Cathedral, path this wide,

1 snow this thick, snow and ice. I finished
2 going down Linden Street to where the
3 driveway is where they come out from behind
4 the Cathedral. I had to go through water
5 about this thick in order to get on the
6 sidewalk.

7 I like to go out every Sunday for
8 breakfast after church. Went down on Linden
9 Street, went to go across Penn Avenue, you
10 know how I had to get back down to Mother's
11 Table? The middle of Penn Avenue. You
12 couldn't no wheres get up on the sidewalk.
13 I went that way today. Doesn't this mayor
14 care if people get killed or not? You,
15 Mr. Loscombe, as the safety director.
16 Everyone screams about firemen getting laid
17 off, cutting back on firemen, I agree with
18 you, that's safety. Aren't we supposed to
19 be safe, too?

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Exactly.

21 MR. TOBIN: Go up here by Coopers,
22 go to go across Pine Street there, I
23 couldn't get across. Snow and ice that
24 thick in the middle of the road. What are
25 we supposed to do hibernate for the winter?

1 I spoke to Mrs. Krake today about it. She
2 says they can't do anything about it. They
3 can tell the mayor, but he can do what he
4 wants. What are we supposed to do?

5 I think it's about time somebody as
6 a matter fact I did, I went down to Senator
7 Casey's office this afternoon, and the girl
8 down there that waited on me told me that is
9 not acceptable. You should have these
10 handicap ramps and stuff opened, so people
11 can get through. How can you get it through
12 this stupid jackass of a mayor that he is
13 supposed to look out for everybody in this
14 city, not his friends or his cronies,
15 everybody.

16 And I have one other thing to say, I
17 have been listening to the council meetings,
18 Mr. Loscombe, your StreetSmart streets is a
19 good idea.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

21 MR. TOBIN: I lived in Honesdale for
22 quite a few years. The business people in
23 Honesdale used to park right on Main Street
24 all day long. How do you do business that
25 way? I don't know. I hope I can get

1 somewhere with Senator Casey. If I can't,
2 I'm going to find somebody and I told Mrs.
3 Krake today that if I am driving down in the
4 middle of the street and get hit and live
5 through it the city will never get out of
6 debt because it won't be a \$50 or a \$50,000
7 lawsuit, it will be at least a \$5 million
8 lawsuit. Thank you.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you, Mr. Tobin.
11 If you are still here after the meeting I
12 would like to speak to you.

13 MS. EVANS: Ron Ellman.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Tobin?

15 MS. EVANS: Hello, Council. Ronnie
16 Ellman, member of the taxpayers. I'd like
17 to revisit something I said last week, if I
18 may. What I was complaining about I was
19 standing in front of the courthouse and no
20 one looked very happy and everybody was
21 frowning and so on, last night I was sitting
22 at the Moses Taylor waiting room and a young
23 boy come over and started talking to me, I
24 guess he is in 11th or 12th grade or
25 something, and he said, "How can you stand

1 in front of a courthouse and see people
2 smile?"

3 I didn't think of that. So, you
4 know, he said if you would have went a block
5 anywhere away from the courthouse you would
6 see happy people, so I take that back.

7 One thing I look at all of that
8 concrete and marble and that big mess with
9 the Cordaro and Munchak made of that
10 beautiful place and that can bring a frown
11 on you. They ought to get a bulldozer and
12 push it all into a pile as far as I'm
13 concerned and plant trees and grass again.

14 Last Friday's paper, my arch enemy,
15 Pat McKenna, printed I guess a complete;
16 plagiarism what I was griping about Goodwill
17 on Tuesday. As you know, I'm a great
18 admirer of plagiarism so I think he has good
19 taste in doing so, but I'd like to see a
20 thorough investigation of good will where
21 that money went. It wasn't used where it
22 was supposed to be. It's out there
23 somewhere, there is millions of dollars and
24 that property should be brought back
25 immediately onto the -- put up for sale to

1 someone that is going to use it. They can't
2 just hold onto it forever and hold onto this
3 money. There is something crooked as the
4 dickens going on in that whole scenario, and
5 I have heard that from several business
6 people.

7 You just don't have a business like
8 that, give them two to three million dollars
9 and when you want to do something with it
10 okay, those grants are tax money. It's our
11 money and I want to know where it went and
12 so does some responsible people. Oh, well.

13 You know, I listened to this
14 Jefferson Group, you want to see something,
15 when they start working on that building
16 over there you need someone to monitor every
17 penny of what's spent and you will see the
18 difference between what they say they are
19 going to spend on the building permit and
20 what goes on. This happened with every
21 single big building plan in the city.
22 While, you know, some poor guy like wants to
23 put up a fence or a carport he has to pay
24 his fair share. It's time that this is
25 monitored and all of this money got back to

1 the city. It's just not right, you know?
2 These people sit and have four or five or
3 six hundred dollar lunches at the Radisson,
4 there is people that have property have to
5 go to soup kitchens to get by and food
6 pantries because I talked to them and I
7 guess some of you have, too. I'm not saying
8 you don't.

9 It's just -- all of these wealthy
10 people from all of these big companies are
11 always pleading poverty. They tell you on
12 the one hand they make millions and millions
13 and millions on this property, then on the
14 other hand how bad things are. What's bad
15 is what's going on in this city. You know,
16 some day when the FBI gets here it will be a
17 different story. I hope to -- I live long
18 enough to see them clean up this place like
19 they cleaned up down at Wilkes-Barre or
20 cleaning it up. And I was told they are
21 going to be here so long they bought a house
22 in Duryea or Dupont or somewhere so they
23 plan to come.

24 And I had somebody ask me, this is
25 something, somebody asked me who paid me to

1 say what I did about Mr. Miller, I didn't
2 even find that amusing because that can't
3 from my heart. This young man has just
4 taken huge strides as far as me. I mean,
5 I'm concerned and, you know, I think he is a
6 credit to this community now and he will
7 become a wonderful credit if he stays in
8 politics and nobody told me to say anything
9 like that. Like I said, it came from here,
10 it was just spontaneous. I didn't even
11 think of it really.

12 I should have brought you a
13 Valentine I would have got another ten
14 minutes or so.

15 MS. CARRERA: Times up.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Ellman
17 Dave Dobrzyn.

18 MR. ELLMAN: You know, people get us
19 mixed up because we're both such great
20 specimens of manhood, you know. And all of
21 the time someone says ask me something that
22 he says. I said that. If it was good I
23 said it.

24 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah, but I got all of
25 the beauty.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Where is the rest of
2 your band?

3 MR. DOBRZYN: Hopefully soon. I got
4 to run away and write mean songs about
5 politicians. Okay, you stole a little bit
6 of my thunder here. The first
7 recommendation was to check billing with the
8 Hilton for parking space because that's
9 something I also heard that they bill for
10 parking space and it's on us. It's just
11 another profit margin that we included for
12 them.

13 On 7-A, I don't know how things are
14 going there or if you can get any kind of
15 agreement on that road, but if you can't
16 please table it, and talking to Mr. Tobin
17 there, that's his name; right?

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. DOBRZYN: That was just up, you
20 know, he called to my attention there is no
21 auto doors in this entire building, nothing
22 works, and apparently at one time they did
23 work because we had a handicapped mayor and
24 they have been left slipped into disrepair.
25 There is a some kind of box outside, an

1 electrical box, obviously the push button
2 was never put in. It looks like it to
3 operate this door here, and therein again
4 there would have to be a warning because it
5 swings that way so somebody pushing a button
6 on that side they could get whacked by the
7 door, too, so if we could give any kind of
8 attention to that getting the auto doors and
9 downstairs where there is access to the
10 elevator on the back I don't think that door
11 works on an automatic basis either, so
12 that's where the ramp is for someone to get
13 in there here that's in a wheelchair.

14 Now, okay, that's all I have, but
15 except for the golden parrot award. In the
16 military widows sold -- military widows sold
17 a low interest annuity investments and banks
18 raked in the dollars. Big bucks. They sell
19 them a 1 or 2 percent annuity and they are
20 making 5 percent profit on it using their
21 money from investments. Military people
22 losing homes while deployed and military
23 people giving modifications, all people
24 given modifications agreements by banks that
25 are revoked later and our House of

1 Representatives they get the super golden
2 parrot for refusing to fund credit bank
3 regulation enforcement. They are currently
4 looking to withdraw all of the bank reforms
5 that lead up to the lack of reform -- lack
6 of regulation that lead up to the investment
7 bubble of 2008.

8 And finally, SEPT, Southeast
9 Pennsylvania Transportation Authority is
10 importing railroad cars from Korea. Isn't
11 that wonderful? That was stimulus money.
12 Thanks a lot and have a good night.

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

15 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.
16 Nelson Ancherani, resident and taxpayer, and
17 recording secretary for the FOP. I don't
18 have much to say, just a few things, just to
19 bring some stuff out and ask about \$1.6
20 million. That \$1.6 million that we don't
21 know about in the Single Tax Office are we
22 going to have an audit on that, are we going
23 to ask for an audit or we going to forget
24 it? I know there is money that possibly we
25 could get back that could help us out in the

1 city?

2 The \$2.9 million, the money that was
3 borrowed from the compensation, if we have
4 any answers on that on why and what it was
5 spent on and if it's paid back. I know we
6 had \$12.2 million that they found in the
7 Single Tax Office, and I don't know if we'll
8 ever get answers as to why it was there.

9 And we are talking about parking
10 spaces, we are talking about StreetSmart,
11 but I'm just going to say about that \$35
12 million loan that Scranton Parking Authority
13 took out. That's \$59 million in interest
14 that we are going to pay back. If you
15 figure it out, our budget this year is \$74
16 million. 59 million in interest plus 15
17 million in the tax anticipation note, that
18 makes budget year, one budget year that we
19 are going to be paying in interest.

20 And I just want to say about the
21 \$300 million long-term debt, 29 more years
22 of payments and I guess we all know that, so
23 I just wanted to bring that out and remind
24 everybody that those issues are still out
25 there. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
2 Mr. Ancherani. Is there anyone else who
3 cares to address council?

4 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Janet.

5 MS. EVANS: Well, hello, there,
6 Chrissy.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

8 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jack, you handsome,
9 devil, you.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Greenbay.

11 MR. SLEDENZSKI: That's right. How
12 about those Packers Sunday, Pat?

13 MR. ROGAN: Good game.

14 MR. SLEDENZSKI: They pounded them
15 good, didn't they?

16 MR. ROGAN: It was a good game.

17 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Packers are the
18 champions, Billy. Remember that, Bill.
19 They are the champions. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Chrissy.

21 MR. PILCHESKY: Council, good
22 evening.

23 MS. EVANS: Joe Pilchesky, 819
24 Sunset Street. Your Honor, I have some
25 papers that I would like to give each of

1 you. May I approach?

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 (Mr. Pilchesky approaches the dais.)

4 MR. PILCHESKY: Thank you for
5 accepting those papers, you have all been
6 properly served. I'm just kidding. I need
7 glasses. This is another in a series of
8 presentations I'm going to provide relating
9 to connecting corruption in city hall with
10 corruption in the courthouse.

11 Where taking legal actions is
12 concerned, the old saying that you can't
13 fight city hall comes from a lot of a bad
14 experiences people have had in trying to sue
15 city hall. When you sue city hall from the
16 outset you are up against a very formidable
17 opponent. That opponent is called immunity.
18 The immunity afforded to the government is
19 extremely substantial because suing the
20 government and winning could drain or bring
21 our revenues very low. That's why it was
22 established over 200 years ago.

23 It's a struggle getting past the
24 immunity defense, but I've managed to do
25 that on all the cases I've had against the

1 city. However, it was all accomplished
2 under appeal because local judges just
3 simply give these city lawyers whatever they
4 want and force you into appeal. I believe
5 honorable council has had an experience with
6 our judges.

7 With the success against these
8 defenses in the rearview mirror, I then
9 proceed to what the legal actions, but then
10 encountered more road blocks to justice from
11 the Office of the Court Administrator which
12 is a run by Mr. Ron McKay. Mr. McKay is a
13 very nice man who would probably do back
14 flips for you from one end of the building
15 to the other to serve you, at least that's
16 been my experience. The staff at the Office
17 of the Court Administrator and the
18 secretaries are very professional,
19 well-informed and they are always very
20 courteous, but then there is the problem,
21 and that problem is the gentleman who
22 schedules the cases, who is Mr. McLane, the
23 deputy court administrator.

24 If you're the right lawyer with the
25 right relationship with the Court you can

1 get your case scheduled in front of the
2 judge of your choice and Mr. McLane is that
3 person who will get that done for you.
4 That's called judge shopping. It's not
5 permitted, but it happens in this county all
6 of the time, which is very prejudicial to
7 opposing counsel and litigants. I'll have
8 more about that in a future presentation.
9 Like right now I'd like to share with you
10 how Mr. McLane participates in frustrating a
11 case, cases involving the city, by not
12 scheduling these cases promptly.

13 I don't mind waiting for my day in
14 court, I'm used to it. Most attorneys and
15 litigants are, but I do mind waiting a
16 rather long period of time to have that day
17 scheduled. My cases, as you know, relate to
18 righting wrongs by this city, they should
19 not be dragged out forever, which is what's
20 happening. The people's best interest are
21 at the heart of all of the legal actions
22 that I have filed. I have not asked for
23 anything for myself, just to right these
24 wrongs like, for example, fighting to
25 recover parks that were illegally sold, to

1 recover the library buildings that are now
2 improperly in the possession of the Library
3 Authority that was dissolved, and removing
4 ineligible public official from office among
5 other types of cases.

6 The people should know that their
7 best interests are being pushed aside and
8 delayed by Mr. McLane's actions. Each of
9 you have been provided with examples of what
10 I refer to. You have Exhibit A, Exhibit B,
11 and Exhibit C before you, although, I could
12 have provided many, many more.

13 Exhibit A is the action I have filed
14 to recover the golf course wrongfully sold
15 several years ago. The case is now six
16 years old, although, it could have been over
17 in six months in front of an honest judge
18 with the people getting the golf course back
19 which was contributing about \$200,000 a year
20 in revenue.

21 On September 2nd of 2010, I
22 requested an argument date on the issue in
23 that case, that's marked page one in your
24 Exhibit A, it's a standard form called a
25 Praeceptum for Assignment. Page two is the

1 notice from Mr. McLane regarding my hearing
2 date on that matter. Look at the date on
3 Mr. McLane's letter of notice, it's December
4 the 13th of 2010, with a hearing date of
5 February 11. That's 101 days just to get a
6 hearing date and it was issued only after
7 confronting Mr. McLane or it may still not
8 be issued yet.

9 Exhibit B is an action that I filed
10 to recover \$30,000 from former Councilwoman
11 Judy Gatelli after the city paid that much
12 money in legal fees for a private lawsuit
13 that she engaged herself in.

14 On September the 3rd of 2010, I
15 requested an argument date on an issue in
16 this case. That's marked page one of
17 Exhibit B. Page two is the notice from
18 Mr. McLane regarding my hearing date. Look
19 at the date on his letter of notice, it's
20 also December the 13th. That's 100 days
21 later after requesting an argument date that
22 he finally provides one and that's again
23 only after confronting Mr. McLane for a
24 date.

25 This happens repeatedly with him.

1 Exhibit C is an action filed to remove
2 Mr. McDowell from office because he is
3 ineligible to hold the Office of County
4 Controller. These types of actions are
5 always scheduled very expeditiously
6 considering someone is holding office
7 illegally, as Mr. McDowell is.

8 At page one, in Exhibit C, is my
9 motion for an expedited hearing dated
10 December 30th of 2009. At page four, you
11 will see the order signed by Judge Nealon
12 dated December the 30th, 2009, that granted
13 the motion after a 45-minute argument and
14 ordered Mr. McLane to schedule an expedited
15 hearing, which is usually within seven to
16 ten days with these types of matters.

17 At page five is the scheduling order
18 filled in by Mr. McLane setting the hearing
19 date for February 26 or 59 days after Judge
20 Nealon ordered Mr. McLane to provide an
21 expedited hearing. These types of
22 schedulings are very problematic when we
23 have serious issues and things of great
24 public importance before the Court.

25 I understand that Mr. McLane has to

1 do what he is told to do by the judges, but
2 on matters of great public importance the
3 judges should not interfere with scheduling
4 to cause delay or in the alternative Mr.
5 McLane should not be unilaterally causing
6 delay in justice for the people. These are
7 lawsuits that are only to recover things
8 that the people have wrongfully lost. They
9 should be expedited, brought before a judge
10 quickly to get it down. Instead, they are
11 dragged out for five or six years and hope
12 that I'll either get frustrated and quit or
13 whatever the case may be.

14 Fortunately for them and fortunately
15 for the people that's not going to happen.
16 I'm just going to hang right in there with
17 them, but you can readily see what I'm up
18 against here and consider how many suits
19 that are against the city, there are over
20 100 of them and they all get dragged out.
21 All of them. Opposing counsel just running
22 up the tab and making a fortune on these
23 delays. I hope I made my point and I will
24 see you next week, God willing. Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there

1 anyone else who cares to address council?

2 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

3 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, do you have
4 any comment or motions?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Please. First, a
6 response to one of the Clerk's notes that we
7 received from Daron Northeast. While they
8 asked for code violations, I think the
9 request was for Daron Northeast to be a good
10 neighbor and whether there is a code
11 violation or not, I think that it's
12 incumbent upon Daron Northeast to do
13 something to address the complaints that
14 residents have and I would -- I would ask
15 council, I think that we should respond
16 against to Daron Northeast and that it's not
17 a matter of being in violation of a code,
18 it's a matter of being a good neighbor to
19 the people that live in that area and that
20 they should do something, something at the
21 very least to address the complaints that
22 these people have, and so I would ask that,
23 you know, we resend something to Daron
24 Northeast requesting --

25 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Second, I attended a
2 meeting this morning, I actually thought
3 that Mr. Loscombe would be there as well,
4 concerning the StreetSmart program. The
5 meeting was at the Scranton Parking
6 Authority to discuss the possibility of a
7 test program or a test trial run or whatever
8 for the StreetSmart program. I thought it
9 was in some ways a very productive meeting,
10 and others, you know, some things that are
11 still unresolved.

12 The gentleman from -- Mr. Miskell,
13 is it --

14 MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Miskell, as we started
16 the meeting asked was there any assurance,
17 you know, what assurances did StreetSmart
18 have that after this trial program that they
19 would receive, you know, the go ahead to
20 perform or to, you know, place or put the
21 system in place and he said that, you know,
22 a reasonable assurance -- that they needed a
23 reasonable assurance before they were going
24 to invest, you know, whatever the cost would
25 be of the trial program.

1 At this point the discussion then
2 became one of, you know, what assurances
3 were there or what assurances could be given
4 and the discussion centered around whether
5 StreetSmart was a sole source provider or
6 whether there was going to be a need for an
7 RFP, and that discussion went on for quite
8 awhile, and I don't know that there was a
9 real resolution to it.

10 I know that one of the things that
11 was suggested and hopefully will be followed
12 up on is that Mr. Attorney Kelly and also
13 Mr. Miskell were going to contact the
14 controller's office and discuss the idea or
15 discuss whether StreetSmart could be
16 determined as a soul source provider. If
17 that was the case, then I think Mr. Miskell
18 was ready to go ahead with that test
19 program.

20 Now, the actual program -- we
21 hypothetically talked about what that
22 program would entail, you know, I don't
23 think the details are important at this
24 point in time, but the one thing that was --
25 that did come out of it was that the Parking

1 Authority, Mr. Scopelliti said that they
2 were ready to implement the program when and
3 if it were approved and they were ready to
4 go ahead with the test when and if, you
5 know, a determination was made as to whether
6 the, you know -- there was a reasonable
7 assurance that StreetSmart would, in fact,
8 be the provider for this program.

9 So, as I said, I think it was a
10 somewhat useful meeting. Hopefully there
11 will be some resolution to the discrepancies
12 that exist and hopefully that it can move
13 forward and that that test can be done and
14 that from what Mr. Miskell keeps saying that
15 he practically guarantees that it will be
16 successful and that we can move forward with
17 the program, and that is all I had on that
18 meeting. I'm sure that, you know, you have
19 any comments later -- or if you have any
20 questions about it I'd be more than happy
21 to respond.

22 The other thing that I wanted to
23 mention was the -- we did receive a note or
24 a letter from Mr. Seitzinger with a request
25 to meet with him and other -- it doesn't

1 say, but hopefully with other members of the
2 administration to discuss the rental
3 registration program. I hope that council
4 will go ahead and arrange that meeting at
5 some point in time so that we can begin to
6 implement that in a more efficient manner
7 and also that we can move forward with
8 amending the rental registration ordinance
9 as it exists so that in the future the
10 program can be even more successful.

11 And lastly, congratulations to Mike
12 Munchak, a former student of mine at East
13 Scranton Junior High School. I didn't teach
14 him anything about football, believe me, but
15 I did beat him in an one-on-one basketball
16 game, but congratulations to Mr. Munchak on
17 becoming head coach of the Tennessee Titans.
18 A very good man. And that's all.

19 MS. EVANS: Indeed. Thank you,
20 Mr. McGoff. Mr. Rogan, any comments or
21 motions?

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes, a few comments.
23 I'm sure everyone read in the newspaper
24 about Mr. Greco petitioning the Courts to
25 receive more money, and when this came in

1 front of council I believe it was
2 Mr. Loscombe made a motion to reduce the
3 amount to \$25,000 and I believe it passed
4 4/1, four in the majority all voted for it.
5 On final passage I voted against it,
6 although, I was happy to see the amount
7 reduced I believe even \$25,000 on a
8 part-time basis was for too much money.

9 Now it turns out that after
10 petitioning the Courts Mr. Greco received
11 nearly \$50,000 for three months of part-time
12 work. When I would say that 90 percent of
13 the people out there aren't even making
14 \$50,000 full-time for one year of work.
15 This is just another example of the excess
16 in city government. It's been going on for
17 decades.

18 Moving onto another issue, as
19 Mr. Spindler brought up, last week I
20 mentioned about how poor the snow removal
21 was in West Side and throughout the whole
22 city, so following the meeting I actually
23 spoke to a few DPW workers who were angry
24 with my comments, and I told them I was just
25 relaying the message that I received from

1 residents. And he goes, "Well, how many
2 people asked -- or said that we did a good
3 job?"

4 And I said, "Well, none because
5 usually when people -- only contact city
6 council when they have a problem."

7 So I took it upon myself that the
8 people that contacted me throughout the week
9 I brought it up on asked them, and
10 overwhelmingly people were not happy with
11 the job that was done, and I'm not blaming
12 it on any specific workers, but in general
13 the snow removal was atrocious.

14 You know, Mr. Tobin was just here, a
15 handicapped man, trying to go to church in
16 his wheelchair and he said when he got to
17 the end of the sidewalk to cross the road he
18 couldn't because of ice. I was stuck in the
19 ice I believe Thursday down by Farley's on
20 the street there. All of the metered
21 parking spots were almost empty because
22 there was so much snow that people didn't
23 want to park there. Now, I was going into a
24 class at the University and I had to go to
25 class so I parked on the ice, after leaving

1 my car was stuck. Luckily because my
2 insurance covers roadside assistance it was
3 no charge to myself, but I asked the tow
4 truck driver, I go, you know, it doesn't
5 look like much. He goes, well, in this kind
6 of ice, he goes, a lot of people get stuck
7 and he had list of five more calls.

8 There was the letter to the editor
9 in the newspaper from a business opener
10 downtown who was complaining about the
11 metered parking, and besides the streets I
12 know that the Linden Street bridge, I
13 believe the city is responsible for cleaning
14 the snow off of that. And, you know, I
15 figured, well, obviously the roads are first
16 priority, but then the bridge must be
17 cleaned as well for pedestrians, so I was
18 driving by in the morning, I believe it was
19 Friday last week, and I saw crews out there
20 shoveling it off so I go, that's good. And
21 then I drive by on Monday they only shoveled
22 half of the one side of the sidewalk on the
23 bridge. If you are walking down Linden --
24 down the hill onto the bridge coming from
25 West Scranton and you are on the right-hand

1 side of the road, the first half of the
2 bridge is cleared, you can see, and then you
3 can see right where they stopped. I don't
4 why they would stop in the middle of
5 cleaning it. It needs to be cleaned. Even
6 if it was only one side at least some
7 pedestrians would have one side to walk onto
8 move from the down town to the West Side or
9 if they are going to go down Railroad
10 towards South Side.

11 And, you know, I have heard through
12 other DPW workers that I know that the DPW
13 union president wasn't very happy with my
14 comments. Well, that's too bad for him
15 because I'm here to represent the people of
16 Scranton. I'm not here to represent any
17 unions, any city workers, it's what the
18 people want. On a daily basis we all talk
19 dozens sometimes on a busy week 50 people
20 and they all have their complaints, their
21 concerns, and we listen to them. We listen
22 to what they have to say and we report up
23 here.

24 We ask the department heads to do
25 certain things and often times we don't see

1 it happen and that's very frustrating. I
2 know there was a caucus scheduled with
3 Mr. Brazil regarding -- was it the flooding?

4 MS. EVANS: Mr. Newcomb's issue.

5 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Newcomb's issue. Is
6 that next week?

7 MS. EVANS: We had hoped to have it
8 scheduled for I believe February 15,
9 however, in the meantime we have been
10 informed that those who have been invited
11 will not attend. Mr. Murphy will be in
12 session in Harrisburg, Mr. Tell is not
13 coming, Mr. Swanson has not responded,
14 Mr. Brazil has not responded.

15 MR. ROGAN: Well, I would hope that
16 that caucus would be reschedule and
17 hopefully if Mr. Brazil does come on that
18 same day we could also question him about
19 snow removal plans throughout the city, and
20 there was something I brought up last spring
21 and we are going to be -- hopefully the
22 weather will be breaking soon about the
23 street sweeping, an evens and odds system,
24 and there was no response from the DPW on
25 that as well, and hopefully he will come. I

1 know we have had a hard time getting
2 department heads in here for caucuses.

3 And one other comment, and actually
4 I'll just ask everyone, it seemed that in
5 the last three weeks we have had the
6 caucuses at 6:00, and I would ask that we
7 push them ahead a little earlier because I
8 notice sometimes by the time we get to the
9 end Mr. Loscombe and Mr. Joyce it seems like
10 they are squeezed for time because we run
11 over and I don't know if you get to ask all
12 of the questions you would like, but it's up
13 to everyone if we wanted to start a little
14 earlier we could have a little more time to
15 question whoever is coming in, because I
16 know with the DPW issues I could take up the
17 whole half hour myself.

18 Finally, one more question, I know
19 that, Mr. McGoff, you showed the letter
20 about the -- about the bids that came in I
21 believe it was for the streetlights?

22 MR. MCGOFF: Yeah.

23 MR. ROGAN: Have you heard anything
24 about that or has anybody because I have
25 received probably half a dozen to a dozen

1 requests about streetlights being out and
2 currently there is nobody to send them to,

3 MR. MCGOFF: Could I -- two
4 different issues, I guess we are -- first, I
5 can call -- if you give me the numbers in
6 the past what I had done with mine was I had
7 called Mr. Brazil and he contacted whoever
8 it was that was doing the repairs.

9 As far as the bids are concerned, I
10 received a number of -- I say a number, but
11 two people that claim that the RFP that was
12 done was inadequate, that there were things
13 contained in the RFP that would potentially
14 lead to some difficulties as far as the city
15 was concerned, perhaps some liability
16 issues, and that they felt that at the very
17 least that it needed to be rewritten and
18 rebid. I don't know if that's a
19 possibility, but certainly if it comes
20 before us for approval I don't know who
21 received the -- or, you know, what the
22 lowest bid was or who has been recommended,
23 but I certainly think at that point in time
24 we should re-examine what the RFP was and
25 whether they are any things that need to be

1 changed.

2 MR. ROGAN: Well, thank you, and
3 I'll get you, I have one of the numbers with
4 me, I just wrote it down, but I have a few,
5 I believe one on North Washington Avenue,
6 one in South Scranton and few more in West
7 Scranton that, you know, for awhile now, you
8 know, we have been saying, you know, we are
9 waiting for the bids. So, yeah, I'll get
10 you those tomorrow. I appreciate your help
11 on that. And I will reserve my comments for
12 the agenda issues to later.

13 MS. EVANS: I believe, though, that
14 MEM is still repairing, making repairs to
15 the streetlights, and even contacting I
16 think Mr. Bob Kearns directly he can take of
17 you.

18 MR. ROGAN: Great.

19 MR. MCGOFF: I will do that.

20 MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe, any
21 comments or motions tonight?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you, just
23 a couple of things. While we're on
24 streetlights, I know we have individual
25 e-mails with some streetlight problems, but

1 as Mr. Spindler stated I noticed the other
2 day the McDade Expressway totally black from
3 Mifflin Avenue right to the Main Avenue
4 exit. West Lackawanna Avenue bridge,
5 totally out both sides. I don't know if
6 there is an electrical problem or what, but
7 I'll provide these to you, Mrs. Krake.

8 Lackawanna Avenue from the Bon-Ton
9 side all the way up to the 500 block
10 probably 70 percent of the lighting is out,
11 decorative lighting and the high square
12 lights, especially the north side of the
13 street they are all out. The one night both
14 sides were out so I don't know if there is
15 electrical problem there, also.

16 And also in the 500 block the light
17 in front of Buona Pizza and the two lights,
18 the decorative lights, in front of First
19 Liberty Bank across the street are out, so
20 it seems like quite a few lights out in big
21 volumes, too, so hopefully we can get those
22 resolved. It then becomes a safety issue
23 with dark blocks like that, too.

24 And next item would be in our budget
25 we included an item for the Griffin Pond

1 Animal Shelter this year. I forget what the
2 exact amount was, but I was just wondering
3 if we could request our animal control
4 officer if there is some way he could keep
5 an accounting of the animals that he takes
6 there so we will have a head ups on this
7 budgetary item and, you know, we won't get
8 caught down the road, caught short or having
9 to make anything up. We'll at least know
10 where we stand on a month-to-month basis.

11 And the last item is I'd glad
12 Mr. McGoff was at the meeting this morning
13 with the Parking Authority, I wasn't
14 informed that there was going to be a
15 meeting until late last night by
16 Mr. Miskell. No one from the city notified
17 me that there would be a meeting, but
18 Mr. Miskell called me as he always does when
19 he is heading up this way and he told me he
20 was coming up and he was going to go to a
21 meeting. We had discussed possibly my
22 attending with him. He was meeting with
23 Mr. Scopelliti, Attorney Kelly, and
24 Mr. McGowan as far as he knew, and after we
25 discussed it a little bit I felt it was

1 better for him to meet with them personally.
2 I mean, I'm sold on the program, he has to
3 explain to them a little more in detail, I'm
4 glad they were open to listen to it, and I
5 am glad Mr. McGoff was there to hear the
6 program and get a clearer explanation on it.

7 According to Mr. Miskell after I
8 spoke to him, he thought the meeting was
9 pretty productive, and as Mr. McGoff said,
10 that the one thing they were looking at was
11 the sole source. Every place they have gone
12 so far have utilized the sole source, and I
13 believe he mentioned, he may have forgotten
14 to mention, that theirs is the only program
15 that uses with the coin machines. The other
16 companies would have to come in and change
17 the machinery around and stuff like that.
18 They use a -- you know, in a block maybe a
19 ten unit meter that you would pay for and
20 stuff like that.

21 But it's great to see that, you
22 know, things are starting to come together.
23 I mean, I got involved in this because I
24 thought it would work for the city, I
25 thought it would be a definite help, and

1 someone mentioned before about the budget
2 for the Parking Authority and that, I mean,
3 we just received the Parking Authority
4 budget the beginning of the year, but we
5 have also seen, you know -- we know that
6 they have been struggling to pay their bills
7 on an annual basis, so hopefully this -- you
8 know, this is one step in the right
9 direction to benefit everyone.

10 And Mr. Miskell is going to come up
11 and we are going to try and get together
12 with the business district people and, you
13 know, explain it to them. He was just down
14 in Wilkes-Barre, he had a very good meeting
15 down there. He met with the business
16 people. I believe there were about 100 and,
17 you know, as I stated before, their first
18 thing is, oh, it's going to kill my
19 business. He said when he went in there it
20 was like walking into a lynch mob, by the
21 time he was leaving they were thanking him
22 and congratulating him and so it looks like
23 a go down there, also.

24 As far as the 90-day test program,
25 that appears to be the way we are going to

1 be going for this and that was always on the
2 table. However, we wanted to get -- what
3 that entails is 50 meters and basically the
4 meters, they will probably be around a
5 courthouse square, there will be I think
6 there is 52 meters within that square area
7 so that would be a good starting point to
8 get the basis. It's just going to delay
9 fully implementation by that much longer,
10 but he is confident if they go with it that
11 we can -- we can do what we said in the
12 budget.

13 As far as I think Mr. McGoff alluded
14 to the test period and were there any
15 guarantee, Mr. Miskell asked if there is any
16 guarantees if they do the test, the test
17 program and all of that. Well, I think he
18 has seen the nature of the politics
19 especially in this area. He is a native of
20 Scranton even though he doesn't live here
21 long, and he was a little -- you know, he
22 has to be a little skeptical, is he going to
23 do the 90-day test period his question was
24 and then they are going to put out an RFP
25 and that's exactly what their intention was.

1 So he said, well, just put out the RFP and
2 we'll do the 90 days part of that, let them
3 put it in there RFP's, which I believe is
4 only fair, and that explains why there was
5 that question in the beginning about, you
6 know, his guarantee, his asking about a
7 guarantee if they were going to implement it
8 if he did the test period. He just wants to
9 be on equal footing.

10 But, you know, it's a major
11 investment for their company, too, to do the
12 90-day testing. They have to do a lot of
13 work and setup a lot of equipment and so I
14 just hope that all works out. It seems like
15 everybody is coming on the same page. Our
16 last conversation apparently Attorney Kelly
17 would like to get together with Attorney
18 Hughes and the city controller's attorney
19 and just verify the sole source
20 documentation, which is no problem. They
21 are the only ones that have that technology
22 that can be utilized in our systems and
23 hopefully they will get this together as
24 soon as possible, so we can start, you know,
25 helping the city out. And that's all I have

1 to say. Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe, maybe you
3 can elaborate on this or perhaps concur with
4 what I'm about to say, during a conversation
5 I had with Mr. Miskell by phone I asked him
6 about the Duncan parking meters and if it
7 required -- if the implementation of the
8 StreetSmart Technology Parking Program
9 required the replacement of Duncan parking
10 meters within the City of Scranton, and his
11 answer was, "Absolutely not. We can work
12 with the meters that are in place, they are
13 Duncan meters and we will make some
14 adjustment to that --"

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: They have something
16 that has to adapt inside of there, like, a
17 computer-type thing.

18 MR. MCGOFF: He showed us today at
19 the meeting. There is a mechanism that is
20 placed in the meter itself. The meter that
21 we look at is just a casing that holds it,
22 but there is a fixture that goes inside.
23 All of -- any meters that would be used in
24 the StreetSmart program, that fixture would
25 need to be replaced on any of the meters,

1 and I forget what he said the cost of those
2 were to replace, but --

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: It was \$175 each.

4 MR. MCGOFF: But it would be
5 included in the overall cost --

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Correct.

7 MR. MCGOFF: -- of the --

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: -- implementation.

9 MR. MCGOFF: The program, so it
10 wouldn't be, like, you have to pay this now,
11 it would be included in the five-year cost.
12 I think it was five years.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Five years, yes.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Five-year cost of the
15 program or the other possibility was, and
16 this came from Mr. Scopelliti that they had
17 been looking at the possibility of
18 implementing new meters that would allow for
19 credit cards and smart cards and that Mr.
20 Miskell said that they are able to integrate
21 their program with those as well.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23 MR. MCGOFF: So even if there was an
24 upgrade to the meters, you know, beyond the
25 minimum that they could integrate the

1 program with those.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes. And I think he
3 also indicated to me that his company has
4 some type of a legal agreement with Duncan
5 because they have had to work with these
6 types of meters in other municipalities and
7 so Duncan and StreetSmart are able to work
8 together very well and at a very low cost,
9 so I think a bit of what has been presented
10 in the newspaper has misrepresented that
11 situation, unfortunately, and made it appear
12 far more costly than it is in actuality.
13 Mr. Loscombe?

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: And again, as
15 Mr. McGoff said, I mean, the cost are built
16 in over a five-year period. There is no
17 upfront money which, you know, it makes
18 sense and if we don't reach our base they
19 don't receive any payment and all of that
20 will be in the agreements between the
21 attorneys.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Could I just one
23 other-- perhaps one last thing, I keep
24 remembering things that he stated, and I
25 don't remember them talking about it when

1 they were here, but he indicated today that
2 the program itself is not designed for all--
3 to cover all 12,000 -- or 1,200 meters,
4 1,200 -- 1,200 meters. 12,000 meters,
5 right, but what the program does is target
6 the higher occupancy --

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: More business usage
8 type.

9 MR. MCGOFF: So that the downtown
10 area would be targeted more for the program
11 whereas the ancillary areas perhaps you
12 don't need to change the meters and to
13 implement the program there because there is
14 not enough of a return to do that which made
15 sense and, you know, he said even with that,
16 even with the limited use and targeting the
17 higher occupancy areas, that he felt that
18 they could still meet, you know,
19 expectations that they had mentioned.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Mr. Joyce, any comments
23 or motions? I'm very sorry for the
24 interruption.

25 MR. JOYCE: That's okay. Just a few

1 I believe, I'll keep it short. I have been
2 informed by some very various city residents
3 who travel along Meadow Avenue that the
4 condition road is very subpar at this point
5 and various residents report cracks,
6 potholes, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.
7 It's making travel conditions very bumpy.

8 In fact, a resident actually
9 informed me and stated that by going over
10 one of the potholes it actually resulted in
11 a flat tire. Mrs. Krake, I believe Meadow
12 Avenue is a state route. I believe it's
13 part of the State Route K130, would you
14 please be able to contact PennDOT at
15 1-800-349-7623, and inform them that it is
16 council's wish to have this road paved or at
17 least repaired as soon as weather permits.
18 In addition, if you could please follow-up
19 with a letter from council that would be
20 appreciated as well.

21 MR. MCGOFF: That's the area between
22 River Street and Moosic Street, is that the
23 area of Meadow Avenue you are speaking of?

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes. As you also said,
25 Mrs. Krake, in Clerk's note we received

1 of council we contacted Municipal Energy
2 Mangers with the pole number and they fixed
3 the light rather quickly. I'm not sure if
4 the inclement weather has something to do
5 with the delayed response time at this
6 point, but I'll provide that number to you.

7 I actually did go on the website and
8 tried to enter the number myself thinking
9 that there may have been an error when the
10 resident entered the pole number, however,
11 it said there this is a request in for it,
12 so maybe you can follow-up with Mr. Kearns
13 and find out what the scenario is there and
14 perhaps maybe it's a matter of the roads
15 being snowed covered and ice as Mr. Rogan
16 has brought up that makes it a little bit
17 tougher to repair lights in these
18 conditions.

19 And finally, the whole ordeal with
20 Attorney Greco being paid additional funding
21 since he surpassed the \$25,000 limit that
22 council had approved for him, I know Mr.
23 Rogan stated that he thought \$100,000 was a
24 great amount for a part-time job, and I do
25 have to stay I definitely agree with that.

1 I voted for the \$25,000, though I think that
2 is quite sufficient amount in hopes that
3 that amount would be adhered to and
4 obviously it was not, and all in all we
5 ended up paying I believe it was \$143,000 or
6 -- so it was somewhere in the 140's.

7 One of the solutions to this was
8 taking care of hopefully by the 2011
9 operating budget, as amended, where a
10 full-time solicitor position was created in
11 the Office of Economic and Community
12 Development and that position is reimbursed
13 at the same rate that the city solicitor is.

14 Therefore, now they have a dedicated
15 solicitor and now they have that rate and,
16 Mrs. Krake, correct me if I'm wrong, I
17 believe Mr. Greco was hired for that
18 position; correct? You believe so? Yes?

19 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

20 MR. JOYCE: Just to follow-up to
21 make sure would you be able to send a
22 request to Miss Aebli and have her confirm
23 that is the case, that Mr. Greco was, in
24 fact, the full-time solicitor for OECD and
25 that he now is compensated on a biweekly

1 basis and that there is not an hourly rate
2 that he is charging the city as of January
3 1, 2011. And that's all I have for tonight.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
5 evening. Like many of you and my
6 colleagues, I recently read that the City of
7 Scranton paid Attorney Carl Greco an
8 additional \$20,632 by Court judgment.
9 Scranton City Council was not notified of
10 this original payment or this additional
11 payment by the administration which
12 increased Attorney Greco's 2010 wages to a
13 total of \$170,632 for a part-time position,
14 and his grand total for nine years of the
15 part-time work to well over a million
16 dollars.

17 This is why Scranton City Council
18 ended contracts with Attorney Greco in the
19 2011 budget and in their place included, as
20 Mr. Joyce alluded to a minute ago, an annual
21 salary of \$52,500 for a position of OECD
22 solicitor. City council's goal is to save
23 the taxpayers money by halting the ever
24 spiraling monies paid to this attorney
25 because previous legislation authorizing

1 Attorney Greco's contracts stated a specific
2 dollar amount or until such time as the
3 dollar amount was reached, whichever came
4 first.

5 It is difficult to understand the
6 judgments rendered not once but twice by the
7 Lackawanna County Courts, which stipulate
8 payment beyond the restrictions of the
9 contract. I would like to know if the city
10 was represented by council in Court and if
11 it opposed those payments.

12 Mrs. Krake, please send a letter to
13 Solicitor Kelly on behalf of Scranton City
14 Council requesting responses to these
15 questions with the following additional
16 questions: If the City of Scranton was
17 represented by legal counsel, provide the
18 name of the attorney or law firm.

19 Also, if the city was not
20 represented in Court and did not oppose
21 additional payments to Attorney Greco beyond
22 the terms of the legislation authorizing his
23 contract, why did the city fail to defend
24 itself and the taxpayers of Scranton?

25 Who authorized and directed Attorney

1 Greco continue to perform work for the City
2 of Scranton and OECD beyond the terms and
3 restrictions of his \$25,000 contract in
4 2010?

5 From what annual operating budget
6 and account was the \$20,632 paid? From that
7 account in OECD was money paid?

8 Lastly, council requests an itemized
9 specific and complete list of all costs and
10 coinciding dates of Attorney Carl Greco's
11 fees for the eminent domain case against
12 Buona Pizza and Mr. Staldondy. This final
13 information should be obtained through the
14 appropriate city department.

15 It seems there might be more to
16 Attorney Greco's contracts and services than
17 meets the eye and the taxpayers and city
18 council have the right to know how contract
19 restrictions can be broken in city
20 government.

21 Next, it has been entirely too many
22 years since a mayor of Scranton has
23 addressed the good people of our city, the
24 people who keep our city alive through their
25 tax dollars, community service, and

1 commitment to lay down permanent roots. On
2 behalf of Scranton City Council, I invite
3 Mayor Doherty to present his 2011 state of
4 the city address in Scranton City Council
5 chambers on any Tuesday evening in February
6 or March at 7:00 p.m. City council will
7 forego it's regularly scheduled meeting on
8 the selected evening to provide this
9 opportunity to Mayor Doherty. Council
10 respectfully requests a reply on or before
11 February 14, 2011.

12 City council received correspondence
13 from the Elm Street Community Program in
14 South Scranton requesting enforcement of
15 city ordinances and the rental registration
16 program. According to Jennifer L.
17 McCambridge, Esquire, this organization has
18 received complaints that the city ordinance
19 is not being enforced.

20 Mrs. Krake, please send a copy of
21 this letter to Mr. Seitzinger and Mr. Oleski
22 together with reminder that the January
23 report of the rental registration program
24 was due during the first week of February to
25 Scranton City Council and council requests

1 the January report on or before February 14,
2 2011.

3 Next, Mrs. Krake, did city council
4 receive the requested information from
5 Mr. McGowan? Is that what he is indicating
6 he needs an additional 30 days --

7 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

8 MS. EVANS: -- to provide to us?

9 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes. And have we heard
11 from Attorney Kelly regarding the parking
12 use agreement?

13 MS. KRAKE: No.

14 MS. EVANS: No, we have not.

15 MS. KRAKE: No.

16 MS. EVANS: Please send a
17 Right-to-Know request to City Solicitor Paul
18 Kelly for the parking use agreement for the
19 Medallion Garage.

20 And finally, I have several
21 citizens' requests for the week:

22 Residents report that East Mountain
23 Streets were not plowed in as wide a manner
24 as in prior years and that pebbles used by
25 the DPW on icy streets are inadequate to

1 melt snow and ice and prevent vehicles from
2 skidding. Has the city yet received
3 additional salt and the anti-skid materials?
4 The funding for these materials was not cut
5 in the 2011 budget and the original supply
6 was ordered in the Fall of 2010.

7 Residents request to clean the catch
8 basins citywide particularly those on sloped
9 surfaces such as East Mountain Road,
10 Mulberry Street and Linden Street. As snow
11 and ice melt, the basins must be opened in
12 order to prevent flooding.

13 A letter to Chief Duffy, residents
14 report that the intersection of Jefferson
15 Avenue and Spruce Street, those traveling
16 passed the Radisson Hotel towards the Spruce
17 Street bridge fail to heed the "no turn on
18 red" sign in late afternoon traffic.
19 Residents request that police officers
20 please monitor this situation.

21 Residents of the 1400 block of the
22 St. Ann's Street report that the entire side
23 of this street is buckling and appears to be
24 lifting up. When traveling up from the
25 bottom of the street by Sloan field, drivers

1 must use the middle of the street to avoid
2 severe holes. Please inspect this block and
3 take appropriate measures as soon as
4 possible.

5 Downtown business patrons, and this
6 has been said before this evening, report
7 that snow and ice were piled up by curbs
8 thereby preventing meter parking. City
9 businesses are adversely affected while
10 simultaneously the city is losing parking
11 revenue. Keep these areas clean during the
12 remaining winter weeks as much as possible.

13 Please plow the 500 block of Decker
14 Court and Fleet Place. Residents report
15 that the plowing stopped in the 400 block of
16 Decker Street, and that kind of reminds me
17 of your anecdote about by the bridge going
18 just so far and then stopping, a little
19 unusual.

20 Crosswalks at Francis Willard
21 School, please clean.

22 Please remove snow and ice from
23 handicapped accessible ramps and curb cuts
24 in downtown Scranton.

25 A letter to PennDOT, can the traffic

1 signalization program utilize incandescent
2 lights rather than LED lights which have
3 demonstrated problems during winter months.

4 A letter to Miss Aebli, for what
5 purpose have the grant monies previously
6 allocated to the Mulberry Plaza and Warhorse
7 project been utilized? Does this money
8 remain available?

9 Next, a letter to the Scranton
10 Parking Authority, what number of spaces is
11 available for parking by tenants of the
12 Mulberry Loft's building project?

13 What number of spaces are used as
14 monthly parking, and what number of spaces
15 are used by the Commonwealth Medical
16 College? I know that we learned in 2010
17 that the Commonwealth medical school has
18 been granted an annually increasing number
19 of free parking spaces in the Scranton
20 Parking Authority garages, and if this is
21 one of the garages affected by that I fail
22 to see how this one particular garage that
23 is adjacent to the Mulberry Loft project
24 could accommodate all of this parking on a
25 daily basis, and that's it.

1 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, I have one
2 thing I forgot to mention. Mrs. Krake,
3 could we please that 459 Phelps Street be
4 looked into to be put on the blight
5 demolition list? Sorry, I forgot to mention
6 that earlier.

7 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AMENDING FILE OF
8 COUNCIL NO. 97, 2009, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
9 "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2010" BY
10 TRANSFERRING \$162,652.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
11 01.401.13090.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL
12 OPERATING EXPENSES - CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT
13 NO. 01.011.00078.4120 (FIRE DEPARTMENT -
14 LIFE/DISABILITY INSURANCE) TO PROVIDE
15 FUNDING TO COVER LIFE INSURANCE ADJUSTMENTS
16 PER COURT AWARD.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. JOYCE: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
23 those in favor of introduction signify by
24 saying aye.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

6 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AUTHORIZING THE
7 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
8 TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT FOR THE
9 REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM
10 ("RACP") THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
11 PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE BUDGET IN THE
12 AMOUNT OF THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED
13 THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,500,000.00); IF THE
14 APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, ACCEPTING AND
15 DISBURSING THE GRANT; AND COORDINATING THE
16 USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH "SCRANTON-
17 MULBERRY, LP", FOR THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED
18 "THE MULBERRY LOFTS".

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

22 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

24 MS. EVANS: On the question? I'm
25 going to vote in favor of introduction this

1 evening, however, I made a statement during
2 tonight's caucus and I wanted to reiterate
3 that Mr. Jefferson stated that, yes, there
4 are tax delinquencies on this building that
5 have not been paid. His intention was to
6 pay the 2011 forthcoming taxes and those
7 that, of course, will occur annually
8 thereafter.

9 However, I cannot vote for final
10 approval, in favor of final approval of this
11 project, until such time as those
12 delinquencies and interest and any
13 accompanying penalties would be paid by
14 Mr. Jefferson and his partner. I know that
15 they have approached the Scranton School
16 District for forgiveness of these
17 delinquencies. He indicated tonight as well
18 he would be asking the city and the county
19 to do so as well, and I will not approve
20 forgiveness. Everyone who lives in this
21 city is paying taxes and many people who
22 have fallen on hard times, unemployment,
23 illness, have a tremendous difficulty paying
24 their taxes and no one is forgiving those
25 delinquencies.

1 I think having received a very
2 generous RACP grant in the past and standing
3 to benefit from another very generous grant
4 it behooves these gentlemen to pay their
5 delinquent taxes, and until that happens I
6 could not approve -- or rather I could not
7 grant final approval to this project. Is
8 there anyone else on the question?

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would just second
10 what you stated as I questioned, also,
11 Mr. Jefferson on that, that same item. I
12 feel the same way as you do on this, Mrs.
13 Evans. That's all I have to say.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you is there
15 anyone else on question? All those in favor
16 of introduction signify by saying aye.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

20 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO
24 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

25 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR

1 looking for at this time, so I cannot vote
2 for it without having the correct answers.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, I was --
4 Mr. Loscombe I was in the office around four
5 and I think that's when it just came in, so
6 I didn't have a chance to review it either
7 and if we were going to do a final vote on
8 it I would probably vote "no" as I stated
9 last week because of the issue that
10 Mr. Sbaraglia brought up that I'm glad he
11 did because none of us though thought of it
12 that the city is going to take
13 responsibility for the roadway before the
14 construction begins. After construction,
15 moving heavy equipment over that road I'm
16 sure there is going to be a lot of damage
17 and the city taxpayers shouldn't on the hook
18 for it.

19 MS. EVANS: And I believe the area
20 is divided into perhaps -- or subdivided
21 into perhaps five areas only one of which is
22 close to completion in terms of I believe
23 it's maybe an office project, so the other
24 four really have remained stagnant which
25 means that, of course, there will be

1 construction equipment traveling back and
2 forth.

3 I think another point we made last
4 week was the fact that the city does not
5 normally ordain streets until the completion
6 of the project and this is certainly very
7 far from full and ultimate completion and I,
8 too, if I had to vote on this evening rather
9 than tabling it could not approve it.

10 MR. JOYCE: I would also like to say
11 that I do need some time to review the
12 correspondence that has been sent to us as
13 well and at this time I would definitely not
14 approve 7-A due to the fact that I just
15 simply do not think that the taxpayers
16 should be footing the bill if there are
17 damages done to the road due to the actual
18 construction project that will occur, so I
19 am also in favor of tabling this at this
20 time.

21 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of
22 the motion signify by saying aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

1 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

2 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
3 have it and so moved. Item 7-A is tabled.

4 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
5 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
6 FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 10, 2011 -
7 PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF A STORM
8 WATER BASIN IN THE MOUNT PLEASANT
9 SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
10 PENNSYLVANIA. ALSO AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
11 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
12 ACCEPT FOR THE SUM OF ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) AND
13 RECORD IN THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY RECORDER OF
14 DEEDS OFFICIAL RECORDS A DEED FOR THE ABOVE
15 MENTIONED RIGHT OF WAY.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would like to make
17 a motion to table Item 7-B.

18 MR. ROGAN: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
20 floor to table Item 7-B and a second. On
21 the question?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question,
23 basically the same reasons as 7-A. That's
24 all part of the same project.

25 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the

1 question? All those in favor of
2 introduction signify by saying aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make a
10 motion to take Resolution No. 4, 2011, from
11 the table.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
14 floor and a second, on the question?

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes. This is the
16 appointment of Mr. McGowan. Although, I am
17 not going to vote for the appointment I
18 believe it does deserve an up or down vote.

19 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on
20 the question? All those in favor signify by
21 saying aye.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

1 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
2 have it and so moved.

3 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-
5 RESOLUTION NO. 4, 2011 (PREVIOUSLY TABLED) -
6 APPOINTMENT OF RYAN MCGOWAN, 735 NORTH
7 BROMLEY AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
8 18504 TO THE POSITION OF BUSINESS
9 ADMINISTRATOR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 10, 2011.
10 MR. MCGOWAN WILL BE REPLACING STUART RENDA,
11 WHO RESIGNED.

12 MS. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
13 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
14 passage of Item 7-C.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question?

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question.
18 As I said earlier, before this debacle with
19 the tax office came about I probably would
20 have voted for Mr. McGowan, but it bothers
21 me that Mr. McGowan would notice -- well,
22 it's good that he noticed there was a
23 million dollars missing from one account
24 even though it wasn't missing, but the other
25 account had an extra million dollars, so

1 there wasn't any money missing at any point
2 in time, and it seems that first he tried to
3 blame it on the tax collector, who has been
4 doing an excellent job, then he tried to
5 blame it on a clerical worker, so it seems
6 that there is no accountability here, so I
7 am not going to vote "yes" for this
8 appointment.

9 MR. MCGOFF: You are taking one
10 incident and generalizing it. Mr. McGowan--

11 MR. ROGAN: When it's -- for
12 weeks --

13 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me. Mr. McGowan
14 has worked for the city in a number of
15 capacities and he has complied with
16 everything that we have asked -- that
17 council has asked him to do and I don't see
18 any reason why we would vote against the
19 appointment. It is the mayor's appointment
20 and it's up to him to determine whether the
21 person is a fit for the position or not.

22 MR. ROGAN: Although it is up to the
23 mayor to make the appointment, we are the
24 ones voting now up or down.

25 MS. EVANS: Well, the only thing I

1 wanted to add to that is Mr. Rogan is
2 correct in that the mayor makes the
3 appointment, and Mr. McGoff is correct in
4 that it is the mayor's prerogative to chose
5 his cabinet members. City Council will vote
6 on this in an effort to provide it's
7 consent, advice and consent, to the mayor.
8 However, I believe that even if this should
9 be voted down it will make no difference in
10 the situation and that Mr. McGowan who
11 already is acting in this position will
12 continue in his role as business
13 administrator and it seems, unfortunately,
14 that council's votes in such cases are
15 nothing more than symbolic.

16 MR. JOYCE: Just to provide the
17 public since I'm the Finance Chair with a
18 brief description of Mr. McGowan's resume
19 that he submitted to us. He has a bachelor
20 of science in management from Marywood
21 University, he graduated in December of
22 2002. From that time he has held several
23 positions. He was the Finance and
24 Compliance Director of OECD from June of
25 2010 to January of 2011. He served as the

1 city's treasurer from 2008 to June of 2010,
2 and he also was a deputy director and
3 program manager in the Department of Parks
4 and Recreation from January of 2004 to
5 November of 2006. And he worked for the
6 Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance from
7 December of '06 to July '08.

8 I know that he has made some -- has
9 made an error, as Mr. Rogan had pointed out,
10 and do I agree that's a great first start?
11 No, not at all, and personally I don't like
12 the idea of throwing one's employees under
13 the bus, per se, and just blaming it all on
14 an error made by a secretary or clerical
15 person or a clerk in the office, you are the
16 head of the office, you take responsibility
17 for your employees.

18 I realize that this is the mayor's
19 appointment though are there better
20 candidates for the job? There may be. But
21 I do believe that this is the mayor's
22 appointment and for this I will give -- I
23 will vote affirmative to give him the chance
24 in the spirit of cooperation to establish a
25 working relationship hopefully between city

1 council and the BA's Office that was absent
2 in the previous year just due to the fact
3 that we sent numerous, numerous, numerous
4 requests that have went unanswered, so I'm
5 hoping that we could have a better
6 relationship with the BA at this time
7 around. That's all.

8 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on
9 the question? Roll call, please?

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: No.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

19 MS. EVANS: No. I hereby declare
20 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

21 MS. KRAKE: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-
23 RESOLUTION NO. 5, 2011 - AUTHORIZING THE
24 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
25 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT

1 WITH HORSEPOWER HARLEY DAVIDSON, INC. TO
2 LEASE FIVE (5) POLICE PACKAGE MOTORCYCLES.

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

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

7 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
8 call, please?

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION
21 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
22 FOR ADOPTION- RESOLUTION NO. 6, 2011 -
23 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
24 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO
25 SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT NO.

1 041439-C WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
2 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
3 REGARDING THE SCRANTON CENTRAL BUSINESS
4 SIGNALIZATION PROJECT TO CONTINUE FUNDING OF
5 THE FINAL DESIGN, BIDDING AND CONSTRUCTION
6 PHASES OF THE PROJECT.

7 MS. EVANS: What is the
8 recommendation of the Chair for the
9 Committee on Community Development?

10 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
11 Committee on Community Development, I
12 recommend final passage.

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

14 MS. EVANS: On the questions?

15 MR. MCGOFF: Once again, I'm just
16 going to state that I guess the words in
17 this that are somewhat difficult are to
18 continue funding. This is, as I said the
19 last week, this is a project that we have
20 been looking at for years and years and
21 years and it doesn't seem to have an end.
22 And while I'm -- I certainly want to
23 continue funding it, I certainly want to see
24 it's, you know, completion, it would be nice
25 to know how far into the future we are going

1 to need to continue this funding. That's
2 all.

3 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, would you
4 like us to contact PennDOT and see?

5 MR. MCGOFF: I thought we did that,
6 you know, we were going to do that last
7 week. Like I said, I approve of the, you
8 know, continuation of the program, but I
9 think at some point in time we do need to
10 get something that would give us an idea of
11 finalization of this project.

12 MS. EVANS: They did send us, and
13 I'm sure you might have seen it, a location
14 of all of the traffic signals that are going
15 to be changed throughout the business
16 district, the central business district, but
17 I agree with you, I have been watching this
18 for years as well.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Probably longer than I.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes, and I am wondering
21 if any of us will still remain on city
22 council by the time it's finished, so I
23 think we should contact PennDOT and try to
24 get some type of answer from them, if they
25 can even provide us with a year at this

1 point.

2 MR. MCGOFF: A decade.

3 MS. EVANS: Yes. Okay. Roll call,
4 please.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

12 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

16 MS. KRAKE: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION
17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY FOR
18 ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 7, 2011 -
19 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO MAKE
20 APPLICATION TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF
21 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
22 FOR A PERMIT TO INSTALL AND OPERATE A
23 TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION OF
24 WYOMING AVENUE (S.R. 3025) AND POPLAR
25 STREET FOR A NEW SIGNAL FOR THE CENTRAL

1 BUSINESS DISTRICT WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR THE
2 COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT.

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 of Item 7-F.

9 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

19 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION
24 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY FOR
25 ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 8, 2011 - ACCEPTING

1 OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY FOR
2 TRAFFIC SIGNAL DEVICE AT THE INTERSECTION OF
3 WYOMING AVENUE (SR 3025) AND POPLAR STREET
4 AND ACCEPTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE
5 AGREEMENT NO. 04S-19 BETWEEN THE
6 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
7 TRANSPORTATION (COMMONWEALTH) AND THE CITY
8 OF SCRANTON (SUBDIVISION) AS PART OF THE
9 CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT SIGNALIZATION
10 PROJECT (CBD).

11 MS. EVANS: What is the
12 recommendation of the Chair for the
13 Committee on Public Safety?

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: As Chairperson for
15 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
16 final passage of Item 7-G.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
19 call, please?

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

6 MS. KRAKE: 7-H. FOR CONSIDERATION
7 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
8 FOR ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 9, 2011 -
9 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
10 CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A
11 GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
12 CAPITAL PROGRAM ("RACP") THROUGH THE
13 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE
14 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF THREE MILLION
15 DOLLARS (\$3,000,000.00); IF THE APPLICATION
16 IS SUCCESSFUL, ACCEPTING AND DISBURSING THE
17 GRANT; AND COORDINATING THE USE OF THE GRANT
18 FUNDS WITH "GREENSPACE PROPERTIES, LLC", FOR
19 THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED THE "MADISON
20 SCHOOL".

21 MS. EVANS: What is the
22 recommendation of the Chair for the
23 Committee on Community Development?

24 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
25 Committee on Community Development, I

1 recommend final passage of Item 7-H.

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

3 MS. EVANS: On the question?

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question, as
5 I stated last week, I support this project
6 100 percent. We hope that it will be
7 successful just as the Connell building
8 project was, I know it's a different
9 developer, but it takes a piece of property
10 that was wasn't on the tax roles, puts it
11 back on the tax roles and it removes blight
12 for the neighbors who -- the neighbors who
13 have contacted me have been very supportive
14 of this project.

15 MS. EVANS: And as other residents,
16 particularly this evening beyond Mr. Miller
17 stated, they would like to see grants
18 invested in neighborhood and this particular
19 grant is doing just that by adaptive reuse
20 of a former school property just as the
21 Scranton Lace Complex Project is another
22 example of RACP grants in use in our city
23 neighborhoods. So I am very pleased to
24 approve this and I wish Mr. Romanowsky and
25 his partners great success.

1 Anyone else on the question? Roll
2 call, please.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
13 Item 7-H legally and lawfully adopted. If
14 there is no further business, I will
15 entertain a motion to adjourn.

16 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

17 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
18 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