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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

LOCATION:

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce. Mrs.

11 Evans.

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

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

15 MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD

16 MEETING HELD

17 JANUARY 26, 2011.

18 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

19 If not, received and filed.

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. CONTRIBUTION WAS
21 MADE BY WILLIAM R. JACKOWITZ IN THE AMOUNT
22 OF \$50.00 TO BE USED FOR MANPOWER IN THE
23 CITY'S PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT.

24 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

25 If not, received and filed. Clerk's notes.

1 MS. KRAKE: We don't have any
2 Clerk's notes this evening, Mrs. Evans, we
3 will have quite a bit for next week.

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

7 (Mr. Joyce takes takes the dais and
8 joins the meeting.)

9 MR. MCGOFF: I just have one from
10 DPW. The garbage pickup schedule for this
11 week is behind one day because of Monday's
12 snowstorm. DPW was not scheduled off for
13 President's Day holiday, but they did work
14 on the snowstorm in lieu of the refuse
15 pickup, so everything is one day behind.

16 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes. On Saturday,
18 February 26 from 7 to 11 p.m. there will be
19 a "Saturday for Sam" benefit supporting the
20 Sam Fortese benefit fund. He was diagnosed
21 with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in
22 October. Friends and Family are getting
23 together to help offset the burden of this
24 diagnosis. Join us for refreshments and
25 light fare. Raffles for Philly's and New

1 York Yankee tickets and more. It will be
2 February 26 from 7 to 11 p.m. at Holy Cross
3 at 501 East Drinker Street in Dunmore.

4 There is a \$20 donation.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: There will be the
6 Poets in concert with a special appearance
7 by Frankie and the Corvettes on March 4,
8 2011. It will be held at Elm Park Church,
9 712 Linden Street. The doors will open at
10 6:00 p.m. The concert starts at seven,
11 ticket prices are \$12.50 in advance, and \$15
12 at the door. Advance tickets are available
13 by calling Jack Dobenhauser, 909-4974, Jason
14 Miller, 342-4794, or Brian Grassi at
15 343-8076.

16 And another one, there is going to
17 be a benefit for Don Moran on March 19 at
18 Holy Rosary Hall from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The
19 cost of the tickets are \$15, and that's all
20 I have.

21 MR. JOYCE: I apologize, I was
22 running a few minutes behind tonight, but I
23 would like if we could all please remember
24 in our prayers Mr. Tim Maloney. Tim Maloney
25 is a 22 years old Scranton resident who is

1 for Saunders", as you may know Jay Saunders
2 is currently suffering from cancer. He was
3 one of or former city clerks. This will be
4 on Saturday, April 2, at 6:00 p.m. at the
5 Ice Box Sports Complex. A \$20 donation can
6 be made at the door or you may prepurchase
7 tickets at Bottler's Tavern at 200 Delaware
8 Street in Jermyn, PA, or at your local
9 Gerrity's Supermarkets. There will be food,
10 refreshment and 50/50 raffle, basket
11 raffles, a silent auction and entertainment
12 will be provided by EJ the DJ, and that's
13 all.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. On Thursday,
15 March 23, 1967, James T. Reddington was
16 killed in action in Vietnam. Jimmy's
17 immediate family have all passed away
18 leaving his legacy to his fellow marines and
19 Weston Field friends to ensure he is
20 remembered properly. The Board of the
21 Central City little league where Jimmy
22 played is going to rename the field
23 Reddington Field in his honor. This
24 wonderful gesture on the board's part will
25 guarantee his name and memory are not

1 forgotten.

2 On Saturday, June 4, 2011, at the
3 League's field day a plaque's marker with
4 his photo will be dedicated at the Dick Moon
5 Holmes Complex at the top of Wood Street.
6 They are asking for a donation of any amount
7 to help defray the cost of this plaque
8 marker that will be affixed to the little
9 league building.

10 Again, Jimmy was born and raised in
11 the Weston Field section and this ceremony
12 will honor one of our own. Any tax
13 deductible donations should be made out to
14 the "Central City Little League Reddington
15 Fund" and mailed to: Central City Little
16 League, 2003 Greenridge Street, Dunmore, PA,
17 18512.

18 On behalf of Scranton City Council,
19 I wish to thank Mr. Bill Jackowitz for his
20 generous donation of \$50 to the Public
21 Safety Manpower Initiative. A resident of
22 Scranton, Mr. Jackowitz in concert with
23 members of the Scranton/Lackawanna
24 Taxpayers' Association, annually spearheads
25 the "Kids Swim Free Program" by collecting

1 donations for free days of swimming for
2 children at the Nay Aug Pool. Mr. Jackowitz
3 needs our help to fund this worthy cause.
4 Please send donations to "Kids Swim Free"
5 1416 South Webster Avenue, Scranton, PA,
6 18505.

7 I'd like to thank the students who
8 sent me the Lackawanna Trail Lion's bracelet
9 and I'm very glad that they watch Scranton
10 City Council meetings occasionally, so
11 here's a big shout out to the Lackawanna
12 Trail Lions.

13 Although as a nation we observed
14 President's Day just yesterday, the actual
15 birth of President Lincoln was February 12
16 and the birth date of President Washington
17 is February 22. We honor George Washington
18 this day as the father of our country and
19 arguably our most important American who
20 lead a war to create it, won the presidency
21 to develop a governmental model for the
22 future, and set by example the conduct of
23 the presidency for each of it's successors,
24 and that's it.

25 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'

1 PARTICIPATION.

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

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
5 citizen of Scranton. On your agenda, 5-E,
6 authorizing the mayor and other appropriate
7 city officials of the City of Scranton to
8 enter into an amended agreement to it's
9 contract with the Commonwealth of
10 Pennsylvania Department of Community and
11 Economic Development for Housing and
12 Redevelopment assistance concerning the
13 renovation of the Connell building ordered
14 to increase the grant funding therein by
15 \$250,000 for sidewalks.

16 Everybody in this city, every
17 resident has to pay for their own sidewalks.
18 What the heck? After the millions we gave
19 this man he even has the gall to come again.
20 I don't know, that's OECD. Something
21 somewhere -- well, something has to be done
22 about OECD with theses ridiculous grants. I
23 mean, when I walk up from where I live up
24 the Main Avenue up to -- actually, the
25 square, I have to walk on dirt, but yet we

1 have \$250,000 for him to fix up the
2 sidewalks at the Connell building which
3 probably is construction and they tore it
4 up. Now, something is wrong somewhere.

5 We've got to watch every dollar we
6 spend when we are coming up with ideas like
7 this it's ridiculous. I mean, are you going
8 to fix everybody's sidewalks in the city?
9 You are not going to put in grants for all
10 of our sidewalks all the way up and down the
11 city, but yet OECD is picking these
12 particular spots, but what galls you is the
13 millions we gave them. It's not like he is
14 doing it because he just bought a building
15 or something. We give him millions of
16 dollars to fix that building up.

17 Now he never -- he is always put his
18 hand out and it's got to stop. Somewhere
19 along the line you got -- this man, whoever
20 it is, has to live up to what is he doing
21 and fix his own sidewalks like every other
22 resident in the City of Scranton. I had to
23 do mine, everyone else had to do theirs, but
24 yet for some reason or other central city
25 seems to be always out with their hand on

1 the bill.

2 The whole city is important. The
3 sidewalks are falling apart everywhere, they
4 are slate. They were put in probably in the
5 turn of the century. Very few places where
6 they actually redid the sidewalks. I know
7 they redid them up at the square in
8 Providence, but they only stopped at
9 Providence. When you go down the hill you
10 walk in dirt, and that's not right. I mean,
11 somewhere along the line the neighborhoods
12 should come first. Central city we pour too
13 much into central city already. We got
14 almost \$40 million we put into central city.
15 Do you know how many houses we could have
16 rehabbed for 40 million dollars? We could
17 have redid a whole neighborhood, and what
18 did you do, you rehabbed ten buildings. \$40
19 million into ten 10 buildings and it never
20 ceases. They always have their hand out.

21 And the truth of it is, most of the
22 money you are getting it through the wage
23 tax. That's people that work in the city,
24 not the businesses, okay? We get very
25 little from the businesses. Most of what

1 you get is from the people who work in the
2 city and not necessarily working in the
3 city, but paying taxes because they live in
4 the city.

5 So I believe the city -- the
6 residents of the city should come before
7 central city and it's got to cease. I mean,
8 God, ripping down buildings after building
9 after building and we are throwing money to
10 fix up old buildings that people who buy
11 them should be responsible to do, but that's
12 the way life goes in the city and it's been
13 going that way for a long time. That's why
14 we are where we are today. It's a downhill
15 spiral.

16 The neighborhoods are collapsing,
17 people are moving out, even though you did
18 cut the wage tax, I know you can't do
19 nothing about it because that's your money.
20 That's where all of the money comes from
21 actually to run the city is the wage tax and
22 people don't want to come into the city
23 unless they are like me who was born in the
24 city and I don't want to leave the city and
25 that's the reason why. No matter how much

1 money I made I was glad to pay it, but it
2 was a different situation then.

3 When we used to pay that money we
4 knew your grandmother didn't have higher
5 taxes on her house because you weren't
6 paying the difference to run the city, so
7 we -- okay. Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
9 Mr. Sbaraglia. Ozzie Quinn. And I would
10 ask that everyone would please remain quiet
11 while a speaker is addressing council.

12 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Scranton.
13 Lackawanna County taxpayer. Good evening.

14 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

15 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

16 MR. QUINN: In regards to motions,
17 under "C", creating a special city account
18 for the Urban Development Action Grant, I
19 don't understand that, why you are creating
20 one now and why the administration is
21 creating one now. I mean, they are an
22 action grant from going on and make
23 repayments for the last 20 years.

24 In addition, I remember that former
25 city council majority at that time they

1 passed a motion for all of the repayments to
2 go to Mr. Doherty for whatever he wanted to
3 do with their development action grants, so
4 could you explain why you are making that?

5 MS. EVANS: Actually, this is, I
6 believe, it's 5-C and 5-D are council
7 generated pieces of legislation in order to
8 prevent those types of occurrences that just
9 listed, we are closing the checkbook, and I
10 will elaborate more on that for you under
11 motions.

12 MR. QUINN: Thank you. And I want
13 to quote what Andy said in regard to that, I
14 know that money is coming from the
15 Pennsylvania Department of Community
16 Affairs, Community and Economic Development,
17 that dates me, Community Affairs, however,
18 the fact is it's taxpayers' money. Part of
19 that money came from the people here in
20 Scranton and you cannot say that, well, it's
21 state money. Let's have a caucus with the
22 state and talk about this, you know? For
23 some unknown reason they think it fell out
24 of a tree or someplace. That is public
25 money.

1 And when Andy said about those
2 sidewalks, you know, when Attorney Hughes
3 was Chairman of the Redevelopment Authority
4 he did many rehab programs under his
5 chairmanship where they did sidewalks and
6 curbs, okay, and you don't see these slates,
7 you know, busting up or the curbs busting
8 up. Go down and Third and Fourth Avenue
9 like they previously said or over on Cedar
10 Avenue or over in North Scranton and Ravine
11 Street, Main Street, I mean, that's - you
12 know, that's because there was planning
13 done. Now, you just didn't buckshot things.
14 We spent so many millions of dollars through
15 the years through this Community Development
16 Block Grant Fund and there was no -- it
17 didn't work on a plan. You know, even a
18 city like Atlanta, Georgia, a huge city, it
19 has a master plan to follow it's CDBG
20 program. If you don't you are open to
21 whatever your mayor wants to do and whoever,
22 if he has got control of city council and
23 they back him, as in prior years, that's
24 what happens.

25 Now, I just want to point out, too,

1 the fact that I really appreciate you
2 holding up, tabling that grant, again,
3 that's taxpayers' money that \$3.4 million
4 because he wanted a tax relief, okay,
5 forgiveness.

6 Now, the Scranton/Lackawanna County
7 Taxpayers met last Thursday and we supported
8 that, and we sent a letter to the county
9 commissioners and the school district
10 following your lead, and it's not just the
11 76,000 it's close to \$275,000 because we,
12 the taxpayers, got to include the school
13 district and the county, so that's a piece
14 of change that we don't -- we don't want to
15 give out and this guy wants to get three,
16 five year and two down the street. I mean,
17 it's ridiculous, and the mayor says that.
18 "I'll take the lead of the school district."

19 What kind of leader is that? You
20 know, he should take the lead. He should
21 have listened to you people. You don't want
22 to listen to the school district, he should
23 take the lead or realize, you know, that
24 we are hurting. You know, and the fact is
25 than he is saying, "I'll take the lead."

1 You wouldn't want to be in a foxhole
2 with that guy. Really. I mean, he should
3 take the lead.

4 Now, that leads up to a very serious
5 point I want to talk about, brownouts. I
6 live up on east Scranton, which is
7 contiguous with the Hill Section, okay,
8 Bunker Hill, that area there. Now, Ash
9 Street fire station, Engine 15, was closed
10 last Sunday, okay, was this brownout so,
11 that meant that Engine 4 would have had to
12 come over and cover that, you know. I don't
13 know what -- doesn't he realize that this is
14 a moral issue, okay, because of the fact
15 that he is fooling around with people's
16 lives and limbs, properties.

17 Now, when I was 13, 14 years old our
18 home was destroyed by fire and at that time
19 there was the fire station on Wyoming
20 Avenue, one on the 1600 block of Dickson
21 Avenue and one on East Market Street, okay?
22 And that fire, boom, like that. Okay? It's
23 a response time, so what I'm trying to say
24 is that we have to do something for the city
25 council.

1 You know, a lot of people say,
2 "Well, not my house," buy, you know, we
3 are -- this is a dangerous situation and,
4 you know, this mayor has got to realize, you
5 know, he has got to realize what he is
6 doing. He had those urban development
7 action grant money and that was money can go
8 anywhere. You know that. It doesn't have
9 to follow the CDBG regulations. Did he use
10 it for any type of fire or for public
11 safety, for police cars or whatnot? No.
12 Thank you very much.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.

15 MS. EVANS: Les Spindler.

16 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I
17 could just address Mr. Quinn. Oz? If you
18 just stick around until these two
19 resolutions are introduced I think will you
20 will find out why we did it, okay?

21 MR. QUINN: Yes.

22 MR. HUGHES: Okay? Thank you.

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

1 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Well, Ozzie stole my
3 thunder a little bit. That's the first
4 thing I wanted to speak about is what the
5 mayor is doing with our fire department. I
6 mean, I was very angry when I heard he was
7 closing down Engine 9, which is real close
8 to my house, and now he wants to brownout
9 Engine 15 and I think it's Truck 2?

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MR. SPINDLER: It's Truck 2. Engine
12 15 is bad enough, but browning out Truck 2 I
13 think that's just a travesty. As you said
14 last week, Mrs. Evans, that would go to all
15 of the three city hospitals, all of the high
16 rises downtown, you know, if somebody has to
17 be saved that would be the ladder truck.
18 Otherwise, they have to wait for I think
19 it's Truck 4 on Main Avenue which the
20 response time would be greater.

21 And, you know what, I think this man
22 really has issues, and I mean Chris Doherty.
23 He didn't get his way with the budget so
24 this is his way of fighting back and all he
25 is doing is hurting the taxpayers, putting

1 people's safety in danger and I think it's
2 wrong. I have already called his office, I
3 hope everybody else that's watching this on
4 TV calls the mayor's office, ask him not to
5 do this or write a letter. I don't know if
6 it will do any good, but it can't hurt.
7 Something has to be done because this is
8 public safety and, I mean, this guy just
9 doesn't seem to care. I don't know what his
10 problem is, but something has got to be
11 done.

12 Moving on, I agree with what Andy
13 and Ozzie said about \$250,000 for sidewalks.
14 That's just unheard of to me. I mean, I
15 know where the Connell building is, I don't
16 think it takes that many sidewalks. It cost
17 \$250,000? I think that's ridiculous, I
18 don't know if that's Mr. Jefferson, I guess
19 owns that building, too.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. SPINDLER: I don't think he
22 should get that, but on the same subject
23 with him, I have been thinking about this
24 with the Chamber of Commerce building and I
25 think council should rethink about their

1 decision of tabling that legislation. You
2 know, if he sells that building to a
3 nonprofit then we won't get a penny for that
4 building ever and I have it on good
5 authority that he had a huge offer for
6 Lackawanna College to buy that building. If
7 that's true we will never get a penny of
8 taxes for that building. At least if those
9 taxes are forgiven, which again, weren't his
10 taxes, then the city will receive a lot of
11 taxes from that building year after year,
12 but if that is sold to a nonprofit we won't
13 see a penny.

14 And like I said, I have it on good
15 authority that Lackawanna offered him
16 \$300,000 more for that building than he paid
17 for it, so I think council should rethink
18 that. If we lose the 75 or as Ozzie said
19 over 200,000 in the long run I think we
20 would make that back from all of the taxes
21 that building would bring in. That's all I
22 have tonight. Thank you for your time.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Spindler.
24 Doug Miller.

25 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

1 Doug Miller, Scranton. A few issues
2 tonight. I would like to start off with the
3 funding from OECD, we had \$200,000 in
4 funding that we now have available that can
5 be used for other initiatives throughout the
6 city, and from what I understand the funding
7 was originally set to be used for a project
8 on Scranton Lace.

9 And I would just like to echo the
10 statements that you, Mr. Rogan, had made in
11 the paper and that is the funds should be
12 used for services throughout the city such
13 as investing in the neighborhoods and paving
14 the streets. I think we can all agree that
15 our streets are deplorable and the
16 neighborhoods are run down and we need to
17 straighten this mess out, and they're common
18 complaints that we hear every day of the
19 week from residents and I would just
20 encourage council to look into utilizing
21 those funds for that purpose because I think
22 we can all agree that it's time to shift our
23 attention to the neighborhoods and doing
24 what we can to eliminate blight and
25 improving our streets because that's got to

1 be the number one priority right now.

2 You know, I think listening to
3 Mr. Sbaraglia tonight talk about the
4 millions of dollars that have been invested
5 in the downtown, and although I would
6 commend anyone for investing in any part of
7 town, I just really believe that we need to
8 focus on the neighborhoods right now. We
9 have let them go for far too long, and we
10 are seeing the effects of that.

11 I'd like to also address the Chamber
12 of Commerce building project. You know, I'd
13 like to -- again, I commend anyone for being
14 willing to invest in our community and I
15 don't criticize anyone for wanting to invest
16 in our community, however, what I don't
17 condone is allowing someone to get a free
18 pass on paying taxes to the city. You know,
19 I think that what council did last week, the
20 stance you took, I asked you to stay the
21 course and in regards to tabling that
22 legislation and not approving any \$3 million
23 loan until those obligations are met.

24 The other issue I had tonight deals
25 with this situation on the agenda, 5-E. We

1 are dealing with the same group of
2 individuals who now want an additional
3 \$250,000 to get free sidewalks in front of
4 the Connell building, and as Mr. Sbaraglia
5 mentioned, I'm going to go back to him
6 again, you know, we take a look at the
7 sidewalks across this city and he made a
8 good point, does that mean we are going to
9 get free sidewalks now? I mean, I just
10 don't understand where we are going here.
11 It's really it's ridiculous, and to sit here
12 and look at this legislation and to see that
13 these individuals don't want to pay the
14 taxes they owe I don't understand how they
15 can expect council to approve any of this
16 legislation, and I'm truly disappointed that
17 someone would come here and ask for this
18 kind of money.

19 And, you know, you hear this word
20 grant and they try to hide the fact that,
21 you know, although it's a grant it's still
22 being funded by the taxpayers of the
23 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania so we are
24 paying. We are paying for it, and I would
25 just hope that council will, like I said,

1 stay the course and not approve any of this
2 until those taxes are paid.

3 You know, the majority of the
4 residents of this city are struggling, it's
5 no secrete. They are struggling to pay
6 their bills, they are struggling to find
7 employment, they are not going to get a free
8 pass on their bills. They know they have to
9 pay their taxes. They know council is not
10 going to give them a break and say, "No, you
11 don't have to pay your taxes," so why should
12 these individuals? It's not fair.

13 A free ride to the city needs to
14 come to a fast halt, and I'm sure KOZ's and
15 nonprofits across the city don't appreciate
16 the comments I'm making and I really don't
17 care because I'm about people, not politics
18 and not games, and I know that this council
19 for a long time has been committed to ending
20 free rides and I know you will continue to
21 pursue this issue.

22 Another issue I have tonight was
23 just a simple request, there is a street
24 light on Parrott Avenue across from the West
25 Scranton middle school that's been out for

1 the past few weeks and obviously without the
2 light there is a noticeable difference and
3 with the darkness and obviously a safety
4 issue, so maybe we can send that request and
5 try to address that issue.

6 I would also like to ask council
7 tonight if we did receive a response from
8 DPW in regards to the request I made about
9 the crosswalks being cleared in front of the
10 Francis Willard Elementary School?

11 MS. EVANS: I don't believe we
12 received a response on that. However, I did
13 want to add a comment to your first issue
14 tonight, the unused funding from the Lacey
15 Complex. I had brought that issue forward
16 at last week's council meeting and
17 correspondence was sent to Ms. Aebli
18 concerning the use of those unused funds.
19 She responded and I am going to be
20 discussing that tonight under motions.

21 MR. MILLER: Very good. Thank you.
22 I appreciate that.

23 MR. JOYCE: Also, Mr. Miller, would
24 you happen to know the pole number of the
25 streetlight that is out?

1 MR. MILLER: You know what,
2 Mr. Joyce, I can get that for you. I
3 apologize for not having that, I should have
4 had that for you. I can get that for you.

5 MR. JOYCE: Oh, that's not a
6 problem. If you could send it to me in an
7 e-mail I'll go on Municipal Energy Manger's
8 website and enter it and also have our city
9 clerk follow-up with the call to Mr. Kearns.

10 MR. MILLER: Thank you. I'll get
11 that to you.

12 MR. ROGAN: I have probably entered
13 half a dozen on the website in the last two
14 months and it seems that none of them get
15 fixed.

16 MR. JOYCE: I have as well and
17 reentered them.

18 MR. ROGAN: It seems sporadic, I
19 mean, the way they get fixed. If you enter
20 one month and you enter the next one a month
21 later the one that was submitted second will
22 get repair. I don't know what system they
23 are using, but I did see the bids that came
24 in and hopefully we will get something from
25 the mayor on that soon.

1 MR. MILLER: Thank you very much.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

3 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. I
4 thought I'd take on a couple of the robber
5 baron's tonight in the city like Charles
6 Jefferson. This man is an absolute disgrace
7 to this city, threatening us that he is
8 going to sell to Lackawanna College or a
9 nonprofit if he doesn't get his way. You
10 know, you people have the right to challenge
11 these nonprofits and you don't do it. It's
12 just got -- it's just got to end for crying
13 out loud.

14 You know, almost all of these things
15 are things that are told to me by three,
16 four, five people, during the week.

17 MS. EVANS: Mr. Ellman, actually,
18 with regard to the large nonprofits, and I
19 assume you are inferring particularly the
20 postsecondary institutions like Lackawanna
21 College since that seems to be the rumor
22 concerning a potential buyer for Mulberry
23 Lofts, but City Council actually did
24 approach each one of the schools and their
25 answer was they are not giving the city any

1 money.

2 MR. ELLMAN: Whoever is responsible
3 to allow Lackawanna College to think they
4 were going to stay in that little building
5 to start with is a complete fool. The first
6 thing people started thinking they are going
7 to need land like the University of
8 Scranton. They shouldn't have ever been
9 allowed there, but that's hindsight.

10 But Charles Jefferson cheated the
11 city out of all of that money from the
12 building permits and the Connell building.
13 You haven't seen him come in here to
14 confront me or sue me or anything because I
15 know that's a fact, and he is going to do
16 the same thing over here, you will see. I
17 have a -- he is getting the building half --
18 half grants and half taxpayer money, all
19 he's got to do is come up with half the
20 money to remodel it and that's not enough.

21 These people will never be happy if
22 they just bought the last ounce. When he
23 bought that building he knew to the last
24 lousy penny was involved and he knew there
25 was tax money involved. He shouldn't be

1 given no more forgiveness.

2 We have a city, there is just no
3 leadership. There is just no telling what
4 this man downstairs has already told them is
5 going to happen, but the school board has
6 turned it's back on the people of this city
7 and you can't do the same. We need you. I
8 mean, you know, I would rather see that
9 building across there rot than have it --
10 the taxes forgiven. Nobody -- you didn't
11 get a house half free. Nobody out here got
12 a house half free. These people just never
13 stop. They don't enough. It's what you
14 have done for me lately? He thinks a half
15 free building is not enough. He got a
16 business. He will get, you know, so much
17 more money, there is people down here
18 hanging out, I have talked to them in the
19 mall, without outrageous rents trying to get
20 by and this greedy SOB is crying poverty all
21 the time about everything.

22 This man has no integrity, no
23 credibility, he is not an honorable person
24 to do business with and I have done business
25 with lot of people on a handshake. One of

1 my arch enemies in Missouri I just -- you
2 just can't imagine how this man and I are
3 two complete opposites, but when he shakes
4 hands with you on a deal it's like having a
5 notary stamp, and he is known for that.

6 This man doesn't have a bit of
7 integrity whatsoever and the city shouldn't
8 give him a lousy penny more and if something
9 does come up with him wanting to sell
10 confront him. You got to do something to
11 stop all of these nonprofits from taking
12 over the city. And Lackawanna College
13 saying, "Go use my library."

14 They're in a, what is that,
15 four-story building, isn't it, that used to
16 pay taxes. They don't think of that. They
17 don't think of that building they used for
18 dormitory and paid almost \$10,000 a year,
19 the one on Wyoming. All of these guys, the
20 University got 120 houses off and people are
21 just -- I don't know, I have heard them say
22 they need to start paying their money into
23 the -- what do you call it every year
24 instead of giving it the city and I think
25 that's a good idea. The -- I forget what

1 you call that, where you put your money in
2 escrow. Something's got to be done to get
3 your attention and that ought to be it.
4 Well, not your intention, but what are we
5 going to do?

6 You know, every year there is
7 millions of dollars floating around in those
8 books and nobody seems to care. I asked a
9 year ago about that house why was that house
10 at 1,500 block of Court made a KOZ by
11 Mr. Doherty? It'd look like somebody would
12 be interested. It couldn't be a more
13 crooked situation than make a house in the
14 middle of a residential neighborhood a KOZ.
15 See, nobody cares.

16 Last week we talked about all of the
17 sewers and things over here, that shouldn't
18 have ever happened to the city. I don't
19 know where all of these people are, but the
20 politics in this city just stink.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

22 MR. ELLMAN: You're through with me,
23 huh?

24 MS. EVANS: We are never through
25 with you.

1 MR. ELLMAN: I've got a whole lot of
2 other things I can come up with.

3 MS. EVANS: I know.

4 MR. ELLMAN: I've already alienated
5 Mr. --

6 MS. EVANS: Well, next week is
7 another week.

8 MR. ELLMAN: I got a bunch of people
9 I could alienate. Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

12 MS. EVANS: Theresa Roberts.

13 MS. ROBERTS: I'm a newcomer. Good
14 evening.

15 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

16 MS. ROBERTS: My name is Theresa
17 Roberts and I'm a taxpayer of Scranton. I
18 own 621-623 Harrison Avenue in Scranton. I
19 come to complain, okay? This is the last
20 straw that I have. I'm going to show you a
21 couple of things first. Mrs. Evans knows me
22 and --

23 MS. EVANS: Yes.

24 (Ms. Roberts approaches the dais.)

25 MS. ROBERTS: I received letters in

1 the mail from the city. This is my property
2 here. This is my garage, and these are the
3 letters that I received, okay? If you can
4 read them? I received this one letter on
5 Friday the 18th of February and the other
6 one I had to go down and sign for it for
7 certified mail today.

8 I came down to the city saying that
9 the city, this Patty Fowler, she is from the
10 License and Inspection and Permits and it
11 says there that there is an abandoned
12 building -- or abandoned car on my property
13 that has junk and all kinds of stuff and
14 it's hazardous, and it doesn't even exist.

15 Okay, as a taxpayer I found out that
16 this was an anonymous phone call that came
17 through, okay, and anybody can call you and
18 say, "Such and such has this going on," but
19 my grief is how could somebody call the
20 city, okay, say my name, my address, okay,
21 and this lady here, this inspector, did not
22 do her job, okay? She did not follow-up.
23 She did not go to my home. She did not, you
24 know, follow the facts or whatever, she just
25 put a letter through telling me that I had

1 five days to remove a vehicle that did not
2 exist, okay?

3 I came down to the office today and
4 I went to go to Chris Doherty's mayor's
5 office and the secretary there did also give
6 me this Tom Oleski that came in?

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MS. ROBERTS: And I went to his
9 office and I told him the situation, he
10 said, look, give me an hour and a half and
11 I'll get back to you. He said, "I'm going
12 to go to your residence and I'm going to
13 look at your property," he said, "and I'll
14 call you back and I'll let you know what I,
15 you know, decide or whatever."

16 I said that was fine. He came up to
17 my property and I guess Patti also went up
18 to the property, but Patti didn't go to my
19 house. It turns out that there was an error
20 that this vehicle was in the 600 block of --
21 600 block of Wheeler in the alley. So,
22 therefore, he is at my place and she is at a
23 whole different other place, okay?

24 If I did not pay attention and come
25 down, okay, this would have continued. This

1 is harassment, okay? I pay my taxes, I have
2 been there for 16 years, okay? I'm quiet
3 when I have to be, you know what I mean? So
4 I figure because my son was junior council,
5 he said, "Come down and talk to you guys."

6 So I did talk to Tom and he said
7 that, you know, there will be a letter of
8 apology, but that's not good enough. I
9 mean, I'm very upset. You know, Patti
10 wasn't doing her job clearly. You have to
11 have procedure when someone calls. You
12 are ruining people's reputation, okay? As
13 you can see, my property is clean and it's a
14 beautiful home and if I could pick it up and
15 leave it and take it somewhere else I would.

16 Now, I want to show you these
17 pictures. These are in the back of my
18 house, okay? Now these people here are
19 clearly ones that should be cited for
20 garbage. This is what I have to look at
21 every day when I leave my property so
22 instead of picking on me clearly you can see
23 those pictures. If I was going to call and
24 complain, okay, if I was going to call and
25 complain about something you need to have

1 your facts straight, okay? And if you are
2 going to call anonymously then you not doing
3 it -- no, you just want to cause trouble and
4 that's exactly what it is. Somebody wanted
5 to cause me trouble and cause my family
6 trouble, okay?

7 And I just want, you know, somebody
8 to look into it and see what they can do
9 about it because this can't happen again,
10 you know what I mean? People sue all of the
11 time. I'm not a sue happy person, but if I
12 was pushed to shove I would do it, you know
13 what I mean? I'm just like giving you a
14 heads up for it, you know what I mean?

15 My son, I, and my daughter are
16 living in the City of Scranton, we have been
17 here for a long time and, you know, I want
18 to be proud of my city, you know what I
19 mean? And they should have the respect of
20 the residents that live there. You cannot
21 blame or -- you know, you cannot accuse
22 people of doing things that they are not
23 doing.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Roberts, did you
25 point this out to Mr. Oleski?

1 MS. ROBERTS: He came up to the
2 property and when he was looking at my
3 property he turned around and he could not
4 believe his eyes. So from what I understand
5 now I guess they are going to try to citate
6 the property owner there. I mean, this goes
7 on all of the time, and I did want to make a
8 comment to you, too, about the garbage,
9 okay?

10 I did -- and Don, I think his name
11 is Don Davis, very nice guy, of course, I
12 like -- (inaudible) because he is a doll to
13 for me, and I was having problems with the
14 garbage men. I buy garbage cans all of the
15 time, okay? They are picking up the
16 garbage. You know, when they throw it
17 they're picking up the can and they're
18 throwing the can and they are cracking the
19 cans. I can't keep going to Lowe's. I'm
20 unemployed as it is. I can't keep going to
21 Lowe's and buying cans to replace it. So
22 Don Davis is bringing up a couple of garbage
23 cans for me because -- and, you know, I
24 found out that I guess they are trying to
25 get rid of like four or five supervisors in

1 that department, you can't do that. If you
2 have 90 people you're watching over as a
3 supervisor when I was you have to babysit,
4 you know what I mean? You can't do it.
5 Have you to have more people on the job
6 making sure they are doing their job.

7 You smell garbage, you know what I
8 mean? You pick it up, it's disgusting, it
9 makes your property value go down, you know
10 what I mean? So hopefully they can take
11 care that.

12 MS. EVANS: Do you need these back?

13 MS. ROBERTS: Would you like them?

14 MS. EVANS: We can make copies.

15 MS. ROBERTS: Okay, if you could.

16 MS. EVANS: And return these to you.

17 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, could you make
18 copies and then I'd like to keep the
19 originals.

20 MS. EVANS: Certainly. If you could
21 give these to Ms. Carrera that would be very
22 helpful.

23 MS. ROBERTS: Did you need the
24 pictures, too?

25 MS. EVANS: As long as Mr. Oleski

1 has seen the pictures and he has that
2 address I think he is good to go on that.

3 MS. ROBERTS: Okay.

4 MS. EVANS: I do have one question
5 though, had the inspector actually traveled
6 to your home to look for the vehicle, the
7 illegal abandoned vehicle that had been
8 anonymously reported, was anyone out there
9 actually at your address to see that nothing
10 was there?

11 MS. ROBERTS: And I live -- okay,
12 and next to me is Cathy and Leo Wortek, they
13 live next to me. I mean, their house is
14 immaculate, you know what I mean? We all
15 are. We all take care of our properties.
16 We all watch each other. Peggy and Dave are
17 next to me and they are also watching and we
18 all watch out for our neighborhoods and
19 everything like that. Like, my house is one
20 of the best houses on that block besides the
21 Worteks and all of them, we all keep it up.

22 What my -- why I'm so upset is
23 because they didn't do their job right,
24 okay? When you get an anonymous tip, okay,
25 even if I don't like you or whatever you

1 have to have something, okay, so you get an
2 anonymous phone call, say I called and said,
3 "You know, Mrs. Evans, has got all of this
4 garbage and da, da, da, and all this stuff,
5 okay, well, we are going to send somebody up
6 to see that property and see what it is
7 before we do anything, okay?

8 MS. EVANS: I thought normally that
9 is what happened -- occurred.

10 MS. ROBERTS: Yeah. There has got
11 to be -- everything has procedures and there
12 was no procedures followed whatsoever, okay?
13 She went and she said on the phone to Tom,
14 okay, "I'm at this property, the car is
15 still here, the junk is still here."

16 He goes, "Well, I'm at the property
17 that you sent the letter to," he goes, "and
18 there is no abandoned vehicle."

19 I don't even know what the vehicle
20 looks like and they kept saying to me when I
21 went -- you know, when I was going to the
22 mayor's office or I went to Tom's office, he
23 goes, "Well, do you know what the -- is the
24 car still there? You know, do you know what
25 the car looks like?"

1 I'm like, "I'm telling you, this car
2 does not exist."

3 Okay? I got the letter, I was upset
4 with the letter, they should have looked
5 into it. She had the wrong address, she had
6 -- how did she get my name, I have no clue,
7 okay, but when I talked to Tom he said the
8 calls come in anonymous, okay, for some --
9 you know what I mean? But if I'm going
10 to -- if I'm not going to report you that
11 you are doing something wrong I'm going to
12 give you my name, I'm going to give you my
13 address, and I have facts, and you can see
14 that I have facts. Pictures say everything.

15 MR. ROGAN: I could understand your
16 frustration when you go through all of that
17 trouble to keep great care of your property
18 and you get a letter like that in the mail I
19 could see how it's very frustrating.

20 MS. ROBERTS: It is frustrating. I
21 was very upset with it, yes, I was.

22 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Krake, could we
23 send a letter to the DPW asking that the
24 refuse workers don't throw the cans
25 especially in this cold weather when they

1 become more brittle and, you know, garbage
2 cans aren't cheap these days.

3 MS. ROBERTS: Trust me, I know they
4 are not cheap. My son was going to go and
5 buy two more, I said, "No, look, I have to
6 go down to council and talk to them about
7 it."

8 You know, they break, if they are
9 plastic and you throw them and it's cold,
10 it's 19 degrees --

11 MR. ROGAN: They snap.

12 MS. ROBERTS: They just shatter and
13 then, of course, I have to chase them, you
14 know, half way down the block and then
15 somebody steals them, you know what I mean?
16 So now I'll get two new ones and I'll put my
17 address on them and they'll still take them
18 anyway, but it's ridiculous that you have to
19 go in the back of the alley in the
20 summertime, you know, like the food is out
21 spoiled, it turns into worms, and you are
22 like trying to wash it. It smells, it's
23 disgusting, I'm there with rubber gloves and
24 my son is like, I'm like, this is
25 ridiculous, you shouldn't have to do that.

1 I had come in contact with a couple
2 of the garbage men, and let me just say they
3 are not friendly people, okay? They are
4 just not friendly. I have approached one,
5 two, and he started yelling saying we got to
6 double bag it and all of this stuff. I
7 double bag it and I make sure my tenants
8 next door make sure their garbage is inside
9 concealed in a garbage bag and put in there.
10 Now, they pick it up and they throw it on
11 there, you know what I mean, and then if it
12 breaks you have the gloves, you have the
13 manpower, pick it up and put it in the
14 garbage truck, okay?

15 If you can't do your job I'll gladly
16 take it, I don't have a job. I don't have a
17 job, I'll take it.

18 MR. ROGAN: You are exactly right.
19 I have been extremely critical of the DPW
20 over the last month or so and happy that the
21 snow removal was excellent on Monday, but
22 then well-prepared to compliment and
23 everything and then a story like this. It's
24 frustrating.

25 MS. ROBERTS: It is frustrating, you

1 know what I mean? Like, just do your job.
2 That's all I ask. I pay for garbage tax. I
3 paid every year, okay, and I would ask that
4 they would to their job and take care of it,
5 you know what I mean? I shouldn't have to
6 go out and there pick up the garbage every
7 time they leave, and the last time I didn't
8 even talk to you guys at city council I just
9 gave pictures to Bill Courtright and then he
10 gave them to Don. Don was a gentlemen, a
11 nice guy, he's coming up tomorrow to bring
12 me two new garbage cans and two more
13 recycling cans because they keep getting
14 stolen from the front of my house. I don't
15 know who keeps taking them, but somebody
16 keeps taking them and so he is bringing two
17 more up and he said he would like to speak
18 to me, so that's it. Thank you for your
19 time.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much for
22 your time.

23 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
24 cares to address council?

25 MS. BLOOM: Good evening. Lynn

1 Bloom, North Scranton.

2 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

3 MS. BLOOM: Did anyone by any chance
4 find out whose responsibility the back
5 parking lot of Neil Armstrong belongs to?

6 MS. EVANS: We haven't, no.

7 MR. JOYCE: We haven't heard a
8 response yet.

9 MS. BLOOM: Because I would hate to
10 think that adults would be spiteful and
11 petty, but we got a lot of snow, a good -- I
12 can't judge distance, I should be not a good
13 driver, but I actually am, this far from the
14 curb to where you can park your car.
15 Population of the school 600. Third grade
16 and above can only exit the back door.

17 Main Avenue firehouse, permanently
18 closed. Market Street might be out on a
19 call. This morning a mother and a child
20 went down on the sidewalk. First the child
21 then the mother, so I really hope that none
22 of this is intentional and it's just simply
23 apathy. I really do hope it's just apathy,
24 because, you know, there was a gentleman
25 speaking here, I have to be totally honest,

1 I have said it repeatedly, I moved here for
2 a better life for my youngest child, if
3 something happens to my son when he is in
4 the care of the Scranton School District I
5 have no idea what I'll do. I know it won't
6 be violent, that I can assure you, but I
7 have an intense feeling it is going to cost
8 somebody other than myself and my son a hell
9 of a lot of money because this is just a
10 complete lack of forethought, foresight and
11 concern.

12 It's the 21st century. There is no
13 excuse on this planet why between a school
14 district, a DPW, a parking lot with 600
15 students and students are only released from
16 one door for third grade and above, come on.
17 It's not a big road to begin with and it's
18 not right. It's just not right.

19 I mean, you know, having school
20 district employees go out a one-way road
21 onto Theodore, come on, man. You are
22 getting paid. This is your job so you can
23 afford the extra five minutes to go the
24 right way and go onto Clearview and around.
25 You are getting paid, you are on the clock,

1 so don't put my life and the life of other
2 parents going to pick up their children in
3 jeopardy because you want to just, I don't
4 know. I don't know what the malfunction is.
5 Bad mood, late coffee break, it's not my
6 problem.

7 I have done a lot of stupid things
8 when I was working. I never worked at an
9 elementary school. I did an internship for
10 my master's program at an elementary school,
11 I lasted three weeks, I'll be the first one
12 to say it. I did not want to deal with
13 fetal alcohol syndrome, drug abuse, child
14 abuse, not my thing. I'm sorry, that rant
15 is over.

16 Mr. Jefferson and his employee last
17 week, oh, where to begin. I have never been
18 forgiven a tax dollar in my entire life. If
19 a man can invest that kind of money, he was
20 surprised that taxes were owed? I just
21 can't -- it was very hard for me to keep a
22 straight face and the young woman that was
23 an employee, look, if you're a yuppie, first
24 of all, I moved here four years ago. To be
25 totally honest, Scranton doesn't roll out

1 the welcome wagon to people with accents
2 like mine. My husband's family has been
3 here for 100 years, that's what I have to
4 tell me. I'm an import, he imported me,
5 but, you know.

6 The young upperly mobile people they
7 were referring to believe it or not, kids,
8 believe it or not, I was married before. I
9 was married really young, he was a young
10 upperly mobile professional. We didn't stay
11 in our home town on the weekends. Why?
12 Because he was a young upperly mobile
13 professional. We went skiing, we went on
14 out of town cruises, pick something. So if
15 that developer is going to try and convince
16 me that these professionals are going to
17 spend their weekends spending money in
18 downtown Scranton I have a bridge really
19 cheap.

20 I wanted to live in downtown
21 Scranton when my husband broke it to me that
22 we were staying in Scranton. I couldn't
23 afford the parking, my husband couldn't
24 afford the extra time in his commute. We
25 worried about snow removal, and I had to

1 worry about a school for my son. They don't
2 have these concerns.

3 He had -- what he did by threatening
4 the nonprofit that's financial vampirism.
5 Oh, you are not going to do it my way? I'm
6 going to suck you dry financially by selling
7 to someone that won't give you any money.
8 It's not right, so thank you.

9 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Bloom, can I ask
10 you, where did the woman and child fall?

11 MS. BLOOM: They were coming -- to
12 go into the back door they were crossing the
13 parking lot.

14 MS. EVANS: Of the school?

15 MS. BLOOM: Of the school.

16 MS. EVANS: Okay.

17 MS. BLOOM: And first the child went
18 down and being a mommy instinct and then she
19 fell as well.

20 MS. EVANS: Okay.

21 MS. BLOOM: That was at 8:15 this
22 morning.

23 MS. EVANS: That was actually on
24 school district property?

25 MS. BLOOM: Yes, not a good way for

1 them to start the day, and I pray to God
2 that they are both okay. One of my
3 girlfriends did stop and another woman had
4 already stopped, but it's just, I mean, all
5 of the parents were complaining. We have
6 been very patient this winter, it's been a
7 brutal winter and you try and understand,
8 but when you have firehouses closing the
9 closest ones that would render aid coupled
10 with not clearing parking lots and having
11 access, it's -- a tragedy is going to happen
12 and that's one time I don't want to be
13 right, I'm sorry, I just don't want to be.
14 Thank you very much.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.
17 First, I don't know if you have any answers
18 saying it's state money, maybe OECD or
19 something, if you can consider possibly if
20 you have an opportunity to find some money
21 for the Lackawanna Heritage Trail. I was
22 talking to Natalie Solfanelli today and she
23 is doing a great job and they are thinking
24 about or they are hoping to get a trail from
25 Elm Street at the South Side Shopping Center

1 and go down all the way down to Taylor, and
2 that would be Scranton, so if the city could
3 possibly help out with any grants or
4 anything if they could possibly look into
5 that. Pat?

6 MS. EVANS: Well, what I can tell
7 you, you might recall the city has an
8 agreement with those who oversee the
9 Lackawanna Heritage Valley Trail. The city
10 actually had not paid --

11 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

12 MS. EVANS: The city had not paid
13 it's bills for maintenance of the trail that
14 travels through Scranton, and I had been in
15 touch with Ms. Solfanelli, this was I
16 believe the Summer of 2010 and maybe the
17 early fall and all of that was worked out
18 and I believe they have been paid and we
19 have an agreement going forward for a
20 five-year period in terms of what the city
21 pays per mile to that for their maintenance
22 of the trail, so we are already
23 contributing.

24 MS. FRANUS: But what I'm saying is
25 there any way possible to get a grant that

1 would help them more so? Pat?

2 MR. ROGAN: If they apply and it was
3 in a low to moderate income area --

4 MS. FRANUS: Oh, it certainly is.

5 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, I would think it
6 would be.

7 MS. FRANUS: Are they are aware of
8 that, Pat?

9 MR. ROGAN: I don't think they are.
10 I could get in touch with them.

11 MS. FRANUS: Could you get in touch
12 with them?

13 MR. ROGAN: Sure. Do have their
14 contact information or --

15 MS. FRANUS: No.

16 MR. ROGAN: I'm sure I could get it
17 out of the phone book.

18 MS. FRANUS: Yeah, I'm sure you
19 could, but I wish you would do that because
20 right now with the new governor in place we
21 don't know if they are going to get as much
22 as they were promised and that's a very
23 important trail.

24 MS. EVANS: And I think what we are
25 also looking at though is a reduction very

1 possibly in CDBG monies to all
2 municipalities nationwide under the new
3 national budget. As a result, it's very
4 possible that Scranton will not receive the
5 dollars that it has in previous years and
6 then it's going to be a very difficult
7 process of prioritizing and choosing which
8 projects are most needed by city residents.

9 MS. FRANUS: I understand that. I'd
10 appreciate it though if you could, and one
11 of the projects you shouldn't do is -- I
12 thought maybe, yes, you should, but \$250,000
13 for sidewalks? Can you imagine the nice
14 house you could build for \$250,000 with
15 sidewalks? Think about it. They must have
16 gold in them or something. I mean, I would
17 seriously if you are going to consider this
18 at all please ask for any bills to show how
19 this money was spent from a contractor that
20 charges that much for sidewalks, and how
21 come they don't come and fix my sidewalks,
22 the city? I don't get it.

23 MS. EVANS: You don't have an RACP
24 grant or a Growing Greener Grant.

25 MS. FRANUS: I think it's who you

1 know around here.

2 MS. EVANS: I believe both grants
3 were awarded to the Connell building project
4 and Mr. Jefferson.

5 MS. FRANUS: Yes. Yes, but why was
6 my question? Why is the money going to this
7 man all of the time and then the arrogance
8 of he and that woman that came last week, I
9 forget her name.

10 MS. EVANS: Well, basically I
11 believe any developer can apply for these
12 state grants and as far as I understand
13 there is no ceiling, there is no limit on
14 how many grants for which they can apply or
15 how many times they can apply, let's say you
16 have three redevelopment projects, you have
17 the right and the ability to apply for state
18 grant funding for all three of those
19 projects. There is no state limitations.

20 MS. FRANUS: Well, I guess my point
21 would be to please make sure that you as a
22 city council check every bill that they get.
23 That -- every penny that they spend to
24 double check where that money went because
25 I, as a taxpayer, and everybody else in the

1 city and the state we are paying them and
2 the way they spoke to you is though they
3 felt it was owed them and they were very
4 threatening and arrogant. I just couldn't
5 get over them. I mean, they just felt like
6 it was -- should be for them and I don't get
7 it.

8 That's about it. Just please
9 reconsider if you do give it to them, make
10 sure you get every bill possible, please.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MR. MCCLOE: Good evening, Council.

13 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

14 MR. MCCLOE: My name is Brett
15 McCloe, Scranton resident. Two things were
16 said at last week's meeting that prompted me
17 to come to council this week. What struck
18 me wasn't the taxes that were owed on the
19 property, but how at ease Mr. Jefferson was
20 with threatening the loss of revenue that he
21 says his properties would generate for local
22 merchants. We all understand the dynamics
23 of how projects add prestige to the downtown
24 area and increase foot traffic for local
25 merchants, but why must we constantly live

1 under the threat of developers abandoning
2 their projects and selling them to
3 nonprofits if they don't get their way?

4 When will the citizens of Scranton
5 tire of this tactic? The previous council
6 all but told us that the earth was going to
7 open up and swallow Scranton whole if we
8 didn't give away every stitch of taxable
9 land to developers and nontaxable
10 institutions.

11 Now, I know I'm not a developer, but
12 we are all supposed to be citizens or at
13 least corporate citizens of this city. To
14 entice the citizens of this Scranton with
15 visions of prosperity and progress and then
16 threatening to take it away has always been
17 standard operating procedure for developers
18 in this city. It doesn't show good
19 corporate citizenship nor does it foster
20 good faith in the vision developers have
21 planned for this city.

22 The citizens of Scranton should be
23 very critical of the threat mantra that
24 seems to always start with the same old
25 loaded sophomoric question, "Would you

1 rather not have."

2 This would you rather not have
3 loaded question assumes that the answer is
4 supposed to be frank with a yes or a no. If
5 you answer, yes, then you must be against
6 progress. If you answer, no, then you must
7 be willing to give the developer everything
8 he wants. The citizens of this city have
9 been trapped by this line of questioning for
10 far too long.

11 I would also like to say I don't
12 think it is good idea to constantly put the
13 burden of economic growth on the people who
14 are trying to live in our downtown area. No
15 one wants to be thought off as an economic
16 tool. These people are more than just a
17 means to an end. If all of these people
18 represent is a bottom line, I think these
19 people should all ask the owners of these
20 buildings to lower their rents so they can
21 spend more money and increase the bottom
22 line of our local merchants.

23 Next, you brought something to my
24 mind, Mr. Loscombe, last week, you spoke
25 briefly about unions and how you support

1 them. I think every American should support
2 unions in one form or another. They alone
3 are the only institution upholding and
4 maintaining the middle classes' ability to
5 participate in the consumption end of
6 capitalism and the only thing stopping the
7 average American worker from getting paid
8 the same wage as an outsourced worker in
9 China, Taiwan, and India. If corporations
10 and their legislative benefactors had their
11 way, we would all be working for outsourced
12 wages with very little benefits which in
13 turn increases the income at the very top.
14 This is not capitalism, this is called
15 capitulationism.

16 I don't want to tear down the worlds
17 largest retailer, which is Wal-Mart, but
18 with the great prices and having the most
19 employees, Wal-Mart is not just the world's
20 largest retailer, but it is a part of an
21 economic strategy of sedation. The
22 Wal-Martization of America loves the lulls
23 and soothes the people to believe that they
24 can still afford to buy goods they want even
25 though the wages of the lower and middle

1 class are stagnant and declining. Decades
2 of nationwide union busting by corporation
3 tells us that the American worker no longer
4 has a place in a capitalist society and that
5 corporations and institutions no longer wish
6 to increase pay relative to the massive
7 increases of end profits of the top five to
8 1 percent wage earners.

9 Union busting also means this is no
10 such thing as a collective body of workers.
11 Therefore, there can be no such thing as
12 bargaining for higher wages or benefits.
13 Now state and local governments are also
14 buying into the Wal-Martization of
15 government and forcing government employees
16 to bow down or lose their jobs. No doubt
17 once again we will hear the threat mantra of
18 capitalism, would you rather not have.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McCloe.

21 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city
22 council. I'm Tom Ungvarsky.

23 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

24 MR. UNGVARSKY: I'm also a member of
25 the Scranton/Lackawanna County Taxpayers'.

1 This past week the taxpayers had a food
2 distribution. We distributed nonperishable
3 food to nine food pantries. I want to thank
4 Ozzie Quinn for picking it up, Bob Jones for
5 delivering it, and the taxpayers for their
6 donations. I would also like to thank the
7 Riccardo Market for their cooperation and
8 their donation. We delivered approximately
9 300 nonperishable meals to each of the nine
10 food pantries.

11 MS. EVANS: That's wonderful.

12 MR. UNGVARSKY: Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Highly commendable.

14 MR. UNGVARSKY: Just more word about
15 the Mulberry Towers. I understand they want
16 to be declared a historical site. I believe
17 being declared a historical site they get a
18 discount on their taxes; is that correct?

19 MS. EVANS: I believe they would get
20 tax credits for that situation; is that
21 correct; attorney Hughes?

22 MR. UNGVARSKY: Is it up to 20
23 percent?

24 MS. EVANS: With a historical
25 designation?

1 MR. HUGHES: So far as I'm aware it
2 depends on the use of the building. The
3 fact that it's on the National Historic list
4 does not make it free from local taxes. If
5 it's owned by a legitimate nonprofit it
6 would be. When it is on the list, on the
7 national list of historic places there are
8 certain things that can you do on the rehab
9 of the building such as selling investment
10 tax credits to go into the equity of the
11 property for the rehabilitation, however,
12 the building has to be rehabilitated in
13 accordance with the standards of the
14 Department of Interior. You just can't go
15 in and redo a building.

16 There is a whole application, I have
17 been involved in those applications that you
18 put in. It goes to the Department -- it
19 goes to the United States Historic
20 Commission for review. This building over
21 here you are talking about putting on the
22 national historic list? Where the old YMCA
23 was?

24 MS. EVANS: The Mulberry Towers, the
25 old Chamber of Commerce.

1 MR. UNGVARSKY: I didn't quite make
2 out what you were saying.

3 MR. HUGHES: Oh, oh, I thought you
4 meant Mulberry Towers over here.

5 MS. EVANS: No, no.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: The Lofts.

7 MR. HUGHES: If you they put that
8 in, what he would do, it's a very -- you
9 would form a limited partnership, limited
10 partners would own a very small percentage
11 of the building, maybe 1 percent, they turn
12 around and take the investment tax credits
13 and have limited partnership to put into it.
14 They take the invest tax credits and sell
15 the investment tax credits to investors who
16 are qualified investors, high income
17 individuals that would qualify under the
18 Securities Exchange Commission regulations,
19 take that money and put it into rehab. It's
20 a lengthy process to get it -- in order to
21 get it listed.

22 MR. UNGVARSKY: Okay.

23 MR. HUGHES: By virtue of the fact
24 that it's on the National Historic list
25 would not exempt it from local real estate

1 taxes.

2 MR. UNGVARSKY: Okay, so there are
3 other advantages besides the tax credit? Is
4 that the reason why he came to city council
5 for \$2 million for the facade on the Connell
6 building so that he could declare it a tax--
7 or a historical building? When he was
8 developing the Connell building he came to
9 city council look for another grant, okay,
10 to fix the facade on the building. Was the
11 reason for that so it could be declared a
12 historical site? Anyone?

13 MS. EVANS: Honestly I don't recall.
14 Most of these council members would not have
15 been members of city council at the time of
16 this transaction. I think Mr. McGoff and I
17 might have been, but I don't recall and we
18 would have to go back and actually take a
19 look at the documents in order to answer
20 your question.

21 MR. UNGVARSKY: Okay. I'm not
22 against --

23 MR. HUGHES: If I could, there is
24 lot of -- there is the National Register
25 which lists historic places in districts.

1 The building has to qualify in accordance
2 with federal regulations to be a historic
3 structure with the district itself.

4 Buildings in Scranton such as the old
5 Scranton National Bank building, the Masonic
6 Temple, the Albright Museum, are on the
7 national register of lists of historic
8 places which means one thing you can't do is
9 use federal money for -- any federal or
10 state governmental money for any demolition.
11 Once it's on the list, there is -- it's a
12 very strict list. There are qualifications
13 to get the building listed.

14 Secondly, there is the state list of
15 historic places. That has no relationship
16 to the Federal National Historic List. When
17 you are on the National Historic List there
18 is tax advantages under the Internal Revenue
19 Code on your redevelopment of the project.
20 The one thing you can do, such as the old
21 Lackawanna train station which is now the
22 Radisson, that was on the National List of
23 Historic places, the developer can
24 depreciate it in five years or capture all
25 of his investment in five years instead of

1 35 years as if ordinary real estate, so
2 there is a lot of advantages on the National
3 List.

4 There is also the state list which
5 some -- a lot of buildings that are on the
6 national list are also on the state list.
7 You can get on the state list, but you would
8 never qualify for the national list. So it
9 depends. It's very --

10 MR. UNGVARSKY: Yes, but --

11 MR. HUGHES: There is a very long
12 and lengthy application.

13 MR. UNGVARSKY: But there is an
14 advantage to it, otherwise, he wouldn't have
15 applied.

16 MR. HUGHES: From a federal tax
17 standpoint, yes. If you are on the national
18 list and you qualify and you rehabilitate
19 the building in accordance with the
20 Department of Interior standards, then you
21 can depreciate the building in five years
22 instead of 35, so if he has \$5 million
23 invested in the building, not grants, but
24 out-of-pocket money, then he can turn around
25 and depreciate it a million dollars a year

1 against the income, but whereas if it was on
2 the 35 years list it'd only take 3 percent a
3 year or \$150,000 versus a million. That's
4 the big advantage of the national list.

5 MR. UNGVARSKY: I understand. Just
6 one more thing, I'm not against development,
7 but I am against all of these grants, we are
8 giving out \$11 million over the last four
9 weeks and I think it has to stop somewhere.
10 Thank you. City council.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
13 South Scranton resident and member of the
14 Taxpayers' Association. Mr. McGoff, last
15 week I asked about the Snow Removal Task
16 Force that was formed three or four years
17 ago to implement a plan for snowplowing
18 within the City of Scranton. This planning
19 group was formed the year of the St.
20 Valentine's day snow massacre. So far this
21 year, snowplowing has been horrible, to say
22 the least, except for this last snow fall.
23 I must say they did a pretty good job this
24 time, although, there still are a lot of
25 spots in downtown, because I go around, that

1 need to be cleared out, but they did do a
2 better job on Monday.

3 Again, the city plowed the middle of
4 the roads and that was it. Downtown was a
5 disaster. For a city that promotes downtown
6 and central city business, they sure made it
7 impossible for customers to park. All that
8 is needed is for the downtown plowing to
9 take place any time after 10 p.m. when the
10 merchants in central city are closed. What
11 is so hard with that? DPW needs to do a
12 better job throughout the city, not just
13 selected streets and neighborhoods. Plow
14 from curb to curb downtown at night.

15 I have been in some of Luzerne
16 communities such as Luzerne and Dallas and
17 Shaffertown, and let me tell you what, they
18 are plowed from curb to curb. They're a
19 smaller community, but they are plowed from
20 curb to curb. It should happen in the City
21 of Scranton.

22 MS. EVANS: Mr. Jackowitz, I heard
23 on this evening's local news that a number
24 of the businesses in downtown Scranton were
25 very upset about the lack of snow removal

1 from yesterday's storms.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: Well, we don't
3 actually have snow removal because we don't
4 remove anything all we do is plow it from
5 one corner to another corner.

6 MS. EVANS: Right. Well,
7 nevertheless, they were very upset and
8 seemed to be banding together and I know
9 that Mr. Brazil was interviewed. He said
10 that he was going to try to get some men out
11 after midnight to do one or two streets per
12 night, but he indicated that the problem
13 that they are running into during the
14 evening, the overnight hours, is the fact
15 that the people who are residing downtown
16 now are not parking in parking garages, they
17 are parking on the streets. So that, you
18 know, it's very difficult for the DPW to be
19 able to clear right to the curb when all of
20 downtown tenants are parking -- are using
21 street parking rather than garage parking.

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: So why don't we --

23 MS. EVANS: And that he wanted to
24 talk to someone --

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: So why don't we

1 generate more revenue by ticketing them,
2 towing their cars away, and plowing from
3 curb to curb? It's simple. They do it in
4 all of the cities all over the United
5 States. I lived in Minnesota, I lived in
6 Wisconsin, and I lived in North Dakota and
7 guess what, we get a heck of lot more snow
8 in those areas than we do in Scranton,
9 Pennsylvania, and that's what they do. They
10 ticket it, they tow it away, and it
11 generates revenue for the City of Scranton.
12 S, that's all they got to implement.

13 Like I said, four years ago a snow
14 plowing plan was adopted, I want to know is
15 it still in place because it sure isn't
16 working. So what we need to do is plow from
17 curb to curb, and that includes the
18 neighborhood streets. We need odd/even,
19 whatever we got to do, it's a mess. It's
20 ashamed. It's a disaster. DPW and the City
21 of Scranton should be ashamed of themselves.

22 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Jackowitz, I was
23 just going to say an odd and evens system.
24 I remember during the summer I sent a letter
25 to Mr. Brazil asking if they would do that

1 for the street sweeping as well because,
2 again, we have all of the cars on both sides
3 of the road, you can't get the streets
4 plowed or cleaned and, you know, it's
5 counter productive when they plow and then,
6 unfortunately, they --

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: Of course, it is.

8 MR. ROGAN: -- throw it back out in
9 the road.

10 MR. JACKOWITZ: They need to
11 implement a plan like I thought they did
12 four years ago, obviously, it wasn't or if
13 it was implemented it's not being followed.
14 I hope I didn't use up all of my time here.

15 Also, Mr. McGoff, you seem to be the
16 lone council member who has an open door to
17 the mayor. I would like to see you use that
18 door to get the mayor to be a little bit
19 more cooperative. Invite the mayor to
20 attend a council meeting and also to hold a
21 town hall meeting with the residents of
22 Scranton and discuss his plans to generate
23 public safety plans for the next three
24 years. I know that I have several questions
25 that I would like to have the opportunity to

1 ask the mayor and members of his cabinet.

2 I see where Mayor Doherty held the
3 state of city address again at the Chamber
4 of Commerce, was Councilman McGoff the only
5 council member invited or was all five
6 council members I invited to attend or could
7 you as council members just show up and get
8 a seat?

9 Last week Mr. Jefferson and several
10 members of the trade union addressed city
11 council concerning the Scranton Mulberry, LP
12 Project. I find this to be very admirable,
13 but also, where have these union members
14 been for the past nine years helping their
15 fellow brothers and sisters work for the
16 City of Scranton. The Times-Tribune showed
17 a union carpenter's picture in the paper the
18 other day. He was from Wilkes-Barre
19 according to the caption, not Scranton.

20 Mr. Jefferson, I see where you
21 stated in Wednesdays' Times-Tribune you are
22 not in a position to add 50 percent to the
23 cost of acquisitions and make the project
24 worth. Maybe you should have thought about
25 that before you applied for the \$3.5 million

1 state grant which, by the way, Mr. Jefferson
2 is taxpayers' money. Now you come before
3 city council requesting that the Scranton
4 taxpayers fork over another \$75,866 to you
5 and your tenants. By the way, how much do
6 your tenants pay in property taxes, school
7 taxes, and county taxes every year? I will
8 bet the answer is zero because they are
9 renters not owners.

10 If you walk away from a project
11 because of \$75,866 you only wanted to invest
12 the bare minimum in the project in the first
13 place. Another developer will pick up the
14 project just like they are doing with the
15 Mount Pleasant project. My information is
16 that two apartment buildings are being
17 constructed on that site. They both will be
18 willing to -- be tax paying buildings. The
19 city taxpayers are still out 29 million plus
20 for the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue,
21 another three million for the Hilton, who
22 knows how much for the Radisson over the
23 years, and many more promises from
24 developers.

25 Like I said, the residents have been

1 waiting 32 years for the train from Hoboken
2 to Scranton. I guess somewhere along the
3 trail, the train has been derailed.

4 My first appearance before Scranton
5 City Council I stated from my experience
6 that the best cities that I have resided in
7 were the cities that elected government
8 officials got along with each other and
9 worked hard to make their city the best it
10 could be. That has not happened in
11 Scranton. It seems that for the most part
12 elected officials at all levels work against
13 each other and try to enhance their own
14 egos. This is a recipe for failure that is
15 why Scranton is still distressed, has low
16 paying jobs, and high unemployment,
17 apartment buildings, grocery stores and
18 young professional will not change anything
19 unless they bring good paying jobs along
20 with it and not restaurants, retail and
21 grocery store jobs.

22 Scranton City Council, good luck
23 with Mr. McGowan. I hope I'm wrong, but I
24 see nothing changes from past business
25 administrators. Also, to continue to hold

1 your ground, the majority of the Scranton
2 taxpayers are behind you. They are tired of
3 giving their money to developers and
4 business owners such as Al Boscov who in
5 turn makes campaign contributions and pays
6 minimum wage or just above minimum wage with
7 the taxpayers money that was given to him by
8 our elected officials.

9 Local judges do not understand the
10 First Amendment Rights, freedom of speech.
11 Now we are finding out that some do know not
12 what a kickback or bribe is. They consider
13 the money to be a finder's fee. Only in
14 northeastern, Pennsylvania. Where are the
15 feds? Come to Lackawanna County and
16 Scranton, please. How can you possibly
17 release a person on bond who has been
18 convicted on 12 federal felony charges. Oh,
19 I forgot, once upon a time he supposedly was
20 an honorable what, laugh, Judge? I guess
21 they stick together.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

24 Mr. Jackowitz, I would just like to take the
25 time to thank you publically for your

1 donation to Public Safety Manpower
2 Initiative and also on behalf of the other
3 residents who have made contributions.

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: Thank you.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
6 Council, Marie Schumacher.

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'd like to start
10 off with 5-E as well. Is it possible that
11 this is an after-the-fact request? About
12 ten days ago I was walking up that street
13 and the only reason I'm thinking it may have
14 been, and I didn't get time with my job to
15 go by and see, but somebody was caulking,
16 and I don't believe you would be caulking
17 between sidewalks that you were planning to
18 replace, so that's issue number one, if this
19 is an after-the-fact request.

20 And then the second one we pay, much
21 to my chagrined, the same amount to replace
22 the sidewalks, many of which were fine and
23 in good condition, at the original Scranton
24 Parking Authority garage at Linden and North
25 Washington, and that's a whole heck of a lot

1 more square feet or cubic feet of cement
2 than what's at the Connell building, so I
3 have those two issues in addition to the
4 other comments that have been made.

5 Next I'd like to follow-up on
6 repeats on three things that I brought up
7 from the past, one from the end of November
8 last year I had asked -- noted to
9 Mr. Loscombe that Mr. Courtright used to
10 tell us periodically about the number of
11 cars, police cars that were out on the
12 street streets on given nights and weekends,
13 and I asked if you could do that and you
14 said, "Sure," but I haven't seen one of
15 those yet and I would like to hear about
16 that.

17 The second thing I asked was on the
18 bids where the city is putting out bids or
19 even OECD authorities that fall under the
20 purview, if those -- if those bids could be
21 read here after the fact at a council
22 meeting I think it would be instructive for
23 all of the taxpayers to hear what the bids
24 and how many people are bidding.

25 And then the other follow-up is on

1 the consideration of an ordinance or
2 whatever is required to limit the size or
3 truck traffic particularly where the height
4 as a tractor trailers on city streets
5 exceeds the height of the utility lines
6 including Comcast to the homes, so that
7 these are broken when these trucks go down,
8 and again, I would like to see something on
9 that.

10 A couple of other things, probably
11 Mr. Loscombe's area, I noticed last week, I
12 believe, just exactly one week ago there was
13 an article in the paper about Dunmore's
14 firefighters and how they would not be
15 replacing a firefighter, and that in
16 conjunction with the brownouts in our own
17 city, I wonder if it's time to revisit the
18 agreement we have with the City of Dunmore
19 or the Borough of Dunmore on backing them
20 up? I would hate to think that we taxpayers
21 pay for what firefighting we get now and
22 that somebody within the city would need a
23 truck during one of these brownouts and they
24 would be off in Dunmore and not able to get
25 back, so I don't know who makes those

1 agreements or whether council is even
2 involved if they have to approve them, but I
3 would like to know about that.

4 And then the back to the parking
5 meters. Originally when the proposal was
6 made, it was all 1,200 parking meters. Now,
7 I heard some drawback that maybe it was just
8 going to be in the downtown area and so
9 maybe during motions you could discuss how
10 many of the 1,200 would be covered by the
11 StreetSmart agreement?

12 And then I have a problem, a real
13 problem, with the courthouse area being
14 selected for the evaluation unless, of
15 course, the -- wait for the evaluation until
16 after the tickets have been adjudicated at a
17 magistrate's office because I know a lot of
18 those are forgiven because they are peace
19 officers who are in the courthouse on
20 business and they park there and then they
21 are never even ticketed by, I don't know if
22 it's a formal agreement or if it's informal,
23 municipal cars, municipal license plates
24 aren't, and that's what a lot of the parking
25 is, frankly, around the square there.

1 So I would like do some more so we
2 can actually do another cost benefit
3 analysis based on how many of those and
4 where those are going to be located and then
5 even with that I have a problem with a
6 two-tier system if we are going to be really
7 vigilant in one place and let the other
8 areas goes that doesn't make me very happy
9 either. Next week. Hank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Jack.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

13 MR. JOYCE: Chrissy.

14 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jack, the bridge
15 the lights were out the other night, the
16 Linden Street bridge, that light is still
17 out up there. Some of those lights on the
18 bridge up there, Jack, they wouldn't touch
19 them once. Thank you.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thanks, Chris, I'll
21 mention that.

22 MR. JOYCE: Thanks, Chrissy.

23 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
24 Dave Dobrzn, member of the Taxpayers',
25 resident of Scranton.

1 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

2 MR. DOBRZYN: I'm going to try and
3 talk fast, I have a few things here. 5-E,
4 agree with Andy Sbaraglia, my compatriots in
5 the taxpayers' organization, but something
6 rings a bell, I mean, we owe a quarter of a
7 million dollar taxes on other buildings and
8 we want a quarter of a million dollar grant
9 for another building.

10 And I have a letter here from our
11 radio station WFTV, if you people could
12 endorse us for a grant we are going to apply
13 for a federal grant. I don't know if they
14 will even be available, it's probably going
15 to be shot down, but I'll drop it off with
16 Nancy on the way and it's self-explanatory
17 here, and on the way I'll -- I have here
18 hospital analysis.

19 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

20 MR. DOBRZYN: The official figure
21 for uncompensated care 100 percent is if you
22 earn less than \$21,660 per year and you have
23 no major investments off to the side. I'd
24 also like to -- so as you can see, and it
25 goes way up from there. If you have eight

1 kids you can earn \$74,000 a year for a
2 family of eight and still qualify for
3 uncompensated care. I could sit there with
4 my insurance in hand and if you are there
5 first it's just too bad for me. Things
6 aren't looking good that day.

7 Okay, also, I'd like to express some
8 concern about these brownouts and Marie
9 brought up an interesting point that was
10 running around in my mind here, you know, I
11 read Dunmore is letting go of more firemen
12 and here we are suffering brownouts in our
13 city and agreeing to run up there whenever
14 their lack of personnel is available causes
15 a problem. I mean, how far can this go?

16 You know, I really -- I knew
17 somebody in the fire department, a volunteer
18 fire department, and they literally drove
19 him out of his mind. He needed mental
20 health care by the time he got done with it
21 because he was out in the middle of the
22 night on emergency calls, he was an EMT
23 actually, and then they wanted him in there
24 cutting potatoes on Sunday morning for a
25 breakfast fundraiser. Now, come on. How

1 deep are our pockets here, you know? It's
2 just ashamed.

3 Now, okay, the golden parrot award.
4 I got through I guess what I needed to, goes
5 to the commodities market. They are already
6 chirping over Libya about \$5 a gallon
7 gasoline and might I note in '08 for every
8 barrel used in this country it was traded 27
9 times, seven trades for each barrel we
10 consumed in '08. So where does the high
11 price come from?

12 And John Banner, "If people lose
13 their jobs so be it."

14 Well, bawk, bawk, John. Not John
15 Loscombe, by the way. And on a more serious
16 note I have been mentioning about military
17 problems and the loss of houses and so
18 forth, well, I learned last week that the
19 suicide deaths in 2010 exceeded the combat
20 deaths, and it's divorce, lost homes, no
21 jobs in the civilian market, posttraumatic
22 stress disorder and meanwhile banker pray on
23 widow's investments convincing them to
24 invest and taking the cream off the top and
25 giving them 1 1/2 percent a year or whatever

1 and foreclose on active duty and veteran's
2 homes and so forth and it's just ashame.

3 They get -- well, they don't deserve
4 a golden parrot. No golden parrot for them.
5 So thank you and have a good night. I made
6 it before the bell. I'll save that time for
7 next week now.

8 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.
9 Mrs. Schumacher, I just got word from
10 somebody that municipal plates don't get
11 tickets when they are parked in the
12 downtown.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: So what good does
14 that Smart meter do if we aren't going to
15 ticket them?

16 MR. ROGAN: Uh-hum.

17 MS. EVANS: Actually there is an
18 agreement between the city and the Parking
19 Authority that lists all of the exemptions
20 for certain individuals in terms of the
21 parking, so I am quite sure that would be
22 listed therein. Is there anyone else who
23 cares to address council?

24 MR. PHILLIPS: Good evening. Mark
25 Phillips. I've got a speech impairment, so

1 if you can't hear me, excuse me. I'm a
2 handicap by the State of Pennsylvania. I
3 own a property in the west side, I had it
4 for the past six months. The City of
5 Scranton put citations against me. The
6 neighbor put citations against me. They are
7 a bunch of lies. It started with -- about
8 the mayor with his thing, newspaper, for the
9 safety and I came about both properties.
10 Mrs. Evans, do you remember me a couple of
11 years ago --

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MR. PHILLIPS: -- at the old
14 hospital?

15 MS. EVANS: Yes.

16 MR. PHILLIPS: About the safety and
17 about parking in the alleyway.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes, you showed us
19 pictures.

20 MR. PHILLIPS: Okay, that's great,
21 but now I got one my neighbors it started
22 parking, now right to the city ordinance.
23 And I want to ask you a question, does the
24 zoning officer and the Don McCarrow, what's
25 the difference between Mike Wallace and

1 Donny McCarrow?

2 MS. EVANS: What's the difference
3 between them?

4 MR. PHILLIPS: Yeah.

5 MS. EVANS: Mike Wallace is the city
6 zoning officer, and Don McCann is the city
7 inspector.

8 MR. PHILLIPS: Okay, they basically
9 do the same thing for the safety of
10 Scranton; right?

11 MS. EVANS: I don't know know that
12 they have the same duties and
13 responsibilities.

14 MR. PHILLIPS: Okay. Now, on
15 September -- no, August I think it was 31st,
16 my neighbor put a fence up in the alleyway,
17 it's off the property and your fine zoning
18 officer said it was okay, but I got a -- I
19 got a permit and the permit is no good. He
20 don't own the house and he said he owns the
21 house, and took a permit out.

22 Now, the fence in the alleyway.
23 Now, you five people have a job; right? You
24 have an occupation? If somebody don't do
25 their job, right, do you get fired? I want

1 to know how come that Mike Wallace won't do
2 his job? It has been over six months and
3 McCann should do his job, but they seem to
4 come back at me.

5 Now, on the property at 17th Street
6 and Preston Court he got across there it
7 don't have no setback. I have been after
8 that for years, but they citation me for --
9 the guy was on my property that had --
10 because I'm doing remodeling to it, so I'm
11 here to petition you, President Janet Evans,
12 to go to the Lackawanna County Clerk get a
13 court judgment in the City of Scranton for
14 the property at 331 17th Street in the City
15 of Scranton to have a surveyor and see if
16 the grass is legal and the fence is legal
17 and I'd like to have Mike Wallace and Don
18 McCann fired from the City of Scranton for
19 failing of doing their job that the city
20 pays for.

21 MS. EVANS: Well, if I could just
22 explain something to you --

23 MR. PHILLIPS: And Mike Wallace
24 fired and he lied and in the hearing. How
25 can you have people paid by the City of

1 Scranton lie to a magistrate?

2 MS. EVANS: Well, I can't really
3 comment on that because I wasn't present,
4 but I can tell you that city council
5 cannot --

6 MR. PHILLIPS: Yes, you do, under
7 the Home Charter ---

8 MS. EVANS: We cannot --

9 MR. PHILLIPS: --to carry out the
10 laws of the City of Scranton.

11 MS. EVANS: We can't hire or fire
12 any of the city employees. That authority
13 is granted only to the mayor of Scranton
14 and, you know, even in the case where
15 someone job's performance is --

16 MR. PHILLIPS: Well, I think you
17 should get a judgment against the city and
18 the mayor, and the mayor act, have the
19 injunction or whatever you call it, the
20 court order, for the mayor of Scranton to
21 carry out his duties.

22 MS. EVANS: Have you spoken with the
23 mayor?

24 MR. PHILLIPS: No, he won't answer
25 my calls.

1 MS. EVANS: Well, then I would
2 advise you to call his office again and make
3 an appointment to see him.

4 MR. PHILLIPS: Like today they said
5 right here, the Scranton parking, do you
6 read the paper? You can't put a fence in a
7 right-of-way in a city alley or street.
8 It's a code of the state, so I want to
9 petition that, too, in the petition. That's
10 a prohibition.

11 MS. EVANS: I think, though, your
12 best course of action would be to sit down
13 with the mayor and tell him what has
14 transpired because, as I said, the mayor is
15 the executive branch that is granted the
16 authority --

17 MR. PHILLIPS: What are you doing,
18 he's going to citation me for something?

19 MS. EVANS: --in these situations.
20 Pardon me?

21 MR. PHILLIPS: What are you going to
22 do, citate me again for something?

23 MS. EVANS: The mayor would do that?

24 MR. PHILLIPS: Probably, they would.
25 I have five citations in six months. The

1 magistrate threatened to put me in jail for
2 nonsense, for lies these people put against
3 me. He don't even own the house. And this
4 article how come they won't citation this
5 guy but they citation me? His grass is
6 illegal.

7 MS. EVANS: So there is --

8 MR. PHILLIPS: People are not doing
9 their job.

10 MS. EVANS: So there is a conflict
11 between you and your neighbor?

12 MR. PHILLIPS: Yeah. Not me, I
13 wanted to get things straightened out. So I
14 petition you to get a Court order to do it
15 by the Home Rule Charter, Chapter 505, I
16 think it is.

17 MS. EVANS: Well, I'm not quite sure
18 what we can do with this because it does
19 seem to be a dispute between neighbors.

20 MR. PHILLIPS: You got to carry out
21 the laws of the -- the city laws or the
22 ordinance of the City of Scranton; right?

23 MS. EVANS: Well, we make the laws,
24 we don't enforce the laws. The laws have to
25 be enforced by the mayor.

1 MR. PHILLIPS: Read Section 505. It
2 states that you have the capability of
3 carrying out the laws of Scranton. To carry
4 out laws of the City of Scranton.

5 MS. EVANS: Okay, can you get that
6 for us and drop it off at our office?

7 MR. PHILLIPS: Mrs. Evans, you got
8 the book. I got to pay for it. You have
9 the books. It's in your Home Charter.

10 MS. EVANS: It's in the Home Rule
11 Charter.

12 MR. PHILLIPS: Yeah, Article 505, I
13 think.

14 MS. EVANS: Okay, we'll take a look
15 at it. Thank you.

16 MR. PHILLIPS: And I want the fence
17 taken down. It's in a -- it's in the
18 roadway, unless you can prove it's her way
19 it's on the private property it don't have a
20 setback, the right-of-way is five city
21 ordinance.

22 MS. EVANS: Well, we can look into
23 it, but again --

24 MR. PHILLIPS; and it will be the
25 cost to the land -- to the people who own

1 the house.

2 MS. EVANS: We'll certainly look
3 into it, but I do want you to know --

4 MR. PHILLIPS: Like the last time I
5 was here? Thank you, Rogan and Pat, for
6 doing the last time doing nothing.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
8 anyone else who would like to address
9 council?

10 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

11 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, any
12 motions or comments?

13 MR. MCGOFF: Please. A couple of
14 responses to things that people mentioned.
15 As far as the StreetSmart test, one of the
16 things that was discussed was whether doing
17 the test on the courthouse would be a
18 representative sample, and we went through
19 that discussion and decided that it might be
20 an appropriate place because it was the
21 highest traffic area. While it wouldn't be
22 a representative sample in the truest sense
23 of the test, it might give us the best
24 indication of how the system would work.

25 The second thing was that part of

1 the test would be the first month would be a
2 baseline test that they would observe and
3 look at the number of tickets that were
4 ready and the number of meters that were
5 used and then use that, that first month, as
6 the baseline for the next two months of the
7 test, so that in that way it would become a
8 representative sample for the following two
9 months, and the things that you -- that were
10 mentioned as problematic such as the
11 municipal cars and so on would be included
12 in the baseline part of it, so it would, you
13 know, be taken into account for the test.

14 On street cleaning and the snow
15 plowing, yes, we did have a committee that
16 met a number of years ago, there was a plan
17 put in place. As far as I know, that plan
18 is unchanged, that at the time the -- I
19 believe that the -- if I can remember
20 correctly, that the idea was that plowing
21 would be done from -- kind of an inside out
22 pattern that would start in the downtown and
23 work towards the perimeters of the city with
24 bus routes being one of the primary areas
25 for plowing. I don't know that that is

1 unchanged or whether it has changed.

2 As far as the odd/even idea, that
3 was discussed at the time and while it
4 worked many years ago, in some places it was
5 deemed difficult to do at the present simply
6 because of the volume of cars. That on many
7 streets cars are parked on both sides from
8 end to end and to try and move those cars
9 from one side to another there just wouldn't
10 be any place to park them on, so the idea
11 was I don't want to say just ignored, but
12 nobody really had an answer to that problem
13 of what do you do with the volume of cars
14 that's already there on both sides of the
15 street. So I don't know if that answers any
16 questions or just, you know, just leaves it
17 as murky as it was before, but those are the
18 things that I can remember from the
19 meetings.

20 Somebody mentioned about the trails
21 and the Lackawanna Trail -- or along the
22 river, there was a meeting I thought last
23 Friday in -- I thought it was supposed to be
24 held here, in council chambers, with
25 Mr. Barletta, Congressman Barletta, to

1 discuss the trails.

2 MR. ROGAN: The meeting was
3 cancelled.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Was it cancelled?
5 Okay. I didn't see the cancellation, but I
6 had been talking with Ms. Solfanalli prior
7 to that and we talked about the grant money
8 and so on and she sort of assured me that
9 this is something that they are actively
10 pursuing and aggressively pursuing, the
11 completion of the trail to Taylor and
12 eventually further into Duryea, so that, you
13 know, this is an ongoing project and
14 something that the -- Ms. Solfanelli is, you
15 know, looking to do and aggressively
16 searching all avenues for funding, so
17 hopefully there are things that will be in
18 place, you know, for her and for the
19 project.

20 A lot of things of the streetlight
21 situation, and I see we have another thing
22 in our mail about a streetlight that's out
23 and has been out for a long period of time.
24 In speaking with Mr. McGowan concerning the
25 RFP's that were sent out for the that

1 contract, I talked to him about it and he,
2 too, had some questions about whether the
3 RFP as it was proposed was proper and
4 whether it did -- whether the RFP had
5 enough in it that covered the city and the
6 problems that might occur.

7 I remember we talked about one of
8 the things that the bids did not include
9 replacements for all of the lights that were
10 in the city, especially those around power
11 lines or high power lines, whatever the
12 terminology was, and if that wasn't covered
13 then we would be subjected to calling PPL
14 every time one of those lights went out and
15 I forget what it was, \$80 an hour or
16 something, some enormous amount of money to
17 change a light bulb, and so he had some
18 questions about the RFP's and whether that
19 bidding was needed to be redone.

20 The bids were not awarded. The bids
21 were not awarded at the time that I spoke to
22 him and I don't think that they have been
23 since, and it was my suggestion to him
24 that-- and he -- we sort of concurrently
25 mentioned that perhaps someone should sit

1 down with maybe the city engineer, someone
2 familiar with the situation, look at the bid
3 as it was -- proposal as it was sent out,
4 see if there needs to be some corrections
5 and possibly rebid -- rebid that in the
6 future.

7 Now, that doesn't do anything to
8 help us in the present. I am hopeful that
9 the company that is currently -- or had been
10 under the contract is continuing to take
11 care of the problems that exist. I'm sure
12 that they are a little hesitant to respond
13 given the status of, you know, the new
14 contract, but I would hope that MEM, you
15 know, continues to work on the situation and
16 that I'm assuming that they are going on a
17 month-to-month contract with the city until
18 there is a new contract in place and
19 hopefully in speaking with people from MEM
20 that we can resolve some of the, you know,
21 problems that currently are occurring and
22 get some of these, you know, major problems
23 taken care of.

24 I know you have met -- Mr. Rogan, I
25 know has been in contact with, you know,

1 people and hopefully we will be able to stay
2 on top of it and take care of the situation
3 as it presents itself.

4 The Chamber of Commerce building, I
5 thought that it was a good idea to table the
6 proposal or the grant proposal. I spoke to
7 Mr. Rogan before last week's meeting, I'm
8 sorry I was unable to attend, but I told him
9 at that time that I thought it was a good
10 idea to go through with -- or to table that
11 or to, you know, not approve it as it stood.

12 I thought that it would be a bad
13 precedent to allow for anyone to get
14 complete tax forgiveness. If we were to do
15 that for one developer then anybody that had
16 any problems with taxes would be before
17 council and before the city and everyone
18 else asking for tax forgiveness. I don't
19 think there that there is any way that I
20 could reasonably see that taking place. I
21 know that in the past for some -- in some
22 situations, there has been a forgiveness of
23 penalties and interest so that projects
24 could move forward, and I think under
25 certain circumstances I would consider doing

1 that, but that might be something that I
2 would look at.

3 The other thing that I thought about
4 was that perhaps somebody need to sit down
5 with -- you know, with Mr. Jefferson and
6 talk about, you know, ways in which these
7 taxes would get paid. I wasn't here last
8 week so I don't know what occurred and, you
9 know, the dynamics that took place. It
10 seems as though it was not a very pleasant
11 exchange, but anyhow, I still think that
12 this is a project that needs to move
13 forward, certainly the -- that building
14 can't sit vacant and we could like to have
15 it under tax roles, perhaps there are some
16 things that we could work out that could be
17 worked out with Mr. Jefferson, so that the
18 taxes would be paid, that the grant proposal
19 could move forward and that, you know, that
20 project could move forward.

21 My suggestion would be maybe
22 something with some type of scheduled
23 payments over a period of time, over the
24 period of the project for the back taxes or
25 something that would get the taxes paid and

1 move the project forward I would be greatly
2 in favor of.

3 On the Connell building, and I might
4 as well do this now, as the grant for the
5 sidewalks, my look at that as I perused it I
6 thought that this is part of a larger grant
7 or application that there was I believe a
8 \$500,000 loan and that this \$250,000 was
9 part of the amendment to it that because it
10 -- and it would qualify as a grant rather
11 than a loan.

12 My understanding was that the
13 sidewalks, and it was beyond just replacing
14 sidewalks, that it was a necessary in order
15 for the project -- in order for the
16 development of the building to take place,
17 they had to remove the sidewalks that were
18 there, go into that vault area that was
19 below the sidewalks that exist in many of
20 the areas throughout the city, and that all
21 of that had to be filled properly and
22 reinforced and then sidewalks, you know
23 replaced, so it wasn't just new sidewalks.
24 There was a little bit more involved than
25 just, you know, pouring some cement, and

1 that -- I don't know what the actual cost
2 was, but I'm sure it was, you know, more
3 costly than, you know, what would normally
4 we would consider for the replacement of the
5 sidewalks and that it was something that
6 needed to be done, it was a safety concern
7 and I'm trying to picture that area, I
8 thought that that was completed.

9 MS. EVANS: I believe it is.

10 MR. MCGOFF: And as somebody said,
11 it seems like an after-the-fact type of
12 thing or whether they are talking about an
13 extension, I know it was, you know, part of
14 the sidewalks, but I don't know if they are
15 talking about an extension of the sidewalks
16 to other parts of the building, you know, to
17 the corner or whatever, but maybe we should
18 have a better understanding of exactly what
19 this grant would be for, what it would pay
20 for and, you know, whether it is something
21 that's already been done and whether this
22 will be looking for sort of a reimbursement.

23 And lastly, I think lastly, the CDBG
24 funds that were -- that Mrs. Evans spoke
25 about and that were reported, I think that

1 using that money for citywide paving is
2 probably the first priority. Certainly as I
3 drove across Jefferson Avenue near Ash
4 Street and my car bottomed out on a --
5 something that I thought the entire car was
6 going into a pothole and my wife yelling at
7 me for driving too fast and everything else,
8 but anyhow, the streets are in need of help
9 and certainly, you know, some of this money
10 certainly could go towards that.

11 I think the idea of demolition, I
12 think that we are spending quite a bit of
13 money on demolition and dealing with blight.
14 I don't know if additional funds are
15 necessary for -- all for demolition, but I
16 certainly would think that another thing
17 that part of the funding could be used for
18 is in the parks and recreation. I think one
19 of the things enhances neighborhoods and
20 works towards the building of a safe and
21 viable neighborhood is a safe and kind of
22 recreation area and I think this the city
23 benefits from that, and that also includes
24 recreational activities. I know that the
25 last funding we did look some of the areas,

1 little leagues and so on, some of that
2 funding had to be cut, but those are
3 programs that I think can also use some
4 additional funding so that they could remain
5 viable and remain an important part of our
6 neighborhoods, and that's all. Thank you
7 very much.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
9 Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I'd like to start
11 off by saying that I was very disappointed
12 with Mayor Doherty. I don't about any of
13 the other council members, but I would have
14 liked to have attended the state of the city
15 address. Unfortunately, he chose not to
16 deliver it in council chambers, and that's
17 fine. Even though I disagree with many of
18 the mayor's policies, I would still have
19 liked to have attended the state of the
20 city. I did not receive a letter, an e-mail
21 or a phone call inviting me or I don't know
22 about my colleagues.

23 MS. EVANS: No. I agree with what
24 you are saying. I wasn't notified of it nor
25 was I invited.

1 MR. ROGAN: And, you know, what
2 bothers me even more about it is, you know,
3 we have a city council here who is I think
4 we are doing a great job, we go out to the
5 neighborhoods and listen to the people's
6 problems, listen to the phone calls, and
7 listen to the e-mails, and on the other hand
8 we have a mayor who ran for multiple offices
9 over the last year to try and get out of the
10 city. In November of 2009 he was re-elected
11 to become mayor. Throughout January and
12 February of 2010 he was trying to run for
13 governor, failed. Tried to run for
14 lieutenant governor, failed once again.
15 Then he tried to run for state senate, once
16 again rejected at the ballot box and now
17 there have been calls going on out polling
18 for Chris Doherty for commissioner, and it's
19 very upsetting as somebody who loves being
20 on city council, who loves helping the
21 people of Scranton, that when the mayor who
22 is trying to escape the residents, he
23 doesn't want to be mayor, goes to give the
24 state of the city address the members of
25 city council aren't even invited, so I would

1 hope that in the future years that council
2 would be invited to the state of the city
3 address and, like I said, even though I
4 disagree with the mayor I'd be the first one
5 at the door to listen to what he had to say.

6 Secondly, with the tax forgiveness
7 on the Mulberry project, I have received a
8 lot of feedback over the last week about
9 this and only one or two people have
10 mentioned that they want to see the project
11 go forward without the taxes paid, and as I
12 said at last week's meeting, it's just not
13 fair to the people who do pay their taxes
14 for somebody else to get a grant of \$3.5
15 million with all of these back taxes, and as
16 Mr. McGoff says, it sets a dangerous
17 precedent where if somebody wants to come
18 downtown or any part of the city and do a
19 project and they owe back taxes they would
20 feel entitled to get them forgiven as well
21 if we did them for Mr. Jefferson.

22 Third, the unused \$200,000. As I
23 stated in the paper, I think that the top
24 two priorities for this money would be roads
25 and blight removal, and roads would be

1 number one. When we went to do our
2 amendments to the CDBG money at the end of
3 last year, we couldn't increase the money
4 that was put in for paving because they only
5 applied for a small amount, I forget what
6 the dollar amount is.

7 MR. JOYCE: If you don't mind me
8 interrupting, it was \$600,000 and \$600,000
9 was approved.

10 MR. ROGAN: Which is a very small
11 amount and we approved the maximum. We all
12 agreed that we would like to have approved
13 more money, but we cannot approve more than
14 what was applied for.

15 With blight removal, we did put a
16 significant increase in it. Is it enough?
17 No. Could there be more? Yes.

18 And, thirdly, on that \$200,000 I
19 know Mrs. Evans sent a letter to Ms Aebli
20 about it asking if it could be used for
21 flooding, which we had the caucus about last
22 week and, unfortunately, she replied that it
23 wasn't a low to moderate income area.

24 And the final option Mr. McGoff
25 mentioned with the parks. Although, I think

1 the parks are nice in the city I think we
2 have spent plenty of money in the parks over
3 the last ten years and I think it would be
4 much better spent in the neighborhoods with
5 the focus on the roads.

6 And the streetlights being out, I
7 hope that MEM will get their act together
8 and, you know, in the meantime while they
9 are still doing the work actually doing the
10 work. I have submitted so many of them and,
11 you know, you feel bad when people e-mail
12 you and call you and you tell them, okay,
13 I'm going to put this in and then you drive
14 by a week later, two weeks later, three
15 weeks later, three months later and it's
16 still not fixed, you know, you feel like you
17 are letting the people down, but
18 unfortunately, the five of us up here we
19 can't go out there with a truck and put a
20 new light in. If we could, we would.

21 I have a few updates that came in
22 from Tom Oleski about some blighted
23 properties. The first one is 459 Phelps
24 Street, it has been put on the 2011
25 demolition list. The next one is 837-839

1 Prescott which I just received an e-mail
2 about today, the owner of this property has
3 hired an attorney who filed an injunction,
4 so at this time the city is waiting for a
5 hearing date in front of a higher Court.

6 436 Ripple Street the city sent out
7 a notice for violations. 425 Ripple Street
8 a demolition letter was sent out. Once the
9 procedure for notification is completed the
10 property will be added to the demolition
11 list. And 104 Yesu Drive, LIPS will
12 continue to monitor this situation.

13 And finally, I have a few citizens'
14 requests for the week, I guess I'll hold off
15 on the ones for streetlights that are out:
16 The 700 block of Beach Street in South
17 Scranton is a total mess. Also, the
18 intersection of Beach Street and South
19 Webster Avenue. South Webster Avenue was
20 just paved this past summer. Several blocks
21 are already in bad shape. They must have
22 used the cheapest blacktop on the market.

23 I understand that many streets are
24 in bad shape, but some of the potholes look
25 like craters.

1 that's the way it's going and in the
2 meantime to contact the current contractor
3 and see if they can get up to speed because
4 it is a safety issue. I mean, especially in
5 weather there is a lot of dark areas, a lot
6 of elderly walking on these sidewalks and,
7 you know, there is some bridges that are
8 totally out, no lights or anything like
9 that, so it is a safety issue and I would
10 hope they would act on it as soon as
11 possible.

12 This past Thursday evening
13 Councilman Rogan and myself had attended a
14 crime watch meeting in West Scranton. They
15 have quite a large group there and it's
16 pretty active and the program was presented
17 by Captain Carl Graziano on drugs on how to
18 -- it was geared more towards parents and
19 adults and they are going to be bringing it
20 around to every venue they can, I guess, the
21 schools and neighborhood meetings and stuff
22 like that, but it was pretty interesting.

23 You think you know everything until
24 you see some of the stuff they have put
25 together here, but it's a great educational

1 program for the adults and how to recognize
2 different drugs scenarios with children and
3 just some of the slang they use, some of the
4 things you take for granted that is drug
5 language, drug signs, drug speak, whatever
6 you want to say, but I thought it was very
7 good. It was very educational, so I would
8 like to commend them on that program.

9 MR. ROGAN: Sorry to interrupt,
10 Councilman Loscombe, but you are exactly,
11 right. It was a great presentation and I
12 know I learned a lot and, you know, as was
13 saying about bath salts which have been in
14 the newspaper a lot lately and on TV, it's
15 something I never even thought of. You
16 know, when you think of drugs you think of
17 marijuana, heroine, cocaine, but, you know,
18 in this day and age there is lot of new
19 things out there that people don't even know
20 about and it was great and I'm glad to see
21 that they are going to go around the city
22 with it.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Even the strength of
24 the marijuana today compared to 30 years
25 ago, I mean, it's like, I don't know what,

1 20 times stronger. So, you know, you
2 wouldn't know about that until you saw this
3 program, but I think they did a good job
4 with it and I hope that it wakes up a lot of
5 people and cuts down just as we are pushing
6 for to cut the drug trafficking and the
7 blight and everything, it all comes into
8 play, so I would like to commend the West
9 Side Crime Watch for being as active as they
10 are, also.

11 Another thing, it was discussed by
12 several members here before, about the
13 brownouts, it was in the newspaper. The one
14 comment that galls me the most in the
15 newspaper is a comment by Mayor Chris
16 Doherty it said, "This is the budget council
17 passed and sent us."

18 Now, just like the Recovery Plan, he
19 has picked and chosen certain things from
20 our budget to work to his advantage, but he
21 is trying to lay this on us. Ladies and
22 gentlemen, if this city council didn't put
23 in the funding for the additional
24 firefighters there would be five stations
25 closed on a nightly basis. Just think about

1 it, we put that back in. He was willing to
2 let it go. He and the newspaper has stated
3 that he is not going to fill any positions
4 that become vacant. He is creating this
5 monster. I don't know how much more I can
6 say it, I wish there were more we can do,
7 but this is nothing more than getting that
8 revolver and putting a bullet in the six
9 chambers and playing Russian Roulette. One
10 of these times that bullet is going to hit,
11 and God help us, I hope it's nobody I know,
12 nobody I'm related to, nobody in this city.
13 I don't know how else to put it, but
14 somebody has to do something, I don't know.
15 I'm just frustrated on that because it
16 continues.

17 Mrs. Schumacher asked about the
18 police cars and stuff, I'm sorry, I didn't
19 have a chance to sit with anybody on that at
20 this point, but I will work on that.

21 As far as the Dunmore Fire
22 Department, I don't know what the latest
23 agreement is because they did do some
24 changes with their hours and manpower up
25 there to increase their manpower, as always,

1 I mean, Scranton along with the surrounding
2 areas, Throop and Dickson City and all of
3 that, do have a mutual aid agreement with
4 Dunmore, so I don't know, I mean, basically
5 it's effective. If our Engine 15 is closed
6 then I don't know what the next company they
7 will send to Dunmore would be. It would be
8 a longer time for Dunmore to get response
9 from us, but I will do some more research on
10 that with the latest scenario for you.

11 And I think Mr. McGoff he explained
12 pretty well the StreetSmart program with the
13 courthouse square.

14 I believe it was Mr. Ellman earlier
15 mentioned the nonprofits again and trust me,
16 we went last year, we started the ball
17 rolling, and we are going to continue. We
18 are going to go out there and fight again
19 and fight again and we are going to go to
20 all of these nonprofits, we're going to let
21 them know that we are not going away that
22 they have to do their fair share. They have
23 to help every one concerned here. I mean,
24 we are being threatened with nonprofit
25 taking over buildings, but again, and I

1 believe more so now than ever within the
2 state legislature there will be some
3 legislation coming down the road that's
4 being worked on by several municipalities
5 who I've stated before are in the same
6 position as we are and, you know, the large
7 amount of nonprofits in their municipalities
8 have put a drain on them just as they have
9 us. They have to learn to be good neighbors
10 in these times.

11 And on the Connell building, the
12 legislation for the Connell building, I
13 might as well make my comments now rather
14 than when we are voting it, but I believe
15 you have seen this city council has been
16 diligent in pretty much all of the
17 legislation that has come before us. I
18 mean, we research it as well as we can,
19 naturally, there is going to be something
20 that slips through the cracks, we can't go
21 over everything, but we have been watching
22 your dollars pretty steadily, and a couple
23 of months ago I even mentioned for the
24 interest of the contractors out there that
25 do place bids under our CDBG and whatever to

1 sharpen their pencil a little bit -- pencils
2 a little bit better because this is not all
3 free money. If they give us a bid on a
4 project and it's twice what you anticipate,
5 we have to pay it out, that eliminates
6 another project or two, so the sharper they
7 can make their pencils, the more benefit it
8 will be to all of the taxpayers here, but I
9 was a little concerned when I saw the amount
10 \$250,000 for a set of sidewalks. I think
11 that could cover quite a bit of the
12 neighborhood sidewalks and curbs.

13 We have also given many grants to
14 this company, again, and I'm not talking
15 this particular developer, I think he has
16 done a fantastic job, it just so happens
17 that last two projects that have come before
18 us have been Mr. Jefferson's projects, but
19 as some people have mentioned, I took a ride
20 by today to see, you know, the area that had
21 to be -- and it says -- in the legislation
22 it says they are looking to obtain an
23 additional \$250,000 in grant funding, this
24 is grant money, this isn't a loan or
25 anything, this is free money from DCED for

1 sidewalk improvements in front of the
2 Connell building on North Washington Avenue.

3 Well, that's today's photo. They
4 are brand new sidewalks so I don't know what
5 has to be improved. I mean, I'm not quite
6 sure we could get a grant after the fact.
7 I'm not sure, we have to research that, but
8 apparently the project is already complete
9 and there is -- I have taken several photos.
10 I mean, there is lot of parking spots taken
11 away from the front of that building, too,
12 "No parking" signs at any time, so we are
13 losing parking revenue ultimately, too.

14 So before -- I may vote to
15 introduced it, but before I would look at it
16 any further I would like to see an itemized
17 breakdown of the costs of these sidewalks.
18 I understand there is a vaults underneath,
19 but what that entails is just every other
20 project in downtown Scranton has had vaults
21 that they have had to fill. Block up of the
22 interior doorway to maybe two or three with
23 cinderblock and fill it in and put your
24 reinforcing in, fill isn't that expensive.

25 So I just think \$250,000 personally

1 can concrete a lot of sidewalks, and these
2 aren't fancy sidewalks, these aren't stamped
3 concrete or anything, they have just brushed
4 concrete. We have to be vigilant with the
5 money we are putting out. If these are only
6 worth \$100,000 there is another \$125,000 or
7 \$150,000 there we can use on other project.
8 That's where I'm coming from.

9 And again, and also on the Mulberry
10 Plaza -- or Mulberry Lofts, I stated how I
11 felt last week about tax forgiveness, just
12 -- I can tie both of these in, when you are
13 a developer like this and you look at a
14 project, you look at the costs, when they
15 purchased that building they knew what the
16 taxes were due on it. Those should have
17 been part of the costs that they had
18 included.

19 This is a different city council
20 here. This isn't the old council that
21 doesn't look at anything and just stamps
22 everything. We are watching your money. We
23 want to see more downtown development and
24 more projects, but if we keep feeding three
25 or four people millions and millions we are

1 eliminating those other 20 or 30 developers
2 from having a little bit. Something has to
3 be watched here. Again, I have nothing
4 personal against this particular developer,
5 but I have seen a lot of money go through
6 here, I have seen a lot of money prior to my
7 being here dumped in the downtown and I
8 still see empty buildings. A lot of money
9 dumped into them, but nothing to show for at
10 this point, so I don't know what the answer
11 is.

12 I'm not looking to detract
13 development because we definitely need it,
14 but we have to keep a sharp eye on where
15 this money is going, but I had a couple of
16 people ask me about my vote on the Mulberry
17 Lofts, they didn't understand the 3 1/2
18 million we were discussing was a grant, it's
19 not a loan. 3 1/2 million dollars is being
20 given free to that project that's why I
21 cannot in my heart and my mind give away the
22 taxes, too. That's a lot of money. That's
23 significant. The taxes are miniscule
24 compared to what they are getting for that,
25 plus they are getting credits for the

1 building and they are going to be getting
2 credits for the architectural end of it, and
3 it's time for the developers to come like
4 this and they can put one hand out and the
5 other in their pocket. I'm not going to
6 vote for two hands out anymore, and that's
7 the way I feel. Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Councilman Joyce, any
9 comments or motions?

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

11 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Joyce, sorry to
12 interrupt, I had one request that I forgot.
13 Mrs. Krake, could we please send a letter to
14 LIPS asking what the city plans to do with
15 the properties on Parker Street and
16 Boulevard Avenue that were demolished?
17 Thank you. Sorry.

18 MR. JOYCE: No, no problem. Is that
19 all?

20 MR. ROGAN: That was it.

21 MR. JOYCE: Well, first I wanted to
22 speak about tonight, earlier we had a woman
23 come in and complain about a situation that
24 she had, of course, the resident from 621
25 and 620 -- the owner of 621-623 Harrison

1 Avenue received a letter regarding junk cars
2 on her property that didn't exist and I
3 think it's very unfortunate and it's really
4 tough to assess whose fault this is, whether
5 it's the inspector, whether it's the
6 inspector's boss, and that's why I'm a huge
7 proponent of standard operating procedures
8 or more commonly known as SOP's. So,
9 Mrs. Krake, the first thing I'd like to ask
10 is if you can please contact or send a
11 letter to Mr. Seitzinger and ask him if
12 there is a procedure for handling anonymous
13 tips or anonymous calls or are the
14 inspectors just at liberty to address the
15 situation however they see fit, especially,
16 I think an SOP is necessary definitely in
17 this situation and I'm hoping that he would
18 have one since the housing inspectors are
19 unionized positions in essentially all
20 performance and job functions.

21 Secondly, we have some numbers from
22 the tax office that were sent to council
23 today -- or actually, it was today, so I
24 will read those off for you. So far the tax
25 office has distributed \$252,000 in real

1 estate taxes to the city; \$45,000 in
2 delinquent real estate taxes; \$3.19 million
3 in wage tax revenue; \$343,000 from the
4 emergency service tax; and \$61,000 from the
5 business privilege and mercantile taxes.
6 Therefore, as of this date after a month and
7 a half the tax office has turned over \$3.89
8 million to the city in regards to their
9 collections.

10 Third, Mrs. Schumacher, asked before
11 about the police car deployment, and I know
12 at that, Councilman Loscombe, you said you
13 were going to look into that. One good
14 place to start actually may be the operating
15 budget in 2011, believe it or not. Attached
16 to the back of that budget was a plan for
17 the deployment of police vehicles and, in
18 fact, the plan was set out that certain
19 vehicles would be deployed during certain
20 times when crime was higher as opposed to
21 when crime was lower and on certain days
22 when crime seemed to be higher or lower.

23 Now, I don't know if that original
24 plan is still intact being that council's
25 amended budget added police officers to the

1 force that would have been cut, so that may
2 be a good starting point. I just thought I
3 would try to help you out.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

5 MR. JOYCE: Any time. The
6 Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority. As
7 Mr. McGoff reported, Mrs. Solfanelli is
8 pursuing funding to extend the trail and
9 this is a very commendable act. I just
10 wanted to say I have used the trail and I
11 know that the Authority promotes many great
12 programs on the trail and they do a very
13 excellent job at maintaining it, so this is
14 something that is very commendable and I
15 would like to see this happen as well as
16 Mrs. Franus stated before in her comments.

17 In reading over this week's mail, I
18 noticed that Mr. Metiche, our animal control
19 officer, submitted all of the receiving
20 contracts. To provide some background, a
21 receiving contract is basic paperwork that's
22 filled out in delivering an animal to the
23 shelter that provides a brief description of
24 the animal and some other things that I will
25 mention later.

1 So far in January, Mr. Metiche
2 delivered 27 cats and 6 dogs to the shelter.
3 Along with Mr. Metiche, it can be seen in
4 the budget under the LIPS Department, we
5 have a part-time animal control officer and
6 we were unable to obtain these sheets for
7 the part-time officer. Perhaps in addition
8 to receiving these reports, it would be
9 prudent to contact the animal shelter and
10 have them give us a breakdown month by month
11 as to how many animals are being delivered
12 to the shelter by the animal control
13 officers.

14 In fact, it's very logical because
15 they have to have the number because they
16 stated themselves that they wouldn't accept
17 any animals that would exceed a \$50 per
18 animal quota or a fee that they are charging
19 all of the cities and municipalities.
20 Anyhow, I would ask, Mrs. Krake, if you
21 could please do this.

22 One thing I wanted to mention about
23 the last paragraph of this receiving
24 contract, and we have them in our mail and I
25 would be happy to show anyone, what it

1 states is, "I hereby affirm that I am legal
2 owner, keeper or finder and/or surrenderer
3 of the above-described animal to the Humane
4 Society of Lackawanna County to be placed in
5 a home approved by said society. I
6 understand by doing so I relinquish all
7 claims to said animal.

8 If I choose to reclaim the above
9 animal, and if it is still available to be
10 adopted, I shall adhere to the adoption
11 procedures and fees. If unable to find a
12 new home, said society shall destroy the
13 animal."

14 I understand this is a legal binding
15 contract and this is it what our animal
16 control officers' have to sign, and I'm very
17 interested in knowing being an animal owner
18 myself how many animals that are brought
19 from the City of Scranton are euthanized
20 when brought to the shelter. Perhaps even
21 if there could be some assistance or some
22 suggestions offered to the shelter if it is
23 a high number to promote adoption of some of
24 these strays.

25 With this in mind, Mrs. Krake, if

1 you could also inquire how many animals
2 being delivered from Scranton are destroyed
3 on a monthly basis and how much time does
4 the shelter give before an animal is
5 destroyed once the animal control officer
6 brings the animal to the shelter.

7 Out of all of the municipalities and
8 boroughs and towns around Northeastern
9 Pennsylvania, Scranton by far has
10 contributed the greatest amount of funding
11 to the animal shelters, so it should be a
12 priority of the animal shelter in my eyes to
13 see that these animals are taken care of in
14 the best possible manner that they could and
15 that every effort is made to lead to their
16 adoption and to a warm and loving home.

17 Lastly, I just wanted to speak about
18 the brownouts a little bit and some of the
19 comments Mayor Doherty made in the
20 newspaper, however, Mr. Loscombe already did
21 that, so I won't really comment too much on
22 the comments that Mr. Doherty made, but what
23 Mr. Doherty also failed to mention and what
24 the Scranton Times also failed to mention is
25 that compared to what was actually used in

1 firefighter overtime the last year, Mayor
2 Doherty cut \$800,000. Well, actually, it
3 was a little bit over that, I believe
4 \$932,000 was used in overtime, Mayor Doherty
5 brought it to \$100,000 in the original
6 budget that was sent down to us.

7 Furthermore, like Mr. Loscombe said,
8 if by adding 27 firefighters, which is
9 the -- which was the amount that was being
10 staffed last year when all fire stations
11 were open, leads to Engine 9 being closed
12 and two -- two fire apparatuses being
13 browned out, I can only imagine what would
14 happen if we passed the operating budget
15 that was sent down to us. I wonder what the
16 impact of those 27 firefighters being out of
17 their positions and laid off would have made
18 in additional brownouts or additional
19 closings. Like Mr. Loscombe said, he
20 believes five stations, I see no way that
21 any less than five if not six fire
22 apparatuses total would have been closed in
23 the city.

24 And, finally, I have one citizens'
25 requests for the night. On the 100 block of

1 North Everett Avenue residents have
2 contacted me informing me that there are
3 lodge potholes at the end of the street near
4 the stop sign and, Mrs. Krake, if you could
5 please send a letter to Mr. Brazil notifying
6 him of this and ask him if he could please
7 have these patched up once weather permits.
8 Obviously, the roads aren't in the best of
9 shape right now.

10 And last, but not least, I know that
11 several council members have been critical
12 of the DPW, including myself at times, but I
13 do want to say in this last snowstorm I
14 think that the DPW did a very commendable
15 job of cleaning the roads in a timely
16 fashion so that residents could travel to
17 get to and from work as needed, and that's
18 all I have for tonight.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
20 evening. During last week's council
21 meeting, I informed the public that over
22 \$200,000 in Community Development Block
23 Grant funds originally allocated to the
24 Lackawanna College Scranton Lace Project was
25 not dispersed and, therefore, remains

1 available for other eligible projects.

2 In addition, I suggested that these
3 monies be utilized for: Number one, the
4 Cameron Avenue flooding problems. Two,
5 removal of hazardous structures citywide or,
6 three, citywide paving projects, and I
7 directed Mrs. Krake to send correspondence
8 to Ms. Aebli, OECD director, regarding this
9 matter, and to request legislation for this
10 purpose.

11 City council received a timely
12 response from Ms Aebli from which I will
13 read a portion: "North Cameron Avenue
14 neighborhood appears not to be in a low to
15 moderate income area according to the 2000
16 US Census assuming the flooding is
17 originating from this area. OECD is not
18 fully aware of all of the particulars of
19 this flooding project. Under the assumption
20 the water is coming from North Cameron
21 Avenue, this activity on the surface does
22 not appear to qualify for CDBG funding.

23 As I indicated to council several
24 months ago, OECD will be taking a thorough
25 analysis of activities that have been

1 delayed for one reason or another and take
2 steps to reallocate this funding to eligible
3 activities. Currently, OECD has undertaken
4 several detailed reports that must be
5 completed in the next few months. Please be
6 assured that as soon as these reports are
7 completed, OECD will be taking the necessary
8 steps to reallocate and prepare legislation
9 to transfer funding to eligible activities.
10 OECD will definitely keep in mind the
11 demolition of hazardous structures citywide
12 and the street paving citywide program."

13 Councilman Loscombe, could you work
14 with Mrs. Krake, please, to collect
15 documents from the state, the city engineer
16 and the Sewer Authority to determine the
17 origins of the flooding on the North Cameron
18 Avenue neighborhood?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Certainly.

20 MS. EVANS: According to, as I just
21 read, Mrs. Aebli's response, she seems to
22 believe that the flooding originates in that
23 area and I think that in some cases, no, it
24 does not. It is coming from farther up.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: --the street, it's a

1 culmination of the flooding.

2 MS. EVANS: Right. I think this has
3 to be done, you know, taking a look at this
4 paver work in order to accurately determine
5 whether or not the this project may be
6 eligible for CDBG funding.

7 In addition, the 2010 census report
8 will be forthcoming this year and we can
9 review any possible changes in neighborhood
10 eligibility as well. In, however, this
11 neighborhood remains ineligible for CDBG
12 funding, council will pursue use of unused
13 funding for paving and blight removal this
14 year.

15 Ms. Aebli also sent a response to a
16 question posed by Ms. Schumacher during a
17 recent city council meeting.
18 Mrs. Schumacher asked for what purpose have
19 the grant monies previously allocated to the
20 defunct Mulberry Plaza project located at
21 the corner of Mulberry Street and Mifflin
22 Avenue been used. Ms. Aebli states that on
23 September 30, 2009, Semian and Gress Real
24 Estate submitted through OECD a Pennsylvania
25 DCED single application for Monroe County

1 local share account in the amount of
2 \$500,000. On November 20, 2009, this
3 application was withdrawn from the local
4 share account by Semina and Gress Real
5 Estate.

6 Ms. Aebli further adds that, "It
7 should be noted that this office did not
8 obligate any funding to this project nor
9 does it have any records of transferring any
10 CDBG funding to this projects. \$100,000 may
11 have been coming from a future action plan,
12 however, OECD has no records indicating this
13 is true."

14 Thus, it appears that no CDBG
15 funding was given to the Mulberry Plaza
16 project and, therefore, no monies were
17 allocated to other redevelopment projects.

18 Next, after I announced the mayor's
19 new order for brownouts of Engine 15 in the
20 Hill Section and Truck 2 on Mulberry Street
21 at our previous council meeting, the mayor
22 responded in the Scranton Times that he will
23 not use overtime to cover firefighter use of
24 sick time and he has to remain within the
25 2011 budget in which city council cut

1 overtime funds. And city council did,
2 indeed, cut overtime for the fire department
3 because it reinstated 27 positions in the
4 fire department which the mayor had cut.
5 Council restored these positions in order to
6 keep all firehouses open throughout our
7 city.

8 By cutting 27 fire positions, the
9 mayor -- as Mr. Loscombe indicated, the
10 mayor would have been able to permanently
11 close four to five fire stations in Scranton
12 which was an integral part of his plan.

13 However, regardless of the
14 reinstatement of these positions the mayor
15 alone chose to change shift schedules,
16 caused the permanent closing of Engine 9 on
17 North Main Avenue, and the brownouts of
18 select engine companies and a rescue truck.
19 It is only due to city council's actions
20 that many more fire stations were not
21 permanently closed this year leaving
22 neighbor hoods without their traditional
23 fire protection and increasing response time
24 very nearly throughout the entire city.

25 Further, at last week's council

1 meeting, council members tabled the RACP
2 grant funding for the Mulberry Lofts Project
3 until such time as delinquent taxes for the
4 years 2006 through 2010 are paid by the
5 building developer, Mr. Charles Jefferson.
6 I received numerous e-mails of support for
7 city council's decision following that
8 meeting.

9 I also received additional related
10 information and documentation from
11 Mr. Kolajeski, from the Lackawanna County
12 Tax Claim Bureau, note's maintenance written
13 by Mr. Kolajeski on September 17, 2010,
14 state, "2010 City of Scranton has a
15 developer, Charles Jefferson, for the
16 building. Mayor Doherty through Lori Reed
17 asked for property to be removed from sale
18 to allow developer to close deal. We will
19 be paid all taxes due at closing per Miss
20 Reed."

21 Thus, it is now clear that this
22 property was removed from a county sale by
23 Mr. Kolajeski due to the statement made by
24 Lori Reed, an OECD employee, on behalf of
25 Mayor Doherty promising that all tax

1 delinquencies would be paid at the closing
2 on this property. Mr. Jefferson indicated
3 during a public caucus that he closed on the
4 Mulberry Street property sometime in January
5 2011, and it is a fact that he did not pay
6 any of the delinquencies due to the city,
7 county, and school district.

8 It also puts into question whether
9 Mr. Jefferson, in fact, has clear title to
10 this property and it appears that PNC Bank
11 would require a title insurance policy which
12 may in itself necessitate the payment of all
13 taxes, all back taxes.

14 I asked Attorney Hughes to review
15 the documents I received from the Tax Claim
16 Bureau, and I'm aware that he spoke with
17 Mr. Kolajeski by phone last week. Attorney
18 Hughes, would you elaborate on your
19 discussion with Mr. Kolajeski and the
20 documents he provided, please?

21 MR. HUGHES: Yes, Madam President.
22 The owner of this property is YMUSA, they
23 are I believe from New York. This property
24 was listed for judicial sale back in 2008,
25 in July when the judicial sale is -- the

1 county has finally instituted a judicial
2 sale which means that once the owner is
3 given notice of the sale it can be sold for
4 taxes free of all liens, encumbrances,
5 mortgages so that the buyer who buys it will
6 have clear title. In the event there is not
7 enough money raised from the taxes at the
8 sale, that it be can shared pro rata by the
9 taxing agencies and all those taxes would be
10 abated.

11 Back in July of 2008, the owner came
12 in, they paid \$19,350 to remove it from the
13 sale. It was taken out of the July 2008
14 sale pursuant to Mr. Ronald Kolajeski. In
15 2010, as you have stated, Mr. Kolajeski
16 notes where that, "In 2010 the City of
17 Scranton has a developer, Charles Jefferson,
18 for the building. Mayor Doherty through
19 Lori Reed asked for the property to be
20 removed from the sale to allow the developer
21 to close the deal," and these are Ron's
22 notes, "We will be paid all taxes due at
23 closing per Ms. Reed."

24 That was stated on September 17,
25 2010. He typed his notes and he gave a copy

1 of those notes to Miss Reed stating that the
2 taxes would be paid and he typed it right
3 into his computer and he gave her a copy.

4 One thing is that that what
5 Mr. Jefferson has done is that he has
6 purchased the mortgage on this property from
7 the bank, which I believe was Pennstar Bank
8 and he also got from the developer, from the
9 owner, the deed in lieu of foreclosure, so
10 that he did not have to foreclose on the
11 property. Right now he owns the property no
12 matter -- by pursuant to the deed in lieu of
13 foreclosure.

14 In the event these taxes are not
15 paid, I would believe that Mr. Kolajeski
16 would put them back into a judicial sale and
17 at that time other buyers could come in and
18 bid on the property. If somebody bid, I'll
19 state it this way, the taxes right now after
20 giving credit of the \$19,350 the previous
21 owner paid in July of 2008, the amount of
22 taxes owed to the county, the library, and
23 the school district after giving the credit
24 was \$148,959.72. That was up through the
25 end of December with the January interest of

1 \$959.41, it comes to \$149,919.13. The City
2 of Scranton taxes exceeds \$75,000, so there
3 is a total of \$225,000 in real estate taxes
4 owed that the commitment was that they would
5 be paid at closing.

6 In the event that they are not paid,
7 I believe the property will go back into a
8 judicial sale and at that point I believe
9 that Mr. Kolajeski would not accept any
10 money from the developer to take it out of
11 the sale pending payment because the old
12 saying, "Fool me once, shame on you, fool me
13 twice, shame on me, "I think it will stay in
14 the sale until Mr. Jefferson pays the
15 \$225,000 in taxes. If not, it would be sold
16 free and clear of the mortgage that he has
17 on the property so that he would lose the
18 money that he paid for the mortgage due to
19 Pennstar Bank.

20 It somebody did come in and buy it,
21 say it was for \$150,000, we'll even round it
22 off and say \$112,500 the taxing agencies
23 would each get 50 cents on the dollar of the
24 delinquent taxes plus the property would
25 then go to a private owner or to an owner to

1 be rehabilitated and they would own the
2 property.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. So it is my
4 understanding that Mr. Kolajeski requires
5 payment in full of delinquent county and
6 stool district taxes. Scranton City
7 Council, the governing body of a distressed
8 city, also requires payment of all
9 delinquent city taxes, and it questions the
10 ability of the mayor to single-handedly
11 abate delinquent taxes. Council would like
12 a copy of the statute, ordinance or any law
13 that grants the mayor the authority to
14 forgive taxes. By forgiving five years
15 worth of tax delinquencies, the mayor would
16 be indicating that all tax delinquencies
17 must be paid by Scranton residents and
18 businesses expect for Mr. Jefferson.

19 In addition, PNC bank evidently
20 determined that Mr. Jefferson is
21 creditworthy, so perhaps it will expand a
22 loan to include taxi delinquencies if
23 Mr. Jefferson cannot personally pay his
24 debts for this project.

25 Therefore, it is council's hope that

1 Mr. Jefferson will soon address his
2 delinquencies and allow this project to move
3 ahead.

4 Next, tonight's agenda includes
5 legislation --

6 MR. HUGHES: I don't want to extend
7 the meeting any longer, but I would want to
8 comment just on one thing.

9 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

10 MR. HUGHES: Mr. Kolajeski's notes,
11 I don't believe there was any contact from
12 Mr. Jefferson with Mr. Kolajeski regarding
13 the taxes. I mean, this was strictly by the
14 mayor and by Miss Reed who personally went
15 to Mr. Kolajeski and stated that if it's
16 taken out of the sale that all of the taxes
17 will be paid, and that's why he took it out
18 of the sale based on that representation of
19 her from the mayor, and I didn't ask
20 Mr. Kolajeski if he ever had any
21 conversations with Mr. Jefferson, but I
22 don't think he ever did. I think they were
23 there as, let's say, on behalf of
24 Mr. Jefferson to get it out of the sale with
25 the assurance that if it's taken out of this

1 sale, which I believe the sale -- I don't
2 know if it's going to be -- the sale was
3 going to be held tomorrow or if it was a
4 previous sale, it was held back in September
5 I believe, that if it were taken out of the
6 sale the taxes would be paid. I just wanted
7 to clarify that.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you.

9 Tonight's agenda includes legislation to
10 amend it's contract with the Pennsylvania
11 Department of Community and Economic
12 Development or DCED in order to increase
13 grant funding by a quarter of a million
14 dollars for sidewalk improvements in front
15 of the Connell building. I will vote to
16 introduce the legislation this evening,
17 however, city council would like to see a
18 specific itemized accounting for the
19 sidewalks improvements and coordinating
20 dollar amounts for each. Mrs. Krake, please
21 request this information which should be
22 submitted as soon as possible in order that
23 city council can proceed with a possible
24 approval process for increased grant
25 funding.

1 I believe there was something else
2 though that, Mr. Loscombe, you wished to
3 know about?

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I think about it,
5 I'll have to look at my notes. I'll add to
6 it definitely.

7 MS. EVANS: Also, on tonight's
8 agenda are Items 5-C and D, two pieces of
9 legislation requested by city council
10 members and drafted by Council Solicitor
11 Boyd Hughes. One piece of legislation
12 creates a special city account for the
13 deposit and disbursement of Urban
14 Development Action Grant or you UDAG
15 repayment funds. It removes the UDAG
16 repayment account also known as RE-RE from
17 OECD and places the account in the city's
18 budget.

19 The other legislation requires that
20 the monies contained in this account must be
21 spent according to federal regulations and
22 must receive the approval of Scranton City
23 Council. And at this time, I ask Solicitor
24 Hughes to comment on these two council
25 generated ordinances, please.

1 MR. HUGHES: Yes, Madam President,
2 this legislation was really initiated after
3 Ms. Aebli's letter to Council dated February
4 15, where she said that regarding various
5 funds that were going to be placed into the
6 RE-RE account instead of our CDBG accounts
7 since RE-RE, and I don't know what RE-RE-
8 means, but anyway, the RE-RE account do not
9 have any federal regulations attached to it.
10 This is totally false. What happens is when
11 the UDAG program was in effect there is no
12 longer an UDAG program, but under Housing
13 and Urban Development what would happen is,
14 and mostly this came through Congressman
15 McDade, who was a master at obtaining UDAG
16 grants for the City of Scranton, and one of
17 the last ones received was for the mall, it
18 was \$13 million. It was one of the largest
19 UDAG grants given in the country.

20 This is a typical grant, the City of
21 Scranton has to put an application in, the
22 City of Scranton would then after the
23 application approved, would receive the
24 money. The money would then be lent out to
25 a developer, it would be paid back to the

1 City of Scranton. However, it's not a
2 federal regulation, it's the law of the
3 United States that created the UDAG program.
4 It sets forth in 42 United States Code
5 Section 5301, which is known as the Housing
6 and Community Development Act of 1974 and
7 what the law states is that the City of
8 Scranton can give it out as a grant and not
9 receive any of the money back, however, as
10 the UDAG is repaid to the city it is
11 required that that money be utilized on
12 eligible activities for community
13 development.

14 Those activities are set forth right
15 in the act in Section 15 -- or I'm sorry,
16 Section 5308 and 5318 (f) as is set forth in
17 our legislation tonight. It's a mandatory
18 requirement that on the repayment of these
19 funds while they become city funds the city
20 can lend them out, that they have to get
21 them -- those funds on the repayment of the
22 UDAG grant and that in accordance with the
23 Community Development Act of 1974 the first
24 time on repayment they can only be utilized
25 for community development activities that

1 qualify under the Act.

2 The section that sets that up is
3 Section 5381 (f) and that states, "In any
4 case in which the project proposed as
5 repayment of the grant funds. Such funds
6 shall," it says shall, which is mandatory,
7 "be made available by the applicant," which
8 is the City of Scranton, "for economic
9 development activities that are eligible
10 activities under this section or section
11 5405 of this title."

12 That's the United States law set
13 forth in the Act and this will assure that
14 the City of Scranton will be in compliance
15 with all UDAG repayment funds that will be
16 deposited in a special account in accordance
17 with the federal law and that they will only
18 be in the next ordinance, which is 5-D, that
19 the funds can only be withdrawn from the
20 UDAG repayment account by appropriate
21 legislation for community development
22 activities which are in accordance with
23 Section 5305 and 5318 (f) of the US code.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. The other
25 reasons for council's decision to draft and

1 approve this legislation are as follows:

2 The UDAG repayment funds in the OECD
3 RE-RE account were commingled with other
4 grants and payments which is not the best
5 accounting practice.

6 For example, payments to PNC Bank
7 from grants for the Connell building were
8 made through the RE-RE account including
9 January 13, 2011, \$838,155.15 paid to PNC
10 Bank from the RACP grant. August 9, 2010,
11 \$1 million paid to PNC Bank for the DCED
12 Growing Greener grant. August 6, 2010,
13 \$500,000 to PNC Bank for the DCED grant HRA
14 program; and July 7, 2010, \$3,161,844.55
15 paid to PNC Bank for Phase I of the RACP
16 grant.

17 OECD has already created checking
18 accounts to stop using the RE-RE checkbook
19 for outside funding sources such as
20 neighborhood stabilization program or NSP,
21 Department of Energy, DOE. DCED and Monroe
22 County Local Share Account and Emergency
23 Shelter grants or ESG.

24 Additional legislation will be
25 adopted by council at the March 1 meeting to

1 create an RACP account for the three newest
2 RACP grant projects.

3 In addition, City of Scranton
4 payroll was often funded through the RE-RE
5 account. The legislation generated by
6 council will separate UDAG repayment funds
7 from any and all other accounts by
8 depositing the city money into a special
9 city budget account.

10 The second reason for this
11 legislation involves the manner in which
12 RE-RE funds have been spent by the mayor
13 throughout the last several years and in
14 2001. Although OECD had previously had
15 reported to council more than once a meager
16 balance of approximately three to four
17 hundred thousand dollars in the UDAG RE-RE
18 account, this is just for 2010, and it
19 appears that close to \$100,000 has been
20 spent by Mayor Doherty for use as his
21 personal checkbook into 2010 alone, rather
22 than for uses that would benefit the people
23 of Scranton and our city.

24 I reviewed the expenditures for
25 2009, 2010, and January of 2011 and because

1 the vouchers are so numerous I cannot
2 present them all. Rather, for the sake of
3 the time I will provide only several
4 documented examples:

5 January 2011 and 2010, payments to
6 Attorney Carl Greco for a total of
7 \$16,816.19. January 201, pavement of \$205
8 to the Beacon Hotel. Reservation for
9 Washington DC conference for Chris Doherty.
10 May 2010, payment of \$261 for two nights at
11 the Hyatt Place PCLM conference. December
12 2010, \$595 for membership renewal in GFOA.
13 \$29,954.68, 2011 dues for Pennsylvania
14 League of Cities and Municipalities.
15 October 2010, \$500 for membership in the
16 Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors
17 Bureau.

18 December 2011 and May 2010, \$28,500
19 for First Night sponsorships and fireworks
20 for the most recent First Night celebration.
21 The funding for First Night was eliminated
22 in both the 2010 and 2011 budgets and most
23 dues and subscriptions as well as travel and
24 lodging were eliminated in the 2011 budget
25 and that occurred in December 2010. Since

1 the mayor couldn't spend this money from the
2 budget, he dipped into the RE-RE account for
3 his memberships, dues, and travel and for
4 First Night.

5 There are numerous expenditures for
6 luncheons, tours, and tickets in 2010,
7 including an Office fan tour of the
8 Lackawanna County Convention and Visitor'
9 Bureau for \$2,500. \$150 for the mayor's
10 prayer breakfast. A \$120 for the Armed
11 Forces Committee luncheon. \$100 for five
12 tickets to the Deutsch Institute Celebrity
13 brunch. \$3,050 for a 100 tickets for RTGP
14 events, LLC. A \$10,000 donation to the
15 Deutsch Institute beyond the CDBG monies
16 awarded to this institute annually. \$5,000
17 to the Broadway Theatre League. Payments of
18 \$508 to Dan Simrell for reasons unknown.

19 2010 local sponsorships, program
20 ads, internet newspaper ads, TV contracts,
21 etcetera, totalling approximately \$88,000.
22 2009 RE-RE spending is quite similar for
23 sponsorships, programs ads, dinner tickets,
24 with the noticeable additional of donations
25 to ECTV for \$12,800.

1 Imagine how that UDAG RE-RE money
2 could have been better spent on paving,
3 police vehicles, flood control, etcetera.
4 No spending by other elected city officials
5 is found among these hundreds of vouchers.
6 Dinners and luncheons are paid for by the
7 individuals themselves just as are all
8 sponsorships and programs ads. We use our
9 salaries to pay our own costs, the mayor
10 should do the same and the monies in this
11 UDAG repayment RE-RE account will now be
12 spent for the needs of the people. The
13 checkbook is closed.

14 Finally, I have a request,
15 Mrs. Krake, we were notified that the
16 individuals who completed the audit report
17 of the OECD Office would not be coming in to
18 a public caucus with Scranton City Council
19 at any time in the near future. In
20 addition, we were informed that no one from
21 the Investigator General's Office would be
22 coming in for a public caucus at any time in
23 the nature future, rather they would like to
24 wait until OECD has completed all of it's
25 reports and submitted them to the

1 appropriate agencies for their review and
2 then these groups would come before city
3 council.

4 And so, Mrs. Krake, I request a
5 letter to be sent to Senator Robert Casey
6 and Congressman Lou Barletta urging the
7 Department of Housing and Urban Development
8 to address the \$11.7 dollar audit findings
9 within the OECD Office. We would like the
10 senator and congressman to intervene in
11 order to arrange a public meeting between
12 HUD and city council as soon as possible to
13 disclose all aspects of the audit and what
14 possible repercussions may arise from the
15 findings. And finally, what measures will
16 be taken to ensure that OECD will not
17 continue to blindly act outside of the
18 federal, state and local regulations.

19 And one last matter, I know that
20 Mrs. Roberts, who was here earlier this
21 evening, regarding the letters that were
22 inappropriately sent to her for an abandoned
23 vehicle also indicated that four foreman,
24 four DPW foremen had been cut and that is,
25 indeed, true and that cut was done by

1 Scranton City Council.

2 However, I wanted Mrs. Roberts to
3 know that since then the mayor almost
4 immediately reinstated all four foremen at
5 an hourly rate of \$16 plus full benefits.
6 They are all working full-time to my
7 knowledge, and I think that I just wanted to
8 put Mrs. Roberts' concerns to rest, the
9 mayor did take very good care of Mr. Davis
10 and these men, and that's it.

11 MR. ROGAN: I have a question for
12 Attorney Hughes, that list that Mrs. Evans
13 read, is that legal what the mayor spent
14 that money on?

15 MR. HUGHES: In accordance with
16 federal law and Community Development Act of
17 1974, I read the statute, that money has to
18 come back in to the city. Once it's repaid,
19 it could only be spent again on activities
20 which apply to community development in
21 accordance with the law.

22 MR. ROGAN: I know it's hard to get
23 a yes or no answer out of an attorney,
24 but --

25 MR. HUGHES: The first time that --

1 I don't know what was deposited into the
2 UDAG account, the first time that the money
3 comes in on an UDAG repayment it can only be
4 spent in accordance with federal law and in
5 accordance for -- in accordance with federal
6 law for community development activities
7 which qualify under the law. The second
8 time it comes in, it's city money that can
9 be spent whatever way it wants, but the
10 first repayment has to be spent for eligible
11 community development activities in
12 accordance with the law.

13 So as the mall is repaying on it's
14 UDAG, any other UDAG's, as though payments
15 come into the city, they will be deposited
16 into this account so that they can only be
17 spent on eligible community development
18 activities. Once it goes out the second
19 time and comes back in, then it's city money
20 that can be spent however the city wants.

21 MR. ROGAN: Okay, so the answer is
22 yes.

23 MR. HUGHES: So I don't know how --
24 if the city when it got the first UDAG
25 repayments, like, the mall has been paying

1 back, there is a lot of other UDAG'S, like,
2 one of the UDAG's that the city had I think
3 it was around \$3 1/2 million it was to build
4 the road from Davis Street to Montage, it
5 started as Montage Mountain Road, it started
6 in the City of Scranton, it ended in the
7 City of Scranton, that's how the city got
8 that UDAG development grant to build the
9 road to Montage. That ended up as being a
10 subordinated loan with the Chamber of
11 Commerce.

12 When the county bought the Montage
13 Mountain from the -- actually, it's from
14 Montage, Inc., which was a nonprofit
15 corporation, it was entity that was formed
16 by the Scranton Chamber of Commerce, when
17 the county took it over that loan was
18 subordinated, that was not accepted by the
19 county so that \$3 1/2 million dollars was
20 lost, but there is a lot of other UDAG'S out
21 there that are still active, there was a
22 special UDAG account set up, it was \$3 1/2
23 million from Fidelity Bank that was to pay
24 for the acquisition and relocation costs for
25 the hotel project, that was a legitimate

1 project. I think only of that a little bit
2 over a million dollars was spent for
3 acquisitions and relocations at the mall, it
4 may have been a million and a half, whatever
5 happened to the rest of that, those UDAG'S
6 then if no more money was borrowed from
7 Fidelity Bank those UDAG's then would have
8 been paid to the city instead of Fidelity.

9 Where that money went I have no
10 idea. That money that goes into the RE-RE
11 account if that was properly lent out in
12 accordance, and I don't have any idea it was
13 because I don't think it was that account,
14 but if it came back in, was lent out for
15 community development activity, it qualified
16 under the Act and then it gets repaid to the
17 city a second time that money can then be
18 used by the city as it sees fit.

19 MR. ROGAN: So the question is
20 whether it was spent after the first or
21 second time?

22 MR. HUGHES: Correct. The first
23 time on the first repayment of any UDAG loan
24 it has to be spent in accordance with
25 federal law for community development

1 activity to qualify under the Act.

2 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

3 MR. HUGHES: The second repayment,
4 it's free money.

5 MS. EVANS: And I don't think, you
6 know, the purpose was so much to say this is
7 possibly an illegal activity as much as this
8 is an appalling activity, this is an
9 inappropriate activity, this is a wasteful
10 spending of monies that can be used for much
11 needed projects in the city and government
12 money should never become the personal
13 checkbook of any elected official and anyone
14 who is part of it and anybody who signs off
15 on it is wrong.

16 MR. ROGAN: I agree with you
17 completely.

18 MS. EVANS: And there are people who
19 signed off on that. Mr. McGowan signed off
20 on it, Mrs. Novembrino signed off on it, and
21 I think there is a third.

22 MR. ROGAN: You know, just when you
23 were reading off that list the expenditures
24 seemed so frivolous, you know, that it
25 seemed like could be bordering on illegal.

1 MS. EVANS: It will be interesting.

2 MR. HUGHES: I would say if there --
3 if it was on the first UDAG repayment there
4 were unauthorized expenditures in accordance
5 with federal law. That's a play on words,
6 but anyway.

7 MR. ROGAN: Yeah.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Very well
9 said. Anyone else before we move along?
10 Mrs. Krake?

11 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-B.
12 CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY
13 ACCOUNT NO. 02.229599 ENTITLED "LAW
14 ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN" TO ACCEPT DONATIONS
15 AND PAY FOR ALL RELATED EXPENSES FOR THE
16 TORCH RUN.

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?

23 MR. MCGOFF: Just maybe for
24 explanation, the law enforcement torch run
25 is something that's conducted every year by

1 the Scranton Police Department and I think
2 some other police departments also joined
3 in. It's a run from Carbondale, basically a
4 relay from Carbondale to Scranton, and many
5 of the Scranton police take part as do
6 others.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MR. JOYCE: Have you taken part in
9 the past?

10 MR. MCGOFF: No, I haven't.

11 MR. JOYCE: I know that you are a
12 runner.

13 MS. EVANS: How about this year?

14 MR. MCGOFF: I'm going to have find
15 out when that is.

16 MS. EVANS: I think you can do it.
17 You do Steamtown, you can do it.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thanks for your
19 support.

20 MR. JOYCE: I might think about it
21 if they have a one-mile stretch, but
22 anything above that --

23 MR. MCGOFF: I will tell you they do
24 have a bus that follows them and you can hop
25 on the bus every once in awhile.

1 MS. EVANS: 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 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. CREATING AND
10 ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. (TO BE
11 ESTABLISHED) ENTITLED "URBAN DEVELOPMENT
12 ACTION GRANT REPAYMENTS ACCOUNT" FOR THE
13 DEPOSITING OF REPAYMENTS OF URBAN
14 DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT FUNDS MADE TO THE
15 CITY OF SCRANTON BY THE OWNERS OF PROJECTS
16 WHO RECEIVED THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION
17 GRANT FUNDS.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. AUTHORIZING THE
8 DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE SPECIAL CITY
9 ACCOUNT NO. (TO BE DETERMINED) ENTITLED
10 URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT REPAYMENT
11 ACCOUNT ONLY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
12 ACTIVITIES THAT ARE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AS
13 REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW.

14 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
15 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be
16 introduced into it's proper committee.

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
20 those in favor of introduction signify by
21 saying aye.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. AUTHORIZING THE
4 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
5 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO AN
6 AMENDMENT TO ITS CONTRACT WITH THE
7 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
8 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR
9 HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
10 CONCERNING THE RENOVATION OF THE CONNELL
11 BUILDING IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE GRANT
12 FUNDING THEREUNDER BY \$250,000.00 FOR
13 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS.

14 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
15 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be
16 introduced into it's proper committee.

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: On the question?

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

22 MR. ROGAN: After you, Mr. Joyce.

23 MR. JOYCE: Well, I think that all
24 of my colleagues have mentioned it by now,
25 with the exception of me since I had left it

1 out of motions, but I, too, would like to
2 see an itemized list of these expenses. I
3 know that \$250,000 is quit a lofty figure,
4 but I understand from Mr. McGoff's
5 explanation that there had to be additional
6 work done, so once the itemized list comes I
7 would make my decision on whether to okay it
8 or vote in the affirmative or negative. For
9 now, I will be voting "yes" to move it
10 along.

11 MS. EVANS: And I think this is what
12 you may have mentioned, Mr. Loscombe, the
13 fact that all of the work would have been
14 completed and now the city applies to amend
15 a contract and increase the grant by a
16 quarter of a million dollars which would
17 appear to be a reimbursement to
18 Mr. Jefferson. I would assume since the
19 project is complete that the project has
20 been paid for, and so I'm looking for an
21 answer to that. Is that the situation and
22 is that appropriate under the terms of this
23 grant?

24 I don't know, you know, it almost
25 makes you wonder what that quarter of a

1 million dollars might be used for in
2 addition to sidewalks and as certainly, you
3 know, I hope that is not the case, I don't
4 think that would be an appropriate use of
5 state funds to take the taxpayers dollars
6 and maybe --

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Especially since the
8 figures are close.

9 MR. JOYCE: And pay the taxes.

10 MS. EVANS: Right, and pay tax
11 delinquencies with those, so let's, you
12 know, hopefully that isn't something that
13 OECD or Mr. Jefferson would become involved
14 in, and I think that's why, too, it becomes
15 even more important to find out exactly what
16 the situation is with this amendment.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Like you said, is
18 that allowed after the fact, after the
19 project is complete. You know, we don't
20 want it to come back at us, you know, and
21 under an audit we would have to repay it
22 because it was ineligible.

23 MS. EVANS: Right, and that is, in
24 fact, a provision of each one of these
25 grants that has come before us, that any

1 activities that are deemed ineligible by the
2 state government are now to be repaid by the
3 city, not the developer, the city.

4 MR. ROGAN: I would just like to say
5 I first read this and read the amount
6 \$250,000 for sidewalks improvements, I was
7 pretty stunned and generally even if it's
8 something I'm on the fence on I'll vote
9 "yes" in Fifth Order, but whether it's a
10 reimbursement, whether it's new money for
11 improvements, there is no way I'm voting for
12 this. It's government waste at it's worst.

13 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on
14 the question? All those in favor of
15 introduction signify by saying aye.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

18 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

19 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

20 MR. ROGAN: No.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

24 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 12,
25 2011 - AN

1 ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A NEW
2 ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF
3 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ("OECD")
4 TITLED COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
5 REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM
6 FUNDS ACCOUNT NO. 12A.0101 FOR THE RECEIPT
7 AND DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS ("RACP GRANT
8 FUNDS") RECEIVED FROM THE COMMONWEALTH
9 OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE BUDGET.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
13 pass reading by title.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

15 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
16 those in favor 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: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
24 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
25 FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 11, 2011 -

1 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 97, 2009, AN
2 ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING
3 BUDGET 2010" BY TRANSFERRING \$162,652.00
4 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.13090.4299
5 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL OPERATING EXPENSES -
6 CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT NO.
7 01.011.00078.4120 (FIRE DEPARTMENT -
8 LIFE/DISABILITY INSURANCE) TO PROVIDE
9 FUNDING TO COVER LIFE INSURANCE ADJUSTMENTS
10 PER COURT AWARD.

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

14 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
15 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
16 passage of Item 7-A.

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-A legally and lawfully adopted.

6 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
7 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-
8 RESOLUTION NO. 11, 2011 - AUTHORIZING THE
9 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
10 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO ON BEHALF OF THE
11 CITY OF SCRANTON A USER AGREEMENT WITH THE
12 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
13 ("PDA") FOR THE USE OF EQUIPMENT IN ORDER TO
14 COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ACT 106 OF
15 2010.

16 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the
17 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
18 passage of Item 7-B.

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

20 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
21 call, please?

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

4 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
9 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION-
10 RESOLUTION NO. 12, 2011 - ACCEPTING
11 DONATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$242.00 RECEIVED
12 BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON FROM PRIVATE
13 INDIVIDUALS FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY MANPOWER
14 INITIATIVE.

15 MS. EVANS: What is the
16 recommendation of the Chair for the
17 Committee on Finance?

18 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
19 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
20 passage of Item 7-C.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
23 call, please?

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

6 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

10 MS. KRAKE: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
11 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION-
12 RESOLUTION NO. 13, 2011 - AUTHORIZING THE
13 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
14 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT
15 WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
16 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
17 ("DEP") FLOOD PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM TO
18 ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF
19 \$3,128.00 TO PURCHASE THREE (3) MOWERS, FOUR
20 (4) TRIMMERS AND REPAIR CONCRETE AT FIVE (5)
21 LOCATIONS ON THE SOUTH SCRANTON FLOOD
22 PROTECTION PROJECT.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: At this time, I would
24 like to make a motion to table Item 7-D.

25 MR. JOYCE: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: There is a motion on the
2 floor to table Item 7-D and a second. On
3 the question?

4 MR. MCGOFF: The reasoning?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question, just
6 a matter of tying up some loose ends we did
7 request some information on matching funds
8 and stuff and we are still awaiting for
9 that, that's the only reason at this point.

10 MS. EVANS: I would like to take a
11 look at the information that I requested
12 from Paul O'Hora. He has a designated
13 amount in his budget and I think we need to
14 take a close look at, you know, what the
15 intended uses are for that budgeted money
16 and if the city then can afford the matching
17 funds because he does have to stay within
18 his budget.

19 MR. ROGAN: I spoke to Mr. Loscombe
20 very briefly before the meeting about this,
21 I have no problem tabling it, but I would
22 hope that we would have a final vote on it
23 within the next few weeks.

24 MS. EVANS: Well, that will be up to
25 Mr. O'Hora.

1 MR. ROGAN: Well, if he doesn't
2 respond then I guess --

3 MS. EVANS: We'll put it back on.

4 MR. ROGAN: -- we'll vote it down.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes.

6 MR. ROGAN: Because, you know, there
7 are a few things that awhile back that we
8 tabled that we never put on and I know even
9 though we were just going to shoot it down
10 because we wouldn't vote for them if they
11 didn't send in a resume, but I do believe
12 that everything does deserve an up or down
13 vote and the end of the day, but I'll vote
14 "yes" for the amendment -- or to table.

15 MS. EVANS: Okay. I should probably
16 expand on something Mr. Rogan just said.
17 Yes, I have been holding appointments of
18 individuals made by the mayor to board and
19 commissions because the mayor has ignored
20 the votes of city council, he has ignored
21 the legal and legitimate placement of
22 individuals on authorities. I will not
23 allow the mayor to disrespect city council
24 or the people of Scranton any longer by even
25 entertaining such legislation. It's become

1 nothing more than a farce under this
2 administration.

3 Okay, we have a motion to table, all
4 those in favor signify by saying aye.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

9 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
10 have it and Item 7-D, is it?

11 MR. JOYCE: Yes, it is.

12 MS. EVANS: Is tabled. If there is
13 no further business, I'll entertain a motion
14 to adjourn.

15 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

16 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
17 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