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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, July 12, 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  
2 moment of reflection observed.)

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

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

16 MINUTES OF THE FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION  
17 MEETINGS HELD MARCH, APRIL, AND MAY OF 2011.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AUDIT STATUS FROM  
21 ROBERT ROSSI & CO. AS OF JULY 5, 2011.

22 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

23 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I know that we  
24 have haven't received any updates from  
25 Mr. McGowan in regard to the status of the

1 completion of the audit, if you could please  
2 send a request to him being that we just  
3 received a new letter from Rossi & Rossi  
4 and if by chance he does not respond if you  
5 could please ask him for an update as to the  
6 upcoming PEL meeting. Thanks.

7 MS. EVANS: Are there any other  
8 comments? Received and filed. Clerk's  
9 notes, Mrs. Krake?

10 MS. KRAKE: Yes, Mrs. Evans. Today  
11 the law department noticed that they had  
12 sent duplicate legislation down to us, that  
13 would be 5-E on the agenda, sale of  
14 delinquent property is the same as what  
15 appears at 7-C for final passage.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I think we  
17 will address it accordingly during the  
18 voting portion of the meeting.

19 MS. KRAKE: And, thank you, and  
20 that's it.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any  
22 council members have announcements at this  
23 time?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I have a couple.  
25 First annual block party will be held at the

1 Jackson Street Skate Park the weekend of the  
2 July 16 and 17 from 2 to 8 p.m. It will be  
3 live mural paintings, music, skateboard  
4 competitions, basketball scrimmages. Don't  
5 forget to bring your skateboard, Frank.

6 Any of the members of the  
7 association that are willing to help please  
8 contact the other members of the association  
9 and they could use any help with cleanup,  
10 setup and breakdown and I believe there was  
11 a request if any of the members had a tent,  
12 an easy up that they could borrow please  
13 notify Karen Foster.

14 Next, the West Side Falcons football  
15 is conducting late signups for ages 6 to 14  
16 boys. It will be Friday, July 15, from 6 to  
17 8 p.m., Saturday, July 16, from 11 a.m. to 1  
18 p.m. Start your football career where Penn  
19 State's Matt McGoin and Pittsburgh's Hubie  
20 Grambie did, the West Side Falcons. The  
21 registrations will be held at the West Side  
22 Falcon's field house at the corner of Dewey  
23 Avenue and Jackson Street.

24 The 40th Scranton regional  
25 collector's car show sponsored by Road's

1           Scholars Transport will be held, Sunday,  
2           July 17, at the Allied Services Met Life,  
3           which is the Abington Executive Park on the  
4           Morgan Highway, the former International  
5           Salt Company. Gates open at 8 a.m.,  
6           admission is \$3 per person, children 12 and  
7           under are free. And dash plaques will be  
8           issued to all participating vehicles. Food  
9           and drink stands and music by Joe Cruz and  
10          don't miss the winter's parade beginning at  
11          3 p.m. For info call 346-3771 and 650-3634.

12                   And lastly, there will be on July  
13          16, the NEPA minors semi-pro football team  
14          will be sponsoring a pancreatic cancer  
15          awareness night. This will be held at the  
16          Scranton Memorial Stadium on Munchak Road at  
17          7:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the  
18          door for \$10 or by visiting [NEPAMinors.com](http://NEPAMinors.com).  
19          Merchandise and proceeds from temporary  
20          tattoos and 50/50 raffle proceeds will be  
21          donated to the Pancreatic Cancer Network.  
22          Please come out to the stadium and wear your  
23          purple while supporting our cause. And  
24          that's all I have. Thank you.

25                   MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there

1 anyone else?

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Scranton Latin  
3 Pride weekend will take place on the  
4 courthouse square August 13 and August 14.  
5 On Saturday August 13 from 1 to 7 p.m. there  
6 will be festivals with live music, food and  
7 other various family events. On Sunday,  
8 August 14, there will be a parade. For more  
9 information you can contact Pedro Gonzalez  
10 at 871-1651.

11 And also, there will be a benefit  
12 bike ride to benefit Pat "Flash" Gavin at  
13 the New Penny on 1827 North Main Avenue in  
14 North Scranton. The cost is \$10 per bike  
15 and \$5 per rider. The ride starts at 12  
16 p.m. on Sunday, July 17, and registration is  
17 from 10:30 to noon. The ride is 95 mile  
18 total starting from the New Penny following  
19 Route 6 & 11 following Route 171 through  
20 Susquehanna County, and finally a ride back  
21 to New Penny. Food will be available from  
22 clam diggers and Kelly Pub and Eatery  
23 following the ride, and also DJ Hammer will  
24 be performing from 5 to 7 playing all styles  
25 of music and karaoke following up the night

1 with another band, they don't specify the  
2 name, from 7 to 9 p.m. So if you are  
3 interested you could call them at 961-3331,  
4 and that's all.

5 MS. EVANS: Are there any other  
6 announcements? The Fraternal Order of  
7 Eagles, 493 Meridian Avenue, Scranton,  
8 Pennsylvania, will conduct a ribfest on  
9 Saturday, July 16, 2011, from 2 p.m. to  
10 until 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and  
11 early birds get the ribs. Dinners include a  
12 full rack, corn on the cob, baked potato,  
13 potato salad, baked beans, roll and dessert.  
14 Music by DJ Joey and a carnival 3 p.m. until  
15 midnight. Proceeds benefit hospice and the  
16 Scranton Cultural Center in memory of Matt  
17 Flynn, and that's it.

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

20 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this  
21 evening is Andy Sbaraglia.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
23 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,  
24 on your agenda items, let's see, it's 7-G  
25 it's up for final passage. This is the



1 first -- really the first sign of anybody  
2 doing much for the kids in Scranton other  
3 than the little I guess they have an artist  
4 up there for the kids and so forth, but this  
5 is something that could benefit all of  
6 Scranton, not just a child. I mean, a lot  
7 of grownups do go up and swim at Nay Aug.  
8 At one time they used to let the senior  
9 citizens go in for a buck, free, there was a  
10 whole bunch of different patterns, but now  
11 it's just a flat \$4. As you know, I'm  
12 cochairman of the Kids Swim Free Program and  
13 we spent over \$1,800 to have kids swim at  
14 Nay Aug and, you know, it gets quite  
15 expensive, but the people of Scranton want  
16 it. They support it. We are not out there  
17 with a gun saying, "Give us your money," we  
18 are just explaining that every bit of money  
19 that's given to us goes to them kids. No  
20 one takes out anything, and I'm glad to be  
21 part of that program and I'm glad to see  
22 this on the agenda, no matter where it goes  
23 I'm glad to see that at least you took a  
24 step and that's all we can do in life is  
25 take one step at a time.

1 I asked to see the plans for Nay  
2 Aug, I mean, not Nay Aug, Novembrino complex  
3 and I now I understand why you had no plans  
4 to show, there was none and there none.  
5 They was just sending out for I guess  
6 looking for somebody to do it, to draw up  
7 the plans, and then from what they say it's  
8 ludicrous they want to fill in the big pool?

9 MS. EVANS: Yes.

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: Could you imagine  
11 the money we made to put that pool, plus the  
12 fact that it has -- it's a 13-foot deep pool  
13 which means it was made for high dive and  
14 that's what it's for. This mayor is only  
15 going to be here God knows how long, he has  
16 been here quite long and, of course, we saw  
17 where we are today because of it. The  
18 damage we have done to the city is probably  
19 non-repairable. I don't think we could ever  
20 repair the damage that's done to the city  
21 under this man's -- what does he have, 12  
22 years in there?

23 MS. EVANS: Not yet.

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: But close to it, and  
25 the damage you saw it. We started it off

1 with a Connors with a slight -- I guess we  
2 had a slight surplus and now we are so deep  
3 in the hole we can never get out. We don't  
4 have a big enough shovel to get out, but  
5 still the point is, why would he want to  
6 destroy that pool? That's what it amounts  
7 to. If he wanted to do what he wants to do  
8 why don't he use the little pool? I'm sure  
9 that could be done a lot cheaper but then  
10 they wouldn't have those contracts, would  
11 he?

12 I told you before, you find -- if  
13 you ever read where the money comes from the  
14 mayor when he runs you would find out a lot  
15 of them is with contracts. A lot of people  
16 that have contracts support the mayor  
17 whole-heartedly, and we have the information  
18 home.

19 Now, that is probably one of the  
20 reasons why we have so many contracts  
21 because that's where the money flows in, to  
22 contributions, to this party or the  
23 individual. It's just too bad that the  
24 damage is being done to the city for the  
25 sake of looking for campaign money, it's

1           ridiculous. I'm just sorry that people  
2           don't see that. I really am. I don't know  
3           where they have their eyes. All they have  
4           to do is see what's happening and know it  
5           that next year they are going to get tax  
6           increases, and I don't care what you say, we  
7           are going to have to have a tax increase  
8           because there is no way out of it, and the  
9           question is even with this 1.5 million they  
10          are not going to collect that no matter what  
11          we do. We are going to have to pay that to  
12          the bank and that in turn was with the mayor  
13          again. Everything leaks back to the mayor.

14                        He sold them and gave them to the  
15          SRA, the SRA sold it and so forth, and when  
16          it came back it's like it was a house of  
17          cards really, that's the only way to explain  
18          it. I mean, the DPW I still don't know who  
19          owns it. It transferred so many times. I  
20          mean, everybody had a piece of that action  
21          and yet that added to the debt to the city  
22          because every time they borrow they don't  
23          give the things for free. That means they  
24          got interest tacked onto the borrowing, so  
25          it just keeps going and going and going. I

1 mean, you don't even need to be a brain  
2 surgeon to figure out what's happening here.

3 I just hope -- my son is a professor  
4 on economics and he does say that. I mean--  
5 okay, there is no point haggling on it.  
6 Okay. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Sbaraglia.

9 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Sbaraglia, you are  
10 speaking a little bit about costs, I do have  
11 a copy of the application that was submitted  
12 by the Parks and Recreation Department to  
13 OECD for the splash pond project and just to  
14 give you an idea they estimate the cost of  
15 building a splash pond with replacing a pool  
16 somewhere in the range of \$100,000. The  
17 whole project itself they estimate it at  
18 \$250,000. If you would like to see the  
19 application, I would be happy to get you a  
20 copy.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: Thank you, but the  
22 paper did print out the cost of it, thank  
23 God, in their little article that they did  
24 write.

25 MS. EVANS: Les Spindler.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
2 Council, Les Spindler, city resident and  
3 homeowner and taxpayer. I read in the paper  
4 Saturday and I just get infuriated, about  
5 the city wants the trial of the new parking  
6 meters rebid again. This is ridiculous.  
7 Council puts something in a budget to bring  
8 in revenue for the city, a distressed city,  
9 Mayor Doherty and his puppets, Mr. McGoff  
10 included, want it bid out, it's bid out, we  
11 get two bids and now the city says the bids  
12 aren't good, we have to rebid. This is  
13 nothing about another stall tactic by this  
14 administration trying to make council look  
15 bad. Isn't there anything that can be done,  
16 Attorney Hughes? Can't the administration  
17 be made to follow this budget?

18 MR. HUGHES: I have know idea what  
19 you mean be made to follow the budget.

20 MR. SPINDLER: Well, the StreetSmart  
21 Program, they don't want to implement that.

22 MR. HUGHES: I have my opinion that  
23 it does not have to be bid, the  
24 administration has taken a position to bid  
25 it.

1 MR. SPINDLER: I agree with you.

2 MR. HUGHES: But that's up to them.

3 MR. SPINDLER: This is a sole source  
4 and it shouldn't have been bid. It's just  
5 another way to stall, and I can almost  
6 guarantee we won't see any revenue from this  
7 all year. The mayor is going to blame  
8 council and it's not council it's the mayor  
9 and Mr. McGoff and Mr. McGowan and,  
10 Mr. McGoff, I hope people remember that come  
11 election day because you don't want to see  
12 us get out of distressed city, distressed  
13 status, and it's a darn shame. You are  
14 doing anything to try to sabotage this  
15 budget. It's ridiculous.

16 Moving on, July 2 there was an  
17 article in the paper about a Sewer Authority  
18 worker fired, July 2. I knew about this on  
19 June 2. If you go to DohertyDeciet.com you  
20 will find a lot more information than if you  
21 read the Doherty newsletter, and there is no  
22 name in the paper either and the name of the  
23 person was on DohertyDeciet.com. The reason  
24 there is no name in the paper because it's  
25 another Doherty crony. If it was a

1 firefighter or police officer the name would  
2 be the newspaper.

3 And the prime example is with this  
4 Patrolman Miller that was arrested for  
5 supposedly fighting at the V-Spot, he is not  
6 guilty because the video evidence I saw  
7 somebody that saw the videotape, there is  
8 video evidence that this patrolman is  
9 innocent. He was punched in the face, he  
10 was grabbed by the throat by the girl that  
11 he supposedly punched, this is all on  
12 videotape and this will come out and the  
13 people, they were in Court today, and all of  
14 these people lied, they should be arrested  
15 because Mr. Miller will be exonerated,  
16 Patrolman Miller, because there is videotape  
17 and I got that from very good sources.

18 MS. EVANS: Mr. Spindler, actually,  
19 if I could just add quickly, I believe in GO  
20 Lackawanna I read on-line very recently, in  
21 fact, just yesterday an article concerning  
22 the Sewer Authority in which the individual  
23 was identified and so kudos to GO  
24 Lackawanna.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Absolutely. They are



1 the only ones that tell the truth.

2 MS. EVANS: And I do know in  
3 addition, however, there are, unfortunately,  
4 other arrests of city employees that occur  
5 and they are not identified in the newspaper  
6 as a city employee, but, as you said, I do  
7 notice that if the city employee happens to  
8 be a member of the police or fire department  
9 that's immediately identified in the  
10 article.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Absolutely.

12 Ms. Evans: So it's a little -- the  
13 selectivity is a little questionable.

14 MR. SPINDLER: It's been like this  
15 for ten years and I guess it will never stop  
16 until Chris Doherty is out of office.

17 Somebody told me something today  
18 which I thought was very interesting, and  
19 it's an attorney that told me this, that if  
20 we pay off everyone who is out on Workmens'  
21 Comp from their reserve fund, which is fully  
22 funded, we could save \$2 million, and I  
23 don't know if council is aware of that.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes. Yes. That is an  
25 issue I have discussed with our Finance

1 Chair and we are going to be working on that  
2 in August.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Very good. Oh, here  
4 is something else that I got from website  
5 also, there was federal money available to  
6 help pay the health insurance or Medicare  
7 for retired cops and firemen. Supposedly  
8 the city, namely, Lisa Moran, was supposed  
9 to apply for this money. When the firemen  
10 found out this they confronted her and she  
11 said the city wouldn't get that much money.  
12 Well, that wasn't true. The city could have  
13 gotten a million dollars for this, and we  
14 are distressed city we really could have  
15 used a million dollars.

16 This is just another example of  
17 incompetence in this administration and it's  
18 a darn shame. I think everybody up there  
19 would agree we could use a million dollars  
20 and it's a good reason to apply for that and  
21 she can do it, so somebody should lose their  
22 job for this.

23 Moving on, I've said this in the  
24 past about how the Times-Tribune  
25 sensationalizes everything that Chief Duffy

1 does, and I have said the arrests he makes  
2 our police officers make these all the time  
3 and you don't see anything in the paper.  
4 Perfect example is I spoke to a police  
5 officer Saturday night, he said recently  
6 they walked into a restroom in Walgreens,  
7 saw someone shooting up heroine, they  
8 arrested them. Did anybody see anything  
9 about that in the newspaper? No. Because  
10 it wasn't in the newspaper.

11 If that was Chief Duffy it would be,  
12 Stop the presses, put this on the headlines,  
13 but our every day police officers are  
14 risking their lives out there, they don't  
15 get any credit in the Doherty newsletter and  
16 it's a darn shame, and I have said this for  
17 months now. Mrs. Evans, can I continue a  
18 little since you took some of my time?

19 MS. EVANS: Yes. Please finish up.

20 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. Something  
21 else, I would suggest that members of the  
22 council go on DohertyDeceit.com. There are  
23 pictures of the Rockwell Avenue bridge  
24 falling into Legget's Creek. I have seen  
25 these pictures and that's a real safety

1 hazard.

2 MS. EVANS: Actually, yes, I was  
3 contacted by a resident of the area and just  
4 before this evening's meeting -- or I should  
5 say the public hearing, I discussed it with  
6 Councilman Loscombe because he has developed  
7 a very good working relationship with  
8 PennDOT, and I'll let him address more of it  
9 later, but we are aware of it and we are  
10 going to be taking care of it very soon.  
11 We'll have PennDOT out there.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Great. And I  
13 want to reiterate what Andy said, to not  
14 have free swim is ridiculous. These fees  
15 are raised, you know, there is no wonder why  
16 people go down to the gorge and swim they  
17 don't want to pay the \$4 they are risk their  
18 lives down there and this again, this is the  
19 administration's fault. And there should be  
20 free swimming, they shouldn't close the  
21 Novembrino pool.

22 And one last thing, I have an  
23 announcement, on August 12 and 13 the Tripp  
24 Park Neighborhood Association is having  
25 their third annual picnic at the Dorothy --

1 at the Tripp Park Community Center on  
2 Dorothy Street and there will be food and EJ  
3 the DJ will be there. It's Friday and  
4 Saturday, August 12 and 13, so hope to see  
5 everyone there. Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bob Bolus.

7 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.  
8 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

9 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

10 MR. BOLUS: First thing, has anybody  
11 heard from Paul Kelly on the 16 1/2 foot  
12 issue that I have raised?

13 MS. EVANS: No.

14 MR. BOLUS: What's it take to get  
15 this guy to do something? He is looking for  
16 \$20,000, he wants more money to do  
17 everything, but yet he hasn't done a darn  
18 thing to adhere to even council's requests  
19 and I think that's total arrogance and  
20 ignorance on what requests are about. I  
21 don't think he is above the law or scrutiny  
22 that goes on.

23 This issue has got to be drawn to a  
24 close one way or the other. Today we were  
25 in Court over my filing or taking the

1 sticker off my home, the condemnation that  
2 was illegally filed. It was continued for  
3 at least 90 days, probably longer, until the  
4 underlying lawsuit now that's been filed and  
5 responded to my Mr. Kelly questioning  
6 whether or not I have a residence there.  
7 It's now going to start costing the city  
8 thousands of dollars. I have invested over  
9 \$25,000 already and now that the city is  
10 involved and the litigation is going to  
11 proceed and I'm going to take it right to  
12 the end.

13 The money that council so graciously  
14 gave Mr. Kelly last week is going to  
15 evaporate and God knows what more is going  
16 to happen after that and if we are  
17 successful in our litigation I don't know  
18 what the dollar sign will be for the damage  
19 it's created. That's not where I wanted to  
20 be. It's the last place I wanted to be. I  
21 just wanted peace and quiet and it's not  
22 going to happen that way now. We are going  
23 to continue to push it.

24 I'm living in my residence. A  
25 couple of witnesses that he had there today



1 land. It's owned by the city.

2 Tonight you are approving all kind  
3 of tax delinquent properties that are be  
4 sold yet this individual sits there on  
5 property owned by the city. Kelly ignores  
6 it, but isn't a shame to go by Novembrino  
7 park and see it empty? Nothing in the pool.  
8 And this classy mayor who could have  
9 resolved this issue between us ignores it,  
10 yet, the kids have no where to go now, 90  
11 some degree weather, Novembrino park is  
12 closed for a splash park?

13 Maybe we should have the kids take  
14 canteens up, a couple of cups and throw  
15 water on each other. Maybe we could get a  
16 fire hydrant opened up. Jack, I'm sure you  
17 have influence, have the fire department  
18 open a hydrant like they do in New York City  
19 or Philadelphia. Let the kids run around  
20 near the hydrant. It's a hell of thing to  
21 see in the City of Scranton when we spent  
22 millions of dollars on Nay Aug Park and  
23 absolutely the people of this city to pay  
24 the taxes, to verify they live here, and let  
25 me tell you there is ways to find out



1           whether you are a resident or not and  
2           they're just too darn lazy to do it because  
3           it cuts into his cash cow, it's squandered  
4           elsewhere. We should swim, the kids deserve  
5           it, the residents deserve it. That's what  
6           we pay taxes for.

7                        The misspending in this city is out  
8           of control and the arrogance that just goes  
9           with it. During the last week I have  
10          merchandise stolen from around my house. My  
11          illustrious neighbor, Mr. Hartman, stood  
12          there, watched the thieves steal the stuff  
13          and then had dialogue with them as they  
14          drove away and yet never reported a crime  
15          going on at my home.

16                       Two different incidents have  
17          happened up there where they have driven in  
18          and so fortunately we are able to secure the  
19          license number and Scranton PD is taking  
20          care of that issue. Isn't it great to have  
21          such credible and great neighbors and then  
22          they wonder why I'm like I am?

23                       You know, we sit here and we go over  
24          things and we go over things, there should  
25          only be one solicitor in the city, there has

1 got to be accountability, and the issue is  
2 there is \$50,000, and again, I'm asking  
3 council to insist, better yet demand  
4 accountability from Paul Kelly to answer  
5 their requests why he is sitting on \$50,000  
6 and will not address that issue after he has  
7 the deeds in his hands. Maybe he is too  
8 embarrassed to come forward and know that he  
9 screwed up again, but that's what I would  
10 ask from council, if you could please do  
11 that.

12 And, Boyd, all I could do is say  
13 good luck, I'll be glad to see you there, it  
14 will be a hell of a show.

15 MR. HUGHES: Okay. Thanks, Bob.

16 MR. BOLUS: Thank you.

17 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Bolus, before you  
18 leave you mentioned the \$20,000 for the law  
19 department.

20 MR. BOLUS: I'm sorry?

21 MR. ROGAN: You mentioned the  
22 \$20,000 for the law department.

23 MR. BOLUS: Yes.

24 MR. ROGAN: That's in Seventh Order,  
25 that wasn't passed yet, and we did request

1 additional information. I don't know if my  
2 colleagues received anything, but I haven't.

3 MS. EVANS: No, we did not receive  
4 information, but I believe that I gave them  
5 a deadline of July 22, and so if council  
6 does not receive a breakdown of the names of  
7 the attorneys, the dollar amount paid and  
8 the service provided it will -- what I'm  
9 hoping to do this evening actually is to  
10 table that legislation in Seventh Order,  
11 remove it from the table on the 26th, should  
12 we not receive the information then on the  
13 26th I know I will be voting against it.

14 MR. BOLUS: Well, I'm glad to hear  
15 that, that finally somebody is making him  
16 accountable. You know, we have seen how  
17 many hundreds of thousands for Carl Greco  
18 and other people out in the city, I mean,  
19 like, where are we going here? We got to  
20 draw it to a close, and here is litigation  
21 now that's going to go on for absolutely no  
22 reason. A guy condemns a home that he says  
23 is unlivable, uninhabitable. Get realistic.  
24 Just come up and take a look, they were  
25 offered that opportunity. Paul Kelly

1           stopped them from coming to look and we  
2           opened the door and said, "Here it is," and  
3           he would not allow it because of the  
4           litigation he created.

5                         So, yeah, I'm glad you're holding  
6           the \$20,000, remember, even if he got the 50  
7           and it may be considerably more because the  
8           people who occupy that piece of land are  
9           going to bid to try and retain their homes  
10          on it. You may see it as high as \$100,000  
11          or more for this. So it's a golden  
12          opportunity because somebody screwed up and  
13          now they can take advantage of the people in  
14          this city. It's time now to do something.  
15          It's income. It's money, and it may fill  
16          Novembrino pool, put lifeguards there and  
17          forget the stupidity of a splash park and  
18          some kind of childish fantasies. Give the  
19          kids what they need. They need a place to  
20          swim. Get them off the streets.

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

22                         MR. BOLUS: Thank you.

23                         MS. EVANS: Doug Miller.

24                         MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

25                         Doug Miller, Scranton.

1 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

2 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to  
3 comment on the recent decision by the mayor  
4 to veto your legislation that provided  
5 funding for the Novembrino pool complex,  
6 UDAG money that would have covered the cost  
7 to open the pool as well as pay for the  
8 lifeguards and if I can recall correctly  
9 from the newspaper article the mayor cited  
10 that his reasoning for vetoing the  
11 legislation because you didn't talk to him  
12 about it and, you know, I just kind of find  
13 that kind of comical that the mayor would  
14 veto this because council didn't speak with  
15 him.

16 I think the mayor understands that  
17 your office is right up the steps here, if  
18 he had any questions regarding anything that  
19 you are doing he knows very well he could  
20 come up here into the office right outside  
21 here and ask you anything he wants. He  
22 didn't do that and now he wants to use this  
23 as a reason to veto when he knows you will  
24 override the veto this evening, but he knows  
25 that he pretty much has no other choice but

1 to veto it, it's the only power he really  
2 has now, and I just think he is playing too  
3 many games here with this and I can't  
4 comprehend why he would want to deprive the  
5 children of West Side the opportunity to  
6 swim, as I have said before. Just totally  
7 baffled by it.

8 And I think it's truly ashame that  
9 he has to continue to play these kind of  
10 petty politics and just watch the children  
11 in West Side continue to suffer, and it's no  
12 secret it's been pretty hot the last couple  
13 of days and I just don't understand how a  
14 mayor, what he can -- what he expects these  
15 children to do. I don't know how you can  
16 possibly look in the mirror and be proud of  
17 yourself as a leader. I know I wouldn't. I  
18 think he should be ashamed of himself.

19 And it's truly -- it's unfortunate  
20 and, you know, in the future if he ask  
21 questions for council he knows the door is  
22 always open here, but maybe if he feels  
23 comfortable, Mr. McGoff, I know you seem to  
24 have a good relationship with him, maybe you  
25 can get him to come up here. You know,

1 something has got to happen. We need some  
2 dialogue here. We can't keep playing games.

3 And on a related matter, Agenda Item  
4 7-G, I'd like to personally commend you for  
5 eliminating the \$4 fee for Nay Aug Park. I  
6 think you've once again shown your  
7 commitment to watching out for the taxpayers  
8 and I really applaud you for that. I don't  
9 understand how the Recreation Authority  
10 found it realist to think that a mom and dad  
11 with, I don't know, four kids can afford to  
12 go up to Nay Aug and swim ever day. It's  
13 just not realistic today with the economy.

14 I understand there is still some  
15 questions regarding why the fee was raised  
16 and I am curious as well to know why the  
17 Recreation Authority raised the fee and I  
18 think they have some explaining to do. And  
19 you know, I really want to thank  
20 Mr. Sbaraglia and Mr. Jackowitz, they talked  
21 about the Kids Swim Free Program and for  
22 many years giving children the opportunity  
23 to go up there and swim. It certainly was a  
24 great thing and now that council stepped in  
25 and stepped up to the plate, you know, I

1           thank you for doing that and hopefully the  
2           children take advantage of this and  
3           hopefully we won't have any whining and  
4           crying from the mayor downstairs threatening  
5           to veto different things, hopefully we can  
6           move forward with this, and again, put the  
7           best interest of the residents first.

8                         Regarding StreetSmart, a few days  
9           ago I learned in the newspaper that the bids  
10          submitted by IPS and StreetSmart were  
11          rejected and I just -- I can't honestly  
12          understand this knowing full well that  
13          StreetSmart was sole source. We could have  
14          implemented this months ago and the  
15          administration failed to do and I'm just  
16          really concerned moving forward with the  
17          long-term plan and long-term solution and  
18          when we get to the end of the year here and  
19          we realize that we missed out on all of this  
20          revenue, I don't know what they are going to  
21          do.

22                        I don't know at this point if you  
23          have thoughts on it or what you think is  
24          going to happen, Mr. Loscombe, you have been  
25          dealing with it mostly, so I don't know if



1           you have any comments on it or if you want  
2           to share that later, just it's like beating  
3           your head against the wall, I guess, and  
4           just the same nonsense week after week. It  
5           gets frustrating after awhile and, you know,  
6           I have my opinions as to why all of this us  
7           taking place, and I'm not afraid to share  
8           those opinions. I truly believe that the  
9           administration wants to do anything they  
10          possibly can to make you look bad and at the  
11          end of the year when we have a deficit they  
12          all want to run up here pointing their  
13          fingers at the four of you and say that you  
14          are responsible for it when the only ones  
15          that are responsible are themselves.

16                    They need to take a good look in the  
17          mirror and realize that they caused all of  
18          this themselves, the mayor, the fiscal  
19          mismanagement for the last 12 years, we are  
20          not \$13 million in long-term debt for no  
21          reason. The mayor can thank himself, thank  
22          Mr. McGoff, thank all of the other rubber  
23          stampers that sat on council, you know, it's  
24          really it's ashame. It really is, and I'm  
25          concerned for the future, and just really

1 hope that the administration would stop  
2 playing the games here because we are just  
3 continuing to suffer here and it's causing  
4 us a lot of problems and they just don't  
5 seem to really care.

6 But on a positive note, I'd just  
7 like to recognize all of those involved with  
8 the West Side Skate Park. I think it's  
9 going to be great for the kids over there to  
10 have a place to recreate and stay out of  
11 trouble. I know a lot has been taking place  
12 over there recently with the community  
13 garden, the West Side Precinct, and a lot of  
14 other different things, and I think they  
15 really need to be commended for that because  
16 it's bringing something positive to that  
17 part of town that really needs it right now  
18 and I just hope that he would continue to  
19 keep of the great work and I appreciate your  
20 time. Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Miller,  
22 I will be addressing the parking meter  
23 program in great detail under my motions  
24 tonight.

25 MR. MILLER: Very good. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Karen Foster.

2 MS. FOSTER: Hello again. I want to  
3 thank you for again for your ongoing support  
4 to amend Chapter 332, the Code, City of  
5 Scranton titled Parks and Recreation and  
6 entitled "Article III, West Scranton Skate  
7 Park Facilities Rules and Regulations."

8 Many great things have been  
9 happening and I'm glad that others have  
10 taken notice. More families are now at the  
11 park. The past two weeks with the onset of  
12 the skateboard competition there has been  
13 60, 70 children up there practicing, all  
14 excited. They come up to us with their new  
15 tricks and they just want to show us what  
16 they are doing and it's very exciting.

17 The groups that are co-sponsoring  
18 the skateboard events, Zoomies and  
19 Underwood, have been a tremendous source.  
20 Also, just recently, the Northeastern Skate  
21 Park Alliance also is supporting us in this  
22 effort with the goal that this facility  
23 becomes a focal point for ongoing  
24 competitions. There has been some interest  
25 with helping to donate additional equipment

1 so that we can handle a larger venue and  
2 hopefully it could be a revenue maker for  
3 the City of Scranton.

4 Now, some details regarding our  
5 event. I have a poster here, I'm not sure  
6 if the camera can see everything, but the  
7 theme is Lords of Drawtown, and it's based  
8 on a skateboard movie called Lords of  
9 Dogtown, and the individual that you are  
10 seeing in the picture here is Jason  
11 Smeltzer, he is a classically trained  
12 musician and he plays Theremin. A Theremin  
13 was the first electronic instrument, and it  
14 was a device that had two antennas on other  
15 side, and then you could waive your hands  
16 between them and it would make sound. Well,  
17 you probably all heard of them if you have  
18 seen sci-fi movies because they make  
19 interesting sound effects in the background.

20 He is going to be performing on  
21 Sunday and he actually can play classical or  
22 rock, he can actually play music with it, so  
23 it's quite exciting.

24 Yesterday, also want to extend  
25 another thank you to Engine 7, they had come

1 out to help power wash the wall so it was  
2 prepared for the mural that will be started  
3 tomorrow, and anyone who would like to come  
4 and spectate, they need to stay away from  
5 the actual drawing, but they can come and  
6 see how it's evolving throughout the week.

7 There will be several musicians  
8 playing live throughout the whole day from 2  
9 to 8. The skateboard competitions will be  
10 setup for the first day for skaters as young  
11 as four to seven to have their own beginner  
12 group, and then the second beginner group  
13 for eight to 12, and then the second day  
14 will be the more advanced skaters.

15 There are three-on-three basketball  
16 scrimmages, 30-minute half courts. If you  
17 want to get a team, we still have openings  
18 for city council.

19 In addition to this, we have also  
20 been working on re-instituting the movie  
21 nights. We had one in June, it was very  
22 successful. I have been doing some research  
23 and we have a couple of plans underway that  
24 very soon there could be some more movies.  
25 They may be in an indoor facility as well as

1 outside, so I will keep you up to date on  
2 that.

3 MS. EVANS: Wonderful.

4 MS. FOSTER: Any questions?

5 MS. EVANS: No, I think we are very  
6 good, although, I am going to encourage  
7 these young men, especially toward a  
8 three-on three-contest.

9 MR. JOYCE: And you know,  
10 Mrs. Foster, you came up here to thank us  
11 tonight, but I wanted to thank you and also  
12 everyone in the Crime Watch Group which, as  
13 you know, I joined recently, for taking such  
14 a big task and for making the efforts to try  
15 to take back our neighborhood in West Side  
16 and make our neighborhood safe, and I know  
17 one of the reasons that I was prompted  
18 internally to join the Crime Watch Group is  
19 because there was a stabbing six houses up  
20 from where I reside and, you know, I take a  
21 walk around some of the neighborhoods in  
22 Scranton and I think it's about time that  
23 communities as a whole organize together and  
24 fight the crime that's going on in our city  
25 because through a joint effort like the one

1           that you are putting together a lot can be  
2           accomplished. That's all.

3           MS. FOSTER: Thank you, and it's  
4           from the whole -- cooperation from the  
5           entire City of Scranton, all entities for  
6           the success of what we have been able to do  
7           so far and we greatly appreciate it, and we  
8           also learned that we need to be a little  
9           creative sometimes in finding solutions to  
10          the problems that are in our neighborhood.  
11          For example, now that we are doing bicycle  
12          patrols as well as walking patrols and there  
13          is some of other ways to do so, but people  
14          are seeing that there is a difference. If  
15          they see something they can report it and in  
16          a safe way and know that they are making a  
17          difference.

18          MR. MCGOFF: What was the date for  
19          the basketball?

20          MS. FOSTER: It's both days  
21          actually.

22          MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry?

23          MS. FOSTER: July 16 and 17 the  
24          basketball scrimmages will be from six to  
25          eight p.m., both days.

1 MR. MCGOFF: July 16 is the first  
2 day?

3 MR. FOSTER: Um-hum.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Saturday?

5 MS. FOSTER: Saturday and Sunday.

6 MR. MCGOFF: How about if the Crime  
7 Watch can put together a three-on -- a team  
8 we will play against you?

9 MS. FOSTER: It's a date.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Against you. How is  
11 that?

12 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: Bring it  
13 on.

14 MR. MCGOFF: As perhaps an opening  
15 game for the tournament.

16 MS. EVANS: Do you need any  
17 referees?

18 MS. FOSTER: We do need some  
19 assistants, so if anyone would like to  
20 volunteer.

21 MS. EVANS: I think that -- he out  
22 of town right now, but my husband is a  
23 referee, high school, college, and he has  
24 done some CBA refereeing as well, so maybe I  
25 can convince him to go over and help out



1 with what you would need.

2 MS. FOSTER: That would be terrific.  
3 If anyone needs anymore information they can  
4 go to DrawCoreblockparty.wordpress.com. All  
5 of the information for every event is there.  
6 If there is any vendors that are interested  
7 in coming, including other community groups,  
8 other neighborhood associations, we welcome  
9 them to come to try to bolster some  
10 enthusiasm for their groups as well. Thank  
11 you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Bill Jackowitz.

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,  
16 Council. Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton  
17 resident and member of the Taxpayers'  
18 Association. I see you haven't heard from  
19 the Parks and Recreation and the Sewer  
20 Authority, of course, they both use the  
21 Scranton Times-Tribune to speak to the  
22 public. No Authority members will appear in  
23 public and speak, they follow the leader of  
24 the Honorable Doherty.

25 Thursday, 17 July 2011, edition of

1 the Times-Tribune, page three, local news,  
2 pool fee accusations stir the water with the  
3 Authority. Mr. Kelly told the Times-Tribune  
4 that in 2003 he was asked by Mayor Chris  
5 Doherty to do pro bono legal work for the  
6 Recreation Authority, fondly recalling  
7 family memories at the park. Mr. Kelly  
8 agreed and an arrangement he said continues.

9 Mr. Kelly, it is very admirable that  
10 you represents the Authority for free. Now,  
11 if you would also represent the kids and the  
12 citizens of Scranton and convince the  
13 Authority to allow Scranton residents and  
14 all kids between the ages of 1 through 15  
15 the right to swim free at Nay Aug Park pool.

16 Mr. Dileo added that the pool fools  
17 were increased from \$3 to \$4 because of an  
18 increase in costs. Why were the citizens of  
19 Scranton not notified of the increase in the  
20 admission fees until after it was brought up  
21 at city council by me? This raise in  
22 admission kind of reminds me of the state  
23 legislators raising their salary at 2 a.m.  
24 behind closed doors.

25 Mr. Dileo, have you ever heard of

1 the word transparency? I was standing in  
2 line on Father's Day at Nay Aug Pool when  
3 the new admission sign was placed on the  
4 wall of the bathhouse alerting swimmers that  
5 the rates had gone up from \$3 to \$4. What a  
6 way for appointed board members to inform  
7 the public. Four children were also in line  
8 and only had \$3. On behalf of the  
9 Taxpayers' Association I gave each kid \$1 so  
10 they could swim that day. About two minutes  
11 later there was another child who only had  
12 \$2, so the Taxpayers' Association gave that  
13 kid \$2 so that kid could swim that day,  
14 also.

15 Mark Dougher, Department of Public  
16 Works, Deputy Director, cited fuel costs as  
17 a key factor. He also said money collected  
18 by the Recreation Authority, including the  
19 pool fees, is used for the upkeep of the  
20 entire park.

21 The 2011 budget contains \$245,000  
22 for lifeguards for all of the city pools,  
23 including Nay Aug as well as four public  
24 work foremen. The state requires one  
25 lifeguard for every 4,000 square feet of

1 water surface. My question, does the City  
2 of Scranton adhere to this requirement or do  
3 they have more lifeguards hired than the  
4 state requires? This could be a way to  
5 reduce costs by only hiring and assigning  
6 the minimum number of lifeguards required by  
7 the state. Remember, Honorable Mayor  
8 Doherty has closed two swimming pools and  
9 the four foremen were removed from the  
10 budget only to be added back by the  
11 Honorable Mayor Doherty. Can we get the  
12 fuel bill for Nay Aug swimming pool? I  
13 really would like to examine that bill.

14 The past president of the Parks and  
15 Recreation Authority was quoted in the  
16 Times-Tribune stating that the 40,000 plus  
17 collected from the light show at Nay Aug  
18 would ensure that the swimming rates would  
19 not be raised. Maybe that is why he is the  
20 past president of the Authority.

21 Friday, 8 July 2011, Mayor vetoes  
22 council move to fund pools. Mayor, did you  
23 pay \$4 to use the slide on opening day at  
24 Nay Aug Park? Your picture was in the  
25 newspaper? I received a response to my

1 Right-to-Know letter from Mr. McGowan  
2 concerning my Right-to-Know request that I  
3 submitted. Answer, "Your request for the  
4 above is denied as the City of Scranton does  
5 not have any documents responsive to this  
6 request."

7 The mayor would not answer the  
8 question did he or did he not pay. He  
9 should have known whether he paid or he  
10 didn't pay, so my request should never have  
11 been denied. Although, he will continue to  
12 charge six years old \$4 a day for the  
13 sliding pool, possibly our own mayor did not  
14 pay \$4 to go down that slide. If he had  
15 paid, Mr. McGowan would have said so in his  
16 response to my Right-to-Know letter.

17 The same day the Scranton Sewer  
18 Authority preparing media policy, page four,  
19 "Scranton Sewer Authority Board on Wednesday  
20 said it is developing a policy for staff and  
21 board members that will guide communication  
22 with media communications with members of  
23 the media. Ray Hayes said development of  
24 the policy stems from questions asked last  
25 week by the Times-Tribune reporter about an

1 incident involving Authority employees and  
2 use of the Scranton Sewer Authority  
3 equipment on personal time."

4 Mr. Hayes, are you trying to limit  
5 public knowledge about corruption within the  
6 Sewer Authority? Mr. Hayes, it took the  
7 Scranton Times three weeks to make this  
8 incident public. The Scranton Sewer  
9 Authority never it made it public until,  
10 again, it was brought up at a City Scranton  
11 by me.

12 Furthermore, Mr. Hayes, the fact  
13 that the Sewer Authority accepted the fourth  
14 lowest bid of over \$17 million to have work  
15 down which will cost the taxpayers over \$2  
16 million extra, leaves me to believe that the  
17 Authority has no regard for the taxpayers or  
18 ratepayers at all. We are not Doherty real  
19 people and capable of getting the job -- I'm  
20 almost finished or appointed from the  
21 Honorable Doherty.

22 Again, this information was brought  
23 to council by me and the Times-Tribune was  
24 late again in their reporting of this gross  
25 misconduct by the Sewer Authority. Again,

1 where was Mr. Barrett on this issue?

2 Reminds me again of the 2 a.m. pay raise by

3 the state legislators or maybe the deals

4 that Mr. Cordaro and Mr. Munchak made.

5 Maybe if the authorities such as the Sewer

6 Authority and Parks and Recreation meet more

7 in public and have them televised the

8 citizens would be become more aware of

9 exactly what takes place during these

10 backdoor meetings.

11 And, also, I would like to commend

12 the West Side Neighborhood Association and

13 Crime Watch Association for what they are

14 doing with the skate park. Isn't it ashamed

15 that people have to sponsor Kids Swim Free

16 and get donations from citizens and business

17 people? Isn't it ashamed that the

18 Neighborhood Association and the Crime Watch

19 Association has to get the skate park and

20 everything else going for the children of

21 Scranton? Isn't that ashamed?

22 Where is Mayor Doherty? Mr. McGoff,

23 bring him to a meeting, he is your buddy.

24 Bring him to a meeting and let him explain

25 where he has been for the last 9 1/2 years

1 and why he is against the kids and the  
2 children of Scranton, Pennsylvania. You  
3 asked for cooperation, now is your time to  
4 extend that olive branch and bring the mayor  
5 to cooperate with citizens who are doing  
6 everything that the administration should be  
7 doing. Bring him to a meeting.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you,  
9 Mr. Jackowitz. Is there anyone else who  
10 cares to address city council?

11 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, council.  
12 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton,  
13 taxpayer. I'd also like more information on  
14 the Sewer Authority brought up. For  
15 whatever reason they want to -- there is a  
16 lot that needs to be explained and if they  
17 don't explain it then that's their fault.  
18 Let us make our decisions from there.

19 And I'd like to thank John for  
20 clearing up that trash situation. It looks  
21 pretty good now and that person is pretty  
22 grateful. Hopefully in the future we  
23 could -- I was wondering, one of those  
24 foremen, weren't they supposed to be running  
25 around to courts and so forth and looking



1           for improperly disposed of trash and  
2           enforcing recycling and stuff like, these  
3           four jobs that were eliminated? Well, there  
4           is no difference from when they had the job  
5           if that be the case and right now they  
6           are -- because they never performed the job.  
7           If that was what their job was.

8                         And on this Novembrino pool, I would  
9           love to see the whole project cancelled. We  
10          could add the \$200,000 to build a splash  
11          park added to the cost of the original pool  
12          and that's what it's going to cost us for  
13          the splash park.

14                        I have here an article on --  
15          unrelated, but it is related. A few days  
16          ago down in Elysburg, Pennsylvania, a young  
17          boy drown in the pool at Knoebels, and first  
18          of all, if people from Knoebels are probably  
19          the nicest people in Pennsylvania, if not  
20          close to the top, but I often wonder, now,  
21          this boy drowned in four feet of water and  
22          we're eliminating the a deep pool, which  
23          somebody that is old enough to swim in that  
24          either loves water and swims well or they're  
25          afraid of water and would never bother

1           jumping into a swimming pool anyway, but I  
2           would venture that, I'd even put a wager on  
3           it, that most of the accidents happen in  
4           shallow pools, so I have the article here.  
5           Can I --

6                       MS. EVANS: Certainly.

7                       (Mr. Dobrzyn approaches the dais.)

8                       MS. EVANS: Thank you.

9                       MR. DOBRZYN: The point being, like,  
10           that's what bugs me is when we are getting  
11           money just for the sake of spending it or  
12           creating some kind of project and we are  
13           actually destroying what we already have and  
14           that's unconscionable, and the Novembrino  
15           Pool should be open this year and every year  
16           after that and these kids when they grow up  
17           they will think, "What did this town ever do  
18           for me? I'll just go where I can make a  
19           better life for myself."

20                       Now, on the golden parrot, this  
21           Rupert Murdoch was tapping into phone lines  
22           and even 9/11 victims his world news, it's  
23           unconscionable. I mean, we have a lot of  
24           undocumented and illegal alines what about  
25           lawful ones. And then Michelle Bachman she

1 signed a pledge from the Family Leader  
2 Association stating that African-Americans  
3 were better off as slaves, African-American  
4 children. Shame on her. That is incredibly  
5 stupid, and her husband, by the way, accepts  
6 about 150 grand every year in federal money  
7 for his quack counseling, so if we want to  
8 cut some of the spending we could start  
9 right there.

10 And, Mr. Obama, you better start  
11 playing a little more hardball because the  
12 golden parrots, I ran out of them this week,  
13 but you are next in line. Thank you and  
14 have a good night.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. DOBRZYN: Bawk-bawk.

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

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.  
20 First, I would like to commend the Crime  
21 Watch women and Mrs. Foster on what they are  
22 doing in West side.

23 Several issues on 7-D. First and  
24 foremost, I attended the February 4, 2010,  
25 hearing held to educate legislators on the

1           need to make changes in Scranton's tax bill.  
2           A representative of the Single Tax Office  
3           testified they had the resources to collect  
4           the delinquent taxes, so I must question why  
5           we want to pay anyone 15 percent to perform  
6           a job that could be performed by experienced  
7           employees already on the payroll. Since Act  
8           32, collection of wage taxes, will be  
9           performed by Burkheimer and not the Single  
10          Tax Office, allowing the Single Tax Office  
11          to collect the city's delinquent property  
12          taxes could, again, save these experienced  
13          employees' jobs that might otherwise lose  
14          them.

15                        HB1942 last year resulted from the  
16          aforementioned hearing provides for  
17          installment payments, so the Northeast  
18          Revenue Service proposal would only be  
19          compliant with law, nothing really special  
20          on their part.

21                        But with respect to the 15 percent  
22          fee and the \$75 minimum charge, I am unclear  
23          how the fee and the minimum charge are  
24          applied despite having sat through last  
25          week's caucus with representatives Northeast

1 Revenue Service. So perhaps the chair or  
2 solicitor, since the chair has left the  
3 chamber, could clarify these charges for me.  
4 Specifically, is the 15 percent fee added to  
5 the delinquent tax owed or is it taken out  
6 of the delinquent tax owed?

7 MR. HUGHES: It's not added to the  
8 delinquent tax owed.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: One representative  
10 spoke of eating part of the \$75 minimum  
11 charge in some instances. Does this mean  
12 that if the 15 percent fee does not amount  
13 to 75 percent Northeast will not bill for  
14 the difference between the applied 15  
15 percent and the 15 percent? If not,  
16 explain.

17 MR. HUGHES: I have no idea. I know  
18 he said that they would not charge more fees  
19 than the taxes that they collect, that they  
20 would waive their fees if the taxes  
21 collected are minimal.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And finally,  
23 they spoke of having at least two offices,  
24 one would be located on the first floor in  
25 the Treasurer's Office, and the other would

1 be someplace within the city. Is this a  
2 proper understanding?

3 MR. HUGHES: The contract calls for  
4 them to have an office in the Treasurer's  
5 Office. I think he said they would have  
6 other places where -- with banks where  
7 people could drive through and pay their  
8 taxes.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.  
10 As I have reported on this before, I know  
11 you all are aware that there is and has been  
12 \$300,000 in the neighborhood police patrol  
13 account at OECD. Not a penny was drawn from  
14 that account in 2010. Back to school sales  
15 have already begun and I'm wondering how  
16 many neighborhood police patrol officers  
17 have been employed. Can you tell me,  
18 Mr. Loscombe?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm sorry, I missed  
20 that?

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: How many -- how  
22 many of the neighborhood police patrol  
23 officers have been deployed so far this  
24 year?

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll have to get that

1 information for you.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Yeah, I  
3 would like that because that \$300,000 has  
4 been sitting there and not a penny touched  
5 last year. Now, with respect to 5-B, C, D  
6 and E, I have been doing some research on  
7 what other states do for someone, and I  
8 noticed that other areas hold auctions on  
9 these properties and I'm wondering whether  
10 the City of Scranton might want to consider  
11 that which would bring in more revenue if  
12 auctions were held. I don't know if the  
13 Pittsburgh Plan disallows auctions or --  
14 Mrs. Krake may know, but I think it would  
15 certainly bring in more revenue if they were  
16 auctioned off.

17 MR. ROGAN: I'm sorry to interrupt,  
18 I would generally agree with that, also,  
19 that I would like to see them auctioned, but  
20 I would like to see first priority given to  
21 the neighbors.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: If they're  
23 adjacent, I think, but I think that could be  
24 accommodated in any kind of legislation.

25 Now, on the audit delinquencies, I

1 see Mr. Joyce has left, also, but maybe when  
2 he comes back if you could ask him whether  
3 he has had an opportunity to compare the  
4 current 2011 audit delinquencies with those  
5 of 2010 at the same point in time and how of  
6 an overlap there is, so if we can find out  
7 maybe if there is a -- if there is some  
8 cause or some similarity that we might be  
9 able to do better next year.

10 And then awhile back Mrs. Evans  
11 asked to have a letter sent to the PUC  
12 regarding the Scranton Sewer Authority rate  
13 hike and I wonder if there has been a  
14 response to that?

15 MR. ROGAN: I haven't seen one.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: I haven't seen a  
17 response.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: And then on 7-F, I  
19 know back in 2006 I remember Mrs. Fanucci  
20 commenting that the UDAG funds could not be  
21 used for salaries with the exception, of  
22 course, of the salaries to administrate  
23 those accounts. However, as Mrs. Fanucci  
24 proclaimed that the first thing businesses  
25 look for in a city are parks, I guess you



1 would extrapolate that keeping the  
2 Novembrino Park open is economic  
3 development, a positive force there, and  
4 that will conclude my comments. See you  
5 next week, good Lord willing. Thank you.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

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

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

10 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Pat, July 27 is the  
11 big game this year. We switched around this  
12 year so you guys know that, all right? All  
13 right. Thanks.

14 MR. ROGAN: Thanks, Chrissy.

15 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Okay, Pat.

16 MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else who  
17 would like to address council?

18 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

19 MR. ROGAN: Mr. McGoff, do you have  
20 any motions or comments?

21 MR. MCGOFF: Please. And first,  
22 that was a serious offer to play in that  
23 three-on-three tournament or at least have a  
24 kickoff game. I would try to encourage the  
25 other members of council to join me for at

1           least one game opposing some members from  
2           the Crime Watch if they are able to find a  
3           team. So if, in fact, you can put together  
4           -- they can put together a team please  
5           contact council office and I will try and  
6           encourage my colleagues to join together and  
7           I think that we could probably get one game.

8                     MR. ROGAN: Maybe on Sunday.

9                     MS. SCHUMACHER: So there is no  
10           meeting next week?

11                    MR. MCGOFF: One game of  
12           three-on-three, but please do that. I am  
13           serious about that. I would like to do that  
14           anyhow.

15                    Secondly, a number of weeks ago I  
16           was asked to help with questions concerning  
17           the rates at Nay Aug Park and the one  
18           question that was asked was are there  
19           reduced rates offered, and the response I  
20           received was, yes, there is a reduced rate  
21           of \$1 per person for groups of 200 --  
22           identified groups of 250 or more.

23                    MR. JACKOWITZ: That's not true.  
24           That's not true.

25                    MR. MCGOFF: I'm --

1 MR. JACKOWITZ: We had 464.

2 MR. MCGOFF: I said identified  
3 groups. If someone --

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: You missed the fine  
5 print.

6 MR. MCGOFF: -- calls Park and  
7 Recreation and has a group that are entering  
8 the pool of 250 or more they are given a  
9 reduced rate. That's all I'm telling you.  
10 That's all I know. I'm giving you the  
11 response that was given to me.

12 As far as somebody mentioned about  
13 lifeguards, and I'm reading the article from  
14 Knoebles, I am told that virtually every  
15 applicant for a lifeguard position in the  
16 City of Scranton was hired. That they had a  
17 very difficult time with applicants,  
18 primarily because many of the outlying areas  
19 are hiring lifeguards at a much greater  
20 rate. What's the one on Montage, I don't  
21 even know the name of it?

22 MR. ROGAN: Sno Mountain.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Sno Mountain or  
24 whatever the -- Sno Cove or whatever it is  
25 and other places offer rates that are

1 greater and so the City of Scranton was  
2 having difficulty and they did hire as many  
3 applicants as -- or as they, you know, as  
4 they received.

5 And as far as the suggestion to  
6 reduce the number of the people -- number of  
7 lifeguards at the pools, I think that the  
8 city pools have a pretty good track record,  
9 safety record over the number of years and I  
10 would hate to see that jeopardized. I think  
11 one of the -- one of the things that we can  
12 do to ensure safety at the pools is to have  
13 as many lifeguards as possible. Any  
14 suggestion of reducing that number would --  
15 to me would be unacceptable.

16 And so I don't know that whether we  
17 are employing more than we need to or we  
18 are, you know, the shifts are have more than  
19 they need according to state regulations,  
20 but, as I said, I think we have a pretty  
21 good track record and I would hope to see it  
22 maintained, you know, under the current  
23 system.

24 Also, since the parking meter thing  
25 came up and the bids on it, the only thing I

1 have ever said about the parking meter  
2 program was that I thought it should have  
3 been bid from the beginning. I thought it  
4 should have been bid back in December of  
5 2010. I have never voted against anything,  
6 I have never spoken against the program, I  
7 think that it had great -- it still has  
8 great possibilities. All I wanted to do is  
9 see it bid and implemented. What has  
10 happened with the administration in terms of  
11 bidding process I don't know. I am not  
12 privy to any of those decisions, but I still  
13 would I would like to see it, you know,  
14 properly bid, I thought it was. I would  
15 like to see it implemented as soon as  
16 possible.

17 And lastly, I've spoken for a number  
18 of weeks about the Perry Street playground  
19 and the legislation for the grant, I was  
20 hoping that everyone was here, I would like  
21 at this point in time to make a motion to  
22 place legislation for the Perry Street  
23 playground on the council agenda for the  
24 July 19, 2011, meeting.

25 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the

1 floor, do we have a second?

2 MR. ROGAN: I'll second it just to  
3 get it to the question.

4 MS. EVANS: On the question?.

5 MR. ROGAN: Mr. McGoff, I think we  
6 may be able to reach a compromise here since  
7 I seconded your motion. I will do this  
8 publically so it's not a backroom deal, I  
9 would like to meet in August and you would  
10 like to have the Perry Street playground  
11 legislation put on the agenda, so let's meet  
12 in the middle and if everyone agreed to both  
13 of them, if you would be willing.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Well, you are asking me  
15 about the August meetings? Well, first of  
16 all, as far as the August meetings are  
17 concerned there are already three Tuesdays  
18 in August that I'm going to be out of town.  
19 For two of them I will out of the country,  
20 so I could easily vote and say "yes", you  
21 know, but the truth of the matter is that I  
22 wouldn't be here anyhow. And to be honest  
23 it has come up before about the August  
24 meetings and I have always been in favor of  
25 taking a summer recess, so I wouldn't

1 mislead you by saying, yes, I would agree to  
2 it.

3 I put this motion forward simply  
4 because I think this is something that we  
5 should consider. This is \$50,000 that would  
6 be, you know, used to enhance the  
7 neighborhood by putting a playground where  
8 this is now a vacant lot. I know the  
9 objections have had to do with insurance. I  
10 believe that any of those have been  
11 answered, and as I said, I think it was two  
12 weeks ago, if we are really concerned that  
13 this there is inadequate insurance for, you  
14 know, putting a playground in, we shouldn't  
15 be talking about opening -- you know, if we  
16 follow the logic we shouldn't be talking  
17 about opening a pool or a, you know, or a  
18 playground, we should be talking about  
19 closing them if they are not adequately  
20 insured, so I don't think that that argument  
21 holds water, and I would just like to see  
22 this go forward. It's \$50,000 that can be  
23 used for a useful project.

24 MR. ROGAN: I would just say I do --  
25 the reason I seconded the motion, the real

1 reason why is, not only to make another plug  
2 for the August meetings, but secondly, I'm  
3 not sure exactly where I stand on this issue  
4 yet, but I would like to see it put up for a  
5 vote, we have three readings, so residents  
6 could come and comment about it and talk to  
7 the neighbors in the area and hopefully work  
8 with the administration to get the insurance  
9 settled out and maybe that's where you could  
10 come in since you have a better relationship  
11 with the mayor than the rest of us, so I  
12 would vote "yes" on the motion as well.

13 MS. EVANS: I do believe that the  
14 insurance remains an issue. Novembrino Pool  
15 Complex, that's city property, it's already  
16 insured. I think since Mr. McGoff though  
17 has raised this issue weekly it's caused me  
18 further ponderance on it, and it occurred to  
19 me, for example, that a park was promised as  
20 a replacement for the sale of the South Side  
21 Complex. The mayor promised to provide a  
22 park that was equal in facilities to the  
23 South Side Complex I believe by April 2005.  
24 Today is July 12, 2011, no park was ever  
25 built to substitute for the South Side



1           Complex for the people of the City of  
2           Scranton.

3                       I also know that, yes, it's very  
4           nice to have a grant, but parks require  
5           constant maintenance, and as I look at  
6           various parks throughout the city, I can see  
7           that they require maintenance that currently  
8           they are not receiving, so I will be voting  
9           "no" to this motion. Is there anyone else  
10          on the question?

11                     MR. JOYCE: Yes. Mrs. Krake, I know  
12          that there has been a lot of talk about  
13          insurance, so if you could kindly contact  
14          Mr. McGowan and ask him what the additional  
15          costs would be to insure a park at this  
16          location. If he could possibly contact the  
17          insurance broker and get those figures for  
18          us. Until we get that information, I will  
19          vote "no" as well.

20                     MR. ROGAN: I would just like to  
21          reiterate even though it wasn't my motion,  
22          we are not voting on the park, we are voting  
23          on putting it on agenda so we can get the up  
24          or down vote. Like I said, I don't know  
25          which way I would vote on it if it came up

1 for a vote, but I would like to hear from  
2 the residents and, you know, give the  
3 legislation due process. If it winds of  
4 getting a "no" vote in the end it's a "no"  
5 vote, but I think we should vote it up or  
6 down.

7 MS. EVANS: Well, I know, I have  
8 been over to the North Scranton area, I'm  
9 sure my colleagues have as well, and I have  
10 to say, frankly, that no residents of North  
11 Scranton approached me regarding the Perry  
12 Street Park or lobbied me for this  
13 particular endeavor, rather, what I have  
14 been hearing from North Scranton is cries  
15 about the Rockwell Avenue Bridge and it's  
16 deterioration from May, a photo that was  
17 taken in late May following a rain event, to  
18 further deterioration after a photo taken on  
19 July 3.

20 They are also concerned about the  
21 streets being paved in that area that lead  
22 to and from the CTC, and those are their  
23 priorities. So again, enough said, I think  
24 we can just call now for a vote.

25 MR. MCGOFF: No, I would like to

1           respond to what you said. We are bringing  
2           up a -- we are bringing up issues that have  
3           absolutely nothing to do with Perry Street  
4           playground. The legislation that should be  
5           before us has to do with accepting a grant  
6           of \$50,000. It has nothing to do with the  
7           Rockwell bridge. It has nothing to do -- it  
8           has nothing to do with street paving. It  
9           has nothing to do with any of the issues  
10          that we are bringing forward. We are  
11          turning down \$50,000 that could be used to  
12          enhance a neighborhood and I cannot -- I  
13          have not heard one legitimate reason for not  
14          accepting this grant.

15                 MS. EVANS: And your objection is  
16                 noted. All those in favor signify by saying  
17                 aye?

18                 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19                 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20                 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

21                 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

22                 MR. JOYCE: No.

23                 MS. EVANS: No. The noes have it.

24                 Mr. McGoff?

25                 MR. MCGOFF: That's all. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan?

2 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. I would just  
3 like to give everyone an update on the  
4 Right-to-Know request that I sent in  
5 regarding the Scranton Sewer Authority, the  
6 numerous Right to Knows, and each one of  
7 them they did state the law and they  
8 requested the 30-day extension, so within 30  
9 days we will be getting a response from the  
10 Sewer Authority on those.

11 Next, I have a letter that was --  
12 actually a letter to the editor in the  
13 newspaper, Mr. Jackowitz asked me to read  
14 this for him, and it says, "I'm writing this  
15 letter to suggest a way in which a Scranton  
16 citizen's ID can be verified to allow  
17 Scranton residents to swim for free at Nay  
18 Aug Park. All Scranton residents over the  
19 age of 16 would be required to have their  
20 Pennsylvania driver's license or a  
21 Pennsylvania ID upon entering the swim  
22 complex at Nay Aug Park. If the swimmers do  
23 not have an ID card or are not Scranton  
24 residents, then they would be required to  
25 pay the \$4 admission. All children from

1           ages 1 to 15 would be allowed to enter the  
2           pool complex and swim for free.

3                         Remember that the swimming pool at  
4           Nay Aug Park was built with taxpayer money  
5           and, therefore, the taxpayers and the  
6           residents fun and use. They are not there  
7           as a money making project. The City of  
8           Scranton Parks and Recreation Authority  
9           needs to give back the pool complex at Nay  
10          Aug to the citizens for their enjoyment.  
11          William Jackowitz."

12                         And I agree with you, Mr. Jackowitz.

13                         MS. EVANS: If I might, if I could  
14          just add as well, I know that at Scranton  
15          High School students receive photo ID's and,  
16          you know, they are required to use those for  
17          various activities, etcetera, and certainly  
18          those even 14 through 18 should have student  
19          ID photos from both West Scranton and  
20          Scranton High School if that's of any  
21          assistance.

22                         MR. ROGAN: Next, I have the OECD  
23          report from the month of the June, and I'll  
24          read some of the highlights. Applications  
25          for Community Development Block Grant

1 Program, HOME Program and Emergency Shelter  
2 Grant Programs will be available  
3 beginning Monday, June 13, 2011, and can be  
4 obtained by logging onto  
5 [www.ScrantonPa.gov/department/OECD](http://www.ScrantonPa.gov/department/OECD) or by  
6 calling 570-348-4216, extension 110.

7 OECD will be happy to send an  
8 application on request. If anyone has any  
9 questions concerning these applications they  
10 should contact OECD. If anyone is  
11 requesting funding for more than one  
12 activity or program, a separate application  
13 for each activity must be submitted to OECD.  
14 Please make sure that the correct  
15 application is used to provide all requested  
16 documentation. All applications must be  
17 submitted with one original and one copy no  
18 later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 4,  
19 2011.

20 In the month of the June the  
21 Homebuyer's program they received three  
22 additional applications, two were approved  
23 and two were closed. The Housing  
24 Rehabilitation Program for June of 2011,  
25 there was one bid opening, 17 were contacted

1 for verification, two were approved, and  
2 there are now five total projects under  
3 contract.

4 The next few properties will be part  
5 of the Lackawanna County Neighborhood  
6 Stabilization Program, and I'll give you an  
7 update on each one of these. 550 Hickory  
8 Street, the sales agreement with the woman  
9 who was adopting the two children through  
10 Catholic Social Services was amended to  
11 change the closing date to July 22, 2011.

12 213 Steven Avenue, this home was  
13 sold on June 24 to a young man who is  
14 marrying a woman with two children.

15 518 South Webster Avenue, the home  
16 is complete, however, final inspection of  
17 the City of Scranton is scheduled and the  
18 contractor will be paid his final payment of  
19 approximately \$4,600 after we receive this  
20 certificate of completion. We entered into  
21 an assumption agreement for \$106,500 with the  
22 young couple who are getting married in  
23 July. The closing is scheduled for July 13,  
24 2011.

25 205 Pittston Avenue, a bid opening

1 was held on June 7 and the contract was  
2 awarded to the lowest bidder, Marion  
3 Construction in the amount of \$127,525. The  
4 contractor has been doing the interior  
5 demolition of the property and the roof  
6 removal and replacement.

7 219 Pittston Avenue, the contractor  
8 has completed interior demolition, reframed  
9 the walls, completed the siding on the  
10 garage, the electrical and the plumbing has  
11 been completed and approved, and after  
12 inspection they will be installing the new  
13 windows.

14 The Lackawanna Neighbors Homebuyer  
15 Council. They counseled six potential  
16 homebuyers and they were paid \$2,4000, \$400  
17 for each. The OECD Homebuyer Assistance,  
18 OECD provided \$4,610.10 to the buyer of 213  
19 Steven Avenue on June 24, 2011. To date,  
20 OECD has approved 11 applications, approved  
21 seven applications, and closed on four  
22 neighborhood stabilization homes in South  
23 Side since January.

24 The Friendship House, on May 31,  
25 2011, the final confirmation of the



1 Firemen's Compliance was reviewed to  
2 complete fully executed the service  
3 contract. The bid was awarded to BP  
4 Builders and the contractor has 90 days to  
5 complete this project.

6 The Homeless Prevention and Rapid  
7 Rehousing Program. Approximately 60 percent  
8 of the funding has been used to date.

9 The Scranton Lace Affiliates, if  
10 everyone recalls we did have a caucus in  
11 city council chambers a few months ago, as  
12 of July 6 OECD has not received the executed  
13 contract from the Commonwealth of  
14 Pennsylvania.

15 The Madison School, which we also  
16 had a caucus here, as of July 6, OECD has  
17 not received the executed contract from the  
18 Commonwealth regarding that property either.

19 And it's my hope, and I'm sure it's  
20 all my colleagues hope since these passed  
21 5-0, that these projects will be completed  
22 to help out the neighborhoods and especially  
23 with the Scranton Lace building. That  
24 building has been vacant for nearly ten  
25 years, it's an eyesore for the community,

1 and it will be good to see some jobs created  
2 down there.

3 I have a few citizens' requests. A  
4 concerned resident called the office today  
5 saying that weeds near the stop sign on the  
6 corner of the 500 block of Marion Street and  
7 the 14 and 1500 blocks of Von Storch Avenue  
8 are over four feet. Weeds are blocking the  
9 intersection and motorists have to pull onto  
10 Von Storch Avenue in order to see oncoming  
11 traffic. She is very concerned there might  
12 be a serious accident as a result of this.

13 She stated that she also called the  
14 DPW on numerous occasions to report this  
15 problem to no avail. She decided to call  
16 the DPW one more time today and spoke with  
17 an unidentified worker who told her to cut  
18 the weeds herself. Mrs. Krake, would you  
19 please forward this to the DPW asking them  
20 to cut the weeds themselves.

21 Could we please send a letter to  
22 LIPS asking if anything has been done  
23 regarding the Washburn Street Cemetery? I  
24 continue to receive phone calls regarding  
25 the cemetery and the terrible state it's in.

1           It has -- they have done some improvements,  
2           but no where near the type of care that  
3           should be done in respect for the dead that  
4           are at that cemetery. I don't know who the  
5           owner of this building knows, it seems that  
6           he is untouchable. Week after week many of  
7           us have brought it up, Newswatch 16 have  
8           done articles, both of our papers have done  
9           stories on this and it seems he just  
10          continues to get away with this.

11                 Next, a letter to the DPW asking  
12           that Fawnwood Road is repaired near the  
13           entrance off the driving range. This is the  
14           second request.

15                 And finally, last week I made a  
16           motion that council would meet through the  
17           month of August for the full five weeks. In  
18           an effort to compromise with my colleagues,  
19           I make a motion that Scranton City Council  
20           shall meet August 2, 16 and 30, which would  
21           be three weeks instead of five, which would  
22           still provide two weeks of non-meeting.

23                 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the  
24           floor, do we have a second? The motion dies  
25           for lack of a second.

1 MR. ROGAN: And, Mrs. Krake, one  
2 more request to add, can you send a letter  
3 to Mayor Doherty asking if he would allow  
4 council chambers to be open so I can hold  
5 public comment on Tuesdays at 6:30 for the  
6 month of August, and that is it.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.  
8 Mr. Loscombe, do you have any comments?

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I have a couple.  
10 I have several citizens' concerns, I'm not  
11 going to read them off, but I'll pass them  
12 onto the City Clerk's Office after the  
13 meeting.

14 Last week, I don't recall if it was  
15 Thursday or Friday, I'm losing track here, I  
16 was coming back from West Side and  
17 apparently the large tree on the 100 block  
18 of North Main Avenue fell across the road.  
19 For those of you who are familiar with the  
20 area, it's that big green house next to the  
21 old American Auto and it's been there for  
22 many, many years and it actually grew into  
23 that metal fence there. The fortunate thing  
24 was that it fell around 6 a.m. before  
25 traffic and the cars back up at that red

1 light there, and I do want to commend all of  
2 the emergency services for their response  
3 and the utility services for their  
4 responses, PPL, Verizon made it, police and  
5 fire because there was some wires, and a  
6 special thanks to our city forester Tony  
7 Santoli who was there overseeing the issue  
8 most of the day. He apparently had been  
9 trying to get the owners of that property to  
10 remove the tree for quite some time, and we  
11 are working together on removing a large  
12 branch from the tree in the back, which is  
13 pretty similar, and it's encroaching the  
14 bank parking lot and the neighbor's fence,  
15 so Mr. Santoli and I discussed that while we  
16 were there, and we're just trying to  
17 establish total ownership there.

18 And the DPW crew, the tree crew,  
19 they did a fantastic job. That was quiet a  
20 sizeable tree. You will still see some of  
21 it laying in the front yard if you go by  
22 there, so they got a lot of firewood cut up  
23 there, but they did clean everybody's  
24 sidewalks and the street and everything and  
25 by late afternoon the street was reopened.



1 roads, bridges, a whole slew of items and a  
2 lot of these have come to me just this week.

3 And one of the things that played in  
4 my mind, this Fourth of July, unfortunately,  
5 I wasn't able to make it to the function at  
6 Nay Aug Park, but I did speak to someone who  
7 was there and it was someone that had a  
8 kidney transplant and when he went to use  
9 the restrooms I guess the restrooms were  
10 locked, but they had one Port-a-lav and  
11 there was 30 people lined up for Port-a-lav  
12 and this poor person did not have the  
13 opportunity to wait in line. I mean, there  
14 is a park that we are dumping all our money  
15 into and we can't seem to have functioning  
16 facilities. I don't know what the problem  
17 is, I want to see if maybe we could request  
18 information for parks and DPW as to what the  
19 problem is with the bathrooms there when  
20 there was a function, but that's sort of  
21 played on my mind and my decision, too.

22 I'm not trying to penalize anybody  
23 in any section of the town, but I do think  
24 that the money could be well spent elsewhere  
25 even though it could only be spent for a

1 park as was stated, it just smacks to the  
2 rest of the people in North Scranton that  
3 they can't cross a bridge without sweating  
4 and, you know, we have a park there that may  
5 not be maintained in the next few years.  
6 I'd love to see it happen, but reality is  
7 reality. We are dealing with budgets that  
8 are constrained. We can't put lifeguards at  
9 swimming pools, you know, that's where I  
10 stand on that.

11 As far as our recess for the summer,  
12 again, you know -- you know, I have a  
13 different feeling, a lot of people are  
14 saying, well, give back our pay for the  
15 month we are not there or whatever, you  
16 know, I stated it last week, city council  
17 office is open every day, it will continue  
18 to be open every day, anyone can call city  
19 hall office and e-mail any of us council  
20 people and contact me, just about everyone  
21 has my cell phone number, I get called  
22 continuously and I respond on a daily basis.  
23 I was out today all day looking at  
24 responses.

25 I'm not going away on vacation





1 Bridge. I did meet with the engineer from  
2 PennDOT at a very big meeting and I met with  
3 him this morning at 8:00. He called me late  
4 yesterday and asked if I could meet him at  
5 8:00 this morning on the bridge, so I met  
6 him at 8:00 and his name is Dave Elmer, he  
7 is with PennDOT, he is their bridge  
8 engineer, and we walked over the West  
9 Lackawanna Avenue bridge to show him the  
10 issues that were there, and fortunately for  
11 everyone he assured me there is no  
12 structural deficiency. There are a lot of  
13 problems, a lot of it is, you know, the  
14 facade and stuff like that, but nothing  
15 structurally.

16 The only concern he has there is a  
17 part of the parapet on the northeast side  
18 that's ready to collapse. In fact, when I  
19 was there today versus two weeks ago and how  
20 it already moved six inches more and the  
21 only thing holding it right now from  
22 collapsing, it's probably a ten ton slab, is  
23 the electrical wires that were going through  
24 the metal conduit that has broken since I  
25 was there last week or two weeks ago, those

1 wires are the only thing holding it right  
2 now and that's the reason why there is no  
3 lighting on the Lackawanna Avenue bridge  
4 because that wiring has been pinched off by  
5 the movement of the bridge.

6           However, the structural deck of the  
7 bridge itself is perfect we went up and  
8 down. It's a lot of cosmetic stuff that's  
9 bad. You will see spalling and stuff like  
10 that, settled sidewalks, but his main  
11 concern was to close off those sidewalks  
12 because where that section is ready to fall  
13 out the sidewalks may give out in that area,  
14 at least there would be an opening, and he  
15 also asked that the area down below, which  
16 is actually the field, fortunately, it's not  
17 over railroad tracks or anything like that,  
18 it's not traveled, but should anybody happen  
19 to come by that he wants that roped off a  
20 certain distance in case that comes down but  
21 he does wants it repaired.

22           And while I was there I had called  
23 our City Clerk's office because I didn't  
24 have the numbers with me, I had asked for  
25 DPW Director Brazil to respond over there so

1 the engineer could go other the situation  
2 with him and we were told Mr. Brazil was on  
3 vacation. So then I said, "Well, who would  
4 be next in commend?"

5 It would Mr. Dougher, would he be  
6 able to respond, and apparently Mr. Dougher  
7 had a couple of appointments already  
8 prescheduled, which was understandable, I  
9 mean, it was last minute situation, so he  
10 said he would call the city council office  
11 as soon as he is done with his other  
12 inspection and I said that would be fine I  
13 would meet with him personally and go over  
14 the issues baring that the engineer had to  
15 go back to his PennDOT, back to his office,  
16 but he gave me sufficient information as to  
17 what to pass on.

18 And I had also contacted, I got the  
19 phone number from the City Clerk's office,  
20 and I contacted our engineer, John Pocius,  
21 made him aware of it. He felt confident it  
22 wasn't structural, it was more cosmetic and  
23 stuff. He realized there was issues with  
24 it, so we had a conversation all along, but  
25 I felt much better having the engineer look

1 at it and state that it wasn't really a  
2 structural problem.

3 However, it is a safety issue at  
4 this point for other reasons, and we are  
5 also going to be looking at the directional  
6 arrow at the bottom, that's a city light, so  
7 we are going to have to request that through  
8 the city to see if we can set up a  
9 directional arrow for left turns because of  
10 all of the excess weight sitting on that  
11 bridge, which is a concern down the road.

12 So, fortunately, it doesn't have to  
13 be closed off. I figured West Side would be  
14 really bottlenecked with Linden Street  
15 closed off and he told me that the Linden  
16 Street project should be commencing in  
17 September and I believe it would be done  
18 within 90 days. All that stuff was pretty  
19 well covered.

20 And I didn't get a chance to check  
21 on the Crisp Avenue Bridge, but while I was  
22 on the road after I was on the bridge  
23 inspection I received a call on my cell  
24 phone from Mayor Doherty and he wanted to  
25 know from me what the emergency was. And I

1           said, "Emergency?"

2                       He said, "I received a call from the  
3 City Clerk's office that you had an  
4 emergency on the bridge."

5                       I said, "Well," I said, "It's not  
6 really an emergency," and I said, "It's a  
7 safety issue," and I explained the whole  
8 scenario to him and he asked me if I  
9 contacted the DPW. I said, "Certainly," I  
10 said, "Mr. Brazil is on vacation, I'm  
11 awaiting a call from Mr. Dougher and stated  
12 I would go over it with him."

13                      So, you know, I explained everything  
14 to the mayor and he said he would pass it  
15 onto DPW and I passed on the information for  
16 the engineer to him, his phone number, his  
17 contact information, so I would hope they  
18 would expedite closing those sidewalks off  
19 and barricade them down below because it is  
20 a safety issue, but you can feel confident  
21 driving over it, nothing to worry about with  
22 the vehicular traffic we just have to get  
23 the traffic moving a little quicker.

24                      And we discussed some other issues,  
25 PennDOT, on several other items, the light

1 at St. Ann's Street and Main Avenue and a  
2 couple of other things, and I will be able  
3 to touch base on those in the future, but I  
4 want to thank Dave for taking the time to  
5 come over and respond to our request and as  
6 a Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety  
7 I felt there was an issue that had to be  
8 attended to.

9 In fact, I think it was last week's  
10 paper after we mentioned it, it seemed like  
11 there was no concern about some of the  
12 issues there and when I noticed that that  
13 abutment had moved even further in the last  
14 two weeks I was concerned, but my fears have  
15 been allieved, and there is still some  
16 issues, but just be careful. And that's all  
17 I have to say.

18 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Loscombe, I  
19 apologize, I forget to mention about the  
20 update on the Crisp Avenue bridge. I spoke  
21 to Mr. Paisley today from Pike's Creek  
22 Construction --

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, that's who I had  
24 spoken to previously.

25 MR. ROGAN: And he was very helpful

1 and as he said as of I believe it was a few  
2 days ago the prefabricated portion of the  
3 bridge is being built and they are -- and  
4 don't take this for, you know, gospel  
5 because we have run into road blocks since  
6 before I have been on council with this  
7 project, they are supposed to be starting  
8 the project somewhere in the beginning of  
9 the next month which --

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Pretty much what I  
11 said a couple of months, would be an August,  
12 September start.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yeah. Like I said, I  
14 won't believe it until I see it.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Exactly.

16 MR. ROGAN: But hopefully it will be  
17 done.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman  
20 Loscombe. Councilman Joyce, any comments or  
21 motions this evening?

22 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Tonight I wanted  
23 to discuss a few revenue items, the first  
24 being rental registration. As you know  
25 from-- as you may know from the past budgets



1 in 2009 and 2010 \$120,000 in revenue was  
2 budgeted as the amount that was projected to  
3 be collected from rental registration fees  
4 and both of these years the administration's  
5 projections fell short.

6 In 2011, originally in the  
7 administration's budget, the amount of money  
8 projected to be collected for rental  
9 registration fees was actually lower than  
10 the summation of the rental registration  
11 coordinator's salary and benefits.

12 When Scranton City Council amended  
13 the 2011 operating budget, council added two  
14 housing inspectors back to the LIPS  
15 Department to assist in fighting blight as  
16 well as to assist with the rental  
17 registration program. Since 2011 has began,  
18 the rental registration coordinator has left  
19 the city. Since the administration has not  
20 hired anyone to replace this position, the  
21 program is lacking. Therefore, until the  
22 administration replaces the employee who is  
23 no longer with the city, that was primarily  
24 in charge of rental registration, and makes  
25 a consorted effort to collect the fees that

1 are owed, the program will fail and,  
2 unfortunately, the revenue will not be  
3 realized.

4 If the administration fails to  
5 collect the amount of revenue that was  
6 projected in the 2011 operating budget, if  
7 they do fail to collect that in rental  
8 registration fees, it's their own doing.  
9 Mayor Doherty has exercised his right in  
10 hiring employees that are were not even  
11 budgeted for while refusing to replace  
12 employees that are budgeted for.

13 Thus, if the rental registration  
14 collection fee falls short this year, it  
15 will be in great part because of the  
16 administration's failure to replace the  
17 budgeted employee responsible for the  
18 program's oversight.

19 Secondly, there was an article in  
20 the Scranton Times the other -- I believe it  
21 was yesterday, regarding CMC meter revenue  
22 or what the city will realize from that and  
23 some possible conflicts with that, and I  
24 just wanted to address that very shortly.  
25 Regarding the revenue from the lease of

1 parking meters to the CMC Hospital while  
2 they construct a garage, as you may know  
3 Scranton City Council voted to pass  
4 legislation to lease 72 double-metered  
5 parking spaces and four single-metered  
6 parking spaces to the CMC at a rate of  
7 \$2,000 per parking space or per spot. Now,  
8 since there is a total of 148 parking spots  
9 that would normally been subjected to the  
10 parking meters, the amount of money that's  
11 Scranton will realize from this transaction  
12 will be \$296,000.

13 In the legislation, it called for  
14 the \$296,000 to be placed in a special  
15 account to fund public safety initiatives.  
16 Normally, in the current meter monitoring  
17 agreement with the Scranton Parking  
18 Authority, 90 percent of the revenue  
19 collected from the parking meters that's  
20 realized basically goes to the city, while  
21 10 percent goes to the Authority as a fee  
22 for their services in collecting the coins  
23 and also for enforcement efforts.

24 Though the Parking Authority appears  
25 to take issue with the facts that when the

1           legislation was passed, being that 100  
2           percent of the revenue collected from the  
3           lease of the parking spaces would go to the  
4           city, the argument in my opinion is pretty  
5           much unwarranted. The parking meters that  
6           are bagged are owned by the City of  
7           Scranton, not the Scranton Parking  
8           Authority. Therefore, it was the agreement  
9           of council, well, at least the majority of  
10          council, that the revenue should go to the  
11          city. As one knows, the CMC will be paying  
12          the city. There is no management fee of 10  
13          percent that should be applied to this as  
14          there is no requirement for the Parking  
15          Authority to monitoring these meters or  
16          maintain them since during the term of the  
17          lease agreement this pretty much wouldn't be  
18          needed.

19                   In addition to this, these parking  
20          meters were bagged prior to the transaction,  
21          therefore, revenue was not being realized by  
22          the city or the Parking Authority.

23                   Executive Director Bob Scopelliti  
24          was quoted in the Times as stating that,  
25          "Every time someone takes revenue away from

1 the Parking Authority, it hurts."

2 What he did fail to mention,  
3 however, is that virtually no revenue was  
4 being generated by these meters that are  
5 being leased out to the CMC. Prior to the  
6 passage of the ordinance, the meters were  
7 bagged already and they were bagged for at  
8 least a great portion of 20101, therefore,  
9 if no one was putting coins into the meters  
10 I don't see how anyone would be realizing  
11 any revenue from it in the first place.

12 With that being said, I have a few  
13 citizens' requests. First, a resident  
14 living on the 1300 block of East Elm Street  
15 in East Mountain reports that the condition  
16 of the road is very poor. There are many  
17 cracks and many potholes on this block  
18 making travel conditions difficult. I  
19 reported this concern over a month ago and  
20 this response -- or this request was sent to  
21 Mr. Brazil and at this point have we  
22 received a response on this, Mrs. Krake?

23 MS. KRAKE: No.

24 MR. JOYCE: Well, with this in mind  
25 if you could please reforward this to

1 Director Brazil and ask him to address this.

2 Also, this seems to be a popular  
3 area, about four times a year this comes up,  
4 North Scranton residents have reported that  
5 the condition of both Greenbush and Reese  
6 Street is subpar making travel conditions  
7 very difficult. Though they did state, and  
8 I will give the DPW credit, they have  
9 traveled to these streets and filled in some  
10 of the potholes in the street. The road is  
11 still in very poor condition and a lot of  
12 those holes have opened up, and they are  
13 also requesting that the road gets paved as  
14 it's a gateway and one road is a gateway and  
15 one road is an exit to the Career Technology  
16 Center. Mrs. Krake, if you could please add  
17 this to the letter to Mr. Brazil.

18 Residents residing on the 200 block  
19 of North Everett Avenue in West Scranton  
20 report that the condition of the road in  
21 this block is subpar and has very various  
22 cracks in the road along with potholes are  
23 making travel conditions difficult. If you  
24 could also add this to the letter to  
25 Mr. Brazil.

1                   Various West Scranton residents  
2                   informed me that there is suspicious and  
3                   drug-related activity occurring in the 300  
4                   block of North Evans Court. Residents of  
5                   this area request that something be done to  
6                   address the situation as there are life-long  
7                   residents of North Evans Court that have  
8                   very serious concerns about the health,  
9                   safety and welfare of their neighborhood.  
10                  So, Mrs. Krake, if you could please forward  
11                  this note onto Chief Duffy. I would also  
12                  say forward it to the West Scranton Hyde  
13                  Park Crime Watch Association, but we have a  
14                  representative here so if --

15                  MS. FOSTER: We have actually had  
16                  three different patrols on that street in  
17                  the last two weeks.

18                  MR. JOYCE: Wonderful. So I'm glad  
19                  that action is being taken to hopefully  
20                  rectify this situation. Also, various  
21                  individuals involved in the charity bike run  
22                  for Flash Gavin I read earlier taking place  
23                  in North Scranton request for a temporary  
24                  "No Parking" signs to be placed in front of  
25                  the establishment and on the block from

1 10:30 to 12:00, during the time of the bike  
2 ride registration.

3 In addition, members involved also  
4 request a police escort to lead the bike  
5 riders who to the highway for the charity  
6 run. Mrs. Krake, if you could please  
7 contact Chief Duffy and ask him if he could  
8 accommodate this request.

9 Residents residing on the 600 block  
10 of North Hyde Park Avenue report that a  
11 condemned home located at 612 North Hyde  
12 Park is in poor shape as grass has grown to  
13 over two feet high and the property is in  
14 poor condition and becoming an eyesore for  
15 residents. Mrs. Krake, if you can please  
16 add this to the letter to Mr. Seitzinger.

17 And also, I received a typed letter  
18 in my mailbox here in city hall about a  
19 property in an area on the 1000 block of  
20 River Street, I will be visiting that site  
21 over the next week in case the resident who  
22 sent in the letter is listening, so I just  
23 want to notify them that I did receive their  
24 letter and I didn't forget about them, I  
25 would just like to go out and see the site



1 myself before actually making some type of  
2 request.

3 Also, tonight I wasn't really  
4 planning on speaking about an August recess,  
5 however, I know that Councilman Rogan once  
6 again has expressed his views about meeting  
7 in August, so I kind of feel that maybe I  
8 should. First, let me discuss my own  
9 intentions. Sporadically, throughout the  
10 year, I walked various neighborhoods and  
11 areas of Scranton and knocking on residents  
12 doors to so what questions or concerns they  
13 may have or ask them what can city council  
14 do for them, how could we help you.

15 As one knows, many people running  
16 for office knocking on people doors asking  
17 them to vote for them around election time I  
18 was one of those people, I did it in 2009,  
19 in fact, I know Mr. Rogan accompanied me for  
20 many of these those door-to-door visits and,  
21 you know, since I'm in office now I feel  
22 that I owe it to people to seek out there  
23 questions and their concerns in the capacity  
24 in which I'm able to as time permits.

25 Over the recess period, I will be

1 knocking on more doors, gathering more  
2 resident's viewpoints, and listening to the  
3 concerns that people have. I feel as though  
4 the recess period is a good time to increase  
5 this activity as not many people address  
6 their concerns in front of city council.  
7 There is a lot of people that may be a  
8 little bit shy or may not want to come up in  
9 front of the camera to address their  
10 concerns, they may be a little bit timid  
11 about calling the office and, you know, what  
12 I --the main thing I realized from, you  
13 know, walking the streets of the city and  
14 just talking to various residents is there  
15 is a lot of issues in the city that most  
16 people wouldn't even be aware of about if  
17 they didn't visit that street or if they  
18 didn't knock on a certain resident's door.

19 When I was sworn into office as a  
20 councilman, I was not intending on partaking  
21 in a three-hour per week job and by no means  
22 do I. I devote a great deal of time outside  
23 these meetings researching city issues and  
24 speaking to residents as well as other  
25 officials for their input on ideas and

1 solutions which can potentially be  
2 beneficial for the city.

3 Personally, over the month of August  
4 I'll still be working as I do every month.  
5 I don't feel that I need to be in a public  
6 forum to work as some others may. My door  
7 is always open, I am accessible by e-mail or  
8 if anyone wishes to speak with me they could  
9 e-mail me, they could call the office and  
10 leave their number and I would be happy call  
11 them back.

12 Also, being the Finance Chair I do  
13 want to remind that at no point in the  
14 budget crafting process did any of my  
15 colleagues seek to increase funding for  
16 overtime for any of our office workers,  
17 there is one here attending the meeting, or  
18 seek to increase funding for our court  
19 stenographer, who is sitting right in front  
20 of me typing up the minutes which are  
21 roughly between 100 and 150 pages every  
22 single meeting.

23 Just to give you an idea of how much  
24 this expense would cost if we were to hold  
25 these meetings in August, it would be about

1           \$3,000, not to mention potential costs for  
2           advertisements as well as utilities and  
3           other bills. I know that for some it may  
4           not seem like a great deal of money, but I  
5           know that \$3,000 is a good deal of money in  
6           my eyes and I know that Councilman Rogan  
7           would agree with that because I remember  
8           that was one of the primary reasons, and  
9           correct me if I'm wrong, that you didn't  
10          support voting for Rossi & Rossi as the  
11          independent auditor.

12                   MR. ROGAN: I will respond when you  
13                   are done.

14                   MR. JOYCE: And I just want to  
15                   remind that just about every branch of the  
16                   government has some sort of recess in place.  
17                   I know that the state Senate does, the State  
18                   House does, and even Congress and Senate on  
19                   a national level are doing it. I know that  
20                   Congressman Lou Barletta and Congressman Tom  
21                   Marino will be on recess from August 8 to  
22                   September 5 as well, which is roughly about  
23                   the same period as council will be on  
24                   recess.

25                   So I just wanted to say while it's

1           technically a recess, I do plan on working  
2           through the entire period though it may not  
3           be in these chambers, and that's all.

4                   MR. ROGAN: I will just respond very  
5           briefly. First on the cost of the \$3,000, I  
6           agree with you \$3,000 is a lot of money, but  
7           the function of the legislative body is to  
8           hold meetings and help the people. I'm not  
9           saying that because we are not going to be  
10          meeting, and I'm sure it's safe to say for  
11          all of us, we not going to be working. If  
12          the meetings are that small a part of the  
13          job then why not just agree to have them.  
14          It's not that much of a burden compared to  
15          the whole grand scheme of the job to meet  
16          here for three hours one day a week.

17                   You talked about Congress and the  
18          Senate and the State house having to recess  
19          when it's completely different. Congress  
20          members are in a Washington, D C, the  
21          majority of the year and for somebody in  
22          Pennsylvania or this area it's not too much  
23          of a burden, but, for instance, if you are a  
24          Congress person in California you need that  
25          recess time to go out and talk to the voters

1 and talk to the people in the district. We  
2 all do that on a daily basis when we go to  
3 the grocery store, when we pump gas, and  
4 when we do anything because we live in the  
5 city where we legislate.

6 And for the state Senate and the  
7 State House, Congress and the Senate, they  
8 don't. They live here when they can, but  
9 when they're in session they are not working  
10 in the district. We do.

11 The \$3,000 that I voted against on  
12 for Rossi & Rossi, when you have two options  
13 one is cheaper and they'll do the same job  
14 and one is more expensive and they do the  
15 same job, I'm going to take the cheaper one  
16 every time, but I think \$3,000 is a small  
17 price to pay to have us here every Tuesday  
18 throughout the month of the August listening  
19 to the people of this city. And hopefully  
20 that's the last time we are going to have to  
21 say about this recess.

22 MR. JOYCE: And I know that we have  
23 discussed the recess and I know that we have  
24 different opinions, and I know that Mr.  
25 McGoff said that he is already not going to

1 be here three of the weeks in August;  
2 correct?

3 On that note, if the administration  
4 isn't sending down legislation and if some  
5 council members are not able to attend, I  
6 would be in full favor of meeting with the  
7 people. I'm in full favor of listening to  
8 the people's concerns and I have every  
9 intention of doing that, however, if some  
10 other council members aren't, I know that  
11 there was a recess that was planned, I  
12 think -- I don't think there has ever not  
13 been a recess, so --

14 MR. ROGAN: 2005.

15 MR. JOYCE: Right, and also, I  
16 remember in 2005 when there wasn't a recess  
17 some of the council members didn't show up  
18 and there were a lot of accusations made  
19 that the only recess -- the only reason why  
20 there wasn't a recess was because it was an  
21 election year and it was for purely  
22 political reasons, and I certainly want  
23 to -- I certainly wouldn't want to see  
24 Mr. McGoff or Mr. Loscombe attend the  
25 meetings and get accused of being here for

1 purely political reasons. However, I know  
2 that we both have differing view of the  
3 opinions on this, as well as the auditor. I  
4 felt like \$3,000 was a better deal. I felt  
5 that Rossi & Rossi was the more responsible  
6 bidder, but we are all entitled to our  
7 opinion and that's all I'll say about it for  
8 now.

9 MR. ROGAN: I'll make one final  
10 comment, Mrs. Evans, I apologize for taking  
11 your time to speak. The first point, if you  
12 would like, if the mayor does give approval  
13 to open up council chambers I would invite  
14 my colleagues to join me. It wouldn't be a  
15 formal meeting, it would just be a meet and  
16 greet with the residents, and if the mayor  
17 gives approval I will be sending out press  
18 releases to that affect to all the media, so  
19 they can publicize it.

20 And secondly, and I don't want to  
21 talk about politics at the meeting, I hate  
22 to do it, but when the previous majority was  
23 in charge myself and some of my colleagues  
24 constantly went after them on this issue and  
25 it seems that now we are the majority some



1 people want to do the same thing. I wrote  
2 letters to the editor, to the Scranton  
3 Times, going after Mr. McGoff, Mrs. Fanucci  
4 and Ms. Gatelli about the August recess. It  
5 was wrong when they did it, it's wrong when  
6 we do it, and I'm not voting for it, so --

7 MR. MCGOFF: Could I add one thing?  
8 Since we are -- if we are looking to save  
9 money and we are concerned perhaps we could  
10 make an agreement that we all talk less and  
11 that way we wouldn't make -- just a thought.

12 MR. JOYCE: It's always good to have  
13 an -- maybe I shouldn't have said that. We  
14 probably are increasing our stenographer's  
15 earnings.

16 MR. ROGAN: You're welcome, Cathene.

17 MS. EVANS: I don't know -- I  
18 really -- you know, don't want to belabor  
19 this because I prefer that we move onto more  
20 important council issues than, you know, to  
21 continue to be sidetracked by this phantom  
22 issue, but I would remind my colleague that  
23 it isn't the mayor's decision to use council  
24 chambers for the month of the August, it's  
25 the decision of council.

1                   Good evening, everyone. I will  
2                   begin with one business item. Mrs. Krake,  
3                   please notify Ms. Aebi that city council  
4                   requests complete copies of all 2012 CDBG  
5                   applications on or before August 10, 2011,  
6                   and the proposed OECD 2012 allocations at  
7                   such time as they are prepared.

8                   Unfortunately, Mayor Doherty vetoed  
9                   city council's legislation to fund and open  
10                  Novembrino pools this summer and justified  
11                  his action with inaccuracies. He cites only  
12                  Section 504, ordinances and resolutions of  
13                  the Home Rule Charter to address the  
14                  requirements for a veto or a signature.

15                  Notably, he fails to provide any  
16                  citations to support his reasons for the  
17                  veto, therefore, I will address his  
18                  inaccuracies.

19                  First, neither the Home Rule Charter  
20                  nor the Administrative Code contain any  
21                  language either direct or indirect that City  
22                  Council must discuss it's legislation with  
23                  the mayor.

24                  Second, File of Council No. 14,  
25                  2011, was signed by Mayor Doherty and

1 immediately thereafter a special account  
2 was, indeed, established as evidenced by  
3 vouchers submitted to council by the city  
4 controller.

5 Third, the solicitor for OECD is  
6 neither required nor authorized by the Home  
7 Rule Charter and the Administrative Code to  
8 opine on the legislative actions of city  
9 council.

10 Fourth, although the mayor states  
11 that the use of UDAG repayments falls  
12 completely to the discretion of the mayor,  
13 no documentation has been located or  
14 provided by the administration to verify  
15 Mr. Doherty's personal belief.

16 Finally, the mayor states that  
17 salaries of lifeguards for the Novembrino  
18 Swim Complex and the purchase of chemicals  
19 are not permitted uses for UDAG repayment or  
20 RE-RE funds per HUD rules, regulations  
21 and/or guidelines. Having researched the  
22 uses of first and second UDAG repayment  
23 funds, I am aware that UDAG second payment  
24 funds can be used for any city purpose.

25 However, as I previously noted, the

1           mayor believes that only he has the  
2           authority to spend these monies. And let me  
3           refresh your memories, ladies and gentlemen,  
4           regarding Mayor Doherty sole discretionary  
5           use of these funds. Program ads in booklets  
6           distributed during local luncheons and  
7           dinners. Hotel rooms at the Beacon Hotel  
8           for an out-of-state conference. Tables of  
9           the ten at luncheons and galas. Generous  
10          donations to local special interest groups  
11          supportive of the mayor's political career,  
12          and dues and subscriptions for the mayor  
13          totaling tens of thousands of dollars, among  
14          numerous others.

15                   MR. JOYCE: And, you know, I  
16           apologize for interrupting, but I remember  
17           when you were reading off some of the uses  
18           of the RE-RE account and what that money was  
19           spent on a few months ago, you mentioned a  
20           stunt mayor video, and I had a chance to  
21           view this, this is located on the city's  
22           website under media between a great place to  
23           raise kids and a keep the pride alive video.

24                   And I remember that you were stating  
25           that \$1,700 of RE-RE funds were used to fund

1           this video and it's basically a video  
2           produced by Dan Simrell and a four a half  
3           minute spot featuring some local community  
4           leaders and some ex-politicians, including  
5           now convicted felon Bob Cordaro, so if this  
6           is what we are spending \$1,700 on or some of  
7           this RE-RE money on, I don't see any reason  
8           why that if we are going to use money on  
9           things like this, we can't use this type of  
10          funding to help keep the Novembrino Pool  
11          open.

12                        MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.  
13           The mayor states that these funds cannot be  
14           used for the disadvantaged children and  
15           adults of the city in a low to moderate  
16           income area. Although, Mayor Doherty's  
17           wasteful and personal spending of these  
18           funds is not illegal, the people of Scranton  
19           tell me that they prefer to have such funds  
20           spent on free swimming, road paving, blight  
21           cleanup and other issues that directly  
22           effect their quality of life.

23                        The people of West Side and other  
24           city neighborhoods need to know that the  
25           mayor isn't acting in your best interest.

1           Rather, he is acting in his own interest.  
2           Countries Doherty stopped free swimming at  
3           Novembrino pools this summer and the Capouse  
4           Avenue pool in the summers of 2010 and 2011,  
5           but he spent \$1,250 for a table of ten at a  
6           charity gala, something he should be taking  
7           from his own money to attend, and \$29,955  
8           for his dues to the Pennsylvania League of  
9           Cities.

10                       Further, I'll wager that Chris  
11           Doherty will vote owe council legislation to  
12           allow free swimming for city residents at  
13           the Nay Aug Swim Complex. He doesn't care  
14           that families of two or more children can't  
15           afford to pay \$4 per child to swim. He  
16           doesn't consider that these are the families  
17           who cannot afford swimming pools and country  
18           club memberships. These are the children  
19           and families public pools are built to serve  
20           and yet they are denied access by the mayor  
21           and an authority appointed by him who  
22           profess to serve the people.

23                       Further, the Recreation and Parking  
24           Authorities and previously the Civil Service  
25           Commission as well are advised by an

1 attorney who is hired by and works for the  
2 mayor. So, ladies and gentlemen, you tell  
3 me who seems to run these municipal  
4 authorities?

5 The mayor should be ashamed of this  
6 contrived and inaccurate veto, and more so,  
7 the low regard in which he holds the poor  
8 and the little guy in our city.

9 Consequently, I have placed Mayor  
10 Doherty's veto on tonight's council agenda  
11 for an override vote.

12 At last week's council meeting, I  
13 announced that the bids for the parking  
14 meter program had been rejected. As a  
15 result, the newspaper obtained statements  
16 from the administration that the program  
17 would be rebid, thereby, delaying it's  
18 implementation until at least September.  
19 The administration has caused this new  
20 revenue generator to fall significantly  
21 short because of it's nine months of  
22 postponements that serve a distinct purpose.

23 The administration does not wish to  
24 implement this program because it proposes  
25 instead to sell the parking meters to the

1           Scranton Parking Authority which will in  
2           turn take a \$10 million loan to purchase the  
3           meters. This is the same municipal  
4           authority that is fighting for 10 percent of  
5           the CMC permit parking fees although it's  
6           services are unused and unnecessary, and  
7           that has finished the last few years in the  
8           red. It's expenditures and debt exceeded  
9           revenue and the Parking Authority -- again,  
10          the Parking Authority's over \$50 million in  
11          debt is guaranteed by the city. When the  
12          city pledged it's full faith and credit for  
13          these bonds it guaranteed that any unpaid  
14          debt will fall to the city's taxing power by  
15          translates into higher taxes for the people.

16                 The proposed 10 million in borrowing  
17                 for the purchase of the parking meters will  
18                 very likely also require the city's  
19                 guarantee. This is yet another example of  
20                 an asset owned by the people which is sold  
21                 or leased to an Authority and then paid for  
22                 a second time by the people.

23                 I have a record of voting against  
24                 these Parking Authority agreements. I was  
25                 the only council member to vote down the



1 last \$35 million bond issue for the Parking  
2 Authority and I do not intend to approve a  
3 sale of the parking meters to the Parking  
4 Authority.

5 Further, the mayor was made aware  
6 several weeks ago following a meeting  
7 between administrators and council members  
8 that any further discussions of the 2011  
9 deficit must be held publically in council  
10 chambers and he must attend those meetings.  
11 Council is most willing to discuss the  
12 mayor's proposals and it's own during public  
13 meetings. To date, however, Mayor Doherty  
14 has failed to respond. The mayor should  
15 also consider speaking to city council  
16 before the business administrator drafts the  
17 mayor's 2012 proposed budget. City council  
18 welcomes dialogue, but it does not require a  
19 mayor's permission to legislate.

20 Next, tonight's agenda includes Item  
21 7-D, an ordinance authorizing the city to  
22 enter into a contract with Northeast Revenue  
23 Service, LLC, for the collection of  
24 delinquent real estate taxes for the years  
25 2004, five, six, seven, eight, and for the

1 years 2009 and '10 after 2010 delinquent  
2 taxes are returned to the city by the  
3 Collector of Taxes on January 1, 2012.

4 Council Solicitor Hughes, City Clerk  
5 Nancy Krake, Councilman Loscombe and I  
6 worked tirelessly on this crucial issue  
7 throughout the last several weeks and  
8 together with Attorney Rogers and Mr.  
9 Shaniny, developed a contract that will  
10 provide payments to Pennstar Bank for the  
11 city's recent \$1.5 million default on it's  
12 previous sale of delinquent taxes. The  
13 contract will also provided a more favor and  
14 legal collection process for delinquent  
15 taxpayers by means of a 90-day grace period,  
16 payment plans, monthly notifications,  
17 reasonable and minimal interest and fees  
18 permitted under state law, on-line payments  
19 as well as local bank branch offices.  
20 Headquarters in city hall, on-line  
21 accessibility to tax delinquencies and  
22 Treasurer sales, among other provisions.

23 We hammered out the contract that  
24 helps the city with it's debt and current  
25 deficit and makes payments of tax

1 delinquencies more fair, affordable,  
2 efficient and accountable. I wish to thank  
3 Attorney Hughes, Mrs. Krake and Mr. Loscombe  
4 for helping me to right this wrong that  
5 began in 2007 and to provide a strong  
6 solution to a current financial crisis.

7 Next, I'd like to remind council  
8 members that motions are to be presented in  
9 writing to each council member prior to the  
10 voicing of motions during council meetings.

11 I finally have citizens' requests  
12 for the week: Number one, four lots  
13 adjacent to 350 North Garfield Avenue are an  
14 overgrown breeding ground and habitat for  
15 snakes, insects, and groundhogs. Also, a  
16 pool deck on one of these properties is  
17 infested with spider nests. Each property  
18 is owned by separate individuals. A city  
19 inspector has attempted to locate property  
20 owners without successes yet. Please pursue  
21 this nuisance property for the residents of  
22 North Garfield Avenue and this West Scranton  
23 neighborhood.

24 105 Little Spike Way, a light pole  
25 was knocked down in December 2007. As a

1 result, there remains a huge hole in the  
2 sidewalk which is covered by rock. Please  
3 determine who is responsible for the  
4 sidewalk repair and pole replacement and  
5 notify city council on or before July 22,  
6 2011.

7 Homeowners request the paving of the  
8 200 to 400 blocks of Theodore Street. They  
9 also report that the train overpass on  
10 Theodore Street needs to be inspected and is  
11 deteriorating.

12 Corner of Wyoming Avenue and  
13 Greenridge Street, three catch basins are  
14 covered with debris and need cleaning to  
15 prevent additional flooding during rain  
16 events. Please address as soon as possible.

17 Residents report that winter cinders  
18 remain on the sidewalk on Moosic Street over  
19 Route 81. Please address this problem.

20 South side residents continue to  
21 complain about the overgrowth and mess at  
22 the intersection of River Street and Meadow  
23 Avenue. They ask how many times they have  
24 to report this eyesore before the city will  
25 finally take appropriate action.

1 Residents of North Scranton report  
2 that the deterioration of the Rockwell  
3 Avenue bridge, damage to the undercarriage  
4 and missing and shifting stones. Further,  
5 they state that portions of the wall and  
6 sidewalk collapsed into the Legget's Creek  
7 following the rainstorms on June 26 and July  
8 3, 2011. Please report these hazardous  
9 conditions to the city engineer and  
10 Mr. Brazil, and request a written update and  
11 proposed corrective measures on or before  
12 July 25, 2011. And, Mr. Loscombe, if you  
13 could please contact the PennDOT engineer.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I will.

15 MS. EVANS: And if you could arrange  
16 to meet with him at the Rockwell Avenue  
17 Bridge so that he can see for himself what  
18 deterioration has occurred in the last,  
19 well, I'd say four to six weeks.

20 436 Birch Street, I think someone  
21 else had that, parents of school children  
22 request that the sidewalks on Olive Street  
23 approaching Scranton High School are cleared  
24 prior to the opening of the new school year  
25 so that students are no longer forced to

1 walk on the this extremely busy street.

2 And finally, a Right-to-Know request  
3 for the fuel bill for Nay Aug Park swim  
4 complex for June, July and August, 2010 and  
5 2011, and that's it.

6 MR. JOYCE: Before we go any  
7 further, I know that Mrs. Evans and I, we  
8 met with Ryan McGowan as well as Mr. Gervasi  
9 from the firefighters' union and also Chief  
10 Duffy was there representing the police and  
11 I know that they want us to keep the  
12 contents of their plans or some of the  
13 issues that were brought forth during this  
14 meeting confidential.

15 However, after five requests for the  
16 mayor and the business administrator to come  
17 in and speak in council chambers about  
18 financial issue without even the courtesy of  
19 an answer, yet alone a "no", I can  
20 understand why one would be frustrated, but  
21 since you mentioned the meters, to provide  
22 some background on the revenue side, the  
23 city earns roughly \$1.4 million in parking  
24 meter revenue on an annual basis. In  
25 addition, there is also another \$1.1 million

1 in revenue for various violations that occur  
2 through the years -- or throughout the year,  
3 rather, from police fines, ticket fees,  
4 yellow and white, etcetera, so that's a  
5 total of \$2.5 million in revenue that would  
6 be lost in 2012 operating budget and every  
7 budget going forward if this was adopted.

8 Now, on the expenditure side, we do  
9 reimburse the Parking Authority \$562,000, so  
10 if you subtract this from the \$2.5 million  
11 it's roughly around \$2 million or \$1.9  
12 million that would be absent as far as money  
13 that the city would have if this type of a  
14 transaction were to occur. Therefore, by  
15 doing this, if this were to happen, it  
16 appears as if the administration could  
17 possibly be setting up the residents of the  
18 city for a tax increase, because there would  
19 be \$2 million or \$1.92 million that would  
20 have to be made up somewhere and really the  
21 only way, unless other created revenue  
22 source generators were presented, would be  
23 for the administration to propose a tax  
24 increase or to make massive cuts somewhere  
25 that would take away \$2 million worth of

1 employee salaries and benefits, possibly to  
2 the police department, possibly to the fire  
3 department, possibly to the public works or  
4 any other city employee for that matter.  
5 And that's all.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mrs. Krake?

7 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. SALE OF TAX  
8 DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN  
9 AS 2108 PRICE STREET, TAX MAP NO.  
10 14509-010-015, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO  
11 FRANCIS J. WALSH, 217 NORTH GRANT AVENUE,  
12 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR THE  
13 CONSIDERATION OF \$3,500.00.

14 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll  
15 entertain a motion that Item 5-B 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. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.



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

3 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. SALE OF TAX  
4 DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN  
5 AS 917 EYNON STREET, TAX MAP NO.  
6 15609-080-035, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO  
7 SEAN MCGAGHRAN, 1221 EYNON STREET, SCRANTON,  
8 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR CONSIDERATION OF  
9 \$600.00.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. JOYCE: Second.

15 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
16 those in favor of introduction signify by  
17 saying aye.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

21 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. SALE OF TAX  
25 DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN

1 AS 919 EYNON STREET, TAX MAP NO.  
2 15609-080-036, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO  
3 SEAN MCGAGHRAN, 1221 EYNON STREET, SCRANTON,  
4 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR THE CONSIDERATION  
5 OF \$600.00.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. JOYCE: Second.

11 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
12 those in favor of introduction signify by  
13 saying aye.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. SALE OF TAX  
21 DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN  
22 AS SHORT AVENUE, TAX MAP NO. 13420-020-028,  
23 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO CARMEN SAITA, 517  
24 GREENBUSH STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,  
25 18508, FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF \$1,000.00.

1 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll  
2 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be  
3 introduced into it's proper committee. And  
4 the motion dies for lack of a second.

5 MS. KRAKE: 5-F. AUTHORIZING THE  
6 VACATION OF THE RIGHT OF WAY KNOWN AS PAGE  
7 PLACE LOCATED BETWEEN THE 200 BLOCKS OF  
8 FRANKLIN AVENUE AND MIFFLIN AVENUE.

9 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll  
10 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be  
11 introduced into it's proper committee.

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

14 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
15 those in favor of introduction signify by  
16 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: 5-G. AUTHORIZING THE  
24 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
25 TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION

1 AND IF SUCCESSFUL A GRANT AGREEMENT AND  
2 ACCEPT THE FUNDS RELATED THERETO THROUGH THE  
3 BJA FY 11 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE  
4 GRANT ("JAG") PROGRAM LOCAL SOLICITATION IN  
5 THE AMOUNT OF \$29,216.00.

6 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll  
7 entertain a motion that Item 5-G be  
8 introduced into it's proper committee.

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. JOYCE: Second.

11 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
12 those in favor of introduction signify by  
13 saying aye.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 5-H. AUTHORIZING THE  
21 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
22 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT  
23 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND THE  
24 SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT WITH JOSEPH M. ALU  
25 AND ASSOCIATES TO PERFORM THE SCRANTON

1 SINGLE TAX OFFICE INDEPENDENT AUDIT FOR THE  
2 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2010.

3 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll  
4 entertain a motion that Item 5-H be  
5 introduced into it's proper committee.

6 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

7 MR. JOYCE: Second.

8 MS. EVANS: On the question?

9 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I'd just like to  
10 say that I'm very pleased that the Scranton  
11 School District is willing to contribute to  
12 the audit of the Single Tax Office. And  
13 furthermore, that an audit is going to be  
14 performed. Mrs. Krake, if and when the  
15 contract is signed, can you please ask for a  
16 copy of the auditor's timeline on my behalf.

17 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the  
18 question? All those in favor of  
19 introduction signify by saying aye.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

23 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
25 have it and so moved.

1 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO  
2 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.  
3 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
4 FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 41, 2011-  
5 AMENDING CHAPTER 332 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY  
6 OF SCRANTON TITLED PARKS AND RECREATION BY  
7 ADDING ARTICLE III "WEST SCRANTON SKATE PARK  
8 FACILITY RULES AND REGULATIONS".

9 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the  
10 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
11 passage of Item 7-A.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
14 call, please?

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

22 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
25 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted. And

1 just in time for quite a weekend.

2 MS. FOSTER: Thank you.

3 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION-  
5 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 42, 2011 - AMENDING  
6 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 52, 2010, AN ORDINANCE  
7 ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET  
8 2011" BY TRANSFERRING \$20,000.00 FROM  
9 ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.13090.4299  
10 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL OPERATING EXPENSES -  
11 CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT NO.  
12 01.060.00000.4201 (LAW DEPARTMENT  
13 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO  
14 COVER VARIOUS ATTORNEY FEES.

15 MR. JOYCE: I'd like to make a  
16 motion to table Item 7-B.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MS. EVANS: On the question?

19 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Go ahead.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes. My only question  
21 was this will be put on the agenda next week  
22 whether we have the information or not;  
23 correct?

24 MS. EVANS: Actually, it will go on  
25 the agenda for the July 26.

1 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes. And this is --  
3 well, I'm proposing to table this until the  
4 law department can provide substantiation  
5 for the \$20,000 in additional funding.

6 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
7 signify by saying aye.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

12 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
13 have it and so moved. Item 7-B is now  
14 tabled.

15 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
16 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION-  
17 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 43, 2011 - SALE OF TAX  
18 DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS  
19 SHORT AVENUE, TAX MAP NO. 13420-020-028,  
20 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO CARMEN SAITA, 517  
21 GREENBUSH STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,  
22 18508, FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF \$1,000.00.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'd like make a  
24 motion to table Item 7-C.

25 MR. ROGAN: Second.



1 MS. EVANS: On the question?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question, I  
3 went by the property today and I do have  
4 some questions, so over the next week I do  
5 hope to get them answered and possibly put  
6 it back on the table.

7 MR. ROGAN: Again, as long as we  
8 will be voting on it before the recess, I'm  
9 okay with that.

10 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on  
11 the question? All those in favor signify by  
12 saying aye.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
18 have it and so moved. Item 7-C is now  
19 tabled.

20 MR. JOYCE: I would like to make a  
21 motion to take File of Council No. 35, 2011,  
22 Item 7-D, from the table.

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
8 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION-  
9 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 35, 2011(PREVIOUSLY  
10 TABLED)- AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
11 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A  
12 CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH  
13 NORTHEAST REVENUE SERVICE, LLC AND CAVERLY,  
14 SHEA, PHILLIPS AND RODGERS, LLC FOR THE  
15 COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES  
16 FOR THE COLLECTION OF YEARS 2004, 2005,  
17 2006, 2007 AND 2008.

18 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to amend  
19 Item 7-D as per the following changes:

20 Number one, on the third line after  
21 LLC delete "AND CAVERLY, SHEA, PHILLIPS AND  
22 RODGERS, LLC. "

23 Number two, on the fifth line after  
24 2007, delete in quote, "AND 2008."

25 And after 2007 insert a coma and

1 insert "2008, 2009, AND 2010, AFTER THE 2010  
2 DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES ARE RETURNED TO  
3 THE CITY BY THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES ON  
4 JANUARY 1ST OF 2012."

5 Number three, in the second whereas  
6 delete "CAVERLY, SHEA, PHILLIPS AND RODGERS,  
7 LLC."

8 Number four, in the third whereas  
9 delete "CAVERLY, SHEA, PHILLIPS and RODGERS,  
10 LLC."

11 And number five, in the now  
12 therefore clause on the third line after the  
13 letters "LLC" insert, "A COPY OF WHICH IS  
14 ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT A," and on the  
15 third and fourth lines after LLC delete,  
16 "AND CAVERLY, SHEA, PHILLIPS AND RODGERS,  
17 LLC," and on the fifth line after 2007  
18 delete "AND 2008," and insert a coma and  
19 insert, "2008, 2009 AND 2010 AFTER THE 2010  
20 DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES ARE RETURNED TO  
21 THE CITY BY THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES ON  
22 JANUARY 1ST OF 2012.

23 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the  
24 floor, do we have a second?

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: On the question?

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes. The amendment that  
3 I just made properly adjusts some of the  
4 wording in the contract. The law firm  
5 mentioned in the contract is being removed  
6 through the amendments since we are hiring  
7 Northeast and not the law firm itself. In  
8 addition, the contract is being amended to  
9 add collection of the 2009 and 2010 back  
10 taxes. Currently the Single Tax office is  
11 collecting the 2010 taxes and the once these  
12 taxes are placed back in our hands at the  
13 end of the year they will then be collected  
14 by Northeast if voted through tonight.

15 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on  
16 the question? All those in favor of  
17 amending Item 7-D signify by saying aye.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

21 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

22 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
23 have it and so moved. What is the  
24 recommendation of the Chair for the  
25 Committee on Finance?

1 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the  
2 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
3 passage of Item 7-D.

4 MS. EVANS: Is there a second?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

6 MS. EVANS: On the question?

7 MR. JOYCE: Yes. After hearing  
8 Northeast Revenue's presentation last week I  
9 believe that they are a fair company and  
10 much better than NCC who was previously  
11 employed by the city to collect back taxes.  
12 From the presentation that Northeast gave to  
13 us, I feel as though this company will work  
14 with the residents who owe back taxes in an  
15 effective manner.

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

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: No.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

25 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
3 Item 7-D, as amended, legally and lawfully  
4 adopted.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would like to make  
6 a motion to take File of Council No. 37,  
7 2011, 7-E, as amended, from the table.

8 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

17 MS. KRAKE: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION  
18 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY FOR  
19 ADOPTION- FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 37, 2011 (AS  
20 AMENDED) (PREVIOUSLY TABLED) - ESTABLISHING  
21 THE LIST OF AUTHORIZED TOWING COMPANIES FOR  
22 THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND ESTABLISHING THE  
23 RULES, QUALIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS TO BE  
24 FOLLOWED BY ALL SAID TOWING COMPANIES,  
25 ESTABLISHING FINES AND PENALTIES FOR

1 TOWING AND FEES RELATED TO THIS ORDINANCE.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: I make a motion to  
3 amend Item 7-E per the following:

4 Section VII, by deleting "Pay  
5 \$2,000" and inserting "Abide by the  
6 following fee schedule: All towing  
7 companies on one list will pay \$2,000 per  
8 year; all towing companies on two lists will  
9 pay \$2,500 per year; all towing companies on  
10 three lists will pay \$3,000."

11 In Section IV, after "Authorized  
12 Towing Companies," insert the following:  
13 "Towing companies are the authorized towing  
14 companies in the City of Scranton and no  
15 additional towing companies can be added to  
16 these lists A, B and C lists until or unless  
17 current tower is eliminated from the list or  
18 voluntarily removes itself from the list."

19 Insert "A," before regular tows;  
20 insert "B," before salvage towers; and  
21 insert "C," before heavy duty towers."

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question, just  
25 as a result of city council's amendment the

1 city will receive more revenue than was  
2 proposed by the administration. Also, the  
3 amendment will provide a fairer process.  
4 For example, the city tower who is only on  
5 one list will pay less than a tower that's  
6 included on two or three lists.

7 MR. JOYCE: And just to provide some  
8 background, I'm sure most people are  
9 probably listening to us, unless they know  
10 the towing industry probably don't know, you  
11 know, why there is three lists, and I think  
12 to make it clear to the public, depending on  
13 the type of the tow that the company could  
14 do that is the determinant of what lists  
15 they are on.

16 For instance, if a towing company  
17 can only tow say compact cars and, you know,  
18 your usual vehicles that people drive like  
19 cars, SUV's, they may only be on one list.  
20 However, if they can tow heavy machinery or  
21 heavy rigs than they may be on two or three.

22 MR. MCGOFF: I would just like to  
23 say that I spoke with one of the towers who  
24 was involved in this and they did -- he felt  
25 that it was the -- that the changes in the



1 fee schedule were legitimate and acceptable  
2 by the towers that were involved and I'm  
3 glad to see that we added the amendment in  
4 Section IV, that was the one concern that  
5 they had, that companies could be added and  
6 therefore without regard to companies being  
7 dropped and that they would therefore lose  
8 business in that way, and so that amendment,  
9 that change, was thankful -- or thankful for  
10 that change being made.

11 MS. EVANS: Anyone else? All those  
12 in favor of amending Item 7-E, as amended,  
13 signify by saying aye.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

18 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
19 have it and so moved. What is the  
20 recommendation of the Chair for the  
21 Committee on Public Safety?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: As Chairperson for  
23 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
24 final passage of Item 7-E, as amended.

25 MR. ROGAN: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
2 call, please?

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
13 Item 7-E, as amended, legally and lawfully  
14 adopted.

15 MS. KRAKE: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION  
16 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION-  
17 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 40, 2011(OVERRIDE  
18 MAYOR'S VETO) - AUTHORIZING THE DISBURSEMENT  
19 FROM THE SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT, AS  
20 ESTABLISHED BY FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 14,  
21 2011, ENTITLED "URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION  
22 GRANT REPAYMENTS ACCOUNT".

23 MS. EVANS: What is the  
24 recommendation of the Chair for the  
25 Committee on Finance?

1 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the  
2 Committee on Finance, I recommend that city  
3 council override the mayor's veto of Item  
4 7-F.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MS. EVANS: On the question?

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I would just like  
8 to comment, while I voted for this  
9 originally I think that it's become somewhat  
10 of a moot point. The city has already said  
11 that they are not going to open Novembrino  
12 pool and directing funds to that would be to  
13 me useless. I don't see why we would do  
14 something that and just, you know, move that  
15 money. Like I said, I think it's just a  
16 moot point.

17 MS. EVANS: Well, if the mayor  
18 chooses to ignore legislation and the Home  
19 Rule Charter and the Administrative Code  
20 then I would suggest that the RE-RE funds be  
21 used for a different project that will  
22 benefit the citizens and council solicitor  
23 can hopefully draw up that legislation if  
24 that is the case. Until that time, I'm sure  
25 money would remain in the account.

1 MR. ROGAN: I would agree with what  
2 Mrs. Evans said. I would also like to add  
3 if the money isn't spent, I would like to  
4 see the money spent in West Side. West Side  
5 has been getting the short end of the stick  
6 for all of the years Mayor Doherty has been  
7 in office.

8 MS. EVANS: And I might add that  
9 because the federal funding of the CDBG  
10 program has been cut for financial year  
11 2011, OECD and city council are faced with a  
12 task of decreasing allocations that were  
13 previously made by ordinance and so it is  
14 quite possible that city council will  
15 revisit the funding for the Novembrino Pool  
16 Complex and the creation of the splash park  
17 in that area, and so it actually may have a  
18 better ending hopefully where the pools that  
19 we have that a great deal of money were  
20 invested into will actually continue to  
21 provide free swimming for the children of  
22 that area. Is there anyone else on the  
23 question? Roll 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 the mayor's veto of Item 7-F, File of  
10 Council No. 40, 2011, legally and lawfully  
11 overridden.

12 MS. KRAKE: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION  
13 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-  
14 RESOLUTION NO. 42, 2011- AMENDING RESOLUTION  
15 NO. 174 OF 2003 BY PROHIBITING THE  
16 RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY FROM CHARGING CITY  
17 RESIDENTS AN ADMISSION FEE TO THE NAY AUG  
18 PARK SWIM COMPLEX.

19 MS. EVANS: As Chairperson for the  
20 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
21 passage of Item 7-G.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question?

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I would just like  
25 reiterate very briefly what I said last

1 week, that by providing free swimming for  
2 the children of Scranton not only gives a --  
3 takes away some of the financial burden from  
4 the families, but it also takes away the  
5 possible safety risk of people swimming in  
6 the gorge or swimming in streams and the  
7 rivers, so I will be voting, yes.

8 MR. MCGOFF: I would like to -- I  
9 wasn't here last week when was this  
10 introduced I believe that the city does  
11 provide free swimming right now. There are  
12 three pools at which children in the city or  
13 anyone in the city can swim for free. I  
14 have always seen Nay Aug Pool as a separate  
15 entity that would charge for swimming there,  
16 perhaps necessary to maintain the pool and  
17 to maintain the park, and while I'm not sure  
18 that it's -- that raise in the fees to \$4 is  
19 justified, I still believe that a fee for  
20 swimming there is justified.

21 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on  
22 the question? I think it's important once  
23 again to note that children from families  
24 that are financially let's say on better,  
25 sounder ground perhaps can afford to pay \$4

1 per child to swim daily. I do think though,  
2 you know, even if, for example, you have a  
3 family of four, as I did, I know that if you  
4 took me back in time and my children  
5 actually did swim at that very pool and  
6 almost every day of the week and I took them  
7 there and I stayed there until the end of  
8 the swim day each day, if I were faced with  
9 paying \$4 per child that would have been \$16  
10 plus myself, and in addition to that we also  
11 took neighborhood children with us, my  
12 children's friends.

13 And, you know, you are looking at  
14 quite a tally there for a day's worth of  
15 swimming and for a lot of families that  
16 would mean saving up for something like  
17 that. This pool is no different than any of  
18 the other pools in the City of Scranton.  
19 They have all been constructed with  
20 taxpayers' dollars and, you know, for those  
21 who have or are fortunate enough to have  
22 their own above-ground or in ground pools or  
23 country club memberships or YMCA memberships  
24 certainly they are not in the need of these  
25 public facilities, they are there to serve

1 the needs of those who have less and they  
2 shouldn't be turned away because they can't  
3 afford to enter that park. Anyone else on  
4 the question? Roll call, please.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

6 MR. MCGOFF: No.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

12 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

18 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

19 MS. EVANS: This meeting is  
20 adjourned.

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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.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER