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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

LOCATION:

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce. Mrs.

11 Evans.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD. THIRD ORDER.

15 3-A. MINUTES OF THE NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL
16 PENSION MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 28, 2011.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
20 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
21 SEPTEMBER 28, 2011.

22 MS. KRAKE: Do we have any clerk's
23 notes tonight, Mrs. Krake?

24 MR. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any

1 council members have announcements at this
2 I'm?

3 MR. MCGOFF: I have one. St.
4 Patrick's parish is sponsoring a Where's the
5 Beef Roast Beef Dinner Harvest Festival
6 that's Sunday, November 6, at the All Saints
7 School auditorium. Takeout dinners begin at
8 11:30 and the sit down dinners are from 12
9 noon until five p.m. Adults \$10, children
10 \$6. Events also include children's games,
11 basket raffles, instant bingos. Tickets can
12 be purchased in the parish office, 344-2679
13 or chairperson Terry Gabriel, telephone
14 343-0947 and that's a roast beef dinner at
15 ST. Patrick's parish Sunday, November 6.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MR. ROGAN: Just one brief
18 announcement. Last week's meeting when the
19 CDBG amendments were announced, one of our
20 residents asked if there were any future
21 changes, last minute changes, that I would
22 announce them, and there is three minor
23 changes. One is that the \$7,000 allocated
24 for the Healthy NEPA Suicide Prevention for
25 Seniors will be eliminated due to the fact

1 that they are not based in the City of
2 Scranton, they are out of the Abingtons, and
3 that \$7,500 will be reallocated at follows:
4 \$3,500 for the Downtown Senior
5 Center Parking Paving Lot program, and
6 \$3,500 for First Friday busing, and that is
7 it.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
9 Loscombe, do you have any announcements?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, I have nothing.
11 Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: St. Joseph's Malachite
13 Catholic Church located at 130 St. Francis
14 Cabrini Avenue in West Scranton will hold
15 it's annual spaghetti dinner tomorrow,
16 Wednesday evening, from 5 to 8 p.m.
17 Takeouts will be available beginning at 4
18 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for
19 children ages five through ten, and can be
20 purchased at the door.

21 Attention dog and cat owners,
22 Dr. Ramsey is a local veterinarian and will
23 provide a 20 percent discount on treatment
24 of medical problems for pets adopted from
25 the SPCA during their first visit to his

1 office. In addition, the first visit will
2 be free of charge. Dr. Ramsey formerly
3 practiced at the Dunmore Dog and Cat
4 Hospital and currently practices at VCA
5 located at 417 East Drinker Street in
6 Dunmore. We recognize and thank Dr. Ramsey
7 for his outstanding care and concern for our
8 pets and his generous offer of veterinary
9 assistance for the many pets who desperately
10 need good homes, and that's it.

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

13 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
14 tonight is Bob Martin.

15 MR. MARTIN: Good evening, Council.
16 Bob Martin.

17 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

18 MR. MARTIN: President of the FOP,
19 citizen and taxpayer of Scranton. I just
20 wanted to come tonight, I mean, everybody
21 knows what the latest news with the Supreme
22 Court ruling and our situation, not
23 necessarily a win. Everybody has ben
24 saying, you know, it's a win. It's not
25 really a win. All the Supreme Court did was

1 coming up. I, as the president of the FOP,
2 will do everything in my power to help
3 resolve this, but then you have to help me
4 help you, so I know what to do. I will go
5 back to my members, but you have to remember
6 that, I'm just the bus driver. My members
7 tell me where to drive.

8 I mean, you know, I have got --
9 ultimately the decision is going to come
10 down from then. I know that it was in the
11 paper, and I'm sure there would be nothing
12 greater to the citizens if we could forgive
13 everything, but I just don't think that
14 that's possible. Me, being a senior,
15 probably some of the few grayer hairs in the
16 department and in the leadership of the FOP
17 realize that the big picture is the fact
18 that our collective bargaining rights were
19 reaffirmed by the Court's, that those are
20 our rights, and that's what this fight has
21 been about since the beginning. We didn't
22 pick this fight, someone else picked this
23 fight and we stayed in it and we are going
24 to stay in it and continue on. But again,
25 we are not going to do it at the expense of

1 the taxpayers and hopefully that's the
2 culmination at this point.

3 I mean, I know the fight is going to
4 continue. I just left Harrisburg, I just
5 drove back and walked right in here from
6 Harrisburg, but I want you to know and I
7 want to the taxpayers to know we will do
8 anything we can. I'm sure there can be some
9 forgiveness of some of these back dues and
10 backowings and we surely come up with some
11 kind of a schedule to help work this through
12 throughout going into the future, you know,
13 I'm hearing rumors that they want to did it
14 all at once, that's just not feasible, I
15 understand that's not feasible, and I think
16 my members do, too, so we just want to, you
17 know, let everybody know that we are part of
18 this and we are going to help it come to a
19 resolution the best we can, and if anybody
20 has any questions.

21 (Whereupon while Mr. Martin was
22 speaking, Mr. Joyce takes the dais and joins
23 the meeting.)

24 MS. EVANS: Mr. Martin, are you
25 willing to sit down with the mayor of

1 Scranton and mitigate this Court award for
2 the benefit of the taxpayers of Scranton?

3 MR. MARTIN: Absolutely.
4 Absolutely. We will sit and whatever we can
5 do. Again, I mean, we have some
6 constraints, but, I mean, we will do
7 whatever we can do to lessen this blow. You
8 know, it's catastrophic. It's catastrophic
9 at this point already on top of a
10 catastrophic situation. I mean, you know,
11 this is someone that just got hit with an
12 earthquake and now a hurricane is coming up
13 Main Street, so we will certainly if the
14 mayor is willing to sit down we'll sit down
15 and we'll see what we can do. I mean, we
16 will help as much as we possibly can, you
17 know.

18 Our big thing, my big feeling is the
19 fact that we just maintained our
20 collectively bargaining rights, that's the
21 most important thing to me and that, you
22 know, the rest of it we just need to fix.

23 MS. EVANS: I think what I find most
24 upsetting about the current financial
25 disaster is the fact that the mayor has

1 proclaimed almost immediately a significant
2 tax increase and a significant cut in public
3 services and evidently his target once again
4 is the police and fire departments, and I
5 don't believe that that is the proper way to
6 approach the situation. I think it is
7 very -- what he is proposing is very painful
8 and harmful to all of the taxpayers and
9 residents of the City of Scranton, and there
10 are other and better ways to address this,
11 and I think the first and best approach is
12 to sit down with the IAFF and the FOP and do
13 your best to mitigate this Supreme Court
14 award.

15 MR. MARTIN: The thing that bothers
16 me the most, and I heard it a couple of
17 times this afternoon and I have heard it in
18 the past couple of days, that this was done.
19 This was done in 2008. We had settled this,
20 and I don't know if anybody realized it, but
21 50 percent, at least 50 percent where we
22 were or where we are right now. In addition
23 to we would be making contributions to the
24 health care. We offered 2 1/2 percent of a
25 second year patrolman. Maybe it wasn't what

1 was needed, but at least at that point we
2 would have it. Again, we didn't start this
3 fight, we tried to finish it -- we attempted
4 three solid good times and it didn't happen
5 and we surely don't want to be responsible
6 for tax increases. We will sit and we'll
7 mitigate and keep that either off the table
8 or very minimum that it ever has to be
9 because we are not going to be the cause of
10 it. I mean, this isn't our fault.

11 MS. EVANS: And, furthermore, I
12 don't believe that the residents of Scranton
13 are going to sit by and allow their taxes to
14 be increased I'm hearing rumors of up to 100
15 percent and yet have their services cut in
16 half, which means you would be losing half
17 the fire stations in your city, maybe more,
18 and downsizing the police force, which was
19 already sorely effected in August. I don't
20 believe the people of the City of Scranton
21 deserve that and I'm hoping that they are
22 not going to stand for it.

23 MR. MARTIN: I hope that doesn't
24 happen. I mean, we are at a critical
25 junction right now. We are at critical

1 stages when we go on the streets every day
2 now. We just had a big board meeting with
3 the chief and we have kind of moved some
4 things around and it's going to make things
5 a little bit better, but, you know, I left
6 the house and I don't know if anybody had
7 time to watch the 6:00 news what happened in
8 Wilkes-Barre this afternoon, there was a
9 shootout right outside of a DayCare.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MR. MARTIN: And those -- that name
12 has come up in investigations with us, I
13 know it has. I mean, as soon as I heard the
14 name of the suspect I said, "Hey, I know
15 that gentleman," you know. And we can't
16 digress to that. We surely cannot allow
17 anymore police officers to be cut. We are
18 at the critical stage right now. We will
19 not able to operate and maintain the same
20 level of the service.

21 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Martin, I just want
22 to make sure I'm hearing you correctly, the
23 union is willing to negotiate spreading out
24 the payment of the award?

25 MR. MARTIN: Absolutely.

1 MR. ROGAN: That's very good to
2 hear, because as Mrs. Evans stated, many of
3 the people I talked to over the last few
4 days, the residents of Scranton cannot
5 afford a tax increase. People are leaving
6 the city in droves already. If the taxes go
7 up more people are going to leave and those
8 who of are left are going to be forced to
9 pay even more in taxes, so I hope that
10 something can be worked out if the mayor
11 will sit down and --

12 MR. MARTIN: I'd like to tell you
13 that we can forgive a lot of it, I wouldn't
14 even want to use the word a lot, again, I
15 have to take this back to my members and
16 they are going to make the decision, and you
17 know, I know it's difficult for people on
18 the outside, you know, to stand there and
19 think we are just greedy pigs, but we have
20 been through this for ten years. I mean, we
21 have been bearing this for ten years and so
22 it's going to be difficult to sell.

23 The SIT is still out there, you
24 know, I'm hoping that we could get some
25 forgiveness and that some of that stuff can

1 go away or we can help with some of these
2 other things. You know, again, how the
3 taxpayers are going to end up bearing this
4 boggles by mind. Somebody has been given
5 this administration advice and bad advice
6 for the last 10 or 15 and 20 years in total,
7 and I think they should be held responsible
8 for some of this. I mean, I don't know how
9 all of a sudden the taxpayers are going to
10 be the one caught in the middle of this
11 when-- and I know, and I know, that there
12 were times when the high priced attorneys
13 that the city was paying, this
14 administration was paying, they were told --
15 they told this administration, "Settle this
16 and settle it now because this is the best
17 it's going to get," and they didn't. They
18 didn't heed their high priced lawyer's
19 advice, but I don't know who -- but somebody
20 should be held responsible other than the
21 taxpayers of this city.

22 MS. EVANS: Mr. Martin, I'll be
23 addressing that under motions this evening.

24 MR. MARTIN: I hope everybody gives
25 that some serious consideration because

1 those are the people that have been going
2 down the path.

3 MS. EVANS: Absolutely.

4 MR. MARTIN: Again, like I said, we
5 settled this in 2008 and, I mean, that was
6 reasonable for us and, you know, it wasn't
7 quite what we wanted, but at least it was
8 reasonable for us and it was reasonable at
9 least for the taxpayers and the citizens at
10 the time, and we wouldn't be at this
11 juncture.

12 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you very
13 much.

14 MR. MARTIN: I hope you are in
15 touch. Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Andy
17 Sbaraglia.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
19 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
20 for many years I have been coming to the
21 podium and telling you that that sword
22 that's hanging over the taxpayers is going
23 to fall, and it has fallen and it's struck
24 into the hearts of the taxpayer. There is
25 no way you are going to come up and say you

1 can't have a tax raise. The figures tell
2 you, you can't have a tax raise, and
3 besides, the firemen and policemen, you
4 remember how many years they were denied a
5 pay raise? They are going to want that and
6 that's substantial. I don't know about the
7 lawyer fees, I'm afraid to ask on both
8 sides, God knows how much it costs us, but
9 where we are now is a very dire position.
10 No one could say any different.

11 We are not going to be in trouble
12 what they're saying, PEL says 11 million or
13 something next year, another ten, and they
14 don't even know how much. The Times since 6
15 million to 10 million. I don't know where
16 they have their accountant from, I have
17 never heard anybody of such a broad spectrum
18 of how much we owe, so you can't put much
19 faith in it. I just hope the administration
20 would be here, somebody from the
21 administration would say what they know, if
22 they can know or what their accountant might
23 say, I don't know, but somebody has to
24 explain to the taxpayers the fixed amount,
25 the money that is owed.

1 And that I don't know what kind of
2 terms you can give. I don't know what kind
3 of release they can sign. As you know, when
4 is fine is leveled the interest is
5 compounded from the date of that decision so
6 it's going to be compounded up, and if they
7 don't -- they can't come up with \$10
8 million, there is no way. We can't even
9 come up to buy the rock salt according to
10 the mayor. We are going to be out there
11 using ashes if some of the people with coal
12 are still around, but this the situation we
13 have been in. Now, who the lawyers were that
14 advised the mayor in the very beginning is
15 where it lies, whether the mayor, I don't
16 know. I don't even know if the mayor is
17 lawyer. I assume he want to college, but I
18 don't know if he want to law school.

19 MS. EVANS: No.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: But whoever advised
21 him must have told him this or that or what
22 the consequence could be. I mean, when you
23 got a lawyer giving advice you assume the
24 advice you are getting is a sound advice.
25 You know, there is all kinds of

1 interpretations, we had that with our Pocius
2 and Hazzouri who got their pension because
3 of a slipup in the wording that went before
4 the Courts. So, yeah, a word here or a word
5 there can really mean a lot of difference.
6 It's just too bad the city is taking a hit
7 and the taxpayer is taking a hit and there
8 is no recourse.

9 They tell you -- the Court's tell
10 you wait four years and then do something.
11 The damage is done and we have to live with
12 all of the damage that has been incurred by
13 all of the previous councils and the mayor.
14 We have to live with that damage. We can't
15 say, "I can sue this councilman or that
16 councilman for their decision," because they
17 are immune from that. All they are
18 really -- you can sue a man for malfeasance,
19 and I don't think any councilman has ever
20 been in that position, but their decisions
21 were bad all of the way. I don't know what
22 they were thinking of. Where do they expect
23 the money to come from? Fall from the sky?
24 Maybe we should invest in lottery tickets.
25 The think the lottery is up 100 some

1 million. That would help a heck of a lot,
2 but somewhere we have to get money other
3 than from the pockets of the taxpayers, but
4 you and I know that's where it's going to
5 come from. There is no sense lying to the
6 people, it's going to come from them, and no
7 matter what we do we are going to have to
8 have a tax raise and there is nothing you
9 can do about it because where we are now I
10 don't blame you, because you explained it
11 very well what happened when you come up
12 with your budget. Everybody that ever
13 listened to this council on the air or read
14 it in the paper or somewhere knows what
15 happened and what he said this year the same
16 thing that happened last year, he is not
17 going to pay the bills until next year.

18 And again, we are going to be stuck
19 with all of the TANS, you can't -- that
20 money from the TANS is supposed to push the
21 government a little until the revenue comes
22 in, but he has taken the TANS to pay off
23 TANS. That's not the best either. This man
24 has been a flimflam all the way through, all
25 of the way through. I don't know where

1 people got it because even when they sold
2 the DPW site so many times how the heck
3 would you figure that this man knew what he
4 was doing when he is doing that much?

5 But, I'm sorry we are here and I'm
6 sorry I told you that the before you took
7 office. Okay, bye.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

9 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Sbaraglia, you spoke
10 about a backup plan, honestly, I don't think
11 that the administration or PEL had a backup
12 plan because I don't think that they were
13 expecting to lose.

14 MS. EVANS: No, there was no plan.
15 There is no plan in place by either the
16 mayor, DCED or PEL. Our next speaker is Bob
17 Bolus.

18 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
19 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

21 MR. BOLUS: I'd like to first start
22 on advising Jack tonight that we have put up
23 at least six signs up by my residence on
24 East Mountain and all six signs have been
25 taken down. Fortunately for you, we have

1 video of the people taking the signs down
2 and when the meeting is over I will be
3 meeting with the Scranton Police Department
4 and give them the information and copy of
5 the videos. I think it's unheard of any
6 more that people would stoop to stealing
7 someone else's property, and I find it
8 embarrassing I even have to come up here and
9 say we know who you are and we are going to
10 deal with you and it's about time.

11 Next thing I would like to do is
12 kind of talk a little about where we are. I
13 believe we bought a ticket on the Titanic.
14 It's not in council it's members of past
15 councils, the rubber stampers, the people
16 who ignored where we should be and what we
17 should be doing. They ignored the pleas of
18 the people, they ignored common sense, logic
19 and business sense, and this mayor has been
20 at the head of it. We have brought many,
21 many issues up that could have generated
22 capital here. We brought up about the
23 leachate line, but they don't want to upset
24 DeNaples by charging a fee as a host
25 community, even though the Sewer Authority

1 treats the fluent that goes down it. They
2 don't want to do anything about the gas line
3 coming from Alliance Landfill, charging so
4 much for a cubic foot. They don't want to
5 go after KOZ and nonprofits in the city that
6 have literally prostituted the people in
7 this city by taking everything for free and
8 giving very little in return yet they reap a
9 tremendous harvest in income from students
10 and everybody everywhere else and by being
11 tax free.

12 We saw that a couple of weeks ago.
13 The DeNaple's family brought I believe it's
14 Holy Family Church. They are tearing it
15 down. They are tearing history. They are
16 tearing the culture out to make a black
17 paved parking lot, and they didn't pay a
18 dime in tax because they found a loophole,
19 and that's what's wrong in this city. This
20 mayor, the past administration, helpers that
21 were council members have allowed them to
22 circumvent the people and the tax base that
23 we need in this city.

24 Recent tax rates have increased the
25 tax rate, it's basic mathematics yet nobody

1 has pushed it. Well, we need to start
2 pushing it. We need to charge for our
3 police and fire to KOZ's and nonprofits
4 because they don't pay for that protection.
5 They don't pay taxes. They are not entitled
6 to protection unless they pay for it. There
7 is revenue there. There is revenue when the
8 police and fire department respond to an
9 accident. We need to change how we do
10 business in the city and charge for our
11 services and us stop paying for it.

12 What we have seen here is an example
13 of a giveaway. Politics. The Connell
14 Building, the old former DPW building for a
15 dollar. If the medical college needed
16 parking they should have went there and
17 shuttled people and left our history. The
18 culture that 100 years ago people brought
19 here and we're tearing it apart. That's our
20 infrastructure. That's what made Scranton
21 what it is today.

22 We have Paul Kelly right now denied
23 that the city owns the piece of the property
24 that Todd Hartman built his house on. It's
25 been an issue of a major dispute. Mary

1 Dunleavey and other people that I want to
2 see at East Mountain Resident's Association
3 last week. They are telling me about fines,
4 but they don't understand the house was not
5 properly condemned legally. It was
6 condemned by Graziano who has been charged
7 with stealing \$100,000. This is the
8 credibility that we have to deal with. They
9 watched a 16 second interview on Channel 16
10 about the damage to my home and the issues
11 that I'm facing. These were created by
12 other people, but the house is not a
13 condemned home. I live in it and I dare
14 anybody to challenge it, which it's in
15 Court.

16 Which brings up something here that
17 we need to do, the Sewer Authority allows
18 people, their supervisors, to use their
19 vehicles to drive around, go home in rather
20 than report somewhere because they are a
21 supervisor yet they get to an issue. They
22 can't do anything, they got to call out
23 union personnel, so why are they driving at
24 our expense city-owned vehicles for no
25 reason, gas and all? So if we're going to

1 cut, let's start cutting at the pennies,
2 that saves the dollars.

3 One thing I would like to ask is
4 Paul Kelly be ordered to come here and prove
5 that the city does not own the 16 1/2 foot
6 piece of property here. I put a \$50,000
7 offer on it, it's being ignored. That's
8 what happening in the city. There is vacant
9 land all over that could be sold and
10 developed, it's ignored. There are many
11 ways to generate money. Windmills on the
12 mountain here. We could generate electric,
13 save us money.

14 The thing I would like to ask Jack
15 tonight is if you, sitting here tonight,
16 could ask your two colleagues, Mr. McGoff
17 and Mr. Rogan, since they are on a first
18 name basis with the mayor, he has ignored
19 us, he has ignored everybody else, but they
20 can have him. Hot dogs, donuts, they could
21 have meetings privately out of here. The
22 mayor could travel anywhere, they could pick
23 up a phone and call him. I would ask you
24 tonight to ask them with their influence
25 what the mayor there was a seat put here,

1 and I have watched it on TV, an empty seat
2 that Chris Doherty gave his word he would be
3 the sixth councilman. Well, he has lied to
4 everybody here, he has never kept his word.
5 Maybe tonight you would ask them to join
6 you, because I know the other three want to
7 see him here, and so do we. We need
8 accountability, we need transparency. It's
9 not their private meetings, Mr. Rogan,
10 Mr. McGoff, I don't appreciate them as the
11 taxpayer. This is an open forum, bring
12 Chris Doherty here, use your influence. You
13 make the first move, bring them before all
14 of you now and the people now under these
15 cameras, under the firefighters and
16 everybody else here. Let's show some
17 credibility now. Now do the job interest
18 you that you're appointed to do. If you
19 would do that, Mr. Loscombe, I would
20 appreciate it. Thank you.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Doug Miller.

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

25 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

2 MR. MILLER: I would like to begin
3 tonight the recent Supreme Court ruling
4 regarding the public safety arbitration
5 awards. You know, it's been stated recently
6 in the paper that this will cost the city as
7 much as \$10 million, and I think it's safe
8 to say that we all know that this all could
9 have been avoided had the mayor been willing
10 to sit down years ago and work out a fair
11 deal for both sides. Unfortunately, the
12 mayor chose to appeal each decision
13 throughout the years and ultimately it's
14 lead us to where we are today. Due to the
15 mayor's actions, he has added even more to a
16 financial mess that he has created.

17 The mayor's solution to all of this
18 was to layoff more police and firemen as
19 well as close more engine companies and to
20 raise taxes, and for years we have had
21 public safety officials come up to this
22 podium and warn the residents that this day
23 was going to happen, but it was lead with
24 cries from the critics who claim that it was
25 scare tactics and lies and the mayor made

1 his infamous statement of, "I'm not going to
2 close fire stations."

3 Well, we see where we are today.
4 When are the residents of this city going to
5 step up and realize that this mayor has no
6 regard for our public safety, but most of
7 all he has no respect for the taxpayers of
8 this city because his actions have proven it
9 time and time again, and we have been put in
10 this tough spot because for the last ten
11 years we haven't had anybody to stand up and
12 hold this man accountable, whether it was
13 members of the administration, past rubber
14 stamp councils lead by Mr. McGoff, nobody
15 stood up and held this man accountable.

16 But now finally we have a council
17 majority that stood up on behalf of the
18 residents of this city and held this man
19 accountable and exposed his politics, his
20 games, and all of his nonsense, and now you
21 are fighting a battle, really a struggle, of
22 trying to clean up the mess that was thrown
23 at you and I truly feel sorry for the
24 situation that you are in because he has
25 caused one heck of a problem as well as all

1 of his little helpers along the way here.

2 Regarding the budget, we have been
3 talking an awful lot about that. I want to
4 commend council and Solicitor Hughes for the
5 public presentation of your deficit plan
6 that you made last week. I certainly feel
7 that your plan addresses a lot of the issues
8 that we had, a lot of long-term issues we
9 had regarding losing assets and losing
10 parking meter revenue, but that was all
11 answered in your proposal which sees us
12 realizing 100 percent of that parking
13 revenue as well as holding onto an asset
14 that we would have lost under the mayor's
15 plan which, if I may add, also included tax
16 increases and borrowing and, as I have said
17 many times, you don't borrow your way out of
18 debt, and anybody that would make a
19 statement that they would consider
20 borrowing, I think needs to go and take a
21 look at basic math principal that borrowing
22 doesn't get you out of debt, you have seen
23 what's that done for the last ten years, and
24 anybody that's been paying close attention
25 to the city's finances, like I have,

1 understands that and comprehends that, as
2 well as the rest of the residents in this
3 city.

4 The borrowing and the spending needs
5 to come to an end, and I know that this
6 council has been holding back on the purse
7 strings and we are not giving out blank
8 checks to this man anymore because it's
9 caused one heck of a problem, and you
10 realized that, unlike past councils that let
11 it slide by.

12 You know, I believe your plan is in
13 the best interest of this city both
14 long-term and short-term. As I said, we are
15 keeping an asset. We are generating
16 millions rather than losing that like we
17 would have don in the mayor's plan. I
18 believe your presentation last week defined
19 openness and transparency and to anyone who
20 would state otherwise, I know Mr. McGoff
21 took issue in the paper stating that this
22 council showed a lack of openness and
23 transparency, well, I think that maybe you
24 should march downstairs to our honorable
25 mayor and demand that he come forward and

1 lay out his proposal, because I certainly
2 don't believe anybody like Mr. McGoff should
3 be talking about openness and transparency
4 after his tenure on council and the way he
5 treated the residents of this city and the
6 burdens he placed on them, I don't think he
7 should be talking about openness and
8 transparency.

9 So if we do want to talk about that,
10 let's demand that the mayor come forward, be
11 held accountable to the public, and layout
12 his proposal. As a speaker just said, we
13 have had a chair here waiting for him, the
14 big boy chair, and the reason I call it the
15 big boy chair is because the mayor made it
16 quite clear on Channel 16 that he deals in
17 the big boy world. Well, the big boys and
18 girls are waiting for you, mayor, and we
19 haven't seen you yet, and if it's going to
20 take coffee and donuts to get you here, as I
21 said, we can make arrangements, but it's
22 time to be serious here, it's time to find
23 solutions, and you can't continue to play
24 games jeopardizing the health and safety of
25 the residents of this city because, as I

1 said, when it comes to this issue, I take it
2 very serious, I'm passionate about it and
3 when I hear layoffs and engine companies
4 being shut down that truly disgusts me, and
5 I'm truly disgusted with this man and what
6 he is trying to do.

7 And the rumor out there, 100 percent
8 tax increase? When is it going to stop?
9 When are we going to finally wake up and
10 realize that we can no longer place these
11 financial burdens on the residents of this
12 city? We saw what the 26 percent tax
13 increase did. Mr. McGoff could talk about
14 that. I mean, the games have to end. This
15 man needs to be accountable, he needs to
16 come forward, he needs to stop hiding behind
17 his closed door and come forward and be the
18 sixth councilman like he said he was going
19 to do.

20 And I'm asking tonight to the
21 residents of this city to stop hiding back.
22 Don't sit home. Come here every week, every
23 Tuesday, demand that he be held accountable,
24 demand he hold himself to the public. He
25 has a lot of explaining to do, and I'm

1 asking you to come to council, in fact, take
2 a step further, protest his office and
3 demand that he stop playing games and
4 jeopardizing the health, safety and
5 well-being of the residents of this city.
6 Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

9 MS. EVANS: Les Spindler.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
11 Council. Les Spindler, city resident.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

13 MR. SPINDLER: I, too, want to talk
14 about the Supreme Court decision. I guess
15 everybody saw it today in the paper, it's
16 going to cost up to \$10 million the
17 taxpayers are going to have to shell out.
18 There is solely due to Chris Doherty's ten
19 years mismanaging this city and the rubber
20 stamp council that he has for his first
21 eight years in office. I hate to say we
22 told you so, but we told you so.

23 The Legion of Doom and the leaders
24 of the unions have been saying this for
25 years and years and years that this is going

1 to happen and it fell on deaf ears and now
2 the taxpayers are going to pay for it. This
3 all could have been avoided if Chris Doherty
4 sat down from day one, negotiated a fair
5 contract with the unions, we wouldn't have
6 \$10 million to pay out, and it's probably
7 going to be more than \$10 million because
8 the 21 he just laid off when their Court
9 decision comes through, when they are
10 reinstated, we are going to have to pay
11 their backpay plus interest, also, so it
12 just never seems to end with this mayor.

13 That's just like with the SIT
14 clerks. You had to hire them back with
15 interest and backpay the same thing is going
16 to happen with the 21 people we laid off
17 recently.

18 It's time for the citizens of this
19 city to get off their butts and do something
20 and tell this mayor not to put up with it.
21 But, Mrs. Evans, I respectfully have to
22 disagree with you that the citizens don't
23 care what happens. I mean, where are they?
24 Look at this crowd here. It's the same
25 people that come here week after week. I

1 have been asking the questions, why aren't
2 they down there picketing city hall? It's
3 ridiculous. The people of this city don't
4 care and I don't know why, but there should
5 be hundreds of people in front of city hall
6 telling this mayor that they won't put up
7 with it, but they are not doing it. Like I
8 said, it's the same people coming here week
9 after week for the last ten years since I
10 have been come here.

11 Oh, and in the Sunday Doherty
12 newsletter the headline said, "City has no
13 easy way out."

14 Well, I have a very easy way out, if
15 Chris Doherty would resign as of tomorrow
16 there would be a very easy way out and that
17 would be the best thing that would ever
18 happen to this city. One question with the
19 new rental registration ordinance, does that
20 include duplexes/-GS or doubles? Like, I
21 live in a double, would that be included in
22 that?

23 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff?

24 MR. SPINDLER: I live on one side
25 and rent out the other.

1 MR. MCGOFF: I don't have -- I have
2 it somewhere here, Mr. Spindler, but I'll
3 look -- I believe it was an individual who
4 was -- anything that in which it was
5 owner --

6 MR. JOYCE: If the owner occupies
7 one side --

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Up to four units I
9 think it was.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Then it's not subject
11 to the ordinance.

12 MR. JOYCE: It's not subject to the
13 fee.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Okay, Mr. Loscombe,
15 the Linden Street bridge, have you heard
16 anything about that recently?

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, actually, to
18 honest with you, I haven't had the chance.
19 I was going to take a ride up to PennDOT.
20 I'll have to call them tomorrow. Last I
21 spoke to them the engineering was just about
22 done, he had told me what they had planned
23 on doing and everything, it was just a
24 process of getting the right of ways from
25 the railroad and stuff, so that may still be

1 a holdup, but I do have to check on that.

2 MR. SPINDLER: It's a terrible
3 inconvenience down at Seventh Avenue there.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: They pretty much
5 assured me it would be done before the end
6 of the year, I though he had mentioned
7 Thanksgiving --

8 MR. SPINDLER: It was supposed to
9 start in September and we are almost into
10 November now.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure.

12 MR. SPINDLER: As I said last time,
13 pretty soon they'll say, "Oh, it's snowing,
14 we can't do it."

15 I wouldn't be at all surprised if
16 it's not done until spring and it's
17 terrible. I was in a Redner's this
18 afternoon and getting out of the parking lot
19 the traffic was backed up into the parking
20 lot in Redner's. It's terrible.

21 Lastly, in the Doherty newsletter
22 the other day, "Parking Authority faces
23 deficit."

24 Once again, city has to bail an
25 authority out, \$1.6 million. It never seems

1 to end. First it's the Recreation Authority
2 -- or was it the Redevelopment Authority.

3 MS. EVANS: The Redevelopment
4 Authority.

5 MR. SPINDLER: Now it's the Parking
6 Authority. I know it's hard to do, but you
7 explained it, Mrs. Evans, but these
8 authorities are killing us.

9 MS. EVANS: Yes.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Too bad there wasn't
11 some way we could do away with these
12 authorities. Where are we going to find
13 \$1.6 million when we have to pay \$10 million
14 to the police and firefighters' union. And
15 as far as Chris Doherty showing up and
16 negotiating, I think you have a better
17 chance of pigs flying. Thank you for your
18 time.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bill
20 Jackowitz.

21 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening, city
22 council. Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton
23 resident and member of the taxpayers'
24 association.

25 MS. EVANS: Good evening. For nine

1 years now I have been attending Scranton
2 City Council meetings. Why? Because I feel
3 that all citizens should be aware of what
4 their local elected officials stand for.
5 You have a better chance of making a
6 difference locally then you do statewide or
7 nationwide. I first started watching city
8 council meetings back when the Honorable
9 Mayor Doherty was Finance Chairperson and
10 the Honorable Mayor Connors was mayor.

11 Councilman Doherty asked citizens to
12 contact him if they had any questions, so I
13 wrote Councilman Doherty a letter with one
14 question, where has the money gone?

15 Councilman Doherty responded by sending me
16 an invitation to attend a campaign rally for
17 his election of mayor, which I refused and
18 did not attend. For the next four years I
19 received a Christmas card from the Doherty
20 family, a picture card with the Doherty
21 family picture.

22 After the Honorable Mayor Doherty's
23 first reelection, I scheduled a meeting with
24 the Honorable Mayor Doherty immediately
25 after the election. When I arrived for the

1 meeting on a Thursday at 10 a.m., I was
2 informed by his secretary that the Honorable
3 mayor was busy and would not be able to make
4 the 10 a.m. meeting. I informed his
5 secretary that I would wait and that I came
6 prepared, I brought my lunch. Five minutes
7 later, the Honorable Mayor Doherty appeared
8 and we had a 30-minute meeting. I presented
9 the Honorable Mayor Doherty with a copy of
10 ten questions that I had prepared for him.

11 We went overall ten questions,
12 although, when I asked him the first
13 question, why did he attend the Syracuse
14 basketball game on the same date that the
15 109th returned from Iraq, he threatened to
16 have me removed from his office. I
17 retreated and went onto my second question.
18 After asking my nine remaining questions and
19 not getting an answer to any of the
20 questions, including what happened to the
21 money, I again asked the mayor why he chose
22 Syracuse basketball game over the returning
23 war fighters. This time I was asked to
24 leave the office without getting any answers
25 to my ten questions. You must remember that

1 the 109th sustained numerous causalities
2 including war fighters losing their lives.

3 As a side note, I never received
4 another Christmas card from the Doherty
5 family.

6 Six years later the Honorable Mayor
7 Doherty and the Doherty real people and the
8 Doherty one council member still do not
9 answer questions that are asked of him by
10 citizens. Instead, they like to makeup
11 excuses and alibis and evade the questions.
12 Why? I feel because they have no answers
13 that they want the public to know.

14 Everything has been done behind
15 closed doors and not in the view of the
16 residents, taxpayers. I still remember six
17 people being crammed into the city council
18 clerk's office for out of sight council
19 causes by past city council presidents.

20 Ruling could cost \$10 million. City
21 administrative voiced concern over bond
22 rating. I would like to remind the citizens
23 of Scranton that three years ago the
24 administration and the Doherty Three passed
25 a 26 percent tax increase. Again, I must

1 ask, what happened to that money? 26
2 percent is nothing to sneeze at, so I must
3 ask again, what happened to that taxpayers'
4 money? Can someone please answer that
5 question during motions tonight?

6 My answer, the Honorable Mayor
7 Doherty got his three votes and the
8 taxpayers got the screwing of their lives.
9 Here we are broke, distressed with no way
10 out. Audits are six months late, budgets
11 are not balanced, although, counsel past
12 council members assured the residents every
13 year that the budgets were balanced, the
14 bills were being paid, and that the city
15 under the watchful eye of the Honorable
16 Mayor Doherty and his cabinet members, city
17 council, OECD, and city controller were
18 making sure that everything was being done
19 properly and legally. Again, the wool is
20 being pulled over the eyes of the taxpayers.
21 The only exception is the Legion of Doom and
22 the regular speakers at city council
23 meetings.

24 On the other hand, the Doherty Three
25 and the past Doherty rubber stampers were

1 stumbling around blind because the Honorable
2 Mayor Doherty refused to remove the wool
3 from their eyes. Result, the city is broke,
4 cannot pay bills, reduced public safety
5 employees, sold assets and the citizens were
6 being lied to. Why should hardworking
7 Scrantonians pay for the mistakes and the
8 lies the elected and appointed officials
9 have told people for years?

10 Finally, the truth from the Scranton
11 city controller. She put out a letter dated
12 October 19, 2011, to all department
13 directors, "Absolutely no purchases are to
14 be made from this point forward. Only in
15 the event of an extreme emergency can a
16 purchase be made, but not before being
17 approved by contacting me and my office.
18 This is a serious matter and your
19 cooperation is expected. There is no
20 money."

21 Finally, Roseann Novembrino put out
22 an honest letter. Remember, residents and
23 city council, hold the Honorable Mayor
24 Doherty and the remaining Doherty One and
25 appointed cabinet members' feet to the fire.

1 No tax increase or layoffs. The employees
2 and taxpayers have not responsible for the
3 mess the Honorable Mayor Doherty and his
4 real people create.

5 And also, again, don't forget Kevin
6 Murphy. Kevin Murphy was the city council
7 president to approved all of this back when
8 he was the president of the city council, so
9 let's not forget Mr. Murphy, Mr. Gillhooley,
10 Mr. McGoff, Mrs. Fanucci, and Mrs. Gatelli
11 and the school principal, I can't remember
12 his name, Bob whatever his name was, because
13 they are all responsible.

14 They are the ones who refused to
15 listen to the people, and you know what?
16 The people were right. City council members
17 were wrong because they were told what the
18 vote for, when to vote for it and how to
19 vote for it. They brought computers in,
20 they got cell phone messages, they got text
21 messages, we all know what was going on, you
22 know, and it's just too bad that now the
23 citizens of Scranton have to pay for this,
24 and they are going to pay dearly. Old
25 people like me we are not going to, but the

1 younger people if there is any left, people
2 like Pat Rogan, Frank Joyce, Doug Miller,
3 they are going to pay dearly if they remain
4 in the City of Scranton. So, again, thanks
5 to all of you people who put us in this
6 position and I wish you would man up and
7 admit to it.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

9 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Jackowitz, about
10 there is no money statement, I do want to
11 point out I have Mr. McGowan's cash flow
12 report in front of me. In the beginning of
13 October there was \$5.6 million in the
14 general fund. At the end of October he
15 projects that we'll have \$4.1million in the
16 general fund, so obviously there is some
17 money in the general fund.

18 MR. ROGAN: The next speaker is Ron
19 Ellman.

20 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you, Council, in
21 another public forum I guess. Again, I have
22 to read in the paper about Mr. Doherty and a
23 bunch of losing attorneys he keeps hiring.
24 This time I noticed he said to sue him. It
25 seemed like there is more that meets the eye

1 with him with these attorneys all the time.
2 You know, we are talking about a man that
3 just has run this city into the ground for
4 crying out loud. You know, everything is
5 just borrow or sell. He wants to sell the
6 Audubon School to the hospital that's owed
7 us \$500,000 on the building, the parking
8 garage for years, they are not going to pay
9 us. That's the kind of thinking.

10 He just doesn't seem to follow
11 through on things, sell the parking meters
12 to an organization that's completely broke
13 and has to borrow. What sense is there in
14 that? You know, it just doesn't stop with
15 him. One thing they could do to save
16 \$100,000 in the Parking Authority is fire
17 the executive director who allowed this
18 organization to just go to the blazes for
19 crying out loud. It's been misrun year
20 after year after year.

21 These are things that people just
22 tell me when I stop at the grocery store and
23 all. You can't imagine all of the things in
24 people's minds in this city, and there is a
25 lot of positive things, but I'm just talking

1 about quick conversations.

2 I had a young man tell me today at
3 that there was a bond issue in the 80's to
4 build a school which they didn't build,
5 where did that money go? He said some
6 better people than him tried to find out,
7 you know. The school board comes along and,
8 you know, we build the other school with new
9 money. There always seems to be a shortage
10 around here of accountability where money
11 went in this administration. You know, this
12 is a complete runaway school board. They
13 just -- we just spent \$28 million for that
14 school for hundreds of K0Z parents that
15 aren't paying a penny in taxes. Let the
16 school board to go to them and get some
17 money. Let the school board go out there to
18 the project and ask some of these welfare
19 unwed mothers with five or six kids tell
20 them to start paying something. I pay. The
21 people -- half the town is senior citizens
22 they pay. They could -- the city acts like
23 they just want to see more foreclosures and
24 more abandoned houses. I got probably 15 of
25 them in my neighborhood. The Smith house

1 has been sitting there for eight or ten
2 years, it's not torn down. I got one in my
3 back adjoining my property that the
4 foundation is washing down on my property
5 and my fence fell down two weeks ago.
6 Nobody wants to claim it. The place is --
7 you know, it brings a bad group of people
8 into your neighborhood and I got plenty of
9 them around my house now.

10 Well, I guess I have alienated the
11 Parking Authority tonight and unwed mothers
12 in the project, let's see who else I can
13 get. You know, my mother lived in the
14 Peckville project and at 4:00 or so when the
15 manager left the playground was replaced
16 with a dozen, 15 guys that come out of the
17 apartments. See, they are not paying no
18 rent or nothing. That goes on all over the
19 place. I don't know.

20 I stood right here on a Thursday
21 night, I don't know, years ago and I said,
22 "It's time that somebody investigate
23 Scranton Counseling for what's going on.
24 The next day is when they picked up the
25 books. Anybody can see the handwriting on

1 the wall. There is just nobody seems to be
2 looking. I stood here for two or three
3 weeks and I complained about -- I said it's
4 not the guards at the jail. I said, there
5 is no supervision. The people on the upper
6 echelon just don't care what's going on
7 there. The warden should have been fired,
8 not the guards. This is the warden's fault.
9 He has got to take the blame. Nobody wants
10 to take the blame. Every time something
11 happens adverse Doherty got an excuse. It's
12 this or that, we got to fire the police, the
13 firemen, we got too much -- nobody wants to
14 take the blame for it.

15 I don't know, you people -- not you
16 people, but the school board continuously
17 talking about the future of the children.
18 There is no future for children in this
19 town. Who is going to pay a half a million
20 dollars in debts when they grow up?
21 Something has got to be done, you know.

22 MR. ROGAN: Thank you for your
23 comments, Mr. Ellman.

24 MR. ELLMAN: It's sure not going to
25 be done by the University of the Scranton.

1 speakers that are waiting.

2 MR. ELLMAN: Well, I thank you for
3 allowing me to speak.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

5 MR. ELLMAN: Let me tell you why I'm
6 so mad, it will take a second. I had an
7 accident with my '69 Firebird. Six months I
8 have been fighting with these people,
9 finally they totaled the car, I sent the
10 title in. Today they phoned me and said I
11 have to -- they are sending my title back, I
12 have to give them a notarized bill of sale.
13 See, they just want to work with my money.
14 You know, I'm not stupid. This has got me
15 so mad I get upset since 1 or 2:00. I mean,
16 these things always seem to just go wrong
17 for me.

18 MR. ROGAN: Best of luck in your
19 situation.

20 MR. JOYCE: Yes, best of luck to
21 you.

22 MR. ROGAN: John Judge.

23 MR. JUDGE: Good evening, council.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

25 MR. JUDGE: My name is John Judge,

1 I'm a Scranton firefighter and I'm secretary
2 with the union. I'm here tonight to talk
3 about a couple of different issues, the
4 first one being the spirit of cooperation.

5 When this Supreme Court award came
6 down last week, none of the members that I
7 spoke to in my local said anything about the
8 money. They were concerned primarily about
9 what this department was going to be like
10 after Mayor Doherty got through with it
11 knowing that they lost a Court case.

12 In that spirit of the cooperation,
13 we wanted to come to the mayor, work things
14 out like President Martin from the FOP said,
15 we were basically told no. Some things have
16 changed here, the firefighters are now one
17 of the city's creditors. You owe us money.
18 Tell me which one of your credit card
19 companies, your utility companies, comes to
20 you when you owe them money and says, "Let's
21 make a deal. Let's work things out."

22 When was the last time one of you
23 got one of those calls? Ever?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm still waiting.

25 MR. JUDGE: No. I don't think you

1 ever will either. We are here now, we are
2 stakeholders in the city, we want the city
3 to be successful and we also know what the
4 impact of this award can potentially mean.
5 We are realists. We want cooperation and we
6 want it returned.

7 If the mayor wants to continue this
8 war, fine. We will be here. We are
9 resilient. Ten years the FOP and the
10 firefighters. We were resilient and we were
11 vindicated. I don't believe in my heart
12 that the mayor was the one that put us off
13 every time we went in there. I think there
14 is other people that should be held
15 accountable for what's happened to this
16 city. DCED, PEL, whoever it was that told
17 the mayor on a couple of occasions "No" to
18 handshake deals we had. Let's see them pay.

19 But until that point comes, this
20 mayor needs to sit down and speak with us
21 any time, anywhere and that's what we are
22 willing to do. We want to see this city
23 succeed just like everybody in this room,
24 just like the mayor, just like the
25 taxpayers. Everyone has been talking about

1 how this is going to affect public safety.
2 This is not just going to affect public
3 safety, it's going to be affect public
4 safety, it's going to be affect my trash
5 getting picked up, it's going to affect the
6 clerical union, this has broad sweeping
7 issues that need to be addressed.

8 The mayor needs to sit down,
9 personalities aside, it's done, it's over.
10 It's time to talk about this. I don't want
11 to see my firehouse closed where I live. I
12 don't want to see no police cars going up my
13 street. I don't want to have my trash
14 picked up every two or three weeks instead
15 of every week. I want this to end now and
16 the only which that happens is two parties
17 get together, us and him. We are ready.
18 Where is he at? It's unfortunate we have
19 already heard from him and he said
20 absolutely not. I don't think that that's
21 the right answer.

22 And I would imagine that -- and me
23 and Councilman McGoff have spoke about this
24 at length about it. It's time to cooperate.
25 It's simple. Put the personality conflicts

1 aside and let's act like adults and let's
2 move the city forward. Fire department
3 wants to do it, sounds like the police
4 department wants to do it, and I'm sure DPW
5 and clerical doesn't want to lose any of
6 their employees either and I don't think
7 they can afford it. They are going to get
8 the bone at this point just like the rest of
9 us.

10 But one other thing I find kind of
11 disheartening is, is the Scranton Parking
12 Authority is asking you for \$1.6 million or
13 something for the next budget or whatever it
14 is?

15 MR. ROGAN: The Parking Authority
16 wants the meters.

17 MR. JUDGE: They want your meters,
18 but they don't have a shortfall next year.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

20 MR. JUDGE: They have a shortfall
21 next year. Well, if you use the same logic
22 the mayor uses maybe they can't afford to
23 have all of the people that are over there
24 as well, maybe they need to trim that back
25 on that side. It's time to put everything

1 aside and let's sit down and talk. I would
2 hope that those of you who know the mayor or
3 make contact with him, it sounds like
4 Councilman Rogan has had a couple of
5 discussions with him, I know Councilman
6 McGoff has discussions with him, it's time
7 to put the gloves down, act like gentleman
8 and do the right thing for the city.

9 We are here, we have always extended
10 the olive branch. My two brothers, Brother
11 Gervasi and Brother Shriver, who lead this
12 union through this tough time have always
13 told me always extend the olive branch,
14 always try and work something out. We are
15 going to continue to do that, and that's how
16 this union is going to continue to operate
17 as well.

18 If there is anything council needs
19 from us or anything we can do to help you
20 with your budget, we have ideas. We have
21 good ideas to kind of limit this burden for
22 the taxpayers and for us as well. None of
23 us what want to see our department in
24 disarray. We are not going to let him.
25 Thank you.

1 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Judge --

2 MS. EVANS: Excuse me, I just want
3 to -- I see that we have the IAFF president
4 in the back of the room and if you had
5 intended to speak tonight if you would like
6 to follow Mr. Judge so that council might be
7 able to hear what you have to offer.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I could just ask a
9 quick question, just so I understand
10 clearly, did you meet with the mayor today
11 and face-to-face he told you he didn't want
12 to work with you or --

13 MR. JUDGE: No, I was in with
14 Brother Gervasi yesterday and we were at the
15 PEL/DCED meeting and they all -- and
16 Mr. McGoff was there and he can attest to
17 the same fact, they all said the same thing
18 it's time for all parties to begin to talk
19 and business administrator Ryan McGowan said
20 that he would go over and ask the mayor if
21 he would be willing and we received word
22 back today that absolutely not.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: This is why we are in
24 the position we are here.

25 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Judge, just to give

1 you and the residents of Scranton a
2 situation of what kind of impact that's
3 going to have on the city if the city pays
4 \$10 million all at once, we realize about
5 \$13 million in real estate taxes every year
6 on an annual basis. \$10 million is roughly
7 about 77 percent of that, give or take a few
8 decimal points, so by not meeting with you
9 the mayor is then suggesting that we are
10 going to have an 80 percent tax increase in
11 order to makeup that \$10 million, which is
12 absolutely ludicrous. If I were him, I
13 would be begging you to meet with me to
14 resolve this issue and spread these payments
15 out over "X" amount of years, because that
16 is the only way to not have this be a
17 catastrophic blow to the taxpayers of this
18 city.

19 MR. JUDGE: I agree.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: And I commend you and
21 your brothers and the police union for being
22 willing to work with him, the public and the
23 taxpayers. As we are all know, you're
24 taxpayers yourself. This is, like Mr. Joyce
25 said, it's ludicrous that he would not even

1 consider something like that. It's
2 ludicrous that we are in this position now
3 as we are because of those kind of
4 decisions.

5 MR. JUDGE: Yeah, and I agree and we
6 spoke with this, myself and Mr. McGoff, and
7 the past is the past and it's time to move
8 on at this point. We need to put these
9 personality issues to the side and we need
10 to -- what's done is done, it's time to work
11 out whatever we are left with, and make this
12 right for everybody.

13 MR. ROGAN: I think you hit the nail
14 on the head when you said, you know, when
15 does your creditor come to you and say, "We
16 are going to cut you a break."

17 You know, I have \$60,000 in student
18 loan debt. I wish they would come to me and
19 say, "Oh, we'll take 40."

20 It's not going to happen. Both the
21 police union and the fire union, like you
22 said publically tonight on camera, they are
23 willing to negotiate with the mayor and
24 spread this out, and that's absolutely what
25 the mayor should do. And, you know, I agree

1 with what you said. We have to work
2 together. I have took a lot of heat for
3 meeting with the mayor a few weeks ago. I
4 don't agree with what the mayor is trying to
5 do, you know. You know how I feel and we
6 all know, but we have to get through this.

7 MR. JUDGE: Yeah.

8 MR. ROGAN: We can't have -- I live
9 in West Side, I have seen just from when I
10 graduated high school a few years ago until
11 now how West Side has gone downhill and the
12 rest of the city. You know, we cannot
13 afford to lose more cops. We can't afford
14 to have our firehouses closing in the city
15 and we absolutely cannot afford to increase
16 taxes. The people are broke. There is no
17 more money to squeeze out of the residents
18 of this city, and I think the mayor is
19 neglecting his duties as mayor if he will
20 not sit down and meet.

21 MR. JUDGE: Well, I think in the
22 past where maybe other parties were
23 influential in the bargaining process with
24 us and the FOP, those parties no longer are
25 here, they don't have a stake in it. They

1 were told by the Supreme Court you no longer
2 have a stake in this, so now it's the
3 mayor's sole decision, so if we are not
4 meeting he has no one to blame it on but
5 himself. It's his decision and we'll be
6 here though. Always here. Thank you.

7 MR. ROGAN: I agree completely.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

10 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, city
11 council. Dave Gervasi, president of the
12 firefighters' union. Just to add what he
13 was saying, just giving you a little more
14 detail, at the PEL meeting we did reach out
15 to the city, and we were actually encouraged
16 to do it by Mr. McGoff and we were
17 encouraged by the Pennsylvania Economy
18 League and the DCED representative that was
19 there and we let the business administrator
20 know that, you know, we need to talk. We
21 thought this would possibly motive the mayor
22 to sit down and we were -- the message came
23 through our deputy chief today that, no, he
24 is not interested, and his plan, what we are
25 told, is going to be raising taxes 100

1 percent, massive layoffs in the police and
2 fire department, and he wants to borrow all
3 the money and pay the whole bill right at
4 once immediately. I don't know how you do
5 that. I mean, it's a little unrealistic.
6 We understand it's unrealistic.

7 As my colleague said, John said, we
8 have ideas, we have plans, we have things
9 that we can talk to the mayor about. I
10 don't know if you can drag them to
11 negotiations with us, but we are willing to
12 do it, and like told them at the meeting,
13 put out the olive branch, we asked for
14 cooperation, and he turned it down.

15 Other than that, we really have
16 nothing else to say other than, I mean,
17 there is a lot of ramifications of living
18 with this Court case and I'm here to answer
19 any questions you might have.

20 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Any ideas or
21 anything to that nature, would you be able
22 to e-mail me a copy of them or send them in
23 writing or whatever your ideas you are
24 planning on proposing to the mayor?

25 MR. GERVASI: Sure.

1 MR. JOYCE: And also I understand, I
2 was doing some research on grants available
3 for fire departments, and I understand, and
4 perhaps you would be able to confirm this,
5 is that Harrisburg's fire department is
6 actually having five firefighters' salaries
7 paid for by use of the SAFER grant; correct?

8 MR. GERVASI: That's correct
9 Wilkes-Barre was also successful with that
10 grant.

11 THE COURT: Has the City of Scranton
12 ever applied for a such grants?

13 MR. GERVASI: The mayor refused to
14 apply for the SAFER grant year after year.
15 They wouldn't allow us to.

16 MR. JOYCE: Hum.

17 MS. EVANS: I know that Mr. Loscombe
18 asked me prior to this evening's meeting if
19 council members might be willing to sit down
20 with the unions, since the mayor has refused
21 to do so, I still hope that he would reverse
22 course and act as a leader and mayor of this
23 city and sit down and try to mitigate this
24 on behalf of the people he serves, but
25 should he fail to do so I think we have a

1 number of council members who would be
2 willing to sit down and listen and try to
3 work this out and then, of course, present
4 this to the mayor for his approval, but as
5 you know, as I said to Mr. Loscombe earlier
6 tonight, the problem you can lead the horse
7 to water, but you can't make him drink.

8 MR. GERVASI: True.

9 MS. EVANS: And you know, we
10 certainly would be available to do whatever
11 we can in the hopes that perhaps the mayor
12 would have an interest in the people of our
13 city, have enough respect and concern for
14 them that he would be willing to consider
15 what you have to say.

16 MR. GERVASI: I wish he would
17 because the layoffs he is talking about,
18 there is no real numbers being thrown
19 around, but what we have been hearing coming
20 out of city hall in the past, this
21 would generally close Engine 15 permanently,
22 Engine 10 permanently, Truck 4 permanently.
23 There would be brownouts. We would really
24 be running with three stations and four
25 pieces of apparatus out of eight stations

1 and ten pieces of apparatus. 60 percent of
2 our department will be closed. It's not
3 necessary. It's really not necessary. I
4 don't know if he is just lashing out at us,
5 but it's in the necessary. I think we all
6 have to act like adults here and sit down
7 and work our differences out. That's really
8 it.

9 The only other statement I had was
10 Mr. McGoff I saw his interview today on
11 Channel 16, you think it's ashame that
12 arbitrators make these decisions and not the
13 elected officials, and I just want to ensure
14 you that that's how it works, that's the
15 law, and your elected official, the mayor,
16 the one who didn't tell the truth, not him
17 personally, but his administration and the
18 ones who didn't tell the truth to the
19 arbitrator which resulted in this whole
20 thing. If they told the truth about the
21 city's finances and they had factual
22 information during the arbitration process
23 then none of this would have happened and we
24 would have had our cost of living raises,
25 that's all we ever asked for, cost of living

1 adjustment, which is what we got. There
2 would be no back pay, there wouldn't be any
3 of this pain, and I don't know how they
4 thought putting illegal things within the
5 Recovery Plan would pass muster in Court. I
6 don't know how they thought that doing
7 none-economic things, things that has
8 nothing to with the city Recovery Plan would
9 past muster in Court. I don't understand
10 it. I don't know who gave them that advice,
11 but it was terrible advice.

12 MS. EVANS: Well, actually though, I
13 think that public officials were involved in
14 that the mayor had the opportunity to
15 negotiate and settle for a far less
16 amount --

17 MR. GERVASI: Far less.

18 MS. EVANS: -- than what the Supreme
19 Court has awarded. It was his decision not
20 to settle and to continue to appeal court
21 cases. So in fact, he had opportunity after
22 opportunity after opportunity to make these
23 decisions, which he did. So, you know, I
24 don't think you can have it both ways.

25 MR. GERVASI: That's correct.

1 MS. EVANS: And talk out of both
2 sides of your mouth.

3 MR. GERVASI: That's correct. Mrs.
4 Evans, just so you know, too, I asked DCED
5 was in the room at the meeting, PEL as in
6 the room at the meeting, and two officials
7 from the City of Scranton were in the room
8 at the meeting and I asked them straight
9 out, Mr. McGoff was there and he can verify
10 what I'm saying, I said, "Who told the
11 mayor -- who killed our deal in October of
12 '09 which would have been pennies on the
13 dollars that we negotiated and agreed to and
14 we shook hands with the city and they
15 reneged on it?"

16 And PEL says, "It wasn't us, we had
17 nothing to do with that."

18 The guy from DCED, the lawyer from
19 DCED said, "I have no knowledge of anybody
20 else making that decision."

21 So apparently it was the mayor that
22 made those decisions.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 MR. GERVASI: Or they don't know if
25 someone from the state did it, too. Thank

1 you for your time.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

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

5 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
6 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton and
7 taxpayer. About two weeks ago Pat mentioned
8 maybe -- two or three weeks ago about
9 studying the DPW for efficiency, and I would
10 like to commend him on that idea, but also I
11 feel that if you do you have to study the
12 bogus practices of people because I think
13 there is a lot of money to be saved there.
14 I see newspapers out in the trash, I see
15 cans, bottles and so forth. Well, the
16 newspaper don't weigh too much, but we are
17 paying by the ton and if they get wet and
18 they weigh a lot.

19 MR. ROGAN: I agree. We do
20 everything we can to promote recycling in
21 this city.

22 MR. DOBRZYN: Right. So I think
23 there is lot of money to be saved and it
24 wouldn't even be -- I have spoken to some
25 DPW guys and they are all for it. You know,

1 people have -- those people are actually
2 feeding off of us by their laziness.

3 And I also support you on the meter
4 idea that I heard last week and I might
5 note, I don't know where their sense of
6 intelligence is coming from or whatever, but
7 I think I read \$5 by 2014 to park at a
8 parking garage, \$5 an hour, and if that
9 would be the case, I mean, we are trying to
10 loan people money in town here and get them
11 in business and everything and then we turn
12 around and chase them out of town because
13 it's already an issue down the mall. They
14 have way more people parking there than what
15 they have inside the mall, you know?

16 And on this business with the safety
17 unions, you know, there is a nationwide
18 attack on labor, especially firemen and
19 teachers and police and so forth, and one
20 thing I would like to point out is do we
21 really need somebody involved with public
22 safety that's been overworked? Do you need
23 to get pulled over by a police officer
24 that's been on the job for 16 hours? You
25 know, there is different reactions that

1 could be improper or they may make the wrong
2 decision and either get themselves killed or
3 going into a building that there is nothing
4 and it's just wrong. You can't overwork
5 people and you are going to stress their
6 families out, too, so then they have home
7 problems and everything else, I would like
8 to deal with somebody with a human head
9 because I turn the -- turn a dome light on
10 and I'm rarely ever pulled over, but I'll
11 turn the dome light on to assure them that,
12 you know, I'm not pulling out a gun or
13 something like that or if I'm reaching for a
14 registration card or something, but in
15 reality we put these people out in the
16 street and then we are paying the next guy
17 50 percent as much just to fill their spots
18 where the savings are just about negligible
19 and then when you wind up with a workers'
20 comp or something because you overworked
21 somebody into an early grave or just about,
22 where are you?

23 And my buddy Ron brought up about a
24 school board, and he should consider going
25 down to the school board about it, but I'd

1 money from Scranton for that, but, you know,
2 maybe we could get a few amenities out of
3 them like a free visit for each family, head
4 of household or something once a year, and
5 it's a really educational experience and it
6 does bring tourists into the city, so they
7 are dining at restaurants and so forth and
8 patronizing somewhat.

9 Well, the golden parrot goes to PEL
10 for all their legal advice and using us as
11 legal lab rats. Thanks a lot, PEL. Bawk,
12 bawk, bawk, you won't have to pay, bawk.
13 Have a good night.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Take care.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

17 Marie Schumacher, citizen and taxpayer.
18 Regarding 7-A on tonight's agenda, first I
19 would like to thank the council for
20 increasing the forestry and vacant
21 properties budget. I know that Tony Santoli
22 will be a good steward of this funds. What
23 I don't understand, however, is why the
24 neighborhood police patrol is still
25 programmed for \$200,000, when there was

1 \$300,000 left in the account at the end of
2 last year and per a Right-to-Know letter
3 that I sent to the business administrator
4 there have been no charges against the
5 current year budget, so -- and then we know
6 that we can't draw down any more money for
7 neighborhood police patrol per HUD until 12
8 months from the last layoff that's been
9 passed -- has passed, so I don't know why
10 all of this backlog of funds is just sitting
11 there when it could be put to use.

12 And I would also request that you
13 put back in the \$50,000, an additional
14 \$50,000, to the Neighborhood Properties
15 Review Committee to fully fund their
16 request. These are the funds that will get
17 some of these vacant properties off the --
18 off the vacant properties and potential
19 condemnation list and possibly get them
20 rehabbed and occupied again.

21 MR. ROGAN: Would you like me to
22 answer that now or in motions?

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: In motions, that's
24 fine, or when you take up 7-A that's fine.

25 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Regarding the
2 paving, the request that 150 blocks would be
3 paved if they their full request of \$2
4 million was funded, so this equates to about
5 \$13,333 per block, so council's recommended
6 \$838,000 would round out to about 63 blocks
7 that could be paved. What I would like to
8 see is more elected official involvement in
9 which streets are to be paved. I don't
10 necessarily know how you do it. I know your
11 attorney is a municipal law expert, perhaps
12 he has some ideas or you could research it
13 yourself, but I think you should request the
14 list of those streets and they should be --
15 you all should be making the decisions and
16 not people that we don't elect.

17 I would also ask, I guess Mr. Joyce
18 probably would have the answer to this, I
19 would like to know if our existing bonds are
20 tied to -- our interest rates on the
21 existing bonds are tied to our bond rating,
22 and they are maybe going up next year if our
23 -- in six months. I understand we have been
24 given a six month grace period on that bond
25 rating, but if it goes down do our interest

1 rates go up? So I would very much like to
2 know that if you can answer that during
3 motions that would be wonderful.

4 The rental registration that was
5 discussed last week just really rubbed me
6 the wrong way, but then so has the foot
7 dragging for the last week. I don't see
8 anything the matter with what was passed in
9 2007. I think it was a good piece of
10 legislation, and I don't -- the purpose of
11 the legislation was to eliminate blight to
12 keep residents safe, it was not to be a
13 revenue generator. As a matter of fact, it
14 is a fee. Fees are for services rendered.
15 Taxes are taking above and beyond for I
16 guess the common good for lack of a better
17 term, but using rental registration as a
18 means to raise revenue, I think is beyond
19 the pail.

20 And, I mean, you will get -- if you
21 increase the rental registrations you will
22 get probably more sewer bills, more trash
23 bills paid, and so there will be some
24 revenue that's being missed currently, but
25 it should not be a revenue generator, it

1 taxpayers are very fortunate to have you as
2 council members.

3 MR. JOYCE: Well, thank you.

4 MS. ROSKY: And I wasn't even going
5 to come up tonight, I have been wanting to
6 come for years and I wasn't even going to
7 come and I thought, wait a minute, I have to
8 come. I am so frustrated with this mayor
9 and you think of repercussions, so you don't
10 come.

11 MS. EVANS: May I interrupt you?

12 MS. ROSKY: I'm sorry, my name is --

13 MS. EVANS: We need your name --

14 MS. ROSKY: I'm sorry. I am a
15 taxpayer in the city, obviously. Mary Ann
16 Rosky, and I have been a taxpayer for a
17 number of years now, but I have been meaning
18 to come and voice my opinion, and I'm not
19 going to be afraid of repercussions anymore.
20 This is my First Amendment Rights right here
21 and anybody who voted this mayor in again
22 maybe the taxes on those taxpayers should be
23 higher. Maybe people who have not voted him
24 in -- I mean, maybe they can afford it, I
25 don't know who they are, you know, but maybe

1 they can -- maybe they deserve it. We don't
2 deserve it. We don't deserve it. We
3 deserve to have public safety. We deserve
4 to have police and fire protection at all
5 times. At all times. And they can't be in
6 North Scranton, I have a scanner, they can't
7 be in north end and come all the way to West
8 Side at the end towards Taylor one car
9 racing to go and catch a call in West Side,
10 and that's what I'm hearing. I'm hearing
11 them all coming from here, there and
12 everywhere else to go back there. It just
13 doesn't cut it.

14 So I don't know if the mayor --
15 maybe he should like ride with the police
16 officers every now and then or go to a fire
17 with the firemen every now and then see what
18 they go through, because I don't think he
19 knows. I don't think he knows. I don't
20 know where he came from that he wouldn't
21 know, but I don't think he knows.

22 And I'm so frustrated, I don't know
23 where to begin with this man. He put us in
24 the hole that we are in. He, himself, and
25 only himself. The police officers did not,

1 the firefighters definitely did not, he put
2 us there. He put -- and then we got a
3 council as great as you that wants to work
4 this man, but he won't work with them. He
5 won't come here, sit here, talk to you like
6 a social person and just like tell the
7 taxpayers what's going on. He will tell you
8 something, he will tell you something, he
9 will Mr. Rogan something. No, we don't want
10 to hear hearsay. We want the mayor to come,
11 be able to sit at home, hear what he has to
12 say to all of your council members and also
13 to all of us taxpayers. We want to hear for
14 ourselves out of his mouth, out of the
15 horse's mouth, and we are tired of his ball
16 players. We are so tired of them.

17 And I have people complaining in the
18 stores, why they are not here tonight I
19 don't know. I have no idea unless they are
20 also afraid of repercussions, whatever they
21 may be. I know what mine are, you know, I
22 have different neighbors that I know voted
23 for him and whatnot and I don't want an
24 argument in my neighborhood, we all have to
25 work together, but our police protect us

1 all, our firemen protect us all. They don't
2 protect me and not my neighbor up the street
3 or around the corner, they protect everyone.

4 If there was a house on fire on the
5 corner here and there was one down there
6 where are they coming from? How many fire
7 trucks are they going to rent out from
8 different areas? But he dug us in this hole
9 and even more so by everything that you guys
10 suggested up there and everything that you
11 guys made good he appealed. How much do
12 those appeals cost? How much do they cost?
13 Where does he think we are going? I mean,
14 we are going to pack our bags and get out of
15 here and I don't care if it's across the
16 line to Taylor. It's not going to be in
17 Wilkes-Barre, obviously, but I don't know
18 care if it's Taylor. I don't really don't.

19 We have had it. We have had it. I
20 hear people talking, I see the newspaper
21 which, of course, maybe some of these people
22 who are not here tonight may, maybe they
23 don't read the paper like myself, maybe they
24 don't talk to people as myself, so they
25 don't quite know what's going on, and a lot

1 of them I'm sure are elderly and don't know
2 what's going on.

3 But I have seen people come here at
4 all ages when there was different things
5 going on in favor of Mayor Doherty, I have
6 seen them show up, so if the taxpayers don't
7 come here they don't want to complain then
8 maybe they deserve to pay the taxes for us.
9 People who come here and complain should
10 not, should not be paying this, and our
11 police officers and firefighters should get
12 what they have been entitled to for eight,
13 ten years.

14 People who work in fast food
15 restaurants, people who work retail, they
16 get a quarter an hour, they get 50 cents an
17 hour, they get a buck an hour, what do our
18 policemen get? They don't get tips from
19 anybody nor our fire department get, they
20 don't get a tip from anybody. Waitresses
21 get paid and then they get tips, too. Thank
22 you. I'm sorry I was so aggravated, but
23 it's been a build up of so many years and
24 I'm sure I will be back. Thank you. God
25 bless you.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you very much.

2 MR. JOYCE: I just want to add to
3 this whole discussion, I think we have been
4 focused a lot on the cost of the award and
5 the impact it will have on city taxpayers,
6 but also I think what we are forgetting in
7 this whole mix is the cost of attorney fees,
8 and I could be incorrect on the saying this,
9 however, I believe from my knowledge that
10 the city will be obligated to pay the fire
11 and police unions and attorney fees if they
12 lose, but -- and also in addition to the
13 attorney fees that they have been paying,
14 but I very well would be mistaken on that,
15 but I know that there will be a very -- that
16 there has been a large amount of attorney
17 fees on the city's end over the years
18 leading up to this Supreme Court decision.

19 However, I do -- you know, I think I
20 can actually correct myself, I do think that
21 the union would be responsible for paying
22 their own attorney fees, however, the
23 attorney fees incurred by the city are also
24 at a great cost to the taxpayers.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

1 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie.

2 MR. JOYCE: Hey, Chrissy. How about
3 West Side beating Abington?

4 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hey, Frank, you
5 know something, Frank, remember your face
6 Saturday. I was up there. I froze. I
7 froze. I want you to remember, the firemen
8 downstairs, keep their jobs down there.
9 Dave, I care about you guys down there.
10 Remember that. Thank you.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good job, Chrissy.

12 MR. HOLDEN: Hi. Marilyn Holden,
13 resident of Scranton, Hyde Park.

14 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

15 MS. HOLDEN: Has anyone thought of
16 the repercussions as far as, okay, we are
17 closing -- they are going to close these
18 more firehouses, okay? Sooner or later the
19 residents homeowners' premiums are going to
20 rise. This whole debacle it has a snowball
21 effect. It's just not you close a fire
22 station, sooner or later the residents of
23 Scranton, homeowners, their premiums are
24 going to rise. Right on my homeowners'
25 insurance premium, the rider, the bill, what

1 have you, how close are you with respect to
2 a fire hydrant? Well, what good is a fire
3 hydrant if there is no one -- no firemen to
4 come to hook up to it? I mean, that's an
5 issue that I believe the residents of this
6 city they need to digest that as well
7 because sooner off later down the road our
8 homeowners' premiums are going to go be
9 increased.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's a fact.

11 MS. HOLDEN: What do you think, Mrs.
12 Evans? Do you think I'm wrong there?

13 MS. EVANS: No, I think you are
14 right on target absolutely because I think
15 we are not only talking about fire hydrants,
16 but perhaps even -- and Mr. Loscombe may
17 know more, but the proximity of your home to
18 a fire station and when those fire stations
19 are closed up go your premiums because you
20 are no longer --

21 MS. HOLDEN: Exactly.

22 MS. EVANS: -- in a situation where,
23 you know, God forbid a fire can be addressed
24 as quickly.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Let's face it, you

1 are going to be charged higher rates when
2 there is more burglaries, there is more
3 fires, more damaging fires because they've
4 had a longer time to burn. I mean, that's
5 all impacted. That's all part of the
6 process.

7 MS. HOLDEN: But I think the
8 residents of Scranton need to digest that
9 fact as well, and it may not be next month,
10 it may not be next year, but it's coming and
11 people can't afford it. They can't
12 afford -- we have residents leaving the
13 city. I mean, people cannot afford it.

14 MS. EVANS: I agree.

15 MS. HOLDEN: Okay, thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

18 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,
19 Council. Nelson Ancherani, resident and
20 taxpayer.

21 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

22 MR. ANCHERANI: Recording secretary
23 of the FOP. First Amendment Rights. I'm
24 not going to beat a dead horse, but I'm just
25 going to say a couple of things. I'm just

1 going to say it did not have to be this way.
2 All it took was good faith bargaining,
3 that's all. It did not have to be this way.
4 I've been coming here for ten years and I
5 have been saying, and as recently as a
6 couple of weeks ago, that we are borrowing
7 from Peter to pay Paul. Peter is here. He
8 is at the door. Now it's going to be
9 interesting because we are going to see how,
10 and it's already started, the scrambling has
11 started, and it's going to be how do we
12 correct the situation. That's going to be a
13 good question. How do we correct it?

14 And that's basically where I'm going
15 to leave it, but just to say about PEL, 20
16 years for PEL. PEL has been year 20 years
17 and look where we are. If anybody should be
18 responsible for all those millions it should
19 be PEL, it should be DCED. They came here
20 and they failed. 20 years. 20 years. But
21 anyway, thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
23 anyone else who cares to address council?
24 Mrs. Krake?

25 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.

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MOTIONS.

MS. EVANS: Please turn off cell phones. Councilman McGoff, do you have any comments or motions?

MR. MCGOFF: Please. I guess the first thing that I will respond to is the Supreme Court decision. There are two things that concern me with the decision, the first one has to do with what was brought up by Mr. Gervasi, and that has to do with governance. What the decision said was that the Collective Bargaining Act supersedes the Distressed Cities Act basically and that any actions taken by an elected official under the Distressed Cities Act are null and void, which means that everything was reversed to the arbitration decisions.

If I were a member of a labor union negotiating with any municipality I would never negotiate a contract. I would wait until it went to arbitration because history says that arbitrators favor unions, especially in the State of Pennsylvania. We now have arbitrators that are determining

1 how municipalities are going to operate. I
2 think this diminishes the authority of all
3 elected officials.

4 Now, in this case, you know, it may
5 be the mayor, it may be -- in other
6 situations it may be councils, it may be
7 commissions, but it takes the power away
8 from the elected officials and puts it in
9 the hands of somebody who was never elected.
10 I have never voted for an arbitrator. I
11 don't think anyone here has, so why are we
12 having arbitrators, you know, basically
13 making decisions. I think that this turns
14 democracy around. I think it puts all
15 municipalities in a difficult situation
16 where you may be powerless to negotiate
17 contracts that are in the best interest of
18 the municipality.

19 While it may be viewed in this
20 instance as a success for the unions, and it
21 is. You know, I'm not going to deny that,
22 but I think into the future it sets a bad
23 precedent and that concerns me.

24 The monetary -- the second part, the
25 monetary part, obviously, this decision

1 exacerbates, you know, what's a dire
2 situation. We need to pay these awards and
3 my question, you know, who is going to
4 profit from it? Certainly the members of
5 the unions who are working, you know, when
6 these awards were made certainly will
7 benefit, but the end result is that we are
8 looking at tax increases, layoffs, increased
9 debt, all of these are going to be products
10 of this decision or maybe products of this
11 decision.

12 I don't want to see anybody lose
13 their job. I don't want to see my taxes go
14 up. I don't want to see, you know, any of
15 these possibilities, but it's likely to
16 happen. Right now tax revenues pay for
17 about 90 percent of the employees' wages in
18 the City of Scranton, okay, and the other 10
19 percent has to come from somewhere else.
20 With the salary increases that will occur
21 over the next few years, that's probably
22 going to fall to somewhere maybe 70 percent,
23 60 percent of what tax revenues will
24 provide, where did you make up the
25 difference?

1 Estimates are that, and I'm sure
2 I'll be corrected, but I'm told that
3 estimates are that the starting pay for a
4 firemen by in 2015 will be somewhere around
5 \$70,000 per year.

6 MR. GERVASI: I wish.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Our current tax
8 structure can't pay for that. Something is
9 going to have to change, and how we do that,
10 how we account for that, I'm not sure.
11 While you can look at the decision as being,
12 you know, a victory for, you know, those who
13 suffered under, you know, the eight, ten
14 year, whatever it was of this Court decision
15 or before this Court decision fine, it's a
16 victory, but in the long-run it may be a
17 victory for some and certainly it's going to
18 have an effect on the City of Scranton and
19 especially the taxpayers in the City of
20 Scranton.

21 Solution? I agree with Mr. Judge,
22 Mr. Gervasi, Mr. Martin, and I have been
23 saying it all along. I think the only
24 solution to any of these problems is in
25 communication, dialogue, compromise,

1 discourse, whatever you want to call it, and
2 I'm saying this to, you know, and I will say
3 this to the mayor, in talking with Mr. Judge
4 before the meeting I will go to him and I
5 think it's an absolute necessity that that
6 be done if we are going to have any type of
7 resolution that will be of benefit to the
8 entire city.

9 Do I think we are going to hurt?
10 Yes. But if we can diminish this hurt then
11 I think it is incumbent upon us to do that.
12 I think it's the duty of all elected
13 officials to do that. And again, I will
14 convey that message to the mayor.

15 Again, when it comes down to it,
16 despite the fact that I sit here I am but a
17 single citizen when it comes down to it and
18 maybe what's needed is some type of, you
19 know, message sent that this is what -- this
20 is what the citizens of the City of Scranton
21 want is for cooperation and some type of
22 agreement on how this is going to take
23 place.

24 On another note, the parking meter
25 proposal that -- the lease proposal that was

1 is -- that's fine. All of that is secured
2 by the City of Scranton. They go bankrupt,
3 that \$50 million debt becomes part of what
4 we need to pay.

5 UNKNOWN CITIZEN: Big deal. We're
6 already paying it.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me.

8 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry.

9 MR. MCGOFF: You had your time.

10 MS. EVANS: I'd like the audience
11 members to remain quiet, please. This is
12 Mr. McGoff's portion of the meeting, his
13 motions and comments, and just as council
14 listens respectfully to the speakers, I ask
15 that the speakers are respectful of the
16 council members and listen to what each has
17 to say, please.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. I
19 appreciate that. My only question is can
20 the estimated excess revenue that Attorney
21 Hughes demonstrated we might receive or have
22 from this proposal, is it enough to cover
23 the cost of the increased debt service that
24 we would get from the Scranton Parking
25 Authority? If it is, then maybe it's not a

1 bad deal. But if it isn't, then maybe we
2 need to reconsider. It just -- it's a
3 question that I had. And I think it's one
4 that need to be addressed.

5 Secondly, in looking at the numbers
6 it's my understanding that in order to
7 receive the 16 point -- or, yeah, sorry,
8 \$6.5 million revenue bond that it would
9 probably be necessary to pledge more than
10 that amount in order to -- you might have to
11 pledge 125 percent of, you know, or whatever
12 number in order to receive that. If that is
13 in fact true, if that is in fact what a bank
14 would ask for, then I think that we need to
15 take a look at that and revise the numbers
16 that were presented, and I'm not disagreeing
17 with the proposal, I think it needs more
18 discussion, but I would like to, you know, I
19 think these are two questions that may need
20 to be considered before we move forward with
21 that proposal.

22 Third thing, rental registration.
23 We did not have an opportunity to meet again
24 with Attorney Kelly, obviously other issues
25 arose that became a little more important

1 and we did not have an opportunity to go
2 back and meet again, but just to answer some
3 of the questions that were perhaps brought
4 up, there has been no amelioration of, you
5 know, the strictures against blight in the
6 new proposal. In fact, when we sat down and
7 talked about it some of the wording was
8 actually enhanced so that it would be more
9 that inspectors and all would have more
10 power to deal with blighted properties and
11 unacceptable rental properties, so if that
12 was a concern, I think that that's one
13 that's unfounded given what we have tried to
14 do.

15 And as far as making it a revenue
16 source, I think it always was a revenue
17 source. I think what's needed that by
18 proper implementation of it and operation of
19 it revenue will naturally flow from it. We
20 are not doing it to -- the changes weren't
21 necessarily to make the fees, you know,
22 prohibitive. Yes, they were increased a
23 bit, but they are still within -- I thought
24 and I think we all agree that they were
25 still within the parameters that were, you

1 know, quite acceptable, but the big thing
2 was to implement the program so that all
3 rental properties were, you know, paying
4 what they should and by doing that the
5 revenue would increase and hopefully in, you
6 know, the next week or two week we do need
7 to get together again and, you know, further
8 fine tune this so that we can bring a
9 proposal and so that we can bring acceptable
10 legislation to council for approval. And I
11 guess that's all I have for the evening.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I know
13 Mr. Joyce wants to comment as Finance Chair,
14 but just a few things I wanted to mention in
15 response to the SPA and the proposed sale of
16 the parking meters versus the proposal
17 presented by city council and Attorney
18 Hughes to the banks and to the public.

19 First of all, the Scranton Parking
20 Authority hasn't had a balanced budget
21 without borrowing since the \$35 million was
22 borrowed when was that, 2007 or 2008? Each
23 year their budget is in the red and they
24 approach a bank for a letter of credit for
25 borrowing which brings us to the most recent

1 example of that where the SPA pulled a fast
2 deal, if you will, by borrowing \$3.9 million
3 through the Landmark Bank, and connect the
4 dots here to the proposed \$14 million that
5 this council is supposed to approve.

6 Now, only six of that \$14 million
7 would go towards the purchase of those
8 meters. The remainder is going to be used
9 for their debt, one of which is the \$3.9
10 million fast deal that was just pulled off
11 maybe two to three months ago. All of this
12 is interrelated.

13 And in addition to that, if you sell
14 the meters then the city has a gaping
15 budgetary hole annually and how would you
16 propose to fill that hole? Now, the fact of
17 the matter remains, there is an operating
18 agreement between the City of Scranton and
19 the Scranton Parking Authority which gives
20 the city the right to terminate that
21 agreement on 60 days notice in terms of
22 parking meter revenue, tickets, permits,
23 etcetera.

24 And I believe it's in the best
25 interest of the city to pursue the proposal

1 that was presented by Attorney Hughes
2 because, as we said last week, it maintains
3 a city asset, it provides a continuous
4 source of revenue for the City of Scranton
5 and the Scranton Parking Authority who know
6 suggests that the city is going to have to
7 assume it's shortfall perhaps next year,
8 well, folks, that's not news as I told you.
9 The news has been they had a shortfall every
10 single year and they have gone out and
11 borrowed.

12 Council found out last year, because
13 this was another secret for I don't know
14 maybe 20 years plus, that the Parking
15 Authority budget has to be approved by this
16 city council and last year for the very
17 first time council took that action and
18 council made changes to that budget which
19 the Scranton Parking Authority ignored.
20 They continue to employ the same number of
21 administrators at the same inflated salaries
22 and they chose instead to move around the
23 worker bees so that the highly paid
24 administrators continued to receive those
25 hefty pays, so I think the Parking Authority

1 needs to look to itself and clean up it's
2 own house and we'll worry about the City of
3 Scranton.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: And by doing so
5 reducing ticket income, also, by taking the
6 ticket writers off the street and putting
7 them in as ticket processors, which they
8 removed and kept the administrative people
9 there, like Mr. Evans said. The worker bees
10 are the once that generate the income and
11 work on the street and they are the ones
12 that could have kept this Parking Authority
13 afloat, but they failed to follow our
14 budget, they ignored our budget, and they
15 still keep coming back to the trough for
16 more help.

17 MR. JOYCE: Okay. I just want to
18 comment on the whole presentation and maybe
19 this will help clear some things up. In
20 Boyd's presentation last week based on
21 Mr. McGowan's numbers, he stated that the
22 city is on course to receive about \$1.148
23 million or so in parking meter revenue. By
24 that agreement, as far as what we pay the
25 Parking Authority, we pay for their workers

1 and we pay for the maintenance, etcetera,
2 etcetera, tokens, associated fees and we
3 give them a 10 percent service fee for that,
4 so essentially we give them 100 -- and,
5 well, in this case 10 percent of hundred or
6 \$1,144,051 would be \$114,845. In the
7 presentation that Mr. Hughes gave,
8 Mr. Hughes, actually that money that we give
9 to the Parking Authority is still included
10 in the SPA citation issuers line, that
11 wasn't deducted, so the \$548,000 of revenue
12 that the city would be expected to receive
13 every year would actually be a little bit
14 more, so the loss to the Parking Authority
15 would be about hundred and -- about a
16 \$110,000 approximately, and it would
17 actually be about \$659,000 to the city.

18 Now, I don't know based on the
19 financial status of the Parking Authority if
20 something to be could worked out if that
21 agreement were -- if this plan were to
22 eventually be adopted, and I had one
23 question for you. You were stating that the
24 taxes pay for about 90 percent of the city's
25 workforce and that would down to perhaps 60

1 or 70 by 2015 or so, I actually would like
2 to look into it myself to find out what that
3 would be in upcoming years, but when you
4 said the city's taxes, were you referring to
5 all taxes or just that --

6 MR. MCGOFF: All taxes.

7 MR. JOYCE: Okay. That's all I have
8 to say.

9 MR. MCGOFF: I'd just like to go
10 back, the only two things that I brought up
11 that I think need to be considered, can the
12 city absorb \$50 million worth of debt if, in
13 fact, the Parking Authority is bankrupt?

14 And second, do we need to pledge
15 more than \$6.5 million in order to receive
16 \$6.5 million. Those were the only two
17 things I asked.

18 MR. JOYCE: And I think that
19 Mr. Rogan made a very valid and good motion
20 just a few weeks ago to put these things out
21 to bid to see what the value is for the
22 parking garages because perhaps, you know,
23 maybe it won't be -- maybe someone won't be
24 willing to offer what the debt would be that
25 we currently owe on the parking garages.

1 However, if Mayor Doherty follows through
2 with the suggestions that Mr. Rogan made,
3 and I believe that was two weeks ago you
4 stated that, then we would at least know
5 whether there is someone willing to pay for
6 those parking garages at the rate -- or to
7 offset the amount that we currently owe on
8 it.

9 MS. EVANS: And it was my
10 understanding at the time of that the \$35
11 million for the Parking Authority was
12 approved that the garages were to be
13 appraised at the time and they never were,
14 but I think the point of an appraisal is
15 that you are looking to sell or lease and
16 for some reason that all just fell by the
17 wayside where it got swept under the rug and
18 I think the answer lies in exactly what both
19 of these gentlemen were saying and this
20 council has been saying, the administration
21 should be facilitating an appraisal ASAP and
22 looking, you know, contacting national
23 companies for requests for proposals and
24 this type of insatiable monkey needs to be
25 removed from the back of the taxpayer not

1 fed further.

2 MR. JOYCE: And if I could just add,
3 it's not very difficult to find companies
4 that buy or agree to lease parking garages.
5 I did a simple Goggle search about -- I
6 don't know, this was months ago, and you
7 could find probably about five to ten
8 companies that specialize in that sort of
9 thing. I have done the same sort -- have
10 been involved in the same sort of procedure
11 in Chicago, New York City, and other cities
12 across. One example is ProPark, I believe.

13 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you all.
14 And, I'm sorry, Councilman Rogan, do you
15 have any motions or comments this evening?

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I guess I'll start
17 off just by making a few comments with the
18 general discussion, first about the taxes
19 paying 90 percent of the salaries. If that
20 number is, in fact, correct, you know, you
21 don't have to increase the taxes to 100
22 percent, you can decrease the salaries.

23 Secondly, the rental registration,
24 you know, I agree with what Mr. Schumacher
25 said to a point where we don't want it to be

1 a tax on people who own rental properties.
2 We do want them to pay the fee to the city
3 so the inspectors can go out and inspect. I
4 think that's, you know, a home run in both
5 ends if the money come in they can pay for
6 the inspection and the blight is reduced in
7 the city. The only thing I fear about a
8 rental registration program is that the city
9 brings in money and never inspects the
10 houses. That's my fear. If that's the
11 case, that's a tax, it's not a fee.

12 A few other comments about CDBG and
13 which Mrs. Schumacher brought up, I guess
14 I'll address those now, and the first is
15 about the neighborhood police patrols while
16 it was kept in. Multiple reasons. The
17 first one being that the money can always be
18 transferred through legislation. I believe
19 we transferred a few hundred thousand
20 through legislation to increase our
21 allocation for paving a few months ago.

22 Secondly, when I asked all my
23 colleagues for suggestions, not one person
24 wanted the money removed.

25 The Vacant Property Review

1 Committee, it was increased by \$25,000. I
2 wish there was more money to put there as
3 well, but we also did increase demolition of
4 hazardous structures by 90 percent as well,
5 so the money probably would have come from
6 there if we were going to do that.

7 And I agree that there should be
8 more elected official control of the paving
9 program. You know, we are out in the
10 neighborhoods, we talk to the residents all
11 the time, we know the roads are bad and we
12 hear the same -- we get the same letter from
13 the same two people for the same tow years
14 about, you know, certain roads in the city
15 and nothing has been done.

16 I will comment a little more on the
17 CDBG amendments and also the emergency
18 certificate for the refinancing of the
19 Section 108 loan as well.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Could I just ask a
21 question?

22 MR. ROGAN: Sure.

23 MR. MCGOFF: And just something as
24 you talked about the money for the police
25 patrols. It's my understanding that in the

1 award of the Supreme Court decision that at
2 least for the police there were minimum
3 manning -- there was a minimum manning
4 clause reinstated and would that minimum
5 manning clause then put the numbers back at
6 the level at which we could then have the
7 neighborhood -- the number, what was it 130
8 and therefore we weren't eligible for the
9 funding? With the minimum manning would
10 that put that number back at 130 and then
11 again make us eligible? I don't know the
12 answer to that.

13 MR. ROGAN: I'm not sure either.
14 It's something we can see.

15 MR. MCGOFF: But it would give
16 credibility to leaving the money in there
17 and --

18 MR. ROGAN: And, you know, leaving
19 it in there, like I said, it can always be
20 transferred and we all agreed that the
21 neighborhood police patrols is something
22 that's very important and we hope that we
23 will have them.

24 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry to interrupt.

25 MR. ROGAN: No problem. I guess a

1 few comments about the hot issue of the
2 week, the judgment that came down against
3 the city. It's not a surprise that this
4 judgment came down, you know, it's what the
5 mayor has to say in the news and the
6 newspapers and the mayor's solutions are
7 make cuts, raise taxes. I'm all fine with
8 making cuts, but let's make cuts in the
9 areas that haven't been gutted over the last
10 ten years.

11 Under Mayor Doherty, police and fire
12 -- every time cuts are made it's related to
13 the police and fire. Every single time. We
14 need cops. We need firemen. You know, this
15 started years ago. When all of this started
16 not one of these people, not one of my
17 colleagues or myself were sitting on this
18 board. I was sitting in a classroom in West
19 High when all of this started and now we
20 have to pay. We have to pay.

21 We have representatives from the
22 police union and the fire union here today
23 said they are willing to sit down with the
24 mayor and the mayor refuses to sit down with
25 them. That's very unfortunate, I hope the

1 mayor reconsiders that and sits down with
2 the unions and works out a longer term
3 payment plan maybe over five or ten -- ten
4 years is very ambitious, maybe over five
5 years where you could spread the burden out,
6 we don't have to make as deep of cuts, and
7 the taxes absolutely cannot go up.

8 The idea of a 100 percent tax
9 increase is absolutely ludicrous. We can't
10 raise the taxes 1 percent. The people of
11 this city are broke. All across the country
12 they are overtaxed, you know, and I would
13 remember gut the rest of the budget outside
14 of the public safety than increase. If we
15 have to cut into the absolutely bare bones
16 and keep our cops on the streets, keep our
17 firemen in the firehouses and keep taxes low
18 because in the long run the more taxes go up
19 the more people that are going to move
20 outside of the city. People -- if you make
21 \$50,000 a year in this city you are doing
22 pretty well, but if you move from Scranton
23 to Dunmore or Taylor you are getting an
24 instant pay raise because you are paying
25 less in property taxes and much less in wage

1 tax, so to break it down to a number that's
2 very easy to understand.

3 For instance, you have a city with
4 100 people and it cost \$100 to run that
5 city. They increase taxes to \$2, so 100
6 people paying \$2, the city is bringing in
7 \$200. Half of those people leave, which I
8 know that half of the population of Scranton
9 has left over the last few decades because
10 in part of the high taxation, the city is
11 still running on that same amount of money
12 so the remaining people have to pay even
13 more, so it's a snowball effect.

14 You raise taxes you get the bump in
15 revenue initially, then people leave and
16 revenue continues to decline. It does not
17 work long-term to just keep increasing
18 taxes. People aren't bound to live in the
19 City of Scranton. We saw this with the
20 smoking ban that was done by the city.
21 People left the bars in Scranton and went to
22 the bars outside of the area to go out and
23 drink and smoke. It's the same thing with
24 taxes. If taxes are increased in the city
25 people are going to look to move to Old

1 Forge or Taylor, somewhere right outside the
2 city where they can still come here, enjoy
3 the services of the city, work in the city,
4 because we don't have a commuter tax, and
5 have the protection when you are in the city
6 that are you not paying for now because you
7 live outside of here, you are paying much
8 less in taxes.

9 Tax increases are absolutely not the
10 answer. When council amended the budget
11 last year it was the first step in a long
12 time towards reducing the taxes the people
13 in this city pay. It was step in the right
14 direction. Unfortunately, the budget wasn't
15 implemented properly. I don't want to beat
16 a dead horse, it's been brought up every
17 week all of the problems that the
18 administration has had administering the
19 budget.

20 But like I said before, if we have
21 to gut the budget outside public safety to
22 avoid a tax increase, I'm willing to do it.
23 If we have to privatize the DPW, sell the
24 Sewer Authority, whatever we have to do, we
25 can't increase taxes. And that's all I have

1 for now. Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
3 Loscombe, do you have any comments or
4 motions?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you. I
6 don't want to belabor it and don't want to
7 speak lengthy on it because we have all
8 heard a lot this evening, but I do want to
9 address a couple of issues. Ladies and
10 gentlemen, as we all know for the past ten
11 years numerous people have approached this
12 podium regarding our public safety
13 contracts, the arbitrations and the appeal
14 process just as they have this evening.
15 This administration can twist and turn this
16 and slice and dice it all they want and
17 blaming the unions and city council for our
18 financial problems, but the fact is the
19 ultimate blame lies on the shoulders of the
20 three stooges, the mayor, PEL, and DCED as
21 they sit back laughing while this whole
22 process was going on.

23 You know, they have continually
24 appealed arbitration after arbitration.
25 Last year myself and Mrs. Evans met with the

1 fault, it's not the union's fault. As we
2 heard here tonight, in 2008 the police union
3 basically it would have been 50 percent of
4 this award that they agreed to, and the
5 mayor walked away from it. In 2009, the
6 fire union said that it was pennies on the
7 dollars they would have agreed to and the
8 mayor walked away. And I would like to ask,
9 Mr. McGoff, you were a union person,
10 correct?

11 MR. MCGOFF: Are talking to me?

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: You belonged to a
13 union.

14 MR. MCGOFF: At one time.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Did your union have
16 the ability to strike or did you ever
17 strike?

18 MR. MCGOFF: I was on strike for a
19 month and ultimately lost my job because of
20 it.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, the police and
22 fire unions throughout Act 111 arbitration
23 which was setup years ago it took away the
24 right of police and firefighters to go on
25 strike and force them into arbitration if

1 they didn't reach an agreement, and the
2 arbitrators were decided. Each union would
3 pick their arbitrator, the city would pick
4 their arbitrator, and mutually they would
5 pick a neutral arbitrator and that's how it
6 goes. They hear the case, they rule on the
7 case. It's neutral. There is a neutral
8 person there.

9 And then Act 11 binding arbitration
10 they shouldn't even have been appealed and
11 you said, your comment was, that if that's
12 the case the way the ruling came down that
13 with that Act 47 that it behooves the police
14 and fire to push for arbitration.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Absolutely.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, in this case if
17 it went the other way it behooves the
18 administration of these cities to use Act 47
19 so they can't negotiate. In other words --
20 I lost my train of thought there. Basically
21 they have gone back to the days prior to the
22 mine bosses here when there were no rights
23 for workers. That's all Act 47 was trying
24 to pull and we had a panel of judges that
25 saw it for what it was and ruled fairly.

1 And as far as, you know, taking it
2 out of the hands of the elected officials,
3 which ones of us voted for DCED? Which ones
4 of us voted for the attorneys that the
5 administration would use? Which one of us
6 voted for the PEL to represent the city?
7 None of us.

8 MR. MCGOFF: If you voted for the
9 Recovery Plan you did.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's another thing,
11 well, I'll get to that in a little bit.
12 But, you know, it really galls me because in
13 this last week, first of all, the mayor has
14 been touting heavy duty layoffs, big tax
15 increases, well, in this last week just this
16 past Sunday in the City of Scranton there
17 were three fire stations open. West
18 Scranton, Engine 7, for as massive as it is
19 with no water on West Mountain or the
20 Fawnwood area did not have a company, Engine
21 7 was closed. Engine 8 in North Scranton
22 was closed and the engine was relocated to
23 North Main Avenue. Rescue 1, God forbid we
24 had any kind of major accidents or rescue
25 situations, was closed.

1 This is all being done with no
2 plans, no policies, just a whim, and this
3 the kind of stuff that's going on, and it's
4 only going to get worse. If he is going to
5 cut more where are we going to go? We might
6 have one station open one day. We have to
7 get up and we have to -- I don't know. I
8 just don't know. The frustration level from
9 a lot of the speakers and myself is rising.

10 But again, as I stated before if
11 something happens to anybody in this city
12 I'll be the first to go to Court for them
13 because of the lack of a study, fore
14 manpower and the usage of our system here.
15 We are going to have dire consequences. To
16 me, just reading and seeing the news media
17 and reading the paper, it's all
18 vindictiveness, vindictiveness to the unions
19 that won the awards, and they are not
20 winners. They didn't act like winners.
21 They came here tonight and asked to work
22 with us because they taxpayers, too. They
23 are residents of this city, too. They want
24 to work with us for you, yet they went to
25 the mayor through his business

1 administrator, I believe, and asked if they
2 could work with him.

3 Now, PEL to their credit, DCED to
4 their credit agreed to, but apparently from
5 what we heard this evening the mayor does
6 not want to hear it, all he wants to do is
7 put a massive tax increase out there and cut
8 your services even more and I think that's
9 wrong. I mean, like the mayor claims that
10 the voters approved the Recovery Plan, but
11 guess what? The voters also approved the
12 supermajority to help them and I am willing,
13 as I'm sure most of my colleagues are, to
14 sit down with the unions and work out and
15 discuss the Supreme Court ruling in order to
16 soften the blow to the taxpayers, and I
17 believe they will have some reasonable ideas
18 and we can work this out for all of us.

19 But last but not least, if this
20 mayor sends us a budget, as he stated he
21 wanted to, with massive cuts, massive
22 increases in taxes, it's going to impact the
23 health, safety and welfare of this city so
24 bad that I would like to call at that time a
25 public hearing with the mayor, the business

1 administrator, and the police and fire
2 chiefs to explain to you, the taxpayers, how
3 they are going to protect you and how they
4 are going to man their stations with
5 firefighters and man their police cars with
6 their plan, with all of their massive
7 cutbacks. I want to see the plan that they
8 have in place or a plan that they have had,
9 but for them to just throw that on our lap
10 and not answer to you and explain to you how
11 they plan on doing more with less as the
12 mantra is, they have to face you. The mayor
13 says he is a strong mayor, he is your mayor,
14 we are all willing to work together with
15 him, ut, it's about time to face the piper
16 and discuss his reasons to you, the
17 taxpayers, why he is trying to do the things
18 he is doing.

19 And I'm sorry for my frustration,
20 but, you know, I'm worried about my family
21 where we live and this is impacting
22 everybody in this city. Don't think because
23 your station is open or there is a patrol
24 car driving by your house that you
25 protected, because in the minute they could

1 be on the other side of town working on
2 another situation and you are left
3 uncovered.

4 But it's about time everybody in
5 this city got mad. We are going to be
6 paying a lot more for a lot less and there
7 is no reason for it. Sit down and
8 negotiate. They had the opportunity and
9 they blew it and now they are crying about
10 it. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
12 Joyce, do you have any comments or motions
13 tonight?

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I thought you
15 forgot my name there for a second.

16 MS. EVANS: No, I was just taking a
17 breath.

18 MR. JOYCE: Okay. As everyone knows
19 the State Supreme Court ruled in favor of
20 the Scranton police and fire department over
21 an ongoing suite. Business administrator
22 Ryan McGowan acknowledged in today's
23 Scranton Times' article, it will cost the
24 city between 6 and 10 million dollars.
25 Though the Scranton Times likes to paint me

1 as an advocate for the unions, this is not
2 true. I'm an advocate for the taxpayers and
3 residents of Scranton, Pennsylvania. In
4 fact, I have never even been in a union in
5 my entire life as opposed to many other
6 people that have been on council in the
7 past.

8 What happened in the Supreme Court
9 ruling when looking back at all of the
10 events leading up to this point, you know
11 what? They were predictable. On numerous
12 accounts Bob Martin, president of the police
13 union, and Dave Gervasi, president of the
14 fire union, appeared before council to
15 encourage the mayor to reach a settlement
16 with them. Last year I also spoke about the
17 pendulum theory where government works best
18 when neither the unions have excessive power
19 nor the administration has excessive power.
20 The administration had excessive power with
21 the police and fire unions for a long time,
22 but guess what, now in the Court case that
23 pendulum has swung right to the opposite
24 end.

25 Obviously, Mayor Doherty didn't

1 agree with that theory. Mayor Doherty often
2 alludes to the fire and police union as
3 being paid more than the clerical and DPW
4 union workers. One, this has been -- that
5 is true for the most part, however, it's
6 always been true; and second of all, the gap
7 between what fire and police are paid as
8 opposed to what a DPW or clerical union
9 worker could have been much less if the
10 mayor decided to negotiate with the police
11 and fire union. Never happened.

12 Mayor Doherty's recent failure to
13 negotiate with the public safety unions have
14 again imposed a cost to the city. From what
15 I have been informed, Mayor Doherty had the
16 opportunity to settle with the recent
17 Supreme Court case ruling for about a third
18 of what it will -- or what it will cost the
19 city now. Bob Martin, president of the FOP,
20 stated that at one point -- at another point
21 it was a half, so if Mr. McGowan's
22 projection of the award is accurate,
23 Mr. Doherty's failure to negotiate is going
24 to cost the city between \$4 million when all
25 is said and done, if a third is the amount,

1 and if it's a half it's going to be three to
2 five million dollars.

3 Mayor Doherty's answer on how to
4 solve this increase -- or rather this Court
5 decision, increase taxes and layoff more
6 firefighters and police officers. That's
7 what he says. So who are Mayor Doherty's
8 failures going to hurt? The senior citizens
9 who can barely pay their taxes because they
10 are living off social security checks, the
11 people of Scranton that struggle from
12 paycheck to paycheck just to make ends meet,
13 or how about those even less fortunate
14 people in Scranton that work two jobs just
15 to make enough money to consider themselves
16 broke.

17 What Mayor Doherty should have been
18 doing is trying to negotiate a plan with the
19 police and fire unions to -- or what he
20 should do now is it negotiate a plan to
21 spread the payments out over "X" number of
22 years or possibly at least cost than the
23 settlement that the Court ruled in favor of
24 instead of threatening tax increases and
25 layoffs and scaring taxpayers and citizens

1 of this city.

2 Mr. Doherty likes to cry to the
3 newspaper that the Court doesn't realize the
4 financial situation of the city and that the
5 ruling of the judges wasn't fair. Well, as
6 Mr. Doherty always proclaims, Scranton has a
7 strong mayor form of government. Well, why
8 doesn't our strong mayor finally act like
9 one instead of acting like a cowardly mayor
10 and finally sit down with the unions and
11 negotiate a fair deal for the city rather
12 than taking everything -- or appealing and
13 taking everything to the Supreme Court and
14 losing on a consistent basis. It's now
15 starting to become a trend.

16 On other notes, you know what,
17 should we have expected Mayor Doherty to
18 negotiate with the unions when he still
19 can't appear before a city council to
20 discuss plans to reduce a deficit that he
21 created? I think that Mayor Doherty needs
22 to be held accountable for his actions. He
23 needs to appear before this council to
24 discuss our plan on how to resolve the
25 current deficit for this year. He states

1 that no one has reached out to him to
2 discuss this plan, however, there were
3 multiple council members who have worked on
4 this plan along with the city solicitor.

5 With this in mind, no more than two
6 council members can sit in his office to
7 discuss the plan with him because it's a
8 violation of the Sunshine Act. Basically
9 here it is, this forum is the most effective
10 way to discuss city business and not private
11 meetings. Mr. Doherty needs to come to a
12 council meeting and discuss our plan and the
13 plan that he proposed with all five council
14 members, not just one council member in a
15 coffee shop.

16 On other matters, Mayor Doherty
17 continues to lie to the newspaper. He
18 claims that the cost of the tax cuts city
19 council imposed in 2011 reduced revenue by
20 \$3 million, that's a -- that's just a flat
21 out inaccurate statement. It's \$1.7 or \$1.8
22 million. So far it's cost \$1.5 million to
23 the city. I have the documentation of what
24 it's cost the city so far from our tax
25 collector to prove it.

1 Also, Mayor Doherty is now blaming
2 council for the city's credit rating. When
3 the city's credit rating was originally
4 reduced in 2009 before the city council even
5 took office and when Mayor Doherty had a
6 city council that was favorable to his
7 agenda. You can see that bond rating
8 decreased by reading the 2009 audit.

9 Speaking of the audit, Mrs. Krake,
10 has Mr. McGowan given us an update on any of
11 the outstanding items that we addressed?

12 MS. KRAKE: No, he has not.

13 MR. JOYCE: I believe he does have a
14 two-week timeline though, correct, provided?
15 Okay. Well, the solution is clear, Mayor
16 Doherty finally needs to come to city
17 council to discuss solutions. Contrary to
18 what the newspapers view is, being the
19 Scranton Times, not GO Lackawanna, Mayor
20 Doherty wouldn't be coming to Council for a
21 bashing session. This is about solutions.
22 This is about moving the city forward.

23 Unfortunately, Mayor Doherty always
24 claims that he is moving Scranton forward in
25 every campaign he has run in, but you know

1 what, is this really true? By failing to
2 negotiate with the unions and discuss fiscal
3 solutions with the five member council he is
4 really doing nothing but moving the city
5 backwards. It's time for Mayor Doherty to
6 discuss the solutions and I ideas with us.

7 Finally, I do have some questions
8 for Mr. McGowan and Mayor Doherty and,
9 Mrs. Krake, please contact both asking the
10 following questions:

11 In light of the recent Supreme Court
12 decision, are you willing to sit down with
13 the police and fire unions and work on a
14 solution? Originally I was going to request
15 that it -- the answer was, no, but if you
16 can send a statement to him that it was
17 council's request, well, two of my
18 colleagues aren't here, but with the
19 agreement of the majority of my colleagues I
20 would like this request sent on council's
21 behalf.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23 MR. JOYCE: The second thing I
24 wanted to address, the upcoming budget.
25 Please ask how many police and fire

1 personnel does he plan to eliminate. In the
2 upcoming budget, how many other positions
3 does he plan to eliminate, and please
4 specify these positions.

5 Number four, what percentage of each
6 laid off employee's salary will be budgeted
7 for unemployment payments?

8 Number five, what will be the
9 average cost per employee used for budget
10 calculations in regard to health insurance
11 for fire, police, DPW, clerical unions and
12 the administrative employees.

13 And number six, what is the opt out
14 benefit for employees choosing to decline
15 city health insurance in all unions as well
16 as the administration?

17 Seven, Mayor Doherty has said to
18 media sources that he plans on raises taxes
19 in 2012. Please ask which taxes he plans on
20 raising and by how much, and I'd rather have
21 the amount in writing than just go by
22 hearsay and rumors.

23 And also, what is the cost of
24 lifeguards and other pool personnel
25 projected to be in 2012. I think that's an

1 important thing that we need to know when we
2 are looking at other salary accounts in the
3 DPW.

4 You would think that Mayor Doherty
5 would want to discuss fiscal issues with
6 council as we all want the city to move
7 forward. You know, Scranton has been
8 distressed for nearly 20 years which is
9 nearly 2/3 of my life. It's time that we
10 all move in the new direction which involves
11 the mayor actually discussing fiscal matters
12 with the city council in public.

13 It's apparent that Mayor Doherty
14 doesn't want to move in this direction,
15 however, he still insists in speaking behind
16 closed doors or in some cases in coffee
17 shops. He has yet to implement any idea
18 that council has proposed to him. Two weeks
19 ago, Councilman Rogan made motions for the
20 mayor to put out RFP's for privatization
21 various authorities, and I'm still waiting
22 to see that happen. I wonder if the mayor
23 is just going to use that motion as a piece
24 of scrap paper in his office.

25 Also, I made many other revenue

1 generating suggestions for 2012 including a
2 payroll expense tax on businesses, a
3 commuter tax, an amusement tax, advertising
4 on city street sweepers and refuse trucks,
5 asking for pauper status to avoid court
6 costs and filing fees and also lien fees in
7 civil suits, a stronger rental registration
8 program, which I give Councilman Loscombe
9 and McGoff credit and also Attorney Kelly.
10 This is the one thing that's been worked on
11 to this point. Selling or leasing the
12 parking garages if feasible. And another
13 thing, we have to find out if it's feasible
14 first. We have to put out the request as
15 Mr. Rogan made that motion, and also
16 implementing StreetSmart, which has been
17 successful in just about every other city
18 that it's been implemented in.

19 Also, here is another thing, if we
20 are granted pauper status, I would also like
21 to make the recommendation that we charge a
22 service fee to insurance companies for
23 police and fire responses to accidents.
24 This is an action that's been done in the
25 past, however, the municipalities failed to

1 collect payments from insurance companies
2 because of having to sue them. The cost of
3 suing them was equivalent to the cost of the
4 payment that they would have received. If
5 we receive pauper status, that would remove
6 many of the costs associated with going
7 after insurance companies who wouldn't want
8 to pay this fee.

9 Also, in closing, I just want to say
10 I reviewed Mr. McGowan's latest cash flow
11 report. The projected deficit for the end
12 of year is now \$5.4 million, it's down from
13 the last report. With this in mind,
14 Attorney Hughes, if you could please revise
15 the plan that council put together to
16 reflect \$6 million of borrowing rather than
17 6.5.

18 Also, I have a number of citizens'
19 request, however, for the sake of brevity, I
20 am not going to address them publically, but
21 please be assured if you have contacted me
22 over the past week I will be addressing your
23 concerns with the appropriate officials
24 throughout the city, and that's all.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman

1 Joyce. Good evening. The recent Supreme
2 Court decision against the City of Scranton
3 came as no surprise and the Pennsylvania
4 Economy League and the Doherty
5 administration's failure to financially
6 prepare for this Court decision was also a
7 known fact.

8 In fact, some council members had
9 been very concerned about the potential for
10 this tremendous financial impact. As a
11 result, Councilman Loscombe and I visited
12 the mayor long ago to urge him against
13 pursuing litigation and toward negotiation
14 of a fair settlement in the best interest of
15 the taxpayers of our city.

16 In addition, during the negotiation
17 session between council and the mayor
18 ordered by Judge Mazzone during the mayor's
19 2010 lawsuit against city council for
20 cutting government costs, I warned Mayor
21 Doherty of the future consequences of his
22 incessant legal actions and appeals which
23 would harm the people of Scranton. Despite
24 our best efforts, the mayor refused to
25 listen to us.

1 It would be all too easy and
2 inaccurate to simply blame Mayor Doherty for
3 this catastrophe because he had powerful
4 partners on a path of destruction to the
5 Supreme Court. The Pennsylvania Department
6 of Community and Economic Development, or
7 DCED, and the Pennsylvania Economy League
8 are equally culpable because both selected
9 Scranton from among 25 distressed
10 municipalities and used our city as their
11 guinea pig for a test case in a legal battle
12 to prove the supremacy of Act 47 throughout
13 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

14 In fact, it was not the city labor
15 attorney, Dick Goldberg, but it was the DCED
16 lawyer, Attorney Clifford Levine, who
17 presented the City of Scranton's case before
18 the Supreme Court. It is clear, that DCED
19 and the PEL actively urged and enabled the
20 Doherty administration to pursue a ten-year
21 battle in the Court system that culminated
22 in a Supreme Court decision that is
23 extremely injurious to the people of
24 Scranton.

25 Therefore, the State Department of

1 Economic and Community Development should
2 share the financial burden of the Supreme
3 Court decision and take responsibility for
4 it's actions. Don't hand our taxpayers a
5 bag of bills and walk away. People of
6 Scranton did not ask for labor unrest, a
7 decade of Court battles, and a double digit
8 million dollar Supreme Court decision. They
9 are the victims of the state and the Doherty
10 administration.

11 Late last week I had the opportunity
12 to discuss these critical issues at length
13 with state representative Kevin Murphy with
14 particular emphasis and the roles played by
15 the state DCED and PEL. Representative
16 Murphy offered to help our city and it's
17 people in any way he can do so in his role
18 as a state official. We are grateful for
19 his interest in and concern for our city and
20 it's people and for any and all assistance he
21 can provide.

22 . Throughout my years as a seated
23 councilwoman, I have often questioned and
24 discussed the failed leadership of the
25 Pennsylvania Economy League that spans

1 nearly 20 years. As a result of his
2 assistant and oversight, Scranton is in
3 worse financial straights in October 2011
4 than it was in January 2002, the day Mayor
5 Doherty first took office, and in 1992 when
6 our city was declared distressed.

7 The Pennsylvania Economy League has
8 failed the people of Scranton and has
9 enabled the Doherty administration to amass
10 monumental debt, engage in financial shell
11 games and coverups, and openly defy the
12 terms of the Recovery Plan by enlarging
13 administrative numbers, salaries and
14 benefits, creating and maintaining
15 unnecessary political jobs, hiring
16 consultants and numerous law firms, and
17 engaging in overall unbridled spending among
18 other acts.

19 Also, the minutes of regular
20 meetings between the city administration and
21 the representatives of PEL and DCED are not
22 taken, and no meeting agenda was provided to
23 participants for these meetings until
24 lately, very recently.

25 Equally important, although PEL was

1 an active participant in countless Court
2 battles since 2002o, it made no provisions
3 for payments of Court awards and currently
4 it has no plan to address the Supreme Court
5 decision. As a result, I direct Mrs. Krake
6 to send a letter to the Honorable Thomas
7 Corbett, Governor of Pennsylvania, and to
8 the State Department of Economic and
9 Community Development on behalf of Scranton
10 City Council requesting the replacement of
11 the Pennsylvania Economy League and the
12 local DCED representative Matthew Dominez,
13 as Act 47 coordinators for the purpose of
14 financial oversight of the City of Scranton
15 based on 20 years of demonstrated failed
16 leadership and unproductive, unsound
17 collusion and bias toward the Doherty
18 administration that have resulted in
19 historical debt and significant and sizable
20 Court awards for which Scranton residents
21 are financially responsible.

22 In addition, Scranton City Council
23 offers for your consideration a portion of
24 the Act of the October 19, 2011, written
25 opinion of Mr. Justice Saylor, in which he

1 cites a previous ruling, "Scranton quickly
2 became the biggest client of the
3 Pennsylvania Economy League. PEL was
4 billing hundreds of thousands of dollars in
5 fees for advice that no one was following
6 and that was producing absolutely no
7 discernable progress. The state was little
8 better, with the exception of one
9 transparently political effort to compel the
10 city's compliance with the Recovery Plan,
11 the state wrote lots of memos, but did
12 nothing to substantively achieve the goals
13 of Act 47."

14 Mr. Justice Atkins concurring
15 opinion of October 19, 2011, states: "I
16 join the salient analysis of my colleague,
17 Justice Saylor. During argument of this
18 case, council candidly acknowledged that of
19 approximately 25 cities that have been
20 entered Act 47 and it's protections, only a
21 handful have recovered to the point of
22 leaving the protection of Act 47. The
23 remaining cities have apparently found a
24 home there. Scranton has been there nearly
25 20 years."

1 Do I have the agreement of my
2 colleagues to send this letter?

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

4 MR. MCGOFF: For the record, I
5 oppose.

6 MS. EVANS: Well, we have three of
7 four and your opinion is duly noted.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

9 MS. EVANS: And thank you,
10 gentlemen. Mrs. Krake, please forward
11 copies of this letter to State Senator John
12 Blake, and State Representatives Kevin
13 Murphy and Ken Smith. In addition, I would
14 like a letter sent to Senator Blake and
15 Representatives Murphy and Smith on behalf
16 of Scranton City Council requesting their
17 assistance in obtaining state funds to
18 mitigate the costs of the recent Supreme
19 Court decision, specifically in light of the
20 active leadership role taken by the State
21 Department of Community and Economic
22 Development and the continuance of labor
23 unrest and unrelenting legal appeals to the
24 financial detriment of the people of
25 Scranton. Do I have the agreement of my

1 colleagues?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

3 MR. ROGAN: Um-hum.

4 MR. MCGOFF: That's fine.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Also,
6 Mrs. Krake, please send a letter to the
7 State Department of Economic and Community
8 Development on behalf of Scranton City
9 Council requesting funding for the City of
10 Scranton, which has suffered a serious
11 financial blow as a result of the recent
12 Supreme Court decision that Scranton must
13 pay interest arbitration awards to city
14 police and firefighters. Since DCED played
15 a significant role in this city's current
16 dire financial straights through it's use of
17 the City of Scranton as a statewide test
18 case for the supremacy of Act 47 over Act
19 11, it's adamant argument to the Supreme
20 Court, and it's steadfast promotion of legal
21 appeals and related litigation, DCED should
22 accept it's financial responsibility to the
23 City of Scranton and share in it's financial
24 burden. Scranton City Council requests your
25 immediate attention and assistance on behalf

1 of the taxpayers of our city and is
2 available to discuss potential resolutions
3 to this matter. Do I have my colleagues'
4 agreement?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MR. MCGOFF: I'm opposed.

8 MS. EVANS: We have three council
9 members in favor and Mr. McGoff is opposed,
10 and so please send the letter.

11 Now we must turn the city's
12 financial responsibility in this matter.
13 According to Mayor Doherty, he will cut your
14 services drastically while simultaneously
15 raising your taxes. In other words,
16 Scrantonians will pay much higher taxes for
17 far less public services. Since the mayor
18 is also on record as stating that he will
19 not cut any DPW employees, taxpayers can
20 only assume that the mayor's next manpower
21 possible will once again target the police
22 and fire departments. These are predictable
23 and easy answers to his self-inflicted
24 crisis.

25 In response to Mayor Doherty's

1 question included in the Sunday Times,
2 "Where else am I going to get the money?"

3 I'd like to offer multiple better
4 solutions to address the city's financial
5 ills. First, as has been said many times
6 this evening, the mayor should immediately
7 begin negotiations with the FOP and the IAFF
8 unions to less the financial impact of the
9 Supreme Court decision and provide an
10 agreement that is both fair to the people of
11 Scranton and their public safety employees.
12 He owes it to Scranton taxpayers to extend
13 an olive branch to the police and fire
14 personnel and to discuss lower payments,
15 perhaps settling other cases, dropping other
16 cases, and a multi-year payment schedule.

17 Second, city debt should be
18 refinanced.

19 Third, borrowing or a bond issue
20 should be pursued.

21 Fourth, the StreetSmart Technologies
22 Park Program and an aggressive rental
23 registration program should be included in
24 the mayor's 2012 proposed budget and
25 implemented.

1 Fifth, appraisals of the city
2 parking garages and lots and the Scranton
3 Sewer Authority should occur as soon as
4 possible and national companies should be
5 contacted to request proposal for the sale
6 or lease of parking garages and the
7 management and operation of the Scranton
8 Sewer Authority.

9 Six, include an amusement tax in the
10 2012 proposed budget and aggressively pursue
11 a change in the city's classification in
12 order to implement a commuter and a payroll
13 tax to be included in the 2013 budget.

14 Seven, cut city departments which
15 were not previously targeted in August 2011.

16 Eight, eliminate health insurance
17 for management positions or increase all
18 copays which are currently lower than
19 payments made by union employees.

20 Nine, eliminate payments to
21 employees who opt out of city provided
22 health care.

23 Ten, limit DPW overtime to emergency
24 declarations for snow removal, flooding
25 situations, cave-ins and other natural

1 disasters.

2 Eleven, institute a wage freeze
3 where possible and/or shorten the workweek
4 or work hours for city hall employees.

5 Twelve, eliminate nonessential
6 budgetary expenditures including the funding
7 of organizations.

8 Thirteen, pursue buyouts of workers'
9 comp cases and early retirements.

10 Fourteen, aggressively pursue large
11 city nonprofits for payments in lieu of
12 taxes. The mayors of Reading and
13 Pittsburgh, for example, have been
14 successful in these ventures and the same
15 Pennsylvania Economy League that oversees
16 Scranton recommended recently this action to
17 Harrisburg's mayor. Interestingly, however,
18 it seems that, and it was a very wise
19 individual who discussed this with me just
20 today, that quite a number of the city's
21 former administrator's, whether that be a
22 business administrator, a human resources
23 director, my goodness, there are so many
24 it's hard to recall of them now, they have
25 left their city positions to take new

1 positions at our local colleges and
2 universities. Coincidentally, the very
3 entities that the mayor should be seeking
4 PILOT payments from. Perhaps, we received
5 our PILOT payments in terms of new jobs for
6 city administrators who now work -- I
7 believe the chief of police works at
8 Marywood University. We have the business
9 administrator who is now employed by
10 Keystone College. We have the human
11 resources director who is trotting over to
12 the Sewer Authority, and I know I'm missing
13 more than that, but it's very apparent that
14 the nonprofits and the municipality
15 authorities are the depository for former
16 City of Scranton employees. If their pay is
17 going to be cut or their job might be
18 eliminated, off they go.

19 Now, 15, pursue collection of the
20 \$600,000 owed for the property which
21 formally housed the DPW garages.

22 Sixteen, bring city towing of
23 vehicles in-house by using city-owned
24 property for storage or tow yards and
25 eliminate the unnecessary use of vehicles by

1 city employees such as the IT Department
2 head, among numerous other solutions.

3 The bottom line is that city council
4 has numerous suggestions, but the mayor must
5 agree and then implement or enforce these
6 measures and programs. The decision is his
7 to either cut your services and increase
8 your taxes or to work with city council to
9 address our city's financial problems in
10 ways which are less painful and burdensome
11 for the people of Scranton.

12 As I said earlier, council can bring
13 the horse to water, but we can't make him
14 drink. Mrs. Krake, please forward this list
15 of the revenue generators and budgetary cuts
16 to Mr. Doherty and to Mr. Cross.

17 Next, if the mayor intends to obtain
18 2012 tax anticipation notes or borrowing to
19 cover the deficit and/or debt refinancing,
20 he must produce and submit the 2010
21 independent audit of the City of Scranton
22 and his proposed 2012 budget to the local
23 banks as soon as possible. Although
24 Councilman Joyce and I have been calling for
25 the city audit from the Doherty

1 administration for the past five months, the
2 heads of the local banks have recently
3 joined that call. The mayor would do well
4 to respond to the request of the banking
5 community immediately. It is unacceptable
6 to postpone an audit to year's end or into
7 2012, as occurred in the case of the prior
8 audit.

9 The lengthy list of the financial
10 documents requested by the auditors since
11 last April must be submitted immediately.
12 It is not sufficient to local banks and city
13 council for Christopher Doherty to merely
14 proclaim that he will cut personnel, raise
15 taxes and then just exit the room. Everyone
16 wants to see the financial documents
17 demonstrating where we are, what we owe, and
18 how we intend to pay. His vision will no
19 longer suffice.

20 Next, Mrs. Krake, please send a
21 letter to Mr. Brazil, city controller
22 Roseann Novembrino, and Lisa Moran unless,
23 of course, she has already exited, in that
24 case I believe it's Attorney McAndrew who
25 will be replacing her, on behalf of Scranton

1 City Council requesting the following
2 information:

3 What is the name of the DPW employee
4 who serves currently as the mechanic for any
5 and all city fire vehicles. Provide copies
6 of invoices and vouchers for Sandone and any
7 and all other businesses who performed the
8 duties of a mechanic by servicing fire
9 department and city vehicles from June 2011
10 up to and including October 26, 2011.
11 Council requests this information on or
12 before November 4, 2011.

13 Finally, I have citizens' requests
14 for the week, which will be submitted to our
15 office and forwarded to the appropriate city
16 departments, and that's it.

17 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING THE
18 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS FOR
19 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER
20 INTO A LEASE WITH AIRLINE PETROLEUM COMPANY
21 OF DUNMORE TO PROVIDE SPACE FOR THE SCRANTON
22 POLICE DEPARTMENT OT OPERATE A SUBSTATION.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

9 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

12 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. ACCEPTING THE
13 RECOMMENDATION OF THE HISTORICAL
14 ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD ("HARB") AND
15 APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
16 FOR HEMMLER + CAMAYD ARCHITECTS, 409
17 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA
18 FOR REMOVAL OF DETERIORATED, SINGLE-PANE
19 WOOD WINDOWS; REPLACEMENT WITH NEW,
20 ENERGY-EFFICIENT, ALUMINUM CLAD,
21 MAINTENANCE-FREE WOOD WINDOWS; REMOVAL OF
22 OVERHEAD DOORS AND REPLACEMENT WITH NEW,
23 ENERGY-EFFICIENT OVERHEAD DOORS AT THE
24 CENTRAL FIRE STATION, 518 MULBERRY STREET,
25 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. JOYCE: Second.

6 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
7 those in favor of introduction signify by
8 saying aye.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

12 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion pursuant
16 to the emergency certificate to place on the
17 agenda Resolution No. 49, 2011, entitled,
18 "AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 686 OF 2000,
19 ENTITLED: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
20 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
21 SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO
22 PROMISSORY NOTES B99MC420014 SERIES, AND ALL
23 OTHER NECESSARY LOAN DOCUMENTS IN THE AMOUNT
24 OF \$3 MILLION FOR THE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE
25 CENTER PROJECT IN ORDER TO REFINANCE THE

1 CURRENT OUTSTANDING BALANCE OF THE AFORESAID
2 LOAN WHICH WILL RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL
3 SAVINGS AND INTEREST."

4 MR. JOYCE: Second.

5 MS. EVANS: On the question?

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question, I
7 did speak with Mrs. Evans and Ms. Aebli and
8 her staff today, what this basically amounts
9 to because the interest rates right now are
10 at historic lows, by refinancing the Section
11 108 loan the city is going to save a vast
12 sum of money, I think it will be -- when I
13 talked to Ms. Aebli earlier I think it would
14 be around \$9,000 extra dollars per year will
15 have to use in our CDBG allotments going
16 forward because of the savings doing this,
17 so it really is a no-brainer. It saves the
18 city taxpayers money and we'll have extra
19 money to put towards programs.

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

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

1 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

4 MS. KRAKE: "AMENDING RESOLUTION NO.
5 686 OF 2000, ENTITLED: AUTHORIZING THE
6 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
7 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER
8 INTO PROMISSORY NOTES B99MC420014 SERIES,
9 AND ALL OTHER NECESSARY LOAN DOCUMENTS IN
10 THE AMOUNT OF \$3 MILLION FOR THE HOTEL AND
11 CONFERENCE CENTER PROJECT IN ORDER TO
12 REFINANCE THE CURRENT OUTSTANDING BALANCE OF
13 THE AFORESAID LOAN WHICH WILL RESULT IN
14 SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS AND INTEREST."

15 MS. EVANS: We have a resolution --
16 pardon?

17 MR. MCGOFF: It's a motion.

18 MS. EVANS: Actually -- we are
19 amending the resolution. Oh, okay. At this
20 time I will entertain a motion, thank you,
21 that Item 5-D be introduced into it's proper
22 committee.

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. JOYCE: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: On the questions? All

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to
10 suspend the rules and move Item 5-D to
11 Seventh Order to be considered for final
12 passage based on the attached emergency
13 certificate.

14 MR. JOYCE: Second.

15 MS. EVANS: On the question?

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes, and I would also
17 hope that since we are moving it through one
18 night we could also give the public an
19 opportunity to talk on it.

20 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of
21 said resolution signify by saying aye.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: Sixth order. 6-A.
4 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 55,
5 2011 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE
6 EXTINGUISHMENT OF THE PERMANENT EASEMENT FOR
7 INGRESS AND EGRESS AT THE CORNER OF MARION
8 STREET AND NEW ROSS AVENUE AND TO ANNEX SAID
9 LANDS TO BE CONVEYED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON
10 TO RONALD F. KITLAS AND MARY ANN KITLAS.

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

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

15 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

21 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
25 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY

1 DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL
2 NO. 53, 2011 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
3 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
4 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
5 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
6 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
7 TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
8 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
9 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
10 SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM.

11 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to amend
12 Item 7-A as per the following:

13 Increasing the funding of the
14 Deutsch Institute \$5,000 for a total of
15 \$20,000.

16 Increasing the funding for the
17 Catherine McCauley Center by \$5,000 for a
18 total of \$10,000.

19 Increasing the funding for Licensing
20 and Inspections Demolition of Hazardous
21 Structures by \$90,000 for a grand total of
22 \$300,000.

23 Increasing the United Neighborhoods
24 Bellevue Youth Program at \$2,500 for a total
25 of \$10,000.

1 Eliminating the funding for the
2 United Neighborhood Centers SCOLA program
3 reducing it from \$5,000 to zero.

4 Increasing funding for the Downtown
5 Senior Paving Program by \$3,500.

6 Increasing the Scranton Police
7 Department police vehicles by \$26,500.

8 Increasing the Dress for Success by
9 \$20,000.

10 Decreasing OECD administration by
11 \$58,000.

12 Decreasing Friends of the Poor,
13 Summer Historical Program by \$10,000.

14 Increasing Lackawanna Neighborhood
15 Home Rehab \$85,000.

16 Increasing North Scranton Little
17 League playground project by \$20,000.

18 Increasing the Vacant Property
19 Review Committee Blight Removal by \$25,000.

20 Increasing First Friday busing for
21 seniors by \$1,500.

22 Decreasing the Scranton Parks and
23 Rec, Lincoln Jackson Park, by \$350,000.

24 Decreasing Weston Field Residents
25 roof repairs by \$25,000.

1 Increasing Scranton Forestry Tree
2 Removal by \$50,000.

3 Decreasing Broadway Theatre tickets
4 by \$10,000.

5 Decreasing Scranton DPW pool and
6 bathhouse rehab by \$175,000.

7 Decreasing First Night Scranton,
8 tickets and transportation, by \$20,000.

9 Decreasing Scranton Public Theatre
10 Jazzfest by \$10,000.

11 Decreasing Scranton Public Theatre
12 Cultural Program by \$9,000.

13 And increasing Scranton DPW paving
14 program by \$338,000.

15 MS. EVANS: We have a motion to
16 amend Item 7-A on the table, do we have a
17 second?

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: On the question?

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes, very briefly on the
21 question, while going through these, as I
22 said before, it is taxpayer money and all of
23 us when we looked through them we are in
24 agreement on I would say 95 percent of
25 what's in here. Each one of us there is

1 something that we wanted more money for or
2 less money for, but on the whole we put most
3 of the money for street paving, blight
4 removal, and making your life better, and
5 when I ran for council, and I know my
6 colleagues ran for council, that was the
7 platform and we came through with this
8 through federal funds, and we didn't waste
9 it on tickets for theatre programs. We
10 didn't waste it on, you know, some of the
11 other programs in here that really would be
12 a waste of taxpayer dollars, and at the end
13 the day these will make -- these allocations
14 will make everyone's lives a little better
15 than the previous allocations.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Might I also thank
17 Councilman Rogan for allowing the
18 opportunity for input from all council
19 members in these allocations and also
20 affording the opportunity to the public for
21 responding to these allocations.

22 MS. EVANS: The only thing I would
23 add to that is that I know perhaps I think
24 it was last year's allocations, all council
25 members were able to and did provide

1 recommendations. Anyone else on the
2 question? All those in favor of the motion
3 to amend Item 7-A, signify by saying aye.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
9 have it and so moved. What is the
10 recommendation of the chair for the
11 Committee on Community Development.

12 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
13 Committee on Community Development, I
14 recommend final passage of Item 7-A, as
15 amended.

16 MR. JOYCE: Second.

17 MS. EVANS: On the question? Now,
18 before we take a vote this evening on the
19 changes that were made this evening to the
20 CDBG allocations, is there anyone member of
21 the audience who wishes to address city
22 council?

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes, if I may do it
24 from here, would you repeat -- I think you
25 flip flopped on the administration from what

1 you reported last week.

2 MR. ROGAN: No, it's still a
3 deduction. It's the same as reported last
4 week. It was a reduction of \$58,000 to a
5 total of \$592,000.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. ROGAN: You are welcome.

8 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please?

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
19 Item 7-A, as amended, legally and lawfully
20 adopted. Is there anyone who wishes to
21 address council on Item 7-B, that would be
22 the emergency certificate Section 108 loan
23 agreement for the hotel and conference
24 center project in order to refinance the
25 current outstanding balance of the aforesaid

1 loan, which will result in substantial
2 savings in interest and that has been moved
3 to Seventh Order this evening?

4 What is the recommendation of the
5 Chair for the Committee on --

6 MR. MCGOFF: It has to be read.

7 MS. EVANS: Pardon? Oh, yes, Mrs.
8 Krake.

9 MS. KRAKE: 7-B, FORMERLY 5-D, FOR
10 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
11 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION.

12 MS. EVANS: What is the
13 recommendation of the Chair for the
14 Committee on Community development?

15 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
16 Committee on Community Development, I
17 recommend that Item 7-B, formerly 5-D, is
18 approved for final passage.

19 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

4 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
7 Item 7-B, as amended, legally and lawfully
8 adopted. If there is no further business,
9 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

10 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

11 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
12 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER