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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. KRAKE: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. KRAKE: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. KRAKE: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. KRAKE: Mrs. Evans.

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

13 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
14 ASSESSOR'S REPORT, FINAL RESULTS OF
15 SEPTEMBER 7, 2011 APPEALS.

16 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
17 If not, received and filed.

18 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AGENDA OF THE
19 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON
20 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011.

21 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
22 If not, received and filed.

23 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. CONTROLLER'S REPORT
24 FOR THE MONTH ENDING AUGUST 31, 2011.

25 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
3 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE
4 AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON AUGUST
5 18, 2011.

6 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
7 If not, received and filed.

8 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. AUDIT STATUS FROM
9 ROBERT ROSSI & COMPANY AS OF SEPTEMBER 26,
10 2011.

11 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
12 If not, received and filed.

13 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. AGENDA FOR THE
14 MUNICIPAL PENSION FUND MEETING HELD ON
15 SEPTEMBER 28, 2011.

16 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
17 If not, received and filed.

18 MS. KRAKE: 3-G. MINUTES OF THE
19 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON
20 AUGUST 24, 2011.

21 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
22 If not, received and filed.

23 MS. KRAKE: 3-H. MINUTES OF THE
24 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION
25 MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 24, 2011.

1 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
2 If not, received and filed. Do we have any
3 clerk's notes tonight?

4 MS. KRAKE: No, we don't, Mrs.
5 Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.
7 Do any council members have announcements?

8 MR. MCGOFF: A couple. First, The
9 Wall That Heals returns to Scranton on
10 October 6 to 9. The Wall That Heals is a
11 replica of a -- a capsized replica of the
12 Vietnam memorial. It comes with an
13 information center, a traveling museum, for
14 educational opportunities for children to
15 learn about the wall. It is open 24 hours
16 during that four-day period. So, please, if
17 you have an opportunity it's a -- if you are
18 not able to get to the Vietnam memorial in
19 Washington this is certainly a nice
20 experience, a good experience to see this.

21 Secondly, the Little Sisters of the
22 Poor are sponsoring a roast beef dinner
23 Sunday, October 23, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the
24 Holy Family Residence. They used to do this
25 and I guess they stopped doing it and now

1 they are reviving their roast beef dinner.
2 It goes to helping the Little Sisters of the
3 Poor in dealing with their -- with the
4 members of their community.

5 The West Side Senior Center big
6 bingo fundraiser on October 16 from 1:30 to
7 4:30 at the senior center, cost to attend is
8 \$5 and it benefits the West Side Senior
9 Center, usually a nice event to attend.

10 And last, on Sunday, October 16, the
11 seventh annual Chocoholic Frolic sponsored
12 by SCOLA from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Scranton
13 Cultural Center. Again, it's a nice event,
14 especially if you like to eat a lot of
15 chocolate in a variety of different ways.

16 And I shouldn't have said lastly,
17 the last thing, this Sunday, this coming
18 Sunday, be aware that the Steamtown Marathon
19 will be held. City streets will be blocked
20 for a period of time and probably from about
21 10 a.m. until about 2 p.m. waiting for the
22 first finishers should be coming through the
23 city somewhere around 10 a.m. through
24 Greenridge towards central city and then the
25 rest of us will be straggling along

1 thereafter, but a nice event to come see, a
2 lot of people there, I think they are
3 expecting over 2,000 runners and there is
4 support groups, so please come out, but also
5 be aware that there could be some traffic
6 situations on Sunday. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, I have one
8 question, since next Monday is Columbus Day
9 will DPW be conducting it's regular trash
10 collections or are we pushing that back a
11 day?

12 MR. MCGOFF: That I don't know, but
13 I think in the past they have pushed it,
14 Columbus Day was a day off.

15 MS. EVANS: So it will be moved from
16 Tuesday through Saturday next week for
17 garbage collection. Thank you. Is there
18 anyone else who has any announcements?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: I just have one here,
20 I received an e-mail. Arts on Fire will be
21 conducting a Celtic Harvest Festival and a
22 bond fire at Scranton Iron Furnaces on
23 Friday, October 31, from 8 to 11 p.m.
24 Tickets are \$15 at the door or \$10 in
25 advance and they could be picked up in

1 advance at the Anthracite Heritage Museum r
2 by calling 963-4804. The event features a
3 bonfire, mural painting and apple bobbing,
4 food and beverages and music will be by the
5 Tom Petty appreciation band. That's it.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. The Dunmore
7 Cemetery Tour presented by the Dearly
8 Departed players under the artistic
9 direction of Ms. Julie Esty will be held at
10 the Dunmore Cemetery, 400 Church Street, on
11 Sunday, October 7 and again on Sunday,
12 October 9, 2011, beginning at 2 p.m.
13 Admission is free and no reservations are
14 required. Take a walk through time and meet
15 famous and not so famous departed
16 individuals who've had a lasting effect on
17 our local and national history. Actors
18 provide a live portrayal of highlighted
19 individuals and dress in style of the day.

20 In addition, Ms. Esty has partnered
21 with Ms. Gaus artistic director of the
22 Scranton Civic ballet, to add a touch of
23 dance to what promises to be the best
24 presentation yet. It's a perfect way for
25 family to spend a highly entertaining and an

1 educational afternoon. Hope to see you
2 there, and that's it.

3 (Mr. Joyce takes the dais and joins
4 the meeting.)

5 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
6 PARTICIPATION.

7 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker is
8 Kathleen Hawley.

9 MS. HAWLEY: Good evening,
10 councilmen and women.

11 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

12 MS. HAWLEY: My name is Kathleen
13 Hawley. I'm a board member for Sweet Bark
14 Pit Bull Rescue, and I was a brief employee
15 of Griffen Pond Animal Shelter. I first
16 presented this idea back in December. What
17 I would like to see happen is a spay and
18 neuter ordinance passed. Working in animal
19 rescue, I see firsthand the repercussions of
20 pet overpopulation, and it is a serious
21 problem. Right now there are no laws in
22 Scranton regarding spaying and neutering,
23 Los Angeles passed this ordinance and they
24 had a 65 percent reduction in their animals
25 brought into their local shelter.

1 Right now in America an animal is
2 euthanized every eight seconds and the more
3 that are born the more are dying, and the
4 only way to make a change is to start
5 locally.

6 To have a spay and neuter ordinance
7 it would prevent unwanted, unhealthy and
8 also accidental litters. Most people who
9 breed are considered backyard breeders, it's
10 what we call them in the rescue world. Most
11 of them are in it for the money and they
12 pump out genetically polluted and unhealthy
13 bloodlines. They have been known to mate
14 brothers and sisters so then they could put
15 the term purebred on it, which leads to
16 serious health issues.

17 Lets see here. What I would like to
18 see happen is to have the spay and neuter
19 ordinance passed which would require any and
20 all pet owners to have their pets fixed by
21 six to eight months of age. Right now also
22 currently in Scranton there is no law
23 regarding cat licenses. We do have to have
24 our dogs licensed, which along with that I
25 think should require a spay and neuter, and

1 I also think it's very important to have a
2 cat license as well which would also go
3 along with the spay and neuter.

4 In every part of the city, West
5 Side, the Hill Section, South Side there are
6 many stray cats. Stray cats are a serious
7 problem in our city, and if you were able to
8 pass this ordinance it would stop accidental
9 litters because I personally believe that a
10 large percentage -- well, specifically cats,
11 are simply repopulating due to lack of
12 education. There is not enough outreach
13 programs or education out there regarding
14 spaying and neutering, so people just remain
15 uneducated and the problem just keeps
16 getting worse.

17 There is a trap, neuter and release
18 program. It's run by Nancy Reese. She runs
19 NEPA Animal Adoption Network, however, she
20 receives no funding. She basically spays
21 and neuters these cats out of her own
22 pocket. It would be great if she could
23 receive some help with the stray cat problem
24 because, like I said, she goes out there on
25 her own, she traps them, brings them to a

1 low cost clinic and does it all on our own
2 and I couldn't give her more credit, I
3 really can't.

4 One unspayed female dog can produce
5 67,000 puppies within seven years. Three
6 unspayed female cats can produce 1 million
7 kittens within six years, and that's only
8 from one dog 67,000 puppies. When you know
9 the fact that every litter born is a litter
10 euthanized because of the overpopulation
11 issue in America, that means that 67,000
12 lives lost in a shelter because of one dog.

13 The other issue is most of the
14 people, like I said, we call backyard
15 breeders are uneducated, not experienced,
16 they don't know what they are doing and,
17 like I said, they just pump out these
18 unhealthy litters which lead to more strays,
19 more, you know, animal control needs to take
20 in more animals because irresponsible people
21 end up with them and when they realize they
22 can't handle them they open the door and let
23 them out.

24 So basically I just would really
25 like to receive something done about pet

1 overpopulation. It's a really serious
2 problem and, like I said, the only way to
3 start is locally, and I think it would be a
4 really great thing for the city. What would
5 happen is if someone was caught with an
6 unaltered pet they would receive a fine.
7 You know, if they were caught again perhaps
8 double the fine. Something along those
9 lines. I'm not exactly sure how that would
10 go, however, I could do a lot of research
11 and figure out what exactly we could do with
12 that. But, as I said, Los Angeles had
13 passed it so perhaps we can look into how
14 they went about doing it.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. HAWLEY: So I guess that's
17 really all I had.

18 MS. EVANS: Do we have a contact
19 number for you.

20 MS. HAWLEY: I left one for you this
21 morning, yes, actually.

22 MS. EVANS: Very good. And I think
23 we will try to schedule a brief public
24 caucus to discuss the issues and any other
25 information that you can compile would be

1 much appreciated.

2 MS. HAWLEY: Absolutely.

3 MS. EVANS: And we will hold a
4 discussion at that time and hopefully this
5 information can all be submitted to our
6 solicitor and each member of council and
7 then we hope we will be able to move forward
8 to something that would be very, very
9 helpful for our animal population.

10 MS. HAWLEY: For our furry friends.

11 MS. EVANS: Yes. Yes.

12 MS. HAWLEY: Great. Well, thank you
13 so much for your time, I really appreciate
14 it.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.

16 MR. JOYCE: And, by the way, are you
17 aware of any other cities besides Los
18 Angeles that have this ordinance?

19 MS. HAWLEY: I know there are a few.
20 I am not sure offhand though, that's
21 something I can definitely research and,
22 like Mrs. Evans said, submit to you guys.

23 MR. JOYCE: That would be great.

24 MS. HAWLEY: Yes. Absolutely. I
25 would be happy to. Thank you very much.

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

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
4 South Scranton resident and member of the
5 Taxpayers' Association. It was an honor to
6 see the Doom featured in a Times-Tribune
7 cartoon on Sunday 2 October 2011 with the
8 supermajority. The Times-Tribune and the
9 editorial staff writer are finally starting
10 to show some class, although they still have
11 no professionalism.

12 I must remind the Times-Tribune that
13 they are the ones that gave us the name
14 "Legion of Doom." It came from Chris Kelly
15 and they for some reason they seem to forget
16 that, that they are the -- they are actually
17 the original founders of the Legion of Doom,
18 all I did was make it a reality.

19 Okay, we now find the City of
20 Scranton in a position where the mayor and
21 business administrator are saying that the
22 administration will not be able to pay the
23 bills and salaries of the city employees. I
24 must ask why. Taxes were raised 26 percent
25 by the Doherty three, Fanucci, Gatelli and

1 McGoff three years ago. Mayor Doherty
2 vetoed Council's 2011 budget and Councilman
3 McGoff agreed with the mayor's veto and cast
4 his "no" vote on 28 December 2010. He voted
5 not to override the mayor's veto.

6 With his "no" vote, Mr. McGoff also
7 supported the mayor's budget which called
8 for layoffs and reduction in manning for the
9 police department and fire department. Mr.
10 McGoff stated, "It was outside of the realm
11 of council's authority to introduce minimum
12 manning for the police and firefighters."

13 A clear statement and vote to reduce
14 public safety employees, close fire
15 stations, increase response times and remove
16 fire apparatus from the streets of Scranton.

17 Now Mr. McGoff stated that council
18 supermajority members do not appear to have
19 solutions, "Other than the couple of vague
20 references with the Sewer Authority."

21 Mr. McGoff, your solution to raise
22 taxes by 26 percent, has it worked? Your
23 solution to layoff police officers and
24 firefighters, has that worked? Your
25 solution to add on 26 fines and penalties

1 for delinquent taxpayers, did that work?
2 Your solution to block StreetSmart, has it
3 worked?

4 Mr. McGoff, you were city council
5 president for two years. When you had the
6 majority, can you tell the citizens of
7 Scranton what solutions the Doherty three
8 have you voted for every -- what solution
9 did the Doherty three have? You voted for
10 every one of the Honorable Mayor Doherty's
11 programs and legislation, that is why the
12 City of Scranton is distressed and has been
13 distressed for 20 years.

14 Talking about the City of Scranton
15 remains distressed you also voted to approve
16 the Honorable Mayor Doherty's past budgets,
17 although, if you had done your research like
18 Mrs. Evans and Mr. Courtright and citizen
19 speakers you would have realized that the
20 budget were not balanced and borrowed money
21 was being used to pay the bills. But then
22 again, you were too busy ruling speakers out
23 of order.

24 The solution is not to borrow more
25 money, it is to spend less money and

1 generate more revenue. I still have not
2 seen the mayor at a council meeting or in
3 public, the last time I seen him he was on
4 81 south heading out of town. Maybe he was
5 going to Harrisburg to find a job.

6 Mr. McGoff, if you have no solutions
7 yourself do not criticize your colleagues.
8 Remember, Mr. McGoff, on 14 December 2010,
9 you voted in favor of the city council's
10 amended budget, two weeks later you changed
11 your mind. Was that your solution?

12 Badmouthing your colleagues will not
13 solve Scranton's problems. Listening to
14 speakers and taking suggestions would be a
15 much better approach. Mr. McGoff questioned
16 whether Mrs. Krake was acting on her own
17 accord or on the authority of council,
18 noting there should be repercussions if Mrs.
19 Krake's actions caused city harm such as
20 costing the city money. Mr. McGoff, may I
21 remind you that you are a current member of
22 city council?

23 Furthermore, does your statement
24 also reflect your opinion on the
25 administration cabinet members and past city

1 council members who have cost the city
2 taxpayers' money. "These are budgeted items
3 and these are items that have been
4 approved."

5 "It's already gone through the
6 approval process, and the city clerk is not
7 a part of the approval process."

8 Mr. McGoff, the Honorable Mayor and
9 business administrator have already stated
10 publically that the city will not be able to
11 pay city employees because the city is
12 broke, so what is the big issue, the
13 contracts are worthless if you have no money
14 to pay the contractors.

15 Mr. McGoff, have your friends in the
16 administration, including the Honorable
17 Mayor Doherty, furnished all of the
18 information to Rossi & Rossi so that the
19 audit can be completed ASAP?

20 Lastly, Mr. McGoff, have you been
21 acting on your own accord or the direction
22 of the Honorable Mayor Doherty? In my
23 opinion your voting record reflects the
24 direction of the Honorable Mayor Doherty.
25 Unemployment, 9.8 percent, highest in the

1 state again. City audit status being
2 stalled again. Repercussions must be
3 administered according to Mr. McGoff. So,
4 Mr. McGoff, I hope you initiate
5 repercussions tonight on all of your friends
6 in Doherty's cabinet for holding up the
7 audit and sending down unbalanced budgets
8 which you and your friends, Gatelli and
9 Fanucci, voted for for four years in a row.

10 Roseann Novembrino should suffer
11 repercussions and also be invited to attend
12 a city council meeting to explain many
13 things.

14 Congratulations to Mrs. Krake for
15 standing her ground. You are were correct,
16 you do in the attest to another person's
17 signature unless you are present when that
18 person signs it.

19 And as far as the Wall That heals
20 that's going to be in Scranton and up at Nay
21 Aug Park, if you have any -- citizens, if
22 you have any information or if you would
23 like -- I correct that. If you want any
24 information all you have to do is give them
25 a town, like, let's say Dickson City,

1 Greenridge -- or not Greenridge, Greenwood
2 or whatever, and they will pull up any
3 soldiers who were killed in Vietnam from
4 that town and it will also give you the
5 dates that they were killed and everything,
6 so it's valuable information to know. Like,
7 if you want to know something about Olyphant
8 or anywhere it will give you an exact and
9 immediate answer as to what soldiers were
10 killed during the Vietnam War or conflict,
11 whichever you prefer to call it, and this is
12 good information to know and I hope people
13 go up to the Wall and see it.

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

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
17 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians --

18 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

19 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: I come before you at
21 a bad time. The city is in deep trouble, we
22 all know that, but we have been saying that
23 for quite a few years. It's not that this
24 is something new. When the mayor would sell
25 the DPW site to one of the other authorities

1 saying they needed that \$5 million deficit
2 that went way back and now it has grown from
3 5 million to was it 8.2 or something like
4 that million, and the solution is to sell
5 assets. That's not really a great solution
6 because that's very narrow.

7 We probably will have to borrow. I
8 don't see how we can get out of it. I hate
9 to do it, everybody in Scranton should hate
10 to do it because when you borrow if you
11 borrow the 8.2 million or whatever we're
12 short, we don't pay back 8.2 million, we
13 usually pay back double, which would be
14 about 16 million or maybe up to 20 million
15 today when it's finally paid off and we
16 don't have the money for that either, so
17 we're in a quagmire.

18 I don't like to see anybody thinking
19 about bankruptcy, I don't like even thinking
20 about it myself because it's really not a
21 solution. The state would come in, probably
22 take over the administration of the city or
23 so forth or appoint somebody to do it, and
24 we would still be in the same boat. We are
25 not going to get out of it and we are the

1 not going to get out of taking the money
2 from the people in the city saying we are
3 going to have payless paydays and what good
4 does that do?

5 You realize that if we do that the
6 mercantile tax will fall, okay? Everyone
7 else will fall because that money generates
8 other money and if the accountants can sit
9 there and say \$1 generates \$5 and it goes
10 around in a circle. How much do we stand to
11 lose if we have payless paydays?

12 But that's not the real, real reason
13 for fighting the payless paydays, it's what
14 it does to the people, to people that have
15 to pay their mortgage, to people who have to
16 buy food, people who is doing something with
17 their children, all of that it effects.
18 That's a narrow way to look at anything.

19 I would have been down here before
20 you, but the problem with the city is the
21 mayor gets his information from the
22 newspaper, instead of turning the TV on and
23 looking at what's happening at council.
24 Look at what the people are saying. We have
25 been saying these things not this year or

1 last year or the year before or the year
2 before, we have been saying them for close
3 to 20 years now. You cannot do what you are
4 doing.

5 I told you the Parking Authority is
6 actually bankrupt, the SRA is bankrupt, I
7 don't know what our library commission is
8 doing, and that's a joke. That should have
9 never happened in the last days of the
10 administration. How quick they pushed that
11 through. That was a great injustice to the
12 city. It just too bad people didn't have
13 enough brains to look at he did these things
14 and what how it would effect the city, but
15 they don't do that.

16 People vote with their name instead
17 of their brain. They vote with their party
18 instead of their brain. That's why we are
19 where we are. You got to look at the
20 candidate personally, see what he has done
21 and look at his record and try to correct
22 when you vote because that's the only way
23 you are going to do anything. The voting
24 process in the City of Scranton is very
25 narrow minded, as you know, if you are not a

1 Democrat you probably wouldn't sit up
2 anywhere. Okay, we know that, but the
3 majority of people in the Scranton are
4 Democrats but they should look at the
5 candidate no matter what party is running
6 into. No matter what he runs as,
7 independent, republican, democrat or
8 whatever. You should look at that man and
9 try to get as much information as you can
10 out of them on this man or what we see now
11 is going to continue right down the pike
12 even if we are forced to borrow it's not a
13 solution, it's temporary, and that's all it
14 will ever be.

15 We got to find -- even generating
16 more money -- taxes are oppressive. Whether
17 you believe it or not they are oppressive.
18 We all know they are oppressive and try to
19 alleviate the depression you have to do to
20 the people. Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Doug Miller.

22 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
23 Doug Miller, Scranton.

24 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

25 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

1 MR. MILLER: I would like to begin
2 tonight by continuing the ongoing discussion
3 we have been having here regarding the
4 city's finances, and just to recap it for
5 anyone who hasn't been paying attention, if
6 that's possible, we know that the city faces
7 an alleged \$8.5 million deficit at the end
8 of the year and, unfortunately, at this time
9 the mayor has failed to take responsibility
10 for any of our current financial problems.

11 He now wants the residents to
12 believe this is now council's fault. The
13 mayor, and his business administrator, Ryan
14 McGowan, blame council's amended 2011
15 budget, and just as a side note, those
16 amendments made up roughly say 3 percent of
17 the budget. The mayor has continued to
18 blame council for not providing revenue
19 enhancements and I find that to be something
20 else because I can recall quite a few.

21 He and Mr. McGowan have also made a
22 claim that council reduced taxes by 3
23 million. Once again, the mayor and his
24 business administrator have misled the
25 public. If they were to check their facts,

1 they would find that council reduced taxes
2 by only 1.7 million, and in a September 22
3 Scranton Times editorial, the editors
4 ridiculously accused Mrs. Evans and the
5 council majority for being incompetent.

6 Well, individuals like our honorable
7 mayor and Mr. McGowan, who can't gather the
8 correct facts and mislead people, certainly
9 couldn't be anymore incompetent.

10 One other example of the
11 incompetence in city hall is Mr. McGowan's
12 claim that we will lose \$1 million in wage
13 tax collection because council reduced the
14 wage tax. Well, what makes this comment so
15 nonsensical is the fact that council never
16 touched the wage tax. I don't know when or
17 even if Mr. McGowan does his homework, but I
18 find this to be quite appalling and a
19 desperate move by the administration that at
20 this point is just grasping at straws and
21 that seems to be what desperate people tend
22 to do.

23 Due to the mayor's failure to follow
24 through on a budget that would have kept us
25 above water, we are now put in a very tough

1 spot and so we ask ourselves what do we do?
2 What's the solution? Well, I know what
3 council's solution was, it was in the 2011
4 budget, but unfortunately, it was ignored.

5 Now we turn and we ask ourselves
6 what's the mayor's solution? Well, he wants
7 to borrow more money again, this time \$4
8 million, and anyone with even a little
9 common sense knows that you can't borrow
10 your way out of debt, especially when you
11 are buried in it. He also yet again wants
12 to sell off city assets, now it's our
13 parking meters. He wants to sell them off
14 to the Scranton Parking Authority. The plan
15 calls for the Parking Authority to borrow
16 roughly 12 to 14 million using \$6 million to
17 purchase the meters and in addition \$2.9
18 million to pay off a loan to Landmark Bank.
19 But what we can't seem to figure out around
20 here is what the Parking Authority plans on
21 using the remaining 12 to 14 million. And
22 keep in mind, this is an authority that's
23 already currently over \$43 million in debt.

24 We still haven't received a response
25 from the Parking Authority and council

1 requested that information as to what they
2 plan on doing with the remaining money and
3 you know, Mrs. Evans, I believe you summed
4 it up quite perfectly last week when saying
5 that we can no longer continue giving these
6 authorities as well the mayor blank checks.

7 The Parking Authority must be held
8 accountable and I am hopeful that they will
9 adhere to council's request and provide you
10 with the breakdown that you requested. You
11 know, I just truly believe that the games
12 around here have to stop and we need more
13 cooperation. If everyone truly is concerned
14 about solving our financial problems then
15 they would be willing to adhere to your
16 request.

17 And in regards to the 2010 audit, I
18 share Council's feeling on this issues. It
19 truly doesn't make any sense to me how we
20 could possibly make any decisions going
21 forward without having a firm understanding
22 of where we truly are financially, and I
23 don't expect -- I don't understand how the
24 administration expects council to move ahead
25 without that information and I think this

1 goes back yet again to holding the mayor
2 accountable and demanding that this audit be
3 completed.

4 And finally tonight, I wanted to
5 commend Mrs. Evans for requesting that the
6 mayor attends a council meeting here to lay
7 out his proposal publically, not behind
8 closed door. And after all, let's not
9 forget that nine years ago this is the same
10 man that pledged to be the sixth councilman
11 and to this day he has yet to live up to his
12 word.

13 In a recent TV interview, the mayor
14 talked about living in the big boy world.
15 Well, if I may, I want to help the mayor
16 become a big boy and play with the big boys
17 and girls here. Mr. Mayor, you promised to
18 come to the big boy and girl meetings and
19 now it's time.

20 If I may, Mrs. Evans? (Mr. Miller
21 takes a chair and moves it up by the dais.)
22 Your chair is here and I'm sure the big boys
23 and girls here will have no problem showing
24 you how to big a sixth councilman in the big
25 boy world. I have now given you the

1 opportunity, Mr. Mayor, to come and live up
2 to your word. Let's see how true you are to
3 your word and I hope to see you next week.
4 Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ozzie Quinn.

6 MR. QUINN: Good evening, Ozzie
7 Quinn, a disgruntled taxpayer. First, I
8 want to say kudos, Mrs. Krake, for what you
9 did, you know, no matter what they say about
10 it's been going on for years that doesn't
11 make it right and you are to be commended
12 for that, okay, for doing what is right
13 within the legal sense of the word.

14 I do want to say that the audit, the
15 2009 audit that you are working on now, you
16 don't have the 2010 audit, it showed a
17 long-term debt, now, get this, \$303,469,587.
18 Can you believe that? Pat, I think you were
19 in grade school when the mayor started that.

20 MR. ROGAN: I actually was.

21 MR. QUINN: You were. Yes, the
22 Parking Authority, you know, they extend out
23 to 2039 and not knowing what they did in
24 2010 I think they went up to like 23
25 million, but the fact is that they were

1 service. It's like everything else. You
2 want to put StreetSmart out and he wants to
3 sell these meters to the Parking Authority,
4 ladies and gentlemen, that's taking the
5 taxpayers' money in this hand, putting it in
6 this pocket, take it back out, and putting
7 it in this hand and putting it in this
8 pocket because the taxpayers are responsible
9 through the good faith of the city for any
10 debt that the Parking Authority may squander
11 or the Scranton Redevelopment may squander,
12 and you saw last year with the Redevelopment
13 Authority when the loan was called in for
14 \$1.9 million?

15 MS. EVANS: 1.5.

16 MR. QUINN: You know, whatever it
17 was, you know, but they just cannot do it
18 and it's just -- as someone said to me, it's
19 ludicrous. It sure is ludicrous. The only
20 way out of this here, you can't continue to
21 borrow, you know, and I feel sorry for the
22 employees, and that always comes down to it
23 that intimidation, you are going lose,
24 you're going to not get paid and all this
25 stuff, okay?

1 Today I read in the paper the guy
2 found \$1.4. Wow. I mean, they are working
3 up there and all of sudden they find \$1.4
4 million, now it's not an \$8.2 million
5 deficit it's \$6.8 million deficit. I don't
6 think they know what's going on up there, I
7 really don't, and I think the 2010 audit
8 will show that.

9 And did you ever get a count on the
10 citizens that live in the City of Scranton
11 now, population count?

12 MS. EVANS: We did receive from a
13 state office a copy of the 2010 census, I
14 believe that's what you are referring to?

15 MR. QUINN: Yeah.

16 MS. EVANS: However, we have
17 requested from the governor of Pennsylvania
18 official certification of that count.

19 MR. QUINN: Good. Because I believe
20 that as another citizen in Pennsylvania, the
21 only way to go is with a commuter tax, and
22 these people that are coming into Scranton,
23 and I'm sure, I have talked to many who have
24 paid their fair share, to come in here to
25 have the fire protection, if I was going up

1 from the first floor to the second floor I
2 would want to make sure there is fire
3 protection here, and the only way they are
4 going to have it is by having the commuter
5 taxes and that. We have to go to a third
6 class city.

7 Now, the police the same thing, they
8 come in, they go to work in the winter, the
9 roads are plowed. What happens if they have
10 to go to a hospital and if they have to go
11 to -- you know where they'll wind up, going
12 up the stair. Now, if they realize what it
13 is, and the City of Scranton being the
14 county seat with the hundreds of people
15 going in there every day and doing business,
16 you know, I can't see no other way that we
17 can really do raise revenue without a
18 commuter tax.

19 Borrowing is not the answer, okay.
20 You are right on point when you are saying
21 that the taxation coming outside of the
22 city. You know, other cities have done it,
23 they stood up and Pennsylvania and all
24 through the county have done it, okay? They
25 blew off Mr. Loscombe's creative idea of

1 financing and now they want to sell the
2 meters. Now, I can't figure that out, you
3 know what that's like the old Abbot and
4 Costello, who is on first you know? Every
5 day you pick up the paper you don't know
6 what the heck this is guy is doing. Maybe
7 next thing he wants to privatize is Nay Aug
8 Park, I don't know, that could be, you know.

9 But I really think that we have to
10 do a commuter tax. We definitely have to do
11 it, don't let nobody stop you, you know, get
12 out there and I'm sure that the people out
13 there will appreciate what they are getting
14 from the fire department, the police
15 department, from the hospitals, from the DPW
16 and what have you and they will pay the fair
17 share. Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.

19 MR. HUGHES: If I could just correct
20 Mr. Quinn on one thing. Oz, the loan that
21 the Scranton Parking Authority received for
22 \$2.9 million from Landmark Bank was a
23 general obligation of that authority, it was
24 not -- it has not been approved by council
25 so there is no guarantee of the city's

1 taxing ability or power on that note from
2 the Parking Authority to Landmark Bank.
3 What they are trying to do in this
4 legislation is to make that part of the \$14
5 million so it will be guaranteed --

6 MR. QUINN: I see.

7 MR. HUGHES: -- by the City of
8 Scranton and Landmark Bank will be paid
9 back. That was -- in my opinion that was a
10 bridge loan by the Parking Authority to be
11 paid off on this bond issue which would then
12 be guaranteed by the City of Scranton, but
13 that loan right now is not guaranteed by the
14 City of Scranton.

15 MR. QUINN: That's an end run.

16 MR. HUGHES: An end run, a bridge
17 loan, it was done in anticipation of this
18 financing which would then turn an unsecured
19 obligation of the Parking Authority into a
20 secured obligation guaranteed by the full
21 faith and taxing power of the City of
22 Scranton on the new bond issue.

23 MR. QUINN: Now, that's -- the
24 authorities, the parking and the
25 redevelopment, is different from the Sewer

1 Authority.

2 MR. HUGHES: All three independent
3 authorities; correct.

4 MR. QUINN: All three independent,
5 but when the SRA were closed out when I was
6 the chairman, all of the remaining funds and
7 everything had to be paid off, all the debts
8 had to be paid off by the city we had, but
9 all of the money then was returned to the
10 city coffers to close it out, and it was
11 closed out and then Mr. Doherty when he come
12 in he put it back in so he could use them as
13 a front for other businesses and like put
14 the lights up at Nay Aug and stuff like
15 that, you know?

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. James
17 McGurl.

18 MR. MCGURL: Good evening. I'm kind
19 of here to reiterate some of the statements
20 that Kathleen made earlier about the animal
21 overpopulation in our area. We live to
22 rescue, as she said. She is a board member
23 of Sweet Park Pit Bull Rescue, I am a
24 volunteer, I suppose you'd call it, and I
25 see firsthand every single day literally, I

1 mean, I could say I probably find a stray
2 dog every day in Scranton, especially in the
3 Hill Section where I'm living right now.

4 You know, it's getting pretty bad.
5 I mean animals, dogs especially, you know,
6 they are a gift, you know what I mean? They
7 are very comforting and if you've ever owned
8 one they're beautiful creatures and they
9 have been with humans for thousands of
10 years, now since we have domesticated them I
11 it's like 15,000 some years ago, so we kind
12 of owe it to them to save them, you know
13 what I mean?

14 At this point there is so many
15 dying, and there is so many starving and
16 there is so many lost. I mean, you know, we
17 have the statistics, but there are still
18 some out there that haven't been found, you
19 know, there are still some out there that
20 starve, eyes haven't even touched them.

21 And, you know, what she was saying
22 earlier about the spay and neuter ordinance
23 it would supremely help the city in a lot of
24 ways. One, for example, is that a lot of
25 the backyard breeding that happens in low

1 income areas like the projects, and nothing
2 against that at all, but, you know, I
3 noticed that a lot of the backyard breeders
4 also happen to be drug dealers. They do it
5 for money, and Pit Bulls have become the
6 claimed dog for, you know, for backyard
7 breeding almost and, you know, that needs to
8 stop, and if we pass that ordinance, you
9 know, that, you know, let's say landlords if
10 somebody moves in and they allow pets and
11 they say, "Well, is your animal fixed, if
12 not it needs to be fixed, you know,
13 according to the ordinance."

14 And this would be -- you know, we
15 would be able to clean the streets up with
16 not just the animals, but you would also see
17 what kind of people are out there in the
18 city doing what they are doing with these
19 animals. It's just not over population it's
20 abuse, it's cruelty, it's just lack of
21 education. People don't understand and
22 people don't respect enough, you know, not
23 saying you guys, but it's just -- it's not a
24 thought. You know, if you have a dog at
25 home and you have a good relationship with

1 your dog then that's what you think of a
2 dog, but you know, if you don't go passed
3 that Sara McLaughlin commercial or if you
4 don't go past the commercials that you see
5 on TV and if you don't research it yourself
6 you will never know and your eyes will never
7 be opened to it and it's a very sad thing.

8 So, basically, you know, Kathleen
9 and I we are going to do our best to compile
10 as much information as possible as she said,
11 you know, earlier there is many other cities
12 who have passed that ordinance and it's
13 profitable also, you know, for the city from
14 fines and all of that, but it's also
15 profitable for the animals that we hold very
16 dear to our hearts and, you know, like I
17 said earlier, we have been connected to
18 these animals since ancient times and, you
19 know, we owe it to them to save them and,
20 you know, like she said, we need to start
21 locally in order for it to make an impact
22 nationally at all. So, you know, that's all
23 I have to say. Like I said, I just want to
24 reiterate and make sure you guys understand
25 that it's very serious problem that we deal

1 with on a 24 -- you though, 24 hour basis
2 and we really appreciate some, you know,
3 steps and some action made in that
4 direction, so thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

6 MR. ELLMAN: Council.

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

9 MR. ELLMAN: You ever button your
10 shirt wrong, and I buttoned my shirt wrong
11 tonight and I saw that button down there and
12 I thought it was a spare one until Ms. Rosie
13 said, "You have your shirt buttoned wrong,"
14 and I said, "No, I don't." She didn't say
15 no more. Finally, I looked in the mirror
16 and it did look sort of funny.

17 Mr. McGoff, I read your letter in
18 the paper, very appropriate, very good
19 letter. I guess it's a step forward. I'm
20 not sure if it was the same day I saw a
21 letter by some fellow named Chris Tigue, I
22 think, attacking council and all of these
23 people that talk. I suggest he come down
24 here like a man and talk like everyone else
25 instead of some little wimp hiding behind

1 the newspaper.

2 Mr. Rogan, I read you finally got
3 the mayor to acknowledge there is a council.
4 That must have been an achievement.

5 MR. ROGAN: For the second time --
6 second or third time I spoke to the mayor
7 since being on council.

8 MR. ELLMAN: You know, watching
9 council and reading about it every week is
10 like watching and reading about the Jews and
11 the Arabs fighting, of course, that fight
12 has been going on longer, but they are
13 dealing with an entity that has no honor or
14 discipline, they keep making concessions and
15 getting no where. I'm asking council not to
16 give Doherty any concessions whatsoever.
17 His popularity in town is probably worse
18 than Obama's. I think the worst thing that
19 he did was choose the clerical part of the
20 city over the fire and police because people
21 are just unforgiving about that.

22 And I would like to say something
23 about the prison board, not the board, the
24 prison. I stood right here a couple of
25 times and I told you that place is just so

1 misrun it's inconceivable what goes on down
2 there if you talk to people that are in
3 there like, I have. Now we have got another
4 failure running the place, \$85,000 salary, I
5 think they went up a dozen, \$14,000 and this
6 is what we end up with. He cannot blame the
7 guards, he is to blame. You talk to the
8 people in there the guards are doing the
9 best job they can. You talk to an inmate
10 like I have, my son was in there for this
11 traffic ticket, this man he cannot
12 investigate himself, you know, there is no
13 true introspection. I can look in the
14 mirror and say, "Boy, you look good today,"
15 but that's -- there is -- he cannot
16 investigate himself.

17 You know, they need an outside
18 source to come in here and clean up that
19 place. They cannot even keep up with a pair
20 of shoes. It's know wonder that a murderer
21 got out. That prison -- not long ago I saw
22 in the paper where they were taking bids or
23 something for the kitchen to bring in food.
24 They got a kitchen there, why are we still
25 having food brought in from outside? That

1 doesn't make a bit of sense. Of course, you
2 think of all of the kickbacks everybody gets
3 along the way like the coal and everything
4 else that's involved with this place.

5 I bet you wonder sometimes how I
6 don't get punched in the nose when I leave
7 here, don't you? You know, years ago
8 everybody was pleasant to me, now I just got
9 all kind of enemies that fight with me like
10 that lady stuck that notes all over me. You
11 know, I'm not mad at the mayor, the
12 commissioners or the warden, especially the
13 commissioners, it's like superstar said a
14 couple of weeks ago, anybody give you all
15 that beer for nothing got my vote, so I just
16 wish they would do a better job. I just
17 don't think lot of people are up to their
18 potential in this city.

19 And I got one thing and I'll go sit
20 down. The parking on the sidewalks where I
21 walk Slugo at night, it's gotten worse
22 instead of better. I just -- it just
23 everybody is parking on the sidewalk in my
24 neighborhood. There is people all over
25 North Main Avenue that got driveways and

1 garages and they park on the sidewalk. It
2 doesn't make sense, on the 2,500 block you
3 can park in the street and there is old
4 houses full of people they are on the
5 sidewalk, all four wheels on the sidewalk
6 where you have to walk in the street.

7 But, like I have said, in the
8 morning at the corner of Main there is a
9 school bus stopped for the preschoolers and
10 these little kids are walking on North Main
11 Avenue because of illegal cars morning after
12 morning. I wish that, you know, there is a
13 good law on the book you can't park in the
14 sidewalk. I wish you would have somebody
15 enforce it or put some signs up or
16 something. It's something -- one of these
17 kids are going to get hit sooner or later
18 because they are all -- they are too small
19 to have, you know, good sense about walking
20 in the street around cars, I have watched
21 them sometimes. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Our next
23 speaker, whose name appears on the list, I'm
24 having difficulty deciphering the
25 handwriting.

1 MR. DOBRZYN: I should have been a
2 doctor. Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton
3 and taxpayer. Last week I spoke about the
4 Scranton Times and the articles, I have
5 several issues here, so that proves that I
6 am not only critiquing the Times, I'm a
7 reader and I pay for it, and I would invite
8 anybody in here to come up with one passage,
9 there is probably a half after dozen in
10 here, maybe seven, of one passage where it
11 states that this budget deficit has compiled
12 since the end of 2008, which is the honest
13 truth, and it constantly in one article a
14 very famous mayor said that he'll help
15 council straighten out their problems, like
16 it's nice that he wants to be so helpful.

17 Now, on this borrowing \$14 million
18 by the Parking Authority, where does
19 somebody think that I'm going to be fooled
20 in -- we are liable for the debt anyway.
21 I'd just as soon somebody I trust. If you
22 really had to I'd just as soon have you
23 people borrow it and baloney on the Parking
24 Authority and their spending habits. Why
25 that? Another -- that's only adding 14 or

1 another \$8 million, 7 or 8 million to the --
2 to the 6 million that they are going to be
3 in debt for with the meters, so I'm strictly
4 against that.

5 And I had an idea on this, it seems
6 like people I talk to are afraid that if the
7 mayor comes here is going to come with a
8 lynch mob and I think our Sunday cartoon
9 indicated that, we were all ready with the
10 dunk pond, and what I propose, and it's only
11 food for thought, I'm not elected by
12 anybody, is a private taped meeting with
13 council and the mayor attended by the press
14 reporting word for word of ECTV tapes and
15 transcripts of all statements on the entire
16 conference ensuring no "he said/they said."

17 They would have to -- the press
18 would have to agree to print word for word
19 the tapes off of ECTV so whatever you said
20 at that meeting would be what they would
21 have to print, so I don't know if you could
22 bind them to that. It's a possible
23 solution. Maybe it's silly -- a silly idea,
24 I don't know. It's up to you, the people.

25 And on this pets thing, I also would

1 support that. The only penalty you have for
2 an unneutered pet in this town is one dollar
3 extra on the license fee because I buy a
4 license for my pooch every year and I pay a
5 dollar less because he is neutered.

6 And one other interesting thing, I
7 learned this week one of my neighbors went
8 on a vacation and apparently the Hilton is
9 running a car rental out of the Parking
10 Authority that we built for them, giving
11 them like I think Andy stated three-quarters
12 of a -- or \$275,000 a year in free parking
13 space and you can go down there and rent a
14 car out of that garage, so that's up to you
15 to investigate.

16 And let's see what else I have. On
17 privatize, I would say be careful. Once
18 again I'll cite the Indiana Turnpike. Now,
19 Indiana sold their turnpike to a bunch of
20 Arab sheiks and if they build anything to
21 compete with the turnpike, any innovative
22 say, like, high speed rail, light rail, they
23 cannot or if they have to compensate the
24 sheiks for their money. If there is a flood
25 and part of the turnpike is destroyed they

1 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, city
2 council. My name is Dave Gervasi --

3 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

4 MR. GERVASI: -- firefighter in the
5 City of Scranton, a few issues and a couple
6 of observations. What I'd like to put to
7 rest tonight for everyone watching in
8 tonight is the lie, bold face lie that
9 council is to blame for the budget deficit.
10 I'd like to ask some questions to prove that
11 what I'm saying is true and, Mr. McGoff
12 first. Mr. McGoff, were you aware when the
13 mayor put down his initial budget for this
14 year that there was nearly \$11 million of
15 unpaid bills from the prior year?

16 MR. MCGOFF: I was not.

17 MR. GERVASI: You were not. Mrs.
18 Evans, were you aware that there were unpaid
19 bills from the prior year?

20 MS. EVANS: No, I was not. The
21 budget that was presented to us on November
22 15 was presented simply as a balanced
23 budget, deceptively so.

24 MR. GERVASI: So he lied and he said
25 his budget was balanced and you guys made a

1 mistake cutting taxes by 1 percent of the
2 budget or whatever it was.

3 MS. EVANS: That's correct.

4 MR. GERVASI: So how is the
5 newspaper every week, usually every other
6 day in editorials, continuing to say that
7 the mayor is right and council is the reason
8 for the deficit this year? It's false.
9 It's completely false, so I think everyone
10 needs to put this rest and maybe if the
11 newspaper took ten minutes to read the
12 actual sheets that say the mayor never said
13 anything that he put on his budget, never
14 told council that you were amending his
15 budget that all of those millions of dollars
16 unpaid for the year before then I think any
17 reasonable, rationale, sensible person would
18 come to the conclusion that the mayor lied
19 and he is the reason why there is a deficit
20 this year. So please let's put that to
21 rest.

22 The other thing that the newspaper
23 and some people, like, I mean, honest to God
24 good people are starting to believe is
25 because the newspaper and the mayor and the

1 administration are starting to frame this
2 issue that there is gridlock, there is
3 conflict, that council -- nothing is
4 happening in the city because council is
5 blocking efforts by the mayor to keep the
6 city moving forward, may I suggest that
7 prior councils before this council, prior
8 councils, where the mayor held the majority
9 and where Mr. McGoff was the president they
10 walked in lockstep with the mayor as he was
11 burying us to date to \$3 million in debt.
12 They are walking in lockstep and allowing it
13 to happen year after year, never questioning
14 a thing.

15 Now, we have conflict and gridlock
16 and what this council is doing is they are
17 either stopping or at least slowing down our
18 race to the bottom, our race to bankruptcy,
19 so may I suggest to the people that this
20 conflict, this framing that the newspaper is
21 doing is good conflict, it's really good
22 conflict. Maybe we are slowing down the
23 pace of going to bankruptcy.

24 I had an opportunity this week to go
25 to my second PEL meeting on Monday, actually

1 it was yesterday, and I sat in on one
2 before. I want everyone to know, and I said
3 this right to the executive director of PEL,
4 that talking to him, listening to him trying
5 to answer a question that we have is like
6 drowning. You can't even breathe when you
7 listen to these people. It's unbelievable.
8 I made a few points at the meeting and I
9 asked the question, how can you possibly
10 craft a new Recovery Plan using financial
11 numbers that the city gives, that are
12 generally always false and deceptive? How
13 could the mayor and the business
14 administrator craft a new budget this year
15 when the independent audit isn't done and
16 it's been done for year after year after
17 year in my opinion deliberately because any
18 appropriate way to craft a budget before you
19 move on somewhere it's nice to know where
20 you have been when you know what you
21 actually spent you have a better idea of
22 what you should budget for next year,
23 knowing what exactly you spent.

24 So year after year against the Home
25 Rule Charter, against the law, because after

1 May 31, the mayor is violating the law not
2 having a Home Rule Charter -- I'm sorry,
3 having the independent audit out in time.
4 His people are deliberately blocking our
5 auditors from giving that up before you guys
6 get to craft a budget or he gets to craft a
7 budget. And at the meeting I said, "Is
8 there anything PEL could do to stop the
9 mayor from doing this?"

10 And after not be able to breathe for
11 five minutes during the answer because they
12 just keep talking around in circles, the
13 answer was, no, there is nothing they could
14 do.

15 Then I said, "We hear PEL
16 complaining that health care costs are going
17 up."

18 And then my question is, "How can
19 you complain that health care costs are
20 going up when you know full well the city is
21 deliberately not cooperating with the Health
22 Care Cost Containment Committee that was to
23 reduce the amount of health care?"

24 And they talk in circles again, and
25 I asked them straight up, "Can you do

1 anything to force the city to cooperate with
2 us?"

3 And they talked for ten more minutes
4 and never -- you can never get an answer and
5 you are trying to breathe, but in end it's,
6 no, they can't, because PEL is worthless.
7 They are a paper title. They shouldn't even
8 be listened to anymore.

9 I'm sorry, Mr. McGoff, when I was
10 explaining one point of the health care I
11 said four months ago we are supposed to did
12 an RFP to get bidders to come in and replace
13 our provider or even get our current
14 provider to come in and give us a lower bid
15 just so we could save money on our
16 prescription program. The city has been
17 sitting on it for four months. Four months.

18 Now, I called our consultant, that's
19 a Court mandated consultant that we must
20 have because the city apparently doesn't
21 talk to her, so I called her today and
22 asked, "How long does it take to produce an
23 RFP?"

24 And she told me that in one day if
25 she had access to our current provider she

1 would be able to gather that information in
2 one day and within 10 minutes show would be
3 able to put an RFP together that she could
4 hand to the city, the city could advertise
5 it, do a ten-day return back and by December
6 1 we could have a new provider and
7 potentially save money.

8 And I said, okay. I threw out some
9 numbers, like, \$200,000 maybe we could save,
10 I don't know. I have no idea. I'm a
11 firefighter, I don't have the degrees like
12 everybody in the room, and Mr. McGoff
13 started arguing with me. He started saying,
14 "How could you say this to PEL when you
15 can't come up with a number that you can
16 save?"

17 Is that correct, Mr. McGoff? Am I
18 lying?

19 MR. MCGOFF: I did argue with you,
20 yes.

21 MR. GERVASI: Yes, and then I
22 explained to you, I don't know. I told you
23 honestly I don't know what the savings would
24 be, I said, but it wouldn't be appropriate
25 that if we did the RFP and the bidders came

1 back and let's say it's \$10,000, let's say
2 it's \$100,000 we saved, at that point we
3 would now know much more concise what the
4 number you should plug in the budget or what
5 number that PEL should plug into the new
6 Recovery Plan, and they just laugh at you.
7 They look at you like you are an idiot.

8 But this is what happens when you go
9 to these meetings, and you have somebody
10 apologizing or at least supporting the
11 administration when I'm asking simple
12 questions like why is the city not doing
13 their job when they are court mandated to do
14 it. It's potential savings and we are not
15 even looking at it.

16 Just like StreetSmart, potential
17 savings, didn't even look at it. The
18 newspaper I know as a fact went out of their
19 way calling other communities just to tell
20 and lie to the people of the city that it's
21 not a good deal when, in fact, it was a good
22 deal, it was a great deal in the other
23 cities.

24 So what I'm saying is you have the
25 apologist for the administration, one that

1 sits up there, you have the newspaper, who
2 just will bury half the story and not tell
3 everyone the whole story, and what I am
4 saying is and what I'm predicting is if you
5 guys don't keep doing what you are doing and
6 stopping this fall into the financial abyss
7 that we are having in two years everybody
8 keeps reading the paper and saying
9 everything is wonderful in Scranton, the
10 mayor is progressive and doing all these
11 great things for the city, in about two
12 years I feel, maybe even earlier, we are
13 going to wake up some day and everybody is
14 going to go what happened? What happened?
15 And it's going to be real sad for people
16 like you four who have been saying this over
17 and over and people like me and other
18 speakers that come up here every week and
19 say it's not good what's going on right now.

20 The newspaper is not telling you the
21 truth or at least not telling you the whole
22 truth and one of these days we are going to
23 wake up and everybody is going to say what
24 happened? In the meantime, the mayor is
25 already gone and is back to his

1 multi-million business or off to some other
2 whatever he is running for and we are in the
3 throws of bankruptcy, and who is going to
4 suffer there and your taxes are going to go
5 up drastically and your services are going
6 to be cut even more than the mayor wants to
7 cut them.

8 Somebody has got to get a handle on
9 this and I think it's time to get drastic.
10 I think people need to start calling for the
11 mayor's resignation before there is no time
12 left. That's what needs to happen at this
13 point. There is a rumor, and I'm done right
14 now, I'm so sorry I'm going over, I know
15 that's not proper, there is a rumor right
16 now that if you don't do this meter thing,
17 which should never do, you should never do,
18 and we can't borrow the money and they are
19 talking about a possibility of 60 more
20 layoffs before the end of the year. Sixty.
21 I don't know how many firefighters or how
22 many stations that means or how many
23 additional police officers that means, this
24 is really bad what's going on and I think,
25 please don't listen to the newspaper, that

1 with that council is doing is gridlock or
2 stopping progress, they are stopping the
3 bleeding is what they are doing. It's a
4 good thing. This is good gridlock. This is
5 good conflict. Thank you.

6 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

9 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I have
10 here is in regards to the city's finances,
11 not this council, but every council has had
12 the oversight authority over every fiscal
13 decision this city has made with the power
14 of the subpoena if necessary and to start
15 blaming other people for what's going on
16 here I have to be very honest with you, I
17 have been -- like I said to you before, I
18 have been walking through a lot of this
19 town, the residents here are just absolutely
20 disgusted. Some like council, some
21 absolutely can't believe they voted for this
22 council. Some like the mayor, some can't
23 believe they voted for him, but they all
24 know one thing, the city is bankrupt.

25 You know the only plan I saw that we

1 had in the recent past that could have
2 turned this city around and council voted
3 "no" was SAPA, okay. And now think about
4 that for one minute. How many communities
5 outside of the City of Scranton are
6 condemning homes and tearing them down all
7 over their borough or their community? They
8 are not. How many people -- how many
9 communities outside of the City of Scranton
10 have the financial problems we have? They
11 don't.

12 When you are talking to people and
13 they are telling you they are moving to
14 Taylor because they have had it here, that
15 there is nothing here, I just -- look it, I
16 sit here year after year and watch, and to
17 be very honest with you, I don't think we
18 should be blaming the newspaper, I mean,
19 they may not say things that people like to
20 hear and I think that at times they may bash
21 people, I'm not going to say they don't,
22 they've worked me over a couple of times,
23 and you know what, I don't take it personal,
24 I just let it go because you know something?
25 How relevant really is it because nothing is

1 hidden.

2 The public has a pretty good grasp
3 on what's happening here in the city. They
4 are absolutely disgusted. They are not very
5 happy that they are losing public safety,
6 fire and police, but by the same token, and
7 a couple of people had have said this, that
8 they think that certain council members play
9 only to the city's unions and there is just
10 a lot of disgusted people in this city who
11 would like to see things change and I think
12 that SAPA offered a real chance, because to
13 be very honest with you Dunmore is saying
14 the same thing, they have a lot of empty
15 industrial space just like Scranton does.

16 And all of the people that live
17 outside of the city would have to come here
18 to work if they needed a job. We would
19 build an economic engine, start raising
20 revenue, stop borrowing hopefully. You
21 know, it's easy to determine -- you know,
22 the residents really want to know one thing
23 here and many of have asked me, aren't
24 they -- aren't the residents in the city
25 worth making an investment in in regard to

1 SAPA? They can't have curbs, they can't
2 have sidewalks, they can't have adequate
3 police protection some people think, they
4 can't have adequate fire protection. They
5 are tired of listening to the administration
6 and the council fight and bicker, and you
7 know something, they honestly do believe
8 that that's what's going on.

9 But you know something, the voters
10 themselves are responsible for where we are.
11 They voted for a Recover Plan that wasn't
12 real, okay? They sat home and went out on
13 election day and voted because somebody told
14 them who they should vote for or who the
15 best candidates were and they have no real
16 grasp in most instances even who the
17 candidates were, so here is where we were.
18 And that's not a shot at this council, it's
19 just reality. This city didn't become
20 distressed like it is, PEL needs to go.

21 You know, saying that we are going
22 to tax commuters who come into our
23 community, I don't really know what that's
24 going to do for us to be honest, you may
25 raise some revenue, but everybody is moving

1 outside of the city on development.
2 Wal-Mart is not inside of the city, there is
3 other things that have left of the city and
4 they are just not coming here.

5 So, I mean, it's time to change the
6 way we are going to look at things and do
7 things. So, I mean, that's what I think.
8 Now, if I anybody wants to say anything, I
9 mean, I'm still standing here, so I'll give
10 you the opportunity instead of me walking
11 away from the podium and then finding myself
12 in the back of the room when, you know,
13 people want to respond to what I said. So
14 I'd just like to give you a second to say
15 anything you want to say. No? Thank you.

16 MR. JOYCE: I actually have one
17 question, and I know I have been on the
18 fence about SAPA and I know that you support
19 it and you support it whole-heartedly. Now,
20 you just spoke about Wal-Mart and some of
21 the other businesses that have left the city
22 or just don't exist in the city, in the SAPA
23 plan say, for instance, West Abington or
24 Clarks Summit or one of the other host
25 communities or Dunmore, for instance, say

1 they don't want a business to use up a
2 certain part of the land, does that force
3 that business to move into Scranton just
4 because we have the available space?

5 MR. MORGAN: No. I think what SAPA
6 does is that it tries to get industry to
7 move into the city and utilize our zoned
8 industrial zones instead of creating some
9 for themselves, and I think that's a win-win
10 situation considering that we could never
11 compete with them. We have got a 3.4
12 percent wage tax, our property tax is going
13 to skyrocket, it's already high, and to be
14 truthfully honest with you, what company
15 would want to move their business into a
16 place that's economically just for lack of a
17 better term bankrupt?

18 Because who is going to put their
19 assets in a place, I mean, we had a
20 discussion here a few weeks ago about a
21 company leaving. They all want to leave
22 because they see what's coming out of here,
23 they have got accountants, they know what
24 the numbers are, and I just think that it
25 was really important a long time ago, not

1 this council, a long time ago, other
2 councils, to take a good hard look and use
3 their power of subpoenas and stop what was
4 going on and you know what, it just didn't
5 happen so now we are where we are.

6 I mean, imagine a city with almost
7 no firemen and no policemen making only bond
8 payments, imagine that. It's stark, but
9 it's there, because evidently they have to
10 be paid. And, you know, try to compete with
11 communities that don't have load of debt, do
12 you really think you can do that? Can you
13 compete with communities that aren't tearing
14 homes down and that are building. I mean,
15 you know, I'm amazed at the amount of empty
16 homes in the city when you walk through the
17 city, it's just mind boggling that people
18 have just abandoned their property and left.
19 Who'd leave a house that had any value?

20 I have been to drug houses knocking
21 on doors. I mean, you know, and you talk
22 about a war on drugs, this city is infested
23 with a lot of problems and how did it get
24 here? It got here by poverty and all we are
25 doing is pushing more poverty. Somebody

1 talked about the parking meters. You know,
2 about, you know -- I just think it's
3 ridiculous. We have got to bring industry
4 here and jobs here. We don't need to find
5 new ways to tax people in a new way to raise
6 revenue because that hasn't worked.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I could just add
8 something quickly, I mean, I think you
9 contradicted yourself a little bit.
10 Basically SAPA, if we adopted SAPA it does
11 give us no guarantees, just like you said.

12 MR. MORGAN: No, I didn't said it
13 didn't give you guarantees, I said that you
14 can't compete with them because we're so
15 distressed.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's exactly
17 correct.

18 MR. MORGAN: Yes. And you know
19 something --

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: You can't compete
21 with our tax structure or anything like
22 that.

23 MR. MORGAN: That's happened over a
24 long period of time, but you know something?
25 The truth of the matter is that if they

1 zoned industrial and do all of the things
2 that they can do to compete with us, we
3 can't compete with them, so what that is
4 that's a gift to us because they are not
5 going to zone and they are not going to try
6 to take industry there, because to be quite
7 blunt with you, look what's happening to
8 Scranton Lacey? Do you see anybody who
9 wants to build a business there?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: But the truth is
11 that's Abington. We have Taylor, we have
12 the Mid Valley, they have the zones. When
13 they see our tax structure here they are not
14 coming here regardless of whether SAPA is
15 here or not.

16 MR. MORGAN: I agree with you.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Also, low income is
18 another thing they don't want in those areas
19 and that's what they are pushing here, also.
20 The two -- industrial and low income. I'd
21 love to see all of the industrial we can
22 possibly have here, but it's not just
23 working at this present structure.

24 MR. MORGAN: I think low income is
25 here because there is no jobs here and I

1 think there is no upward mobility here, and
2 I think that's happened here for a long time
3 even going back to the 50's and that's why
4 these housing projects -- you know, you have
5 to empower the people to help them to move
6 up.

7 (Ms. Evans bangs the gavel.)

8 MS. EVANS: If can interrupt,
9 please, I think we have developed into a
10 SAPA debate --

11 MR. MORGAN: I don't think that's
12 happened.

13 MS. EVANS: -- which is inappropriate
14 at this point in time.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm sorry, Mr. Evans.

16 MS. EVANS: No, I think that -- yes,
17 I think an inordinate amount of extra time
18 has been devoted to this, which is really
19 not fair to anyone else. And, Councilman
20 Loscombe, if you want to continue on
21 anything, you know, you can certainly do
22 that in your motions if you want to.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: If you have any further
25 statements about SAPA, but I would really

1 prefer that speakers not take advantage of
2 the podium to debate council members
3 particularly at election time. And
4 Mrs. Franus.

5 MR. JOYCE: Before Mrs. Franus
6 speaks I want to say one thing as far as
7 Scranton Lace Works, I believe it was last
8 January that we did approve the grant for
9 the development of some new business as well
10 as apartments in that area; correct?

11 MS. EVANS: Scranton Lace Building?
12 Yes. Yes.

13 MR. JOYCE: Hopefully that does get
14 underway sooner than later.

15 MS. EVANS: Actually, we had an
16 update on that that I can show you. Ms.
17 Franus.

18 MR. JOYCE: Okay, we can talk about
19 it later.

20 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.
21 I'm a life-long citizen and a taxpayer and I
22 expect the mayor of the city to come in
23 front of the council to answer questions as
24 far as what he is doing. It doesn't help
25 when we have City Councilman Pat Rogan

1 meeting with the mayor privately and people
2 still have not heard from the mayor. We
3 haven't heard from him. We have that right.
4 Mr. Rogan took that right away. Why? I
5 don't know. I'd like to know what did we
6 learn from that private meeting? We are no
7 further ahead now than we were last week.
8 We didn't come any closer to any solutions.

9 MR. ROGAN: Would you like me to
10 respond now or during motions?

11 MS. FRANUS: Well, I want to say
12 what I want to say and then --

13 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

14 MS. FRANUS: -- because nothing is
15 going to change my mind as far as what you
16 can. Don't you understand that the mayor
17 used you? You are not even smart enough to
18 realize in. He used you because he knows
19 that nobody else would even dare meet with
20 him behind closed doors because Mrs. Evans
21 suggested that he come here so that the
22 people will see what's going on in this
23 city. He loved that you fell for that.

24 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Franus, every
25 member of council has met with him --

1 MS. FRANUS: Stop this clock, Nancy,
2 please.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Every member of
4 council has met with the mayor behind closed
5 doors at one point in the last two years.

6 MS. FRANUS: Mr. Rogan, this was
7 right after Mrs. Evans said last week that
8 until he comes in front of Council to answer
9 questions nothing is going to get on this
10 agenda and you went. You grandstanded.
11 That's all you did. You grandstanded trying
12 to be the savior of the city. You're a
13 traitor.

14 MR. ROGAN: I am trying to help the
15 city out, I don't know how that makes me a
16 traitor.

17 MS. FRANUS: You don't know how
18 you're a traitor? You are not part of the
19 supermajority. You never were. I should
20 have known that when you made your own phone
21 calls to vote for you and not the rest of
22 them.

23 MR. ROGAN: I stick to my campaign
24 pledges.

25 MS. FRANUS: Yeah, vote for me and

1 me alone, but you used Frank Joyce to get
2 elected. You used him, and Mrs. Evans. I'm
3 friends with them, vote for me, and you know
4 what they did because of your connection,
5 but we are finding out that you can't be
6 trusted.

7 MR. ROGAN: Well, we would disagree
8 with on that if I can --

9 MS. FRANUS: Well, I'm sure you
10 would disagree because you are the traitor.

11 MR. ROGAN: If meeting with the --

12 MS. FRANUS: You know what you did
13 single-handedly?

14 MR. ROGAN: If meeting with the
15 mayor to try to negotiate something other
16 than that the sale of the parking meters and
17 cuts in public safety makes me a traitor,
18 call me a traitor all you want.

19 MS. FRANUS: He could have come in
20 front of this council.

21 MR. ROGAN: And I also said I still
22 would like the mayor to come to council.

23 MS. FRANUS: You said that back 100
24 years, did you notice he said he was not
25 going to? After you met with him he said

1 this.

2 MR. ROGAN: And everyone here knows
3 the mayor is not going to come to council.

4 MS. FRANUS: You don't know that.

5 MR. ROGAN: How many times did --

6 MS. FRANUS: You did not know that.

7 MR. ROGAN: We have requested --
8 every one of us -- -

9 MS. FRANUS: It's that amazing how
10 last week after Mrs. Evans asked for him to
11 come here, required him to come here, that
12 you hopped on the bandwagon.

13 MR. ROGAN: I didn't hop on the
14 bandwagon.

15 MR. FRANUS: Oh, Pat.

16 MR. ROGAN: They mayor called me and
17 asked to meet with me --

18 MS. FRANUS: When I read that
19 article in the paper I nearly died.

20 MR. ROGAN: Ms. Franus, I will meet
21 with any public official or any citizen that
22 requests a meeting.

23 MS. FRANUS: Sure, anything to get
24 your name in the paper.

25 MR. ROGAN: It has nothing to do

1 with the paper.

2 MS. FRANUS: I can't get over you
3 going to talk about finances. You know
4 nothing about finances. That's like Frank
5 Joyce going to Linda Aebli's Office and
6 discussing OECD. That's not his department.
7 How would you like it if Frank just went and
8 picked up and went to Linda Aebli?

9 MR. ROGAN: That would be perfectly
10 fine. We all vote on everything.

11 MS. FRANUS: Well, it would be nice
12 if he did because you certainly never did.

13 MR. ROGAN: I spoke to Linda today.

14 MS. FRANUS: Yeah, how about all the
15 weeks before, about the 11 point some
16 million that's unaccountable. Where were
17 you then?

18 MR. ROGAN: I wasn't provided a copy
19 of the report by the administration.

20 MS. FRANUS: You could go to her
21 office and get the information.

22 MR. ROGAN: Well, I would know to
23 request it.

24 MS. FRANUS: Well, there is no
25 excuse for you what did, Pat.

1 MR. ROGAN: Okay. We disagree on
2 that.

3 MS. FRANUS: You can't be trusted.
4 You can't be trusted one second. What you
5 do is disgraceful. You are not helping the
6 city, you are helping yourself. You set
7 this town back so far by that private
8 meeting just to get your name in the paper,
9 it worked. You got your name in the paper.
10 Wow.

11 MR. ROGAN: I'm not trying to get my
12 name in the paper.

13 MS. FRANUS: What you trying to do,
14 Frank -- Pat?

15 MR. ROGAN: I'm trying to work out a
16 compromise where the city doesn't layoff --

17 MS. FRANUS: You are.

18 MR. ROGAN: -- layoff 60 firefighters
19 and doesn't sell the parking meters.

20 MS. FRANUS: Where did you get with
21 that?

22 MR. ROGAN: We are actually -- I'm
23 going to talk about it during motions, but
24 there is going to be --

25 MS. FRANUS: Did you accomplish

1 anything? What you did accomplish is having
2 him not come in front of the people to
3 answer questions that we all need to hear.
4 You think we're going to --

5 MR. ROGAN: The mayor should come
6 here, I said that.

7 MS. FRANUS: Oh, yeah, and he
8 listened to you, didn't he?

9 MR. ROGAN: No. He is not going to
10 listen to any one of us.

11 MS. FRANUS: You don't know that.

12 MR. ROGAN: You think the mayor
13 would have come here if I didn't meet with
14 him?

15 MS. FRANUS: Well, maybe before you
16 went there he might have, but you made it
17 easy for him now to put the blame on council
18 for everything that goes wrong.

19 MR. ROGAN: I think I would be
20 neglecting my duties as a council person if
21 the mayor or any other elected official in
22 the city, the city controller, asked me to a
23 meeting and I turned them down.

24 MS. FRANUS: Don't you understand
25 why he did that? Are you that naive?

1 MR. ROGAN: I don't care about the
2 political games.

3 MR. FRANUS: Well, you were used and
4 you are fell right into the trap.

5 MR. ROGAN: And that's fine. If
6 that's what the mayor wants, that's fine.

7 MS. FRANUS: Oh, you don't mind
8 being used? You're supposed be to part of
9 the supermajority for the people.

10 MR. ROGAN: I'm here to stick to my
11 principles.

12 MS. FRANUS: And you stabbed them in
13 the back.

14 MR. ROGAN: I didn't stab anyone in
15 the back.

16 MS. FRANUS: You stabbed every
17 person in this city in the back.

18 MR. ROGAN: How did I do that, by
19 what vote?

20 MS. FRANUS: My grandstanding.

21 MR. ROGAN: I grandstanded?

22 MS. FRANUS: Pat Rogan, me
23 grandstand? Oh, no, not you. Every time I
24 read the paper, Mrs. Evans doesn't want to
25 reply to Josh Mrozinski because he lies.

1 Frank Joyce doesn't, Jack doesn't. There it
2 is, Pat Rogan replies in every article.

3 MR. ROGAN: You are right I do.
4 When the reporter calls me --

5 MS. FRANUS: You can't get enough of
6 yourself.

7 MR. ROGAN: When the reporter calls
8 me, even though I strongly disagree with the
9 editorial staff of the Scranton Times --

10 MS. FRANUS: You can't miss the
11 opportunity to talk to the paper.

12 MR. ROGAN: I look at it as an
13 opportunity to my viewpoint across.

14 MS. FRANUS: You might get your name
15 in it. Your point. You don't have a clue
16 what you are doing. You don't have a clue.

17 MR. ROGAN: And that's fine that you
18 think that. You are entitled to your
19 opinion.

20 MS. FRANUS: And I'm going to keep
21 on saying it, too, because you are the Judy
22 Gatelli in my life right now. You have a
23 target right on your back. Because I know
24 you, Pat. You didn't want Jack to win in
25 the primary, you wanted --

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I did. I put up
2 signs for Loscombe.

3 MS. FRANUS: Yeah, because you had
4 to. Did you or did you not want Giovanni
5 Picollino to win?

6 MR. ROGAN: I wanted Giovanni
7 Picollino and Jack Loscombe to win.

8 MS. FRANUS: You know why, you
9 wanted Giovanni to win so you could be
10 president of city council.

11 MR. ROGAN: I wouldn't take council
12 president if it was given to me on a
13 platter.

14 MS. FRANUS: There was your deal.

15 MS. ROGAN: I wouldn't take council
16 president if was offered to me.

17 MS. FRANUS: Sure you would if
18 that's what you wanted. That's why you
19 didn't want Jack to win.

20 MR. ROGAN: No, it's not at all what
21 I wanted.

22 MS. FRANUS: I know what you wanted.
23 You see, I know you, many others don't.

24 MR. ROGAN: You know me from the
25 what 20 times we have conversed maybe for a

1 few minutes.

2 MS. FRANUS: Oh, I know you, Pat.

3 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

4 MS. FRANUS: Trust me, I know you.

5 MR. ROGAN: We could do this every
6 week if you want to come to --

7 MS. FRANUS: Can I just say one more
8 thing, please? Is it okay if I just say one
9 more item?

10 MS. EVANS: Quickly, please.

11 MS. FRANUS: Okay, it's about the
12 ordinance they were asking you to pass about
13 neutering dogs, please don't do that. Do
14 you realize how many people take in dogs and
15 cats because they don't have homes, but
16 these same people don't have enough money to
17 get these dogs neutered or spayed and if
18 they were forced to they would have to let
19 these dogs go and cats.

20 My dog is neutered, but that's just
21 my choice, but I don't think a person should
22 be forced to do that to a dog if they don't
23 want to, that's their own private business.
24 Please don't pass that ordinance. You are
25 going to be putting many animals out in the

1 street if you do, and you know how I feel
2 about animals, but that's a person's
3 decision, nobody should govern. Please
4 don't do that.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 MR. JOYCE: I just want to say one
7 thing in defense of Mr. Rogan, I will state
8 that the mayor did not contact me or did not
9 invite me to meet with him, in fact, I
10 couldn't because of the time of the day when
11 the meeting occurred, however, when
12 Mr. Rogan did give me a phone call and
13 update me on what was said during that
14 meeting, which I'm sure he will update the
15 public on.

16 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Joyce. I
17 did call all four of my colleagues following
18 the meeting as well.

19 MR. NEARHOOD: Good evening, members
20 of council.

21 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

22 MR. NEARHOOD: My name is Ray
23 Nearhood, and I live at 409 Cherry Street in
24 Scranton. Unfortunately this weekend I had
25 to go out of town to work, but before I left

1 I picked up the newspaper and I noticed that
2 the county was seeking to borrow \$21 million
3 to cover unfunded liabilities. I also saw
4 that Moody's downgraded it by five notches
5 to the point where it's really speculative
6 bonds. The important part of what I saw
7 there though was something that relates to a
8 city. Why did Moody's downgrade them, what
9 did they say?

10 According to the newspaper and also
11 according to what I read elsewhere, the
12 rating service said that is considering
13 withdrawing the grading, completing
14 withdrawing the grading from the county
15 because of the county's failure to produce
16 audits on time and inaccurate estimates of
17 an 2009 financial picture that severely
18 conflicted with the 2009 audit.

19 City of Scranton, where is our audit
20 from last year? The information -- has the
21 information been provided to the auditors
22 yet?

23 MR. JOYCE: No.

24 MR. NEARHOOD: My question also goes
25 to the city controller. Have you provided a

1 financial picture for budgeting this year?
2 Has the current city controller provided you
3 with any financial picture throughout the
4 year in which to make decisions with regard
5 to financial information? Every time I come
6 here and everyone asks a question the
7 question is made to the business
8 administrator or to somebody, community
9 development or elsewhere, when really the
10 chief financial officer of this city, the
11 chief elected financial officer of this
12 city, is the city controller. The city
13 controller is to maintain the accounting
14 cyst tell, and therefore, should be able to
15 provide a good financial picture so you know
16 where you are.

17 Now, I heard somebody at one of the
18 last meetings saying about what are we going
19 to do with this CDBG money, we got to ask so
20 and so and so and so and get information.
21 Well, ask the controller. She should have
22 that information.

23 She should also be here in front of
24 you answering the questions. Everyone is
25 asking for the mayor to be here, I would be

1 asking for the city controller to be here to
2 explain the financial situation to the
3 entire city in detail, but that isn't
4 happening. Why isn't that happening? Why
5 has she obligated her responsibilities? Why
6 has she paid people who are not on the
7 budget? She has done that; correct?

8 MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

9 MR. JOYCE: That's correct.

10 MR. NEARHOOD: Has she paid bills in
11 excess of the line items in the budget? I
12 believe that's also happened from what I
13 understand. These are things that should
14 never been happening.

15 You know, people talk about what
16 happened in the county a couple of ways, you
17 know, a few years ago we had a county
18 controller who failed to do what he was
19 supposed to do, Mr. Mellow, and we saw where
20 that got us. I don't know how the county
21 controller is doing now, but I do know that
22 the county isn't doing well. You know,
23 great headlines, \$21 million. The City of
24 Scranton is looking for -- how much are you
25 looking for \$8.4 million, something like

1 that?

2 MS. EVANS: It's changing.

3 MR. NEARHOOD: Yeah, it keeps
4 changing because you don't have a good
5 financial picture and you have one elected
6 official, one full-time elected official,
7 who is supposed to -- that is supposed to be
8 her duties. She is not doing it. It needs
9 to be done. There needs to be someone who
10 is not with the administration, not with
11 council, somebody who is independent who is
12 reviewing the financial situation at all
13 times and when the financial situation gets
14 out of whack someone who can pull the plug
15 on it and say, "Stop. I will not sign those
16 checks, I will not sign those purchase
17 orders. You will fix this now and then we
18 will talk about additional contracts or
19 additional extensions on particular line
20 items."

21 That's not happening and I don't
22 think it's happened for many, many, many
23 years. I go around this city people say,
24 "Oh, you are running for city controller,
25 what's the city controller?"

1 That shouldn't be a question people
2 are asking. They don't ask what's a council
3 member, they don't ask what the mayor does.
4 They don't know what the city controller
5 does?

6 This financial situation, yes, it is
7 partially the responsibility of the
8 administration because they have done what
9 they do and it may be somewhat of council,
10 but I can't determine that because we don't
11 have good financial information, but the
12 city controller should. You know, and
13 people tell me I sometimes repeat myself up
14 here, I think it needs to be understood, I
15 still haven't seen anyone ask the city
16 controller to come and sit here and explain
17 to you what has happened and why it's
18 happening and why she has failed to do her
19 duty.

20 So I want to thank you I don't
21 remember giving me the opportunity to speak
22 as always. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

24 MR. JOYCE: I will say -- just to
25 state it as a matter of fact that we do

1 receive from the city controller. We do
2 receive a monthly report and a monthly
3 purchase order report, we do receive -- did
4 you have something else to add?

5 MR. NEARHOOD: I just -- Mr. Joyce,
6 does that give you a basis of where the
7 finances are of the city?

8 MR. JOYCE: No, I just wanted to say
9 that this is what the city controller does
10 submit to us and she also does submit a
11 statement of the usage of liquid fuel funds
12 and she did offer -- she did write a letter
13 to Mayor Doherty and Scranton City Council
14 to offer any assistance in solving
15 Scranton's financial situation at the
16 present time, and that is what we have
17 received from the city controller.

18 Hey, Chrissy.

19 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Frankie.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

21 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie. Well,
22 Jack, this is good game this week, Buddy.
23 What do you think? We'll beat Scranton or
24 not? Well, go all the way, Frankie. Good
25 luck West. Thank you.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Get your pads ready
2 and suit up.

3 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hey, Jack, I'm
4 going to suit up for you this week.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Shine that helmet up.

6 MS. SLEDENZSKI: And the shoes.

7 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.

8 Nelson Ancherani, resident and taxpayer,
9 recording secretary of the FOP First
10 Amendment Rights.

11 I'm going to read the article from
12 the Scranton slimes published September 22,
13 2011. I'll be quoting what they are saying
14 and then I'm going to add my opinion. It's
15 titled, "She Can't Handle the Truth. Truth
16 is not defensive, council president's
17 friend. Published September 22, 2011, by a
18 nameless coward.

19 "For a long time now Scranton City
20 Council President, Janet Evans, has refused
21 to talk to reporters from this newspaper."

22 Purveyors of yellow journalism.

23 When you start to print the truth,
24 we'll talk Mrs. Evans huffed after Tuesday
25 night's council meeting when reporter Josh

1 Mrozinski dared to ask about her reaction to
2 the administration's plan to cover a looming
3 \$8.1 million deficit that the council did
4 not cause.

5 So here with drum roll, please,
6 truth. From that tabloid? Yeah.
7 Mrs. Evans and her bonded super majority are
8 clueless. No, they are not. But there goes
9 the slimes starting with name calling. Name
10 calling over the last decade that this
11 slimes is good at.

12 For nearly two years Mrs. Evans and
13 her anti-administration colleagues have had
14 the opportunity to use their veto-proof
15 majority to ride the city's ship. They have
16 taken on more water. Almost two years to
17 right the wrongs of almost ten years of
18 uncontrolled spending, a \$310 million plus
19 long-term debt and many, many more issues
20 that can't be covered in five minutes.

21 The supermajority rejected the
22 austerity budget. What austerity budget?
23 Are we living in a dream world? Proposed
24 for this year by Mayor Chris Doherty and in
25 the face of an existing deficit masked by

1 using Workmens' Comp Fund and tax
2 anticipation notes to pay off prior year's
3 deficit, and how long was that practice
4 going on before council found out it out?
5 And it rejected hiring. See above.

6 Reduced taxes and penciled in
7 revenue using figures supplied by the city
8 from a program that still doesn't exist.
9 Word by Mr. Doherty they he would have no
10 choice but to cover the inevitable budget
11 shortfall with layoffs effecting council's
12 key constituency, public safety employees
13 council scoffed. Slimes got it wrong. The
14 city employees, the residents and the
15 taxpayers are council's key constituency.

16 In doing so the supermajority failed
17 even to protect the constituency it vowed to
18 protect, public safety employees. When did
19 they vow to protect unionized public safety
20 employees, 21 fewer of whom are now on the
21 city payroll. The slimes forgot that
22 council reinstated the public safety
23 officers in their amended budget for the
24 safety of the residents and taxpayers.
25 Council did not create the deficit.

1 Two, Mr. Evans is an ineffective
2 leader. Who is making that assumption? A
3 bunch of nameless cowards who won't sign
4 their name to the editorials. Leadership
5 has many dimensions, it requires an agenda
6 far broader than simply opposing whatever
7 the mayor proposes.

8 You mean like stopping reckless
9 spending? Mrs. Evans has been an
10 obstructionist on any number of issues
11 favored by Mr. Doherty. That would be fine
12 if she had something better to offer, but
13 her opposition is for her own -- it's own
14 safety. Prove it. Her leadership is into a
15 blind, dead end alley. That's right. There
16 is no money, but council did not create the
17 \$8.2 million deficit the city faces at the
18 end of the year.

19 Recently, for example, she stood
20 four-square against the development of a
21 small community park on Perry Avenue in
22 North Scranton, the point that her
23 supermajority rejected a \$50,000 state grant
24 to build it. You mean, like having a pool
25 complex closed for the summer to construct a

1 splash pool and then not following through
2 on construction of that pool? Easy,
3 tabloid, we can't maintain that we have now.

4 As public policy that is irrational,
5 but it's not effective public policy. If
6 Mr. Doherty was against developing public
7 parks, Mrs. Evans would demand one on every
8 block.

9 Three, Mrs. Evans and her
10 supermajority are incompetent.

11 There the tabloid goes in calling
12 names, but then again it takes one to know
13 one. By design Scranton has a strong mayor
14 form of government. All of the city's
15 administrative machinery, it's day-to-day
16 operations and it's planning are executive
17 branch functions. Council comprises
18 part-time members and they are all elected
19 by the electorate with limited powers, even
20 as the supermajority as the recent layoffs
21 demonstrated.

22 Just remember, council reinstated
23 those positions in their amended budget,
24 Mrs. Evans and her colleagues have attempted
25 to fork the administration based on their

1 own animosity toward the mayor rather than
2 on factual information. You mean the
3 information that council requested from the
4 various departments that still has not been
5 supplied to the auditor even after repeated
6 requests to do so? That should underline
7 policy. Back when she was council's finance
8 chairwoman, Mrs. Evans rallied at length
9 about the city's projected debt payments
10 after misreading the financial statement.
11 Today council attempts to correct financial
12 policy. Can I finish this?

13 MS. EVANS: Yes.

14 MR. ANCHERANI: Today council
15 attempts to craft financial policy without
16 consulting the administration or anyone
17 else. Again, you mean the information that
18 council requested from the various
19 departments that still has not been supplied
20 the auditor? Even after repeated requests
21 to do so.

22 The overall truth is that Scranton
23 government has serious problems that need to
24 be resolved by a single government with it's
25 components rowing in the same direction

1 after settling on the course. Yeah, that's
2 in a perfect world. Council's weekly
3 political period. They must mean council
4 speakers, we, the Legion of Doomers, as we
5 have been called, along with over 20 other
6 names by politicians, professional people,
7 slimes editorialists, council members, we
8 have First Amendment Rights to be here every
9 week just as they have First Amendment
10 Rights to print garbage ever day and to call
11 us names.

12 With it's recourse, I'm not Greek
13 and I don't know if anyone -- any of the
14 other speakers are Greek, not there is
15 anything wrong with that. Condemning the
16 administration on cue is no substitute.
17 Look at the pot that's calling the kettle
18 black. Thank you.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

22 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, any
23 comments or motions?

24 MR. MCGOFF: Please. I guess the
25 topic of conversation is and should be the

1 financial situation that we are placed in at
2 this time. When one of the speakers said
3 when the budgets were presented to us last
4 year 2010, I did vote against the mayor's
5 budget, then I did vote with council's
6 budget, and then changed the vote somewhat
7 and did not vote to override it for the
8 reason that I felt that neither budget was
9 acceptable. I felt that at that time that
10 there was -- at that time I felt that there
11 was a compromise that was needed. I still
12 believe that the way in which we solve our
13 problems is through compromise, through
14 discussion, and for one reason or another we
15 are -- a lot of reasons, I guess, some of
16 which I agree with my council members, some
17 I may not agree with, we are looking at a
18 financial situation that needs resolution.

19 Some solutions have been offered.
20 Some I agree with, some I don't. I agree
21 with Mr. Rogan. I don't think that the sale
22 of the parking meters is a good idea. I
23 think it's giving away a revenue source that
24 can be productive for the city and I think
25 that we should keep the parking meters and

1 implement an efficient collection system. I
2 have never been opposed to anything like
3 StreetSmart, the only thing I ever said
4 about StreetSmart was that I thought it
5 should have intinally been put out to bid.
6 I think that we need something of that
7 nature in order to produce greater revenue.

8 The one thing that I do -- that I
9 have looked at is the unfunded borrowing.
10 PEL at the meeting that Mr. Gervasi talked
11 about estimated that we would be looking at
12 perhaps a borrowing of somewhere around \$6.5
13 million dollars. In the absence of any
14 other suggestion, I am prone to believe that
15 that might be the best possibility. I am
16 willing to discuss that, I'm willing to
17 listen to other suggestions, but we do need
18 to have suggestions. We need to have some
19 solution. Not addressing the problem is not
20 a solution.

21 The alternatives are absolutely
22 unacceptable. Payless paydays, layoffs,
23 possibility of not receiving the TANS for
24 the 2012 year, that's not going to work. If
25 all we do is maintain the status quo, we are

1 going to end up with the status quo and
2 nothing will be resolved and nobody seems to
3 be content with the status quo. I think we
4 need to move forward. We need to do
5 something.

6 Mr. Joyce read figures last week
7 that he believes would indicate that the
8 mayor is perhaps bluffing when he states
9 that there may be payless paydays and
10 layoffs. I'm not willing to play Texas hold
11 'emp with people's livelihoods. I think a
12 meeting with Mr. McGowan and discussing this
13 situation, as Mr. McGowan has suggested,
14 would be a much better way to deal with the
15 situation. And I'm sorry that asking
16 council to work with the administration on
17 these issues is being an apologist for the
18 mayor. We can continue to argue that, but I
19 don't think it's going to help. I think my
20 goals are the same as some of the speakers
21 including, Mr. Gervasi.

22 I just think that the bickering and
23 name calling on both sides, as I publically
24 stated, is counterproductive and is getting
25 us no where, and it's ludicrous tonight that

1 one of the members of council is criticized
2 for doing his job in trying to resolve that
3 deficit issue that we have. We are duty
4 bound to deal with the problems facing the
5 city. How we approach that may be open to
6 question, but we are bound to do it and I
7 think we should seek every avenue possible
8 in order to resolve the situation.

9 I think that we all have the same
10 goals in mind. We want stability of the
11 city, we want to see that there is no more
12 layoffs, we want to ensure for public safety
13 and all of the services that are provided by
14 the city. I just think that we need to do
15 something and I think the word drastic was
16 used by one of the speakers, we need to take
17 drastic action, we need to take some type of
18 action in order to resolve these issues and
19 we need to do it now, and that's all I have.
20 Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
22 Rogan, do you have any comments or motions?

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes, briefly a few
24 comments about some of the back and forth I
25 had with one of our constituents. I guess

1 I'll start off with meeting with the mayor.
2 I met with the mayor on Monday for about 30
3 minutes. We did talk about the different
4 options that were on the table. The meeting
5 started off by I told him under no
6 circumstances would I vote to sell the
7 parking meters. I think that that's the
8 worst option between if it was -- between
9 that and borrowing. The meters even on the
10 low end provide a million dollars a year, if
11 we get a system like StreetSmart in we could
12 be bringing in maybe even double that, if
13 the options were to sell an asset that
14 brings in a million dollars year and borrow,
15 which would be paid off by that asset we
16 kept, in essence, I think it's an easier
17 decision to make even though borrowing any
18 amount of money is always a tough pill to
19 swallow.

20 I did discuss with the mayor today,
21 he did call me today. We are going to have
22 a follow-up discussion next week. I'm
23 hoping that an agreement will be met. I
24 told the mayor that some of the stipulations
25 for myself would be that (a) we are not

1 selling the parking meters, like I
2 mentioned; (b), this has to be end of the
3 line. There cannot be any more long-term
4 borrowing in the city. We have to stop
5 digging the hole we're in before we get out,
6 and three, assurances that no more public
7 safety personnel will be laid off.

8 We have lost far too many
9 firefighters and far too many police
10 officers in this city. As Mr. Gervasi
11 mentioned, if no agreement is reached there
12 is a possibility that 60 guys would be let
13 go next year, and we all know from Mayor
14 Doherty's track record where those people
15 are coming from, it's going to be cops and
16 firemen and it's going to be your public
17 safety.

18 Getting to some of the criticisms
19 that were levied on me tonight about the
20 meeting, every one of us up here has met
21 with the mayor outside of council privately,
22 I think it's parts of the job, and I don't
23 agree with the vast majority of what the
24 mayor is doing, but again, I'm willing to
25 meet with any elected official at any time.

1 when the mayor brought up the idea of
2 selling the parking meters we don't know how
3 much they are worth. There hasn't been a
4 study conducted to say they are worth \$6
5 million or worth \$60 million. We don't know
6 how much they are worth. The same thing
7 with the Sewer Authority, which I support
8 the sale of. I also support cuts in the
9 DPW. How far to go, I'm not sure.

10 So I do have a few motions tonight
11 in writing, which I will pass out to my
12 colleagues, and the first is I make a motion
13 to prompt Mayor Doherty to put out a request
14 for proposal to determine the market value
15 of the following city assets: (1) the
16 Scranton Sewer Authority. (2) City- owned
17 parking meters; and (3) Scranton Parking
18 Authority parking garages.

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

21 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: On the question?

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I make this
24 motion, as I said, because if the idea of
25 selling these assets is ever going to be

1 entertained we need to know what they are
2 valued at. The mayor's proposal to sell the
3 parking meters without knowing the true
4 value I think is worth a risk. I would like
5 to sell the Sewer Authority. I think it's a
6 good idea. We need to find out what it's
7 worth before we sell it, and our parking
8 garages as well, the leasing or sale of
9 them. We don't know what their actual value
10 was as well, so that's why I'm making this
11 motion?

12 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on
13 the question? I only have one quick
14 question, because I do agree that the market
15 value should be determined for each one of
16 these, it certainly would be helpful for
17 moving ahead, sale or lease deal or even
18 privatization agreement, but how is the
19 mayor compelled?

20 MR. ROGAN: By council, by the
21 motion from council.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes, but what I'm saying
23 is beyond -- we can pass the motion and we
24 all know that a good deal of our legislation
25 has been ignored.

1 MR. ROGAN: I agree.

2 MS. EVANS: It's worth the effort,
3 I'm going to approve it, I'm just wondering
4 if there was a perhaps another avenue that
5 would compel him.

6 MR. ROGAN: Believe me, I wish there
7 was a way to compel the mayor to do it, but
8 I'm hoping that a vote of council, a
9 unanimous vote, that the mayor will consider
10 it.

11 MS. EVANS: I hope so, too. Anyone
12 else on the question? All those in favor
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.

20 MR. ROGAN: Secondly, I make a
21 motion compelling Mayor Doherty to put out a
22 request for a proposal for an efficiency
23 study for Scranton's Department of Public
24 Works Refuse Division.

25 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the

1 floor, do we have a second?

2 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

3 MS. EVANS: On the question?

4 MR. ROGAN: Again, I have stated in
5 the past that I support the efficiency study
6 of the DPW and I may even lean towards
7 privatization, but again, without having all
8 of the facts I think we should -- the city
9 should conduct an efficiency study, see if
10 we can collect garbage on four days, I
11 believe we can. I believe we can collect
12 garbage in four days with fewer men and then
13 have a fifth day to repair roads and do
14 other things to improve the city for the
15 people and --

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Rogan -- oh, I'm
17 sorry.

18 MR. ROGAN: Go ahead, Mr. Loscombe.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would just expand
20 that to the whole -- I mean, whole public
21 works, they have parks and recreation, they
22 have highway, because they all intermingle
23 and, you know, they are all able to bid
24 within those positions. I think we need --
25 you know, I would love/HRAOF to see that

1 traffic safety division back, the highway
2 safety.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, I would be fine
4 with that.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: But I would say the
6 whole Bureau of Public Works or however it's
7 stated.

8 MR JOYCE: Parks and Public Works.

9 MR. MCGOFF: If we are going to talk
10 about any type of privatization or anything
11 else, the only thing that would be probably
12 possible to privatize would be the refuse
13 part of it, so I don't know that we would --
14 I don't know if we would get an efficiency
15 study for how Parks and Rec operates, I
16 don't know if that's of any value.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, at this point
18 I'm not --

19 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not saying they
20 would do it, I'm just --

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm looking at it
22 differently, I'm not looking at it for the
23 aspect of selling, I'm actually looking at
24 it for the aspect of efficiency for the
25 whole department.

1 MR. ROGAN: We could go either way
2 with that that's why if we get the study
3 then we could determine which way would be
4 the best way to go from there. I would
5 prefer not to privatize it, I would prefer
6 to cut and get it to the point where we have
7 enough guys to do the job, but not too many
8 guys that we have routes being done at 11:00
9 instead of 3:00, which is quitting time, and
10 if we could get to a four day garbage pickup
11 and have a fifth day to do the repairs I
12 think that would be great for everyone in
13 the city.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Any idea on the cost of
15 doing this?

16 MR. JOYCE: That's what I was going
17 to bring up. I was going to bring up one
18 issue and, Boyd, perhaps if you can
19 intervene with this, if the mayor does
20 choose to perform an efficiency study, would
21 a vote on the efficiency study have to come
22 before council, because we don't know
23 whether this is going to be cost more than
24 it would save? And I'm not saying that it
25 would, but would this have to come before

1 council for a vote?

2 MR. HUGHES: It would be my opinion
3 that there would have to be an RFP submitted
4 to be bid in accordance with the city's Home
5 Rule Charter, and that would have to be put
6 out, bids would have to be submitted, and
7 the contract would then have to -- I'll put
8 it this way, would have to be reviewed,
9 submitted to council as to who the bidder
10 was to be selected by the administration,
11 and council could approve the contract.

12 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

13 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the
14 question? All those in favor of the motion
15 signify by saying aye.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye. Those opposed?
21 The ayes have it and so ordered. Would
22 anyone care to amend the motion though to
23 include the department -- the entire
24 department of Public Works.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I would like to

1 make that.

2 MR. ROGAN: I'll second it.

3 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
4 those in favor of amending the previous
5 motion to include the entire department of
6 Public Works, signify by saying aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye. Those opposed?

12 The ayes have it and so moved.

13 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. And
14 hopefully the administration will listen to
15 council and direct these studies and we
16 could look where to go from there.

17 Just a few other quick points, I did
18 talk to Linda Aebli this morning about the
19 Crisp Avenue bridge, it is being delayed
20 only a week right now because of the bad
21 weather, I believe it was October 11, it's
22 now the date for the locks to be installed.
23 I hope the day comes when I'm on council
24 when I don't have to mention the Crisp
25 Avenue bridge project, it's direly needed

1 and hopefully it gets completed.

2 Regarding the spay and neuter
3 ordinance, I would definitely agree with
4 what my colleagues said and with what some
5 of the speakers said that it's something we
6 should entertain. I don't know all the
7 facts, it's something I would definitely
8 have to sit down and talk about. I do see
9 the problem with stray animals in the city,
10 it's not fair to the residents of the city
11 to have strays in the neighborhood, it's not
12 fair to the animals themselves to be out in
13 the cold in the winter, so I definitely
14 think something should be done on that front
15 and if we could all sit down and discuss how
16 to go about it, I'm not an expert in animal
17 issues by any means, but some of the
18 people here today definitely were, I think
19 it would be good to have them in here.

20 And that is all I have. Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, I forgot to
23 mention one thing.

24 MS. EVANS: Absolutely.

25 MR. MCGOFF: I met with Attorney

1 Kelly concerning the rental registration
2 ordinance and he would like to meet again.
3 He is going to draft a proposal, but he
4 would like to meet again and he opened an
5 invitation to any other members of council,
6 we could set at time. I know work schedules
7 prevent some of us from being there, but if.
8 Mrs. Evans or Mr. Loscombe. If you would
9 like to attend a meeting and, you know, go
10 over that prior to bringing it to council
11 the invitation is open.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MR. MCGOFF: And I should say what
14 we would -- what I would like to do is bring
15 a proposal to council so that we can discuss
16 it, amend it as we see needed, send it back
17 to the law department to be rewritten, and
18 then brought to council so that it would,
19 you know, passed for the 2012.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, I'm sorry.

22 MS. EVANS: No, thank you.

23 MR. JOYCE: One comment, excuse me,
24 I'm talking out of turn here, but one
25 comment that I wanted to add about the whole

1 rental registration issue is recently, I'm
2 not sure if many people have received their
3 sewer bills recently, but the Sewer
4 Authority is asking folks to report if they
5 live in an apartment or if it's a
6 residential property that they own or if
7 it's commercial due to their changing of
8 rates structures, so I think it could be a
9 good possibility that we could partner with
10 the Sewer Authority, though many people like
11 to criticize them, and possibly obtain more
12 information of where the rental properties
13 actually are from the folks who are filling
14 in affidavits or surveys that are stating
15 that their place of residence is, indeed, an
16 apartment.

17 MR. ROGAN: I think it would be
18 great to get that list before we sell them
19 away.

20 MS. EVANS: Okay. Councilman
21 Loscombe, do you have any comments or
22 motions?

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I have a few.
24 Thanks. Mr. Rogan, mentioned Crisp Avenue,
25 I happen to stop by there today and it was

1 delayed because of the heavy rains we had,
2 but they do have a pad poured and they are
3 just waiting for the unit itself to come in
4 so it is pretty close to getting there, so
5 it's moving along.

6 MR. ROGAN: Can't wait until it's
7 done.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Maybe we'll be able
9 to drive across it before the end of the
10 year, who knows.

11 I would like to give a hats off to
12 our Scranton Police Department in their
13 apprehension of the escapee from the
14 Lackawanna Prison. They did a professional
15 job, they were right on top of it, they got
16 there pretty quickly and averted any
17 problems so I would like to commend our
18 police for their quick action on the
19 apprehension of Mr. Simonson.

20 And I was given a letter that was
21 written to the newspaper, and I'd also like
22 to read this, if I could, it's not too long:

23 "On September 22 at about 7:30 a.m.
24 I responded to a knock on my front door to
25 find three department of Public Works

1 workers. One was holding my neighbor's
2 personal belongings. They explained that
3 when they stopped in front of my house they
4 found something lying on the ground and
5 picked it up. They determined it was my
6 neighbor's driver's license, credit cards,
7 photos, and many other important papers.
8 They were tightly wrapped in a rubber band.
9 The DPW workers also found money with the
10 other items, they tried unsuccessfully to
11 contact my neighbor.

12 I commend these men for returning
13 every piece of the property that they found,
14 especially the money. All Scranton
15 residents should be proud of this act of
16 honesty shown by our DPW workers. It shows
17 that good people will still do the right
18 thing even in today's economic situation.
19 Hats off to Larry Winn, Brian Lynady and
20 Jeff Pope, and thanks for your honesty and
21 acts of kindness. You made my neighbor's
22 day. Dave Hart, Scranton."

23 And I received an e-mail maybe,
24 Mrs. Krake, we can past these questions onto
25 the proper department: Will we ever see any

1 progress made on the New Jersey Central
2 building? Was the developer given any money
3 through grants or loans to develop this
4 property? If it was provided, is there a
5 time limit and, you know, they would like to
6 know if it was grant or loans. And also, is
7 this building -- does this building contain
8 utilities, are they active, because many
9 properties are closed in the city and
10 condemned if there are no active utilities.
11 So if we could just - and I'll pass these
12 questions onto you. That's the New Jersey
13 Central Railroad building, if I failed to
14 mention it.

15 Okay. And let's see, and finally I
16 just, I was absent two weeks ago when the
17 conversation came up about the meters,
18 selling the meters to the Parking Authority
19 for \$6 million. I just want to go on the
20 record and say that I'm adamantly opposed to
21 the sale of any city asset that generates
22 revenues, such as our meters. I'm not
23 interested in bailing out mismanagement.
24 Council's approval of the Parking Authority
25 budget for 2011 recommended position

1 eliminations and salary reductions. They
2 were not followed.

3 A ticket processor's job was
4 eliminated in deference to some higher paid
5 salaries staying there. The ticket
6 enforcement officers are pulled in on a
7 daily basis to work on the ticket
8 processing, removing them from the streets
9 where they could be generating revenue from
10 writing tickets, so we may see less income
11 this year from the Parking Authority. It
12 may be purposeful, it may be not. But, you
13 know, they have been giving every
14 opportunity. There is missing and broken
15 meters throughout the system and they have
16 given hundreds of parking spaces away. Some
17 of them mentioned about a car rental
18 business and with the Commonwealth Medical
19 College I believe they are up to 300 and
20 some spots that were given to them so they
21 are in tough water and they keep mismanaging
22 it.

23 A street meter program, which was
24 discussed several times, that would have
25 provided the much needed capital yet it has

1 been stalled repeatedly. It was dragged out
2 until they determined it should be bid out,
3 they bid it the first time they didn't like
4 the bids they said there was something
5 wrong, they bid it out again, there has been
6 no action and StreetSmart didn't throw an
7 independent bid in the last time. I mean,
8 they are just discouraged with the goings on
9 here.

10 But, you know, I can't see the
11 Parking Authority taking any more debt on
12 when they are incapable of handling their
13 current debt at this point. And again, it's
14 an asset that can generate us revenue for
15 years to come. It would be ludicrous to
16 blow three years of revenue right off the
17 bat and, you know, then for the rest of
18 eternity it's not ours. I do think -- I
19 wish we had the opportunity to do a study or
20 an assessment of that authority and
21 whatever, but our hands are tied with the
22 authorities, but we are going to continue to
23 do what we can do, but again, they had a
24 number of recommendations that they didn't
25 follow. So how many times can we keep

1 coming to the well for them, too, until they
2 get their act together. That's all I have
3 to say on that, and that's it. Thank you.

4 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Joyce?

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I arrived a little
6 late tonight so I have a few announcements
7 to start with. First, it's dealing with the
8 St. Patrick's Church Food Pantry. The St.
9 Patrick's Food Pantry is in need of
10 replenishment as the recent floods and the
11 closure of Angel Ministries have increased
12 the need for their food pantry services.
13 They are currently looking for individuals
14 to donate nonperishable food items, and
15 donations can be made at the rear door of
16 the rectory on 1403 Jackson Street. If
17 anyone listening to tonight can make a
18 donation, it would be greatly appreciated.

19 Secondly, Pancreatic Cancer Action
20 Network will hold their Cheers to Hope event
21 on November 5, 2011, from 6 to 10 p.m. at
22 the Clarion Hotel located at 300 Meadow
23 Avenue in the South Side section of
24 Scranton. Tickets for the event are \$25 and
25 can be purchased at the door on the event

1 day or in advance. Pancreatic cancer
2 survivors can attend for free.

3 At the event that will be live
4 music, a silent auction, light fare, as well
5 as beer, wine and soft drinks. There will
6 also be a cash bar for other beverages and a
7 signature cocktail with a portion of the
8 proceeds benefiting the organization. For
9 more information please call or e-Mail Saul
10 savage. He could be e-mailed at
11 PSAVAGE@PANCANVOLUNTEER.org or you could
12 reach him by phone at 498-9488.

13 For some time now, Councilwoman
14 Evans, my colleague, has been referring to
15 the deficit that exists as the Doherty
16 deficit. As you know, Mayor Doherty places
17 the blame on Scranton's financial problems
18 solely on Scranton City Council. I'd like
19 to put in issue to bed already. Tonight
20 what I'll offer is factual evidence that the
21 problems we are currently facing are not a
22 product of Scranton City Council and, in
23 fact, the deficit can be justifiably called
24 the Doherty deficit.

25 Last week it was established that at

1 the end of last year we had \$6,456,282 in
2 expenses that we could not pay because we
3 did not have the money. Actually, we had 11
4 point some million worth of bills and four
5 point eight some -- four point eight million
6 in change in what we had in the general fund
7 which comes out to that number, 6,456,282.

8 At the same time when the 2011
9 budget was being amended, this was not made
10 aware by the administration to council. At
11 the end of 2010, the 2011 operating budget,
12 as amended, was adopted. In this budget,
13 council adjusted some items, however, after
14 reviewing the items that council did not
15 adjust, and the one item that council
16 adjusted with information from the
17 administration, along with unbudgeted
18 workers that the administration rehired,
19 including four DPW foremen and possibly
20 seven additional casual workers, as per an
21 anonymous tip that was sent to our office,
22 I'm not sure if the mayor actually hired
23 back seven casual workers, but this is what
24 the person had advised our office and they
25 chose to remain anonymous and perhaps they

1 were a city employee or something to that
2 nature.

3 Anyhow, the administration has
4 created a \$6,852,481 hole as per business
5 administrator McGowan's most recent cash
6 flow report. When you add last year's hole
7 with this year's hole created by the
8 administration and subtract the \$5 million
9 that the administration removed from the
10 Workers' Comp Fund Trust, it comes close to
11 a grand total of \$8.3 million. Ironically,
12 that's very close to PEL'S deficit
13 projection of \$8.2 million.

14 Here are some of the items that the
15 administration is off on, that council did
16 not touch: Delinquent landfill, \$379,175.
17 These are all revenue items, by the way.
18 Penalty and interest, \$229,428. Business
19 license and permit \$646,885. Fines and
20 forfeits, \$255. Police fines, \$20,760.
21 Delinquent wage tax, \$329,175. Interest and
22 fiscal activities, \$12,362. Rents and
23 concessions, \$700. OECD reimbursement,
24 \$192,590. Delinquent real estate taxes,
25 their projection was off by \$795,823.

1 Zoning board, \$15,500. Pave cuts, \$71,460.
2 Police and fire report copies, \$7,000.
3 Users fees, \$89. Other revenue not
4 classified, \$20,800. Cable TV revenue,
5 \$147,748 for a grand total of \$2,869,750 of
6 revenue projections that council did not
7 even alter.

8 Couple that with health insurance
9 information, health insurance line items
10 were adjusted in accordance with information
11 provided by former business administrator
12 Stu Renda, that came -- and so I deem this
13 as a product of the administration. That
14 figure is an expenditure that is \$3,732,371
15 underestimated.

16 Add that to additional hiring or use
17 of unbudgeted items such as four nonbudgeted
18 DPW foremen, \$180,000, nonbudgeted DPW
19 casual workers, \$64,360, and that's just as
20 of right now. And, of course, the raise for
21 the mayor's secretary of \$6,000. When you
22 add you will of those together that's
23 \$6,852,481 of a hole that the administration
24 has created.

25 So the mayor can't have it both ways

1 by creating these holes, hiring back workers
2 that were unbudgeted and then still blaming
3 Scranton City Council for the deficit. It
4 just doesn't work that way. It doesn't make
5 sense. Now, of course, you won't read that
6 in the Scranton Times, and I have a copy of
7 all of these projections, which I'll leave
8 for both reporters. You may read it about
9 it in GO Lackawanna, but as far as the
10 Scranton Times I doubt that you will see
11 anything written about it, but that's just
12 how it is.

13 Concerning other matters,

14 Mr. McGowan stated in the Scranton Times
15 last week that he is concerned that I do not
16 fully understand the financial situation
17 that Scranton is facing and that I wanted to
18 see PEL's projections for 2012 before
19 meeting with him to discuss city finances.
20 Now, this is a little misleading.

21 First of all, the request to meet
22 with Mr. McGowan was to discuss the 2012
23 budget, not the city's current financial
24 situation for this year, and the three
25 pieces of legislation that were passed down.

1 And secondly, PEL was revising the
2 projections for 2012 at the time, therefore,
3 before discussing 2012 I believe it's
4 imperative that we have PEL's projections
5 for 2012 before we engage in such a
6 discussion.

7 On other matters, I firmly
8 understand the financial situation that the
9 city is facing. We are facing a sizable
10 deficit for the reasons I pointed out. I
11 firmly understand this. I'm nearly
12 two-thirds of the way in completing a
13 master's degree in business administration
14 and I currently have a 4.0 GPA. I have not
15 received less than an "A" in any course at
16 this point, though, if I work a little bit
17 more on city council work maybe that will
18 cause me to go down in the next course, on
19 the set courses I'm taking, but though I
20 provided evidence that the administration's
21 projections were far off on several line
22 items, the mayor will probably continue to
23 blame council for Scranton's financial
24 problems, so let's stop talking about this,
25 and that's one part where I do agree with

1 Mr. McGoff, you know, let's look at the
2 solution here. So let's look at the
3 solution that was proposed.

4 It's come to council's knowledge
5 that the city will be receiving an extra
6 \$1.7 million in state pension aid this year
7 as a one-time revenue source. PEL indicated
8 that in the letter to us. In a recent
9 letter by PEL, this will reduce the size of
10 the deficit from \$8.2 million to \$6.5
11 million. According to Mr. McGowan's latest
12 cash flow report his projection for the end
13 of the year deficit was \$7.3 million.
14 Therefore, if his projections are correct
15 the deficit would be reduced from 7.3 to
16 5.6.

17 With this in mind, PEL in recent
18 correspondence has recommended that the city
19 should not exceed the amount of the deficit,
20 which in their calculations is \$6.5 million
21 in unfunded borrowing. Obviously, PEL's
22 number and Mr. McGowan's number differ by
23 about \$900,000 according to the last report.

24 Furthermore, they project that this
25 will be an expense of about \$700,000 to the

1 city for ten years as far as the unfunded
2 borrowing.

3 Subsequently, PEL also performed an
4 analysis on the impact of the sale of the
5 parking meters for \$6 million to the SPA.
6 According to PEL, the city would lose
7 \$702,000 from the sale of the parking meters
8 on an annual basis if sold to the Scranton
9 Parking Authority. This would not be for
10 ten years as the unfunded borrowing expense,
11 Pennsylvania, this would be forever.

12 In addition, if the parking meters
13 were sold, PEL also recommends that we
14 borrow an additional \$500,000, meaning that
15 the city would also be required to pay an
16 extra \$54,000 in debt service payments for
17 ten years, so what the unfunded borrowing
18 that PEL has recommended or that they --
19 that's one of the possible suggestions it's
20 going to cost us \$700,000 for ten years. We
21 sell the parking meters and borrow \$500,000
22 it's going to cost up \$756,000 for ten
23 years, however, it's also going to cost us
24 in lost revenue after those ten years from
25 the sale of the parking meters as where the

1 borrowing portion would be paid off after
2 ten years.

3 So also, one thing that's important
4 to remember in this is that if the parking
5 meters were sold it gives the sole
6 discretion of the Scranton Parking Authority
7 to raise parking meter rates at will without
8 the consent of Scranton City Council and, of
9 course, I know that people traveling
10 downtown do not want to see the parking
11 meter rates rise any more since we just had
12 a recent increase.

13 So let's compare everything here.
14 By borrowing \$6.5 million, the city would
15 have to pay \$700,000 each year for ten
16 years. If the city were to sell the parking
17 meters, as I said before, you are looking at
18 \$756,000 in lost revenue for ten years and
19 \$702,000 for every year after that for an
20 infinite amount of years, so let's look at
21 the 20-year comparison. If the city were to
22 engage in borrowing \$6.5 million, the city
23 would pay back \$7 million. If the city were
24 to sell the parking meters and borrow, the
25 city would lose \$14.6 million. It's obvious

1 parking meters were leased for a term of 75
2 years, over that 75 year term the City of
3 Chicago realize about 54 percent of the
4 estimated revenue collection, and if revenue
5 collection exceeded that estimate there was
6 to be a 50/50 split between the city and the
7 private firm that they leased the meters out
8 to. I have ready countless articles on how
9 this would a bad deal for the City of
10 Chicago.

11 Now let's look at the same scenario
12 for Scranton over a 75 year term. According
13 to PEL's projections, which are
14 conservative, the city would realize 11
15 percent of the projected meter collection
16 over the same term. Now, if Chicago is to
17 realize 54 percent of the estimated revenue
18 over 75 years from their parking meter deal
19 and that was considered a bad deal, what
20 would realizing only 11 percent of the
21 estimated revenue in that same period be
22 considered?

23 It's evident that the sale of the
24 parking meters is not a good move for the
25 city and I think that pretty much all of

1 city council is in agreement with that right
2 now.

3 This is the reason why Mayor Doherty
4 needs to come to city council and discuss
5 the plan with Scranton City Council as a
6 group. Now, I know that there have been
7 some private conversations and whatnot, but
8 coming to Scranton City Council is the most
9 effective forum to achieve an actual
10 agreement, and we know that this has to be
11 done fast. As Mr. McGoff said, we don't
12 want to see layoffs, payless paydays,
13 etcetera. It's an effective forum since all
14 council members are present, the public gets
15 to see it, and personally speaking to one
16 council member, yeah, it's a good start,
17 however, Councilman Rogan does not represent
18 Mr. McGoff. Councilman Rogan does not
19 represent Mrs. Evans. Councilman Rogan does
20 not represent Mr. Loscombe, and Councilman
21 Rogan does not represent me. He represents
22 Councilman Rogan, as we all represent
23 yourselves.

24 In addition, some of the members of
25 council have full-time jobs, myself

1 included. Thus, it makes a difficult to
2 meet with the mayor during normal business
3 hours. As the newspaper said many times, we
4 are part-time legislators, so because we are
5 part-time legislators many of us have
6 full-time employment if we are not retired,
7 so that's why it's imperative for the mayor
8 to come to council to discuss these
9 measures.

10 Now, some may believe that the mayor
11 will never come to council for what reasons
12 I don't know, but the mayor has been to
13 council to discuss borrowing money in the
14 past from what -- at least from that I have
15 been informed of. One time didn't the mayor
16 appear before council to discuss borrowing I
17 believe it was \$44 million here?

18 MS. EVANS: Yeah, I am going to
19 address that under my motions.

20 MR. JOYCE: Well, with that being
21 said, I have some citizens' requests.
22 First, Mrs. Krake, this is a request from
23 me. If you could send correspondence to
24 Mr. McGowan regarding the Rossi & Rossi
25 reports that were passed to our office, and

1 I understand that we are very behind on
2 providing information to Rossi & Rossi and
3 this is something that needs to be addressed
4 as soon as possible.

5 Secondly, various Keyser Valley
6 residents informed me that there is a large
7 pothole in the middle of the intersection of
8 Lafayette Street and North Cameron Avenue.
9 Residents would like to see this problem
10 taking care of as soon as possible because
11 it's creating difficult travel conditions.
12 Residents also have informed that there is a
13 large pothole in the 100 block of North
14 Cameron Avenue.

15 Mrs. Krake, please contact
16 Mr. Brazil and ask him to address this
17 situation.

18 Various West Scranton residents have
19 informed me that there is a large pothole at
20 the intersection of South Dewey and Washburn
21 Street. Mrs. Krake, please add this to the
22 issues to address with Mr. Brazil.

23 Various residents living on
24 Lafayette Street in West Scranton have
25 informed me that the Lafayette Street sign

1 at the intersection of Lafayette Street and
2 Keyser is faded and almost illegible.
3 Mrs. Krake, please add this to the issues to
4 address with Mr. Brazil.

5 Also, I have been informed by
6 various South Scranton residents that the
7 property located at 436 Birch Street
8 contains overgrown grass and weeds still.
9 The area in the back of the property is also
10 in very poor condition. Mrs. Krake, please
11 contact Mrs. Seitzinger and ask him to
12 investigate the situation and contact the
13 property owner and have that situation
14 rectified.

15 A resident has informed our office
16 actually, that there are three large
17 potholes in front of 1421 Church Avenue,
18 that's over in North Scranton. Mrs. Krake,
19 please add this to the issues to address
20 with Mr. Brazil. And Hill Section residents
21 have advised that the "Slow" sign on the 700
22 block of Harrison Avenue is illegible and
23 cannot be read by travelers. Residents have
24 requested that the sign be replaced.
25 Mrs. Krake, please add this to the issues to

1 address with Mr. Brazil.

2 Several residents have contacted me
3 in regards to the condition of the
4 Petersburg Cemetery on Paul Avenue.
5 Neighboring residents have informed me that
6 weeds have grown so high that people have
7 trouble recognizing that it's even a
8 cemetery anymore. So, Mrs. Krake, please
9 add this to the issues to address with
10 Mr. Seitzinger and have him contact the
11 owner of the cemetery.

12 Several West Scranton residents have
13 informed that there are a number of
14 properties located in the 1200 block of
15 South Main Avenue that are boarded up and
16 are an eyesore to the neighborhood.
17 Neighbors have informed that the gras is
18 overgrown and piles of garbage can be found
19 in the backyard of these properties.
20 Mrs. Krake, please add this the issues to
21 address with Mr. Seitzinger.

22 Hill Section residents have informed
23 me that there is vacant lot on the 500 block
24 of Harrison Avenue that needs serious
25 attention, that weeds and grass are

1 overgrown and they are now extending onto
2 the sidewalk. Since this is a vacant lot
3 please contact Mr. Seitzinger to see if this
4 lot is owned by the city. If it is, please
5 contact Mr. Brazil then and ask him if he
6 could rectify this situation. If it's not
7 owned by the city, please instruct
8 Mr. Seitzinger to contact the owner of that
9 the lot.

10 And also, the alley behind the 100
11 block of West Parker Street, a request came
12 in to our office to please fill the potholes
13 behind this block of West Parker Street,
14 they have stated that they have called the
15 mayor six times and they haven't had a
16 response. So, Mrs. Krake, please add this
17 to the issues to address for Mr. Brazil, and
18 that's it.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman
20 Joyce.

21 Good evening, I wish to begin my
22 thanking Councilman McGoff for his letter to
23 the editor of the Scranton Times. I
24 appreciate his effort, but I have never made
25 decisions relating to government finances

1 based on the newspaper's editorials and
2 cartoons, rather, my decisions are rooted
3 consistently in facts and service to the
4 taxpayers.

5 Since the day I was first sworn into
6 office, I have turned up the heat, asked too
7 many questions, found too many answers, and
8 exposed wrongdoings. That makes some people
9 very nervous and others very angry, thus,
10 the newspaper attacks are nothing more than
11 the latest in their never ending series
12 which began in 2004.

13 Also, I'd like to respond to
14 Mr. McGoff's statement contained in the
15 September 30 edition of the Scranton Times
16 in which he said that the council
17 supermajority members do not appear to have
18 solutions other than a couple of vague
19 references with the Sewer Authority.

20 Perhaps my colleague wasn't
21 listening or has forgotten, but the minutes
22 of the past council meetings will verify
23 that I have offered multiple financial
24 solutions. September 20, 2011, discussion
25 of buyouts and retirements, implementation

1 of StreetSmart Technologies parking program,
2 enforcement of the rental registration
3 program, payroll and commuter tax, and
4 opposition of tax assessment appeals by
5 Scranton businesses.

6 September 13, 2011, discussion of
7 payroll and commuter taxes and request
8 Governor Corbett to certify the census
9 results in order to pursue changing
10 Scranton's classification and implementing
11 new taxes as a long-term financial solution.
12 Received delinquent taxes by Charles
13 Jefferson, which this council majority
14 spearheaded.

15 And September 6, 2011, discussion of
16 parking meter and permit payments owed to
17 the City of Scranton by the CMC Hospital.
18 \$600,000 owed to the City for the Providence
19 Road property on which the former DPW garage
20 was stood and StreetSmart Technology Parking
21 program.

22 August 4, 2011, at a public meeting,
23 and, Mr. McGoff, you get a pass on this one
24 because I know you weren't able to be here,
25 pursued both workers' comp and buyouts and

1 retirement buyouts, enforce the rental
2 registration program, implement StreetSmart
3 parking program, bill the CMC Hospital for
4 parking meter and permit revenue owed to the
5 city, issue RFP's for the leasing or the
6 sale of city parking garages, cut
7 unnecessary positions across the board and
8 modify work hours for the city hall.

9 July 26, 2011, potential tax
10 assessment reduction by the new owner of the
11 Moses Taylor Hospital, CMC parking meter and
12 permit fees not received by the city.
13 Parking program, a new revenue generator has
14 not been rebid.

15 And July 12, I stated that I did not
16 intend to approve the sale of parking meters
17 to the Scranton Parking Authority. The
18 mayor, administrators and council should
19 attend public meetings to address the
20 deficit as follow-up to our private meeting,
21 and final approval of the city council
22 majority contract with Northeast Revenue
23 Services to collect delinquent real estate
24 tax for the years 2004 through 2010, and pay
25 down the \$1.5 million in debt owed to

1 Pennstar Bank.

2 Now, of these 15 solutions, only two
3 were realized. The contract for delinquent
4 tax collections with Northeast Revenue
5 Service and the payment of the delinquent
6 taxes by Mr. Jefferson. It is notable that
7 either occurred because the mayor agreed or
8 compromised, rather, the partners of
9 Northeast Revenue Service refused to sign
10 the mayor's substitute contract in favor of
11 the council contract. And Mr. Kolajeski of
12 the county tax claims office stood firmly
13 with city council to enforce the sale of the
14 Mulberry Lofts if delinquent taxes were not
15 paid while the city pursued payment of it's
16 own delinquent taxes.

17 All other solutions were nakedly
18 refused, ignored or excused away by
19 Christopher Doherty.

20 At the same time, the mayor offered
21 three solutions: Cut police and fire, sell
22 the parking meters while guaranteeing \$14
23 million in new Parking Authority debt, and
24 borrow with Court approval.

25 Perhaps it's easier for people to

1 remember the three solutions, two of which
2 are utterly irresponsible, than it is to
3 recall 15 solutions that address both short
4 and long-term financial stability.

5 Next, Scranton City Council asked
6 Mayor Chris Doherty last week to attend a
7 special meeting of council or a regularly
8 scheduled meeting to discuss his deficit
9 plan as soon as possible. Christopher
10 Doherty has not appeared in these council
11 chambers in five years. In fact, the last
12 occasion was November 2, 2006, when he
13 briefly attended a council meeting solely to
14 cast the deciding vote to appoint Mr. McGoff
15 to Scranton City Council.

16 Prior to that, Mayor Doherty came
17 before this council majority to request and
18 explain a proposed \$44 million borrowing in
19 October 2006. Although the dollar amount
20 was decreased, the mayor's borrowing was
21 later approved.

22 Since 2006, rather than speaking
23 face-to-face to his constituents and his
24 fellow elected official, Mayor Doherty
25 speaks through the Scranton Times or behind

1 closed doors. Christopher Doherty should
2 come before the people to report city
3 revenues and expenditures and explain the
4 need and uses for the \$10 million he is
5 seeking. He should provide city council
6 with specific budgetary uses for every dime
7 of that \$10 million. This is his
8 responsibility because he handed this
9 council a fantasy budget that contained over
10 a \$6 million hole last November and he
11 deceptively presented it as a balanced
12 budget.

13 His absence yet again from these
14 chambers speaks of person who refuses to
15 accept responsibility for his actions, to
16 face questions and to fulfill his
17 obligations to the people of Scranton.
18 Rather, he feels entitled to govern
19 single-handedly from his private office and
20 that is not the type of leader needed on any
21 level of government.

22 Can you imagine if the President of
23 the United States only spoke to the people
24 of this nation during election time debates
25 and through the Associated Press? Can you

1 imagine if the President never presented a
2 State of the Union address to the Senate,
3 Congress and the American people, but
4 instead chose to present it on Wall Street
5 to the CEOs of banks and corporations. We,
6 as Americans, and the national media, would
7 never tolerate such actions in Washington,
8 yet, here in Scranton a mayor is more
9 entitled than any US President.

10 Scrantonians are expected not only
11 to accept this unique behavior, but we also
12 have a newspaper that condones it.

13 Mr. Rogan reported on his meeting
14 with the mayor and the business
15 administrator earlier, but I have a few
16 questions regarding your meeting that I
17 neglected to ask you when we had our phone
18 conversation yesterday. Where was the
19 meeting held?

20 MR. ROGAN: It was at a coffee shop
21 in Wilkes-Barre.

22 MS. EVANS: So the mayor drove to
23 Wilkes-Barre for a meeting with a council
24 member and it can't walk up a flight of
25 stairs to come to council chambers and talk

1 to city council and the people of the City
2 of Scranton. Did you ask the mayor why he
3 didn't come to city council, Mr. Rogan?

4 MR. ROGAN: No. I don't know why
5 the mayor won't come but, unfortunately, he
6 is not going to.

7 MS. EVANS: Well, I believe though
8 you said that you despite your meeting still
9 believe that --

10 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

11 MS. EVANS: -- he should do so.

12 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And did you
14 ask Christopher Doherty for the specific
15 breakdown of the accounts and line items to
16 be amended from the proceeds of the meters?

17 MR. ROGAN: I have -- he did give
18 me, actually, Ryan did give me a bunch the
19 information of the current financial status,
20 but I didn't ask for the breakdowns of --
21 because there is no deal, so we didn't get
22 to that point yet.

23 MS. EVANS: Well, okay. That was
24 something I know that council had requested
25 last week and he and BA have not provided

1 that information to council.

2 While city council doesn't support
3 the sale of parking meters and additional
4 borrowing for the Parking Authority, city
5 borrowing has always been on the table and
6 both the mayor and council have been well
7 aware of this for weeks and city council
8 never received the information requested as
9 we just discussed, in compliance with
10 Section 909 of the Home Rule Charter, so
11 what progress really was made or, you know,
12 what new information was received I think,
13 like you stated before, which is very true,
14 Councilman Loscombe, Councilman Joyce and I,
15 have met with the mayor and administrators
16 on prior occasions with just about the same
17 results. The mayor ignored our input,
18 proceeded with his own agenda, you know,
19 just in the same way that he ignores our
20 legislation.

21 So let's come back down to reality
22 here. Although, we understand Councilman
23 Rogan's effort to abide by statements that
24 he will meet with anyone at any time, city
25 council, Mr. Rogan included, still believes

1 the mayor should come to council as he did
2 in 2006 rather than demanding city council
3 approve his legislation on blind faith and
4 placing the proceeds of the parking meters
5 sale and borrowing into a black hole.

6 The city's deficit is changing each
7 week. For example, from September 9 to
8 October 3 the Pennsylvania Economy League
9 has lowered the deficit from 8.2 million to
10 6.5 million since the state has agreed to
11 make \$1.7 million in 2011 pension payments
12 for the city. There are other financial
13 factors which PEL must consider in it's
14 final calculations.

15 As a result, and with the advice of
16 our council solicitor, I have not placed the
17 mayor's legislation for the sale of the
18 city-owned parking meters, the 14 million in
19 Scranton Parking Authority borrowing, which
20 is to be guaranteed by the city, and the \$4
21 million in Court approved city borrowing on
22 tonight's agenda for introduction.

23 Attorney Hughes and I agree that the
24 \$10 million the mayor is seeking is
25 significantly greater than what is actually

1 required to address the current deficit. We
2 also agree that an accurate deficit figure
3 must be obtained and the mayor and his
4 business administrator must submit the
5 previously requested documents to city
6 council in compliance with the Home Rule
7 Charter.

8 Unless the mayor can prove
9 otherwise, it now appears that the sale of
10 parking meters is unnecessary. Equally
11 important, I continue to believe that the
12 City of Scranton needs to get out of the
13 parking garage business. I'd like to see
14 the parking garages leased or sold in 2011
15 and the Parking Authority put out of
16 operation. I will not lengthen it's
17 lifespan by selling parking meters and
18 saddling Scranton Taxpayers with additional
19 Parking Authority debt.

20 Finally, city council's working with
21 the Pennsylvania Economy League to alter the
22 city's tax structure in order to help
23 Scranton taxpayers. At the same time,
24 council is trying to determine the actual
25 dollar amount of the deficit and working on

1 an alternate plan to address is which will
2 be reported at a future meeting.

3 I do have four citizens' requests
4 for the week regarding potholes in North
5 Scranton and reports of questionable
6 practices by the city and DPW to submit this
7 evening, and our office will contact the
8 appropriate departments this week.

9 And finally, we received a message
10 from Mr. Vitrus of the DPW who stated there
11 will be no garbage pickup on Monday,
12 Columbus Day, and that's it.

13 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING THE
14 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
15 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A
16 LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN FROM THE
17 COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN
18 PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.32 IN AN AMOUNT NOT
19 TO EXCEED \$75,000.00 TO FRECKLES AND FRILLS,
20 INC. TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

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

24 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: On the question? This
2 is a loan, I believe, for \$75,000 for the
3 Office of Economic and Community Development
4 and before council would determine the final
5 approval for this loan, I would ask that the
6 owners of Freckles and Frills would attend a
7 public caucus of Scranton City Council
8 hopefully next Tuesday, that would be the
9 11th, October 11, at 6:00. I think council
10 would like to hear, as it has in other
11 instances when the loans are being
12 considered, would like to hear from the
13 owners concerning the project and uses of
14 the loan that is being sought. If Freckles
15 and Frills, however, is unable to -- because
16 I know we are kind of jumping in here
17 without contacting them, if they are unable
18 to attend next Tuesday if you would please
19 see, Mrs. Krake, if the following Tuesday
20 then would be available and then in that
21 event council I think could consider tabling
22 the legislation next week until we are able
23 to meet with them. Thank you.

24 Anyone else on the question? All
25 those in favor of introduction signify by

1 saying aye.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

5 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AUTHORIZING,
9 EMPOWERING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND
10 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPOINT
11 A LIAISON BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND
12 BERKHEIMER, THE DULY APPOINTED COLLECTOR OF
13 EARNED INCOME TAX FOR THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY
14 "TAX COLLECTION DISTRICT", FOR THE EXPRESS
15 PURPOSE OF SHARING CONFIDENTIAL TAX
16 INFORMATION WITH THE DISTRICT FOR OFFICIAL
17 PURPOSES.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. AUTHORIZING AND
8 EMPOWERING THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY TAX
9 COLLECTION COMMITTEE TAX COLLECTOR,
10 BERKHEIMER, TO IMPOSE AND RETAIN COSTS OF
11 COLLECTION ON DELINQUENT TAXES.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

16 MR. JOYCE: Second.

17 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
18 those in favor of introduction signify by
19 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.

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MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO
BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. NO
BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

MS. EVANS: If there is no further
business, I'll entertain a motion to
adjourn.

MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVANS: This meeting is
adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER