

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

LOCATION:

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

AMELIA NICOL, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS, CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

15 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER, 3A. TAX
16 ASSESSOR'S REPORT, FINAL HEARING
17 RESULTS FROM OCTOBER 19, 2011.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
21 REPORT, APPEAL RESULTS FROM
22 OCTOBER 26, 2011.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 3C. AUDIT STATUS FROM

1 ROBERT ROSSI & CO. AS OF
2 NOVEMBER 8, 2011.

3 MS. EVANS: Are there any
4 comments? If not, received and filed.

5 MS. KRAKE: 3D. AGENDA FOR THE
6 CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
7 TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 16, 2011.

8 MS. EVANS: Are there any
9 comments? If not, received and filed.

10 MS. KRAKE: 3E. MINUTES OF THE
11 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING
12 HELD OCTOBER 26, 2011.

13 MS. EVANS: Are there any
14 comments? If not, received and filed.

15 Do we have any clerk's notes this
16 evening?

17 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs.
19 Krake. Do any council members have
20 announcements at this time?

21 (No response.)

22 MS. EVANS: The Fraternal Order
23 of Eagles located at 493 Meridian
24 Avenue in Scranton will hold a Fall
25 and Christmas Craft Fair this

1 Saturday, November 19th from 12 to 5
2 p.m. Crafts, foods and bake goods
3 will be available for purchase and
4 proceeds benefit autism research.
5 Admissions is free.

6 An area of mail processing study
7 was conducted to evaluate the mail
8 processing operations from the
9 Scranton Processing and Distribution
10 Facility to the Lehigh Valley
11 Processing and Distribution Facility.
12 The initial results of the studies
13 support the business case for
14 consolidation but it is subject to
15 change. A public meeting will be held
16 to share results of the study and
17 allow members of the community to ask
18 questions and offer feedback. The
19 public meeting will be conducted next
20 Tuesday, November 22nd, 2011, at 6:30
21 p.m. at Scranton High School, 63 Mike
22 Munchak Way in Scranton. If you are
23 concerned by the loss of jobs at our
24 Stafford Avenue Processing and
25 Distribution Center and by possible

1 delays in mail service and delivery
2 caused by the rerouting of Scranton
3 services to Lehigh Valley, please,
4 please attend this very important
5 public meeting.

6 And finally I wish to
7 congratulate Councilman Jack Loscombe
8 and Bob McGoff for their victories in
9 the November 8th general election.

10 In addition, Scranton City
11 Council extends its congratulations
12 and best wishes to all city and county
13 candidates who were elected by the
14 voters to serve your best interest.
15 And that's it.

16 MS. KRAKE: Fourth Order,
17 citizens participation.

18 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
19 tonight is Kevin Gallagher.

20 MR. GALLAGHER: Thank you,
21 council, for letting me address you.
22 My name is Kevin Gallagher. I
23 represent the American Postal Workers
24 Union for Scranton and also for all of
25 Northeastern Pennsylvania. You read a

1 letter from the postal service that
2 they want to move these mail
3 processing facility from Stafford
4 Avenue to Lehigh Valley. I wish to
5 speak on that and then make a request
6 of council. The case that they are
7 raising is built on a house of cards.
8 The reality of the situation is that
9 there will be serious economic service
10 and cost impacts for everybody in
11 Northeastern Pennsylvania. Scranton
12 mail processing facility processes
13 over 1.6 million pieces of mail per
14 day, every 24 hours and they have
15 virtually no place whatsoever with
16 less than three percent overtime. The
17 Lehigh Valley plant where they want to
18 move the Scranton facility to cannot
19 accept all of the mail processing
20 machinery from the Scranton plant.
21 Therefore, they're looking at possibly
22 Lehigh Valley, Lancaster, splitting
23 Scranton's mail. That's going to be a
24 logistical nightmare and cause severe
25 service impacts. The Lehigh Valley

1 plant processes about 2.5 million
2 pieces of mail a day. That's
3 one-third more than Scranton. They
4 run eight percent delays on a daily
5 average. That's more than 200,000
6 first class and standard, letters and
7 flats a day are delayed. And they're
8 running 12 and a half percent over
9 time. Adding another 66 percent
10 volume to what they currently have
11 with exponentially increase delays and
12 will wreck service for Northeastern
13 Pennsylvania. The cost involved in it
14 is if the plant leaves, you're going
15 to have citizens in Scranton and all
16 through Northeastern Pennsylvania who
17 depend on checks in the mail, their
18 services are going to be delayed,
19 they're going to wait longer for their
20 checks, longer for their medicine in
21 the mail. Businesses are going to
22 have an impact and the accounts
23 receivables and also in paying bills
24 and everybody is going to have to pay
25 their bills earlier because of delayed

1 service is left, lower and lower
2 service is going to happen.

3 A study was done by Springfield,
4 Illinois. In that situation the
5 postal service wanted to move a plant
6 with 300 jobs from Springfield to St.
7 Louis. They commissioned the
8 university to do a study. The
9 university did it and found that the
10 total economic impact for Springfield,
11 Illinois, of 300 postal jobs would be
12 over \$42 million dollars. In our case
13 they're talking more than 300 jobs.
14 So it would be severe impact. One of
15 the things -- one of the aspects of
16 the study is that it would result in a
17 loss of over 1.7 million dollars in
18 state and local taxes and over
19 \$100,000 in local sales taxes
20 additionally and the wage taxes aren't
21 even included in what would be hidden.
22 What I would ask is at the meeting
23 next week, anybody who is interested,
24 I ask them to go, to question. The
25 postal service is claiming it will

1 save five million dollars a year;
2 they're claiming three million dollars
3 in employee savings. That's a
4 fallacy. It's not going to happen.
5 They're claiming one million dollars
6 roughly in transportation savings.
7 They're going to double the logistics
8 in transportation costs. They're not
9 going to decrease it. I am a
10 transportation clerk at the Scranton
11 Post Office, I handle the extra
12 service runs and so on. They will get
13 swamped with it. The service will be
14 bad, the cost will be go up, customers
15 who count on the bulk business mail
16 entry unit to get postage discounts
17 for presorting their mail will lose
18 those discounts. So what I'm asking
19 is would council consider having one
20 of your members go to the public
21 meeting, address the postal service.
22 I will provide you with all the facts
23 and documentation and the data that I
24 get it from and that is my request if
25 council would consider that.

1 MS. EVANS: Yes, we will
2 certainly do that.

3 MR. GALLAGHER: Okay. I have
4 information on this. I don't know how
5 to present it. Could I give it to
6 Clerk Nancy?

7 MS. EVANS: Yo can give it Miss
8 Carrera and she will give it to us.

9 MR. GALLAGHER: All right. Thank
10 you very much.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. The
12 Reverend Kathryn Simmons.

13 MS. SIMMONS: Good evening,
14 council members. My name is Reverend
15 Kathryn Simmons from Scranton.

16 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

17 MS. SIMMONS: I come to you this
18 evening with a heavy heart. I had
19 hoped that what I'm about to say to
20 you could be mediated and settled
21 outside of this -- these chambers but
22 apparently that's not going to happen.
23 So let begin by saying to you that I
24 know that you are well aware that a
25 homeless shelter has been operating at

1 Bethel AME Church for the last
2 19 years. Council was good enough
3 several years ago to okay a CDBG grant
4 to us, the board members of the
5 homeless shelter to redo the
6 downstairs of the shelter with the
7 agreement that the shelter would stay
8 open for a ten-year period. That has
9 not been done. They've closed us
10 down. The reasoning behind it they
11 said because the shelter was overly
12 white populated and that was
13 disrespectful to a black-based church.
14 So what we're asking you to do tonight
15 is to help the board members get back
16 the \$171,000 that was given to us by
17 the CDBG grant. If we can get back
18 through a certified check which we
19 have requested from the bishop, Bishop
20 Henney in Cincinnati, Ohio, then a
21 lien be placed against the church
22 property until the money is returned.
23 The total downstairs was revamped with
24 this money given to us. And for them
25 to just close us down, not because

1 we're underpopulated, not because we
2 don't give to the city, the services
3 that are needed, but we because we
4 were overly white populated I think is
5 a disgrace to the AME Church and for
6 us to just sit back and let the church
7 progress on the money given to them
8 from homeless people, we're not going
9 to stand for it. We have also
10 submitted letters to the following
11 people, to the State Attorney
12 General's Office to begin an
13 investigation of money received this
14 past year, donations and such from
15 businesses throughout the Scranton
16 area. None of this money has been
17 recorded and/or accounted for. The
18 board of directors was told, no, we
19 would have no access to any accounting
20 whatsoever. We also have sent a
21 letter to the IRS asking them to do
22 the same thing. We've also sent a
23 letter to the Lackawanna County
24 District Attorney's Office requesting
25 that Mr. Jarbola begin an

1 investigation, that the possibility of
2 an employee of OECD removed files and
3 destroyed them and that's why we can't
4 find the files from the OECD Office
5 that we need. We need your support in
6 doing all of these things. No one, no
7 one should be able to come in, get
8 money from the city and just walk away
9 with a smile. Our understanding is,
10 some of the gossip that we received
11 that the church is going to be a
12 purchased sometime soon from the
13 medical school. If that's done, we
14 want to make sure that this lien is
15 against the property so this money is
16 paid back. So that's what we're here
17 for tonight. We're here to ask for
18 your support in doing this and
19 anything else that you can do to help
20 us will be -- we are out looking for
21 property right now. When I do come
22 back next week, I hope that I have a
23 property to tell you that the homeless
24 shelter will move on. The most
25 important issue right now is that our

1 homeless are in the streets sleeping
2 in empty buildings, in camps. We need
3 to get them off the street. And I
4 thank you for your time this evening.

5 MS. EVANS: Reverend Simmons --

6 MS. SIMMONS: Yes.

7 MS. EVANS: Just a quick
8 question.

9 MS. SIMMONS: Sure.

10 MS. EVANS: Have you discussed
11 this situation with the mayor?

12 MS. SIMMONS: Yes. And we had a
13 private meeting between the board, the
14 mayor and OECD. We were waiting to
15 hear from the bishop but we have not
16 heard from him. We faxed him a letter
17 three days ago and told him that we
18 were coming here tonight and he had
19 until noon today to give us some kind
20 of an answer about what they were
21 going to do. We received nothing.

22 MS. EVANS: From the bishop?

23 MS. SIMMONS: From the bishop.
24 We've tried over this past year to get
25 in touch with the church. The church

1 locked the door and gave no access to
2 the board whatsoever. When we as the
3 board of directors went in August to
4 meet with the presiding elder who was
5 at the church, they called the police.

6 MS. EVANS: And what has been
7 though with the direction or the
8 advice given you by Miss Aebli or/and
9 the mayor?

10 MS. SIMMONS: Well, they're just
11 what I'm telling you tonight. That a
12 lien be placed against the property.
13 But we also would like know the board
14 of directors, we've been out here so
15 long on our own trying to fight this,
16 that we need to know that we have
17 support of city council, not just the
18 mayor and Linda Aebli but you also
19 because you were the people -- maybe
20 not you seated there exactly but it
21 was city council who was kind enough
22 to give us the CDBG grant so that we
23 could pull the shelter up to code and
24 just don't think that it's fair that
25 this money now be just lost.

1 MS. EVANS: Well, I believe it
2 would be the city's legal department
3 that would file the lien.

4 MS. SIMMONS: Yes, it is, yes.

5 MS. EVANS: And the city
6 solicitor I would think with the
7 direction or agreement of the mayor to
8 do so can proceed with that.

9 MS. SIMMONS: Yes. But we were
10 also told that it would be good for us
11 as the board of directors to come to
12 council and just get your support,
13 know what we're doing is legitimate
14 and legal. You know, we're not
15 picking on a turf because, you know,
16 I'm a member of Bethel for 43 years so
17 this is a very difficult time for me
18 but I want to do what is right. You
19 know, this money was given in good
20 faith that the shelter would remain
21 open and they shut us down for that
22 purpose. If someone had come to me
23 and said, you know, you don't have
24 enough people coming in, you know, I
25 mean, I can understand that. But to

1 come to me and say that we have too
2 many white people in a shelter and,
3 you know, it's detriment to the black
4 church, you know, no, no. We're going
5 to move forward and that money will be
6 returned to OECD whether we have to do
7 it though the court system or whether
8 they'll do it by themselves because,
9 you know, I don't think they thought
10 we would go this far. So I thank
11 you --

12 MR. ROGAN: Reverend Simmons,
13 before you leave, I also have two
14 questions. Who made the decision at
15 the church?

16 MS. SIMMONS: To close it down?

17 MR. ROGAN: To close it down.

18 MS. SIMMONS: Reverend Dr.
19 Darlene Jenkins. She was appointed
20 there last October -- or last
21 September, I'm sorry. Last September
22 she came to Scranton, her and I had a
23 meeting and she told me outright at
24 the meeting that she was sent here for
25 two purposes, one was to get rid of

1 the white minister. That has nothing
2 to do with you. That's church
3 business. And she closed down the
4 shelter because the shelter was over
5 populated with white homeless persons
6 and this was not good for a church
7 that is historically black-based. So,
8 you know, sorry to say, you know, I
9 have to be of my church for the first
10 time but we'll answer to that. We
11 just want to know that we have your
12 support in what we're trying to do and
13 also let you know what you're going to
14 be reading soon about in various
15 investigations. So I thank you for
16 your time.

17 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

18 MS. EVANS: Andy Sbaraglia.

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
20 citizen of Scranton, Fellow
21 Scrantonians. I glanced over our dear
22 budget put out by the mayor. I didn't
23 study it in detail but I did study
24 certain aspects of it. And to tell
25 you the truth, I got more laughs out

1 of that budget than I did out of the
2 comic strip because it's a joke. We
3 have to borrow 30 million dollars.
4 That's what we're going to stuck with
5 next year. All the reports said 30
6 million. Some of them figures in that
7 budget has been inflated so high up,
8 it should be on the sky instead on
9 your desk. It just don't make sense.
10 But we've been saying this for a lot
11 of years. I'm sorry that people don't
12 pay more attention, but I think
13 they're going to have to pay attention
14 now. The banks already said they want
15 to see the audit. Well, to tell you
16 the truth, the people of Scranton want
17 to see the audit, too. We're all
18 interested in the audit but it's not
19 forthcoming. The banks have refused
20 to bid on the TANS. We know that,
21 too. Are we going to get some bank to
22 give us 30 million is beyond me, too.
23 And now what interest rates would be.
24 You know, we're lower than junk bond
25 now. They can scrape us off I get for

1 garbage bonds. I guess that's the
2 best way to put it. No longer junk,
3 garbage. It should be thrown in the
4 trash heap. And that's what they're
5 looking at. That's what our bond
6 rating is and will continue to degrade
7 and there's nothing you can do about
8 it because as it is now I think we
9 have sunk below the level of being
10 able to stand above it. We sunk that
11 low. Our authorities are bankrupt.
12 We all know that. We've been saying
13 this for a long time and there's
14 nothing you can do about that.
15 They're all independent except call
16 for an investigation for incompetence.
17 That you -- a board can be removed for
18 incompetence but nobody ever tried to
19 get to the state -- well, I think they
20 did try to get to get to the state to
21 look at some of these authorities to
22 see if they're competent or not. But
23 that isn't point. The point is what's
24 going to happen to the citizens of
25 Scranton. That's the important thing.

1 We're all stuck with these decisions.
2 I've been saying that a long time ago.
3 It's too bad we can't put people on
4 trial for what they did but we can
5 can't because Harrisburg is afraid
6 there will be no more politicians
7 left. They would all be in jail. But
8 that's where we are now. And like I
9 said before, our public services is
10 going to -- they're going cut them.
11 We know that. Our taxes are going to
12 be raised. We know that. But we're
13 not getting what we're paying for. We
14 haven't gotten what we paid for the
15 last ten years. And the trouble is
16 we're going to pay more for less and
17 it's going to continue that way. Some
18 of them figures up there, I don't know
19 who came up with them. How you can
20 earn one million last year and then
21 all this seven million in the
22 following year is beyond me but
23 they're in there. Like I said, I'm
24 going to study them in more detail and
25 I'll give a report on them. The

1 people of Scranton have got to know
2 what is happening. They really have.
3 I mean, when you sit out there and
4 vote, you can't just vote for a party.
5 You have to vote for an individual no
6 matter what party that man is in.
7 We're in this trouble because people
8 kept voting Democrat time after time
9 after time. And the city has sunk
10 lower and lower and lower. Now, I
11 don't blame the Democratic party for
12 say I'm a member but I do believe the
13 people of Scranton for not looking
14 better at who is in that Democratic
15 party and how they got to be on the
16 ballot and unless you do that, it
17 might even be too late now to do it.
18 It should have been done ten years ago
19 but unfortunately we didn't. Where we
20 are now, I don't know. I'm looking
21 at -- I'm thinking that Morgan was
22 right when he talked about bankruptcy
23 so much. It's getting to the point
24 now where I think we're going to be
25 almost to that low. I hate to see it.

1 You know, I don't like bankruptcy. I
2 don't even like the word. But I don't
3 know where the people of Scranton is
4 going to come up with the money to
5 fund our debts and the authority's
6 debts. Thank you.

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

9 MR. MILLER: Good evening,
10 council. Doug Miller, Scranton. I
11 would just like to begin this evening
12 by congratulating Councilman Jack
13 Loscombe and Mr. McGoff on their
14 victories last Tuesday. Most of my
15 comments tonight are going to revolve
16 around the mayor's proposed 2012
17 budget. I had a chance to briefly
18 look at a lot of the major highlights
19 this afternoon before I came down and
20 I'll certainly refrain from getting
21 into other details of budget because I
22 haven't had a chance to fully review
23 it completely. But a few of the
24 proposals by the mayor that jumped out
25 to me and certainly quite frankly

1 annoyed me were his decision to cut
2 another 29 firemen which will result
3 in only on occasions two to three
4 engines covering 27 squares miles of
5 this city. And as the mayor has been
6 quite famously for saying, none of
7 this will affect response times
8 according to him. And, of course,
9 he's completely wrong in that
10 assessment. Response times will be
11 affected dramatically and in the case
12 of any emergency, we're not talking
13 about minutes, we're talking about
14 seconds. But evidently he doesn't
15 comprehend that and he's consistently
16 shown his lack of respect for not only
17 public safety personnel but for the
18 residents of this city by the
19 decisions he has made in shutting down
20 engine companies and continuing to
21 remove firemen from our streets
22 jeopardizing the health, safety and
23 wellbeing of our residents. And I
24 would just tonight encourage all the
25 residents of this city to flood the

1 mayor's office and demand that he keep
2 police, firemen and our firehouses
3 open because he's continuing to play a
4 game with our lives, and it's going to
5 take a major catastrophe for him to
6 get the message once and for all and
7 he's going to be held accountable.
8 It's going to be all on him, not you.
9 The residents of this city were warned
10 that this day was going to come. We
11 talked about the Supreme Court ruling,
12 we've heard figures 20, 30 million.
13 This all could have been avoided years
14 ago had this mayor been willing to sit
15 down with the unions and everyone else
16 involved to work out a fair deal for
17 everyone. But he chose to go another
18 direction, play politics and just
19 basically slam the door on our face.
20 The unions have already offered their
21 invitation to sit down with the mayor
22 and I understand they had a brief
23 meeting last week and I'm not sure
24 what came out of it but I'm hopeful that
25 they will continue that dialogue

1 because it's something that, as I
2 said, we could have accomplished a
3 long time ago but unfortunately the
4 mayor chose to play politics, let his
5 ego get in the way and now we're in
6 the position we are today.

7 Also, he again goes back to a tax
8 increase, this time 29 percent. And
9 we saw what the 26 percent tax
10 increase did in 2007, absolutely
11 nothing. Today as we stand here
12 tonight we have to ask ourselves what
13 do we get in return from that
14 26 percent tax increase besides less
15 police and firemen, less engine
16 companies, we've increased our debt
17 and we can go on and on. We got
18 nothing out of it. And now once again
19 he wants to place another burden of
20 the residents of the city this time 29
21 percent. I ask you again when is it
22 going to stop. When is he going to
23 finally look in the mirror, take
24 responsibility, realize that the
25 residents of this city can't afford

1 any more of this, they can't afford it.
2 You know, council proposed, not only
3 proposed but passed a balanced budget
4 that was in our best interest, you cut
5 taxes, you relieved the burden but at
6 the same time you supplied the revenue
7 enhancements that we needed by using
8 your creativity. But unfortunately
9 the mayor chose to once again to go in
10 a different direction, sabotage your
11 budget right from day one and now
12 we're in the position we are today and
13 now it's unfortunately your job to
14 clean up a mess that was handed to
15 you. You had nothing to do with this.
16 You supplied a budget that held the
17 line on spending, we put an end to the
18 blank checks that were given out that
19 we've seen through past councils,
20 rubber stamp councils that just
21 allowed this mayor to borrow and spend
22 out of control and it's put us over
23 300 million dollars in long term debt.
24 I would just ask -- excuse me. I'm
25 just getting my voice back here. I

1 would just encourage council to hold
2 this mayor accountable, encourage the
3 residents of this city to demand
4 accountability, again flood his
5 office, demand that he maintains our
6 public safety level, keeps the
7 firehouses open and I would hope and I
8 look forward to seeing council's
9 proposal because unfortunately all
10 your hard work went nowhere. And,
11 again, as we get into the new year as
12 I've talk about before, we need to go
13 and look at the nonprofits, the
14 University of Scranton and everybody
15 else. Everybody needs to start paying
16 their fair share, and I would hope we
17 would look into that for the new year
18 and I appreciate your time. Thank
19 you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bob
21 Bolus.

22 MR. BOLUS: Good evening,
23 council. Bob Bolus, Scranton. I'd
24 like to start off congratulating Mr.
25 Loscombe, Mr. McGoff on their

1 victories. Hopefully now we can steer
2 the ship in the direction it needs to
3 go. I had come before council during
4 the election and I made statements and
5 I was told my statements were
6 erroneous, not by council but by
7 people about the signs that were being
8 ripped down that Mr. Loscombe had
9 given me to put up. I took possession
10 of them and we did put them up. But
11 what I have here are photographs of
12 the individuals, Dr. Michael Oakes and
13 Dr. Carol Slaughterback, professors at
14 the University of Scranton. And I
15 will council and I will present these
16 to council. These are photographs
17 right here is Mr. Oakes -- I should
18 say Dr. Oakes -- Professor Oakes
19 throwing the signs into the woods on
20 my property coming down the
21 right-of-way that's been in a dispute
22 and most people read, I'm sure, this
23 week about the issue going on and
24 walked down the easement, the
25 right-of-way onto my property. This

1 is a photograph of his wife, Dr.
2 Slaughterback, Carol, throwing the
3 other signs away. They were down
4 numerous times. What I'd like to do
5 tonight, if I may, these are the signs
6 Jack had given us, there's two. They
7 were thrown away. If I may I would
8 like to present these to Mr. Loscombe,
9 maybe part of his victory and I'm
10 going to explain more about the
11 pictures. I would like council to
12 review them. There they are. They're
13 here. There you go, Jack. Start with
14 that, that's Dr. Oakes and his wife,
15 Carol Slaughterback discarding the
16 signs that were placed on city owned
17 property. In the front there was a
18 question of the easement that we had
19 out there. It's been a big issue over
20 the easement, the right-of-way, and
21 everything that's been in a land
22 dispute right now. Additionally, the
23 signs were placed on a 16-foot
24 right-of-way that's owned by the City
25 of Scranton that Mr. Hartman built his

1 house on, that Mr. Kelly to this day
2 has refused or has not shown a copy of
3 the deed. I went and did a title deed
4 research, showed the city still owns
5 the property. Paul Kelly said the
6 city doesn't own it but he hasn't
7 produced a single document yet. And I
8 think it's up to this council now to
9 take a firm stand. The reason I
10 brought them tonight is we're in a
11 budget crises, we're on the verge of a
12 bankruptcy if we're not already there.
13 The University of Scranton as I drove
14 into the city tonight and see these
15 magnificent buildings all lit up, all
16 along the expressway knowing that
17 people that come here from the
18 university wanting to give or take --
19 let me more specific -- take from the
20 people and continue to take, want our
21 legislators to give and give and give
22 and this is the kind of people that
23 take from us. These are the people
24 that have no respect for the people in
25 the city, more importantly our

1 legislators that they come to want a
2 free ride from. These are the
3 nonprofits that employ people who have
4 no regard for what's right and what's
5 wrong. These are educators, they're
6 not children. These are learned
7 people and this is what they've done
8 and it's upsetting. We may have a
9 neighborhood dispute, but to take it
10 out on a legislator that they've to
11 come here and stand here and beg for
12 this and tell us not to put them on,
13 where they got to pay a fee or do
14 other things to make them pay, maybe
15 two or three million dollars a year
16 that the U should pay and other
17 nonprofits and K0Zs. I've been
18 harping about this for years. But
19 what you've got in front of you
20 tonight is hardcore proof they don't
21 deserve another darn thing from the
22 people of this city. They've taken
23 enough and when they take our self
24 respect and toss it in the woods, they
25 don't deserve a damn thing and it's

1 sad that I have to come here and do
2 this tonight. But these signs were
3 posted on the city right-of-way on
4 city-owned property and the reason the
5 city is in a bankruptcy mode, they
6 want to layoff our health and welfare
7 people, the people that protect us.
8 The mayor has not turned a blind eye
9 to the cronyism in the city, he's
10 turned a blind eye to punish the
11 employees and make them suffer for his
12 miscalculations and misjudgment and
13 more importantly running the ship
14 aground called the City of Scranton
15 and that's where we need to take a
16 stand firm now. It's time.

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

18 MR. BOLUS: Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Les Spindler.

20 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
21 council, Les Spindler, City resident,
22 homeowner, taxpayer. I, too, want to
23 talk about the mayor's budget a little
24 bit. Wants to layoff 29 more
25 firefighters. Back in the summer he

1 laid off eight and I said before that
2 if we have to lose anymore
3 firefighters, we're going to have
4 terrible consequences and I'm sad to
5 say I was right and we already had one
6 deadly fire with 29 more firefighters
7 laid off, God knows what's going to
8 have a lot more debt on his hands.
9 I'm sorry to say that but facts are
10 facts. We cannot lose 37 firefighter
11 total. It's just not a good choice.
12 This man probably lost his mind, I
13 think. And then I think he wants to
14 borrow 20 million dollars. Borrowing
15 was why we're in the problem we have
16 today. The mayor borrowed and spent
17 the previous eight years with his
18 rubber stamp councils and that's why
19 we're in this predicament. He just
20 wants his own way all the time. I
21 hope this council does the right thing
22 and just votes down his budget. I'm
23 sure you'll make a very fine budget of
24 your own as you did last year. And
25 that's all I want to speak of on that.

1 As far as the revenue source, I
2 think I have a great revenue source
3 which I think people have spoken
4 before. If there were cameras in
5 every intersection with traffic
6 lights, I think the city can make a
7 fortune. Now, I'll tell you an
8 example, a couple incidents I had last
9 week. I was coming over the Linden
10 Street bridge, I was at the right-hand
11 lane which is the straight lane. The
12 car in the left-hand turning lane went
13 straight in front of me. That was one
14 violation. I followed that car to the
15 corner of Linden and Wyoming. That
16 car made a left-hand turn from the
17 straight lane. There's two violations
18 right there with one vehicle within
19 like a three block area. As I drove
20 around a little more, I went down
21 Spruce Street. I was at the corner of
22 Spruce Street and Franklin in the
23 straight line, to my right was a car
24 in the right-hand turning lane. The
25 light turned green, the guy in the

1 right lane cut in front of me and
2 instead of turning right, almost
3 caused an accident. Thank God I was
4 on the ball. There's three incidents
5 right there of violations. Cameras,
6 they might be an expense in the
7 beginning but they would pay for
8 themselves probably a hundred times
9 over. I see violations like this all
10 the time and I'm sure everybody else
11 knows it. People just don't know how
12 to drive, and I think it's a great way
13 we can make money is to put cameras on
14 every intersection. That's all I have
15 for right now. Thank you for your
16 time.

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

20 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, city
21 council. My name is Dave Gervasi.
22 I'm the president of the Firefighters
23 Union. I come here flabbergasted.
24 What the mayor is proposing in his
25 budget is so over the top it defies

1 any logic. We're studying this
2 outrageous proposal today and we just
3 couldn't believe it. We have know me
4 here tonight to let you know what it
5 all means. You've already heard the
6 lies and mistakes said by the mayor in
7 the press already. He is saying that
8 there's going to be four stations that
9 are going to remain open. There will
10 not be four stations open. There
11 can't be anymore than two open.
12 There's not going to be -- when he
13 said four stations, he should have
14 been saying four companies out of ten.
15 Right now your fire department
16 consists of eight stations with ten
17 pieces of apparatus running. This is
18 going to bring it down to two stations
19 with most likely at most times during
20 next year three companies out in
21 operation. That's it. Maybe in the
22 beginning of the year when it's not
23 high vacation time when people take
24 their vacations, you might have four
25 or five companies open out of ten. At

1 best he is going to close half of your
2 fire department. Most of the time
3 70 percent of your fire department
4 will be closed, 70 percent. I don't
5 know -- I mean, if you don't like
6 firefighters and you're mad about
7 arbitration awards that the mayor, you
8 know, dragged on for ten years, even
9 if you don't like us, do you think
10 70 percent is a little bit over the
11 top to any rational person? That's
12 the way it's going to be. He also is
13 laying off our entire inspection
14 staff, two inspectors and that's going
15 to leave us according to the budget a
16 fire prevention officer. That's it.
17 There used to be five people in that
18 office in 1992 with the first recovery
19 plan, we lost inspectors. There's
20 going to be no inspectors. That means
21 when someone builds a building, who is
22 going to inspect the building to make
23 sure it's safe and it's proper under
24 codes? Who is going to do arson
25 investigations? But anyway that's

1 what he did. This is not 29 cuts.
2 It's 37 positions in the fire
3 department. It is going to equate
4 into 28 human beings being laid off
5 because they already laid off seven
6 and there was already vacancies, there
7 was already a 13 position vacancy
8 before he laid off the seven in
9 August. It's 37 positions in the fire
10 department. With all that said, the
11 fire chief is going to get a
12 \$17,778.09 raise. Let me repeat that,
13 \$17,778 raise. He's also going to cut
14 ten police officers positions. We
15 tried to work this out. Everyone
16 knows that we had a meeting scheduled
17 for today with the mayor, and we were
18 supposed to work these things out to
19 try to, you know, mitigate the impact
20 of the arbitration awards that were
21 not our fault. All they are is cost
22 of living raises and he wanted to give
23 us nothing for 13 years. Well, it's
24 ten years later, we got a cost of
25 living raise and now it's coming all

1 at once. We want to mitigate that.
2 The other day they cancelled the
3 meeting. I have a -- I think it's
4 another political game is what I think
5 it is because I have an e-mail from
6 the city solicitor stating that the
7 city was going to be very busy today
8 putting out -- I'm sorry --
9 delivering, quote, and providing the
10 budget. And when I asked at the PEL
11 meeting with Mr. McGoff and Mr.
12 Loscombe with them on Monday, when I
13 asked the business administrator who
14 is the administration, you know, are
15 they doing press conferences, are they
16 going to busy because generally they
17 just send a secretary to deliver
18 budgets. He says, Oh, no, the city
19 solicitor can't make it. I said,
20 "Well, that, you know, conflicts with
21 the city solicitor saying that you
22 can't make it." So my whole thing is
23 I think ploy was to layoff, you know,
24 28 human beings and then want to
25 negotiate with us. So much for

1 negotiating good faith again. The
2 mayor is making statements already
3 that the average Scrantonian makes
4 \$24,000 a year. That's not correct.
5 He's way off. And that we are going
6 to be making an entry level
7 firefighter is going to made \$71,000.
8 That is way off. I wish that was
9 true. It's not. So don't believe
10 anything he says.

11 One other thing in closing and I
12 don't know -- how much is enough? I
13 mean, we're 350 million dollars, maybe
14 when it's four or 500 million dollars
15 in debt the people will rise up and
16 ask for the removal of this mayor or
17 maybe when 90 percent of the fire
18 department is closed that might be
19 enough to ask for the removal of this
20 mayor. I was asked by a reporter
21 today if he thought this was -- he
22 was being -- the mayor was being
23 vindictive because we won this long
24 drawn out case. May I suggest that
25 the last person getting laid off under

1 his plan is our secretary, John Judge,
2 who comes here and speaks just, you
3 know, usually every other month or so
4 and he's potentially going to be our
5 next president in January when I will
6 no longer be running for president. I
7 kind of found that curious. One of
8 the positions in the police department
9 that is getting laid off happens to be
10 our juvenile detective, Nelson
11 Ancherani is one of the positions
12 being laid off and I found that kind
13 of curious. They're also going to lay
14 off probably our second vice president
15 and our treasurer. He's going to take
16 out three-fifths of the entire union
17 board in the fire department. The one
18 thing I found really curious was there
19 was many cuts in raises and things
20 given but there was only two in the
21 people in entire budget that had their
22 salaries reduced. One would be your
23 solicitor, Boyd Hughes, taking \$5,000
24 off him and the other happens to be
25 the city clerk, Nancy Krake, and he's

1 cutting her \$7,000. Vindictive? You
2 be the judge. Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MR. MORGAN: Good evening,
5 council. Congratulations, Mr.
6 Loscombe and Mr. McGoff in your
7 election victory. You know, I'd just
8 like to come here tonight. I do think
9 that we've got a lot of problems in
10 front of us. I personally think the
11 city is bankrupt. I know the city is
12 over 500 million dollars in debt.

13 But, you know, tonight I wanted
14 to come here and talk about something
15 else because we can always talk about
16 the city's problems. We talk about
17 them all the time. And I'm not going
18 to blame the mayor and I'm not going
19 to blame the council because I think
20 that's counter productive. We need
21 solutions. But I'd like to talk
22 tonight about what I read in the paper
23 this morning about the Court of Common
24 Pleas of Lackawanna County. As
25 probably some of the council members

1 who have been her awhile know I've
2 asked that Judge Harhut and Judge
3 Corbett resign because it was my
4 opinion that they were misusing their
5 authorities as judges is the Court of
6 Common Pleas in Lackawanna County, now
7 we found out in the paper this morning
8 that two of the staff members in Judge
9 Harhut's courtroom and court, in his
10 office were terminated and then Judge
11 Munley signed an order restating them.
12 You know, it's a very troubling thing
13 what's been happening in Lackawanna
14 County Court for a very long time in
15 Family Court. I think the newspaper
16 and the media needs to pickup on the
17 situation that it's all being
18 basically laid at the feet of the
19 guardian ad litem, Danielle Ross, and
20 it's my opinion because I can't say
21 it's fact because the FBI hasn't
22 determined that yet and I know they're
23 investigating but this problem goes up
24 to Judge Harhut over an extended
25 period of time in Family Court moving

1 to special interest, and I would like
2 to ask the FBI if they're watching
3 tonight to change the focus of their
4 investigation from George Seig who is
5 a master in support and the Guardian
6 Ad Litem Ross because these are only
7 individuals who work the mechanisms of
8 the Court and were appointed by the
9 president judge. Now, the county laid
10 off George Seig and Judge Harhut
11 reinstated him. That was a year-plus
12 ago. And I'm just curious why Judge
13 Munley would enter into this situation
14 and I'm just wondering if Judge Munley
15 is trying to shield the Court because
16 of the immunity that Judge Harhut's
17 staff has. I think that the scope of
18 this investigation by the FBI needs to
19 become much greater. We know the
20 problems we had in Luzerne County and
21 I think to be quite honest with you
22 when this FBI investigation is over,
23 I'm of the opinion that the whole
24 Family Court is going to be wiped
25 clean, and I'm just hoping that Judge

1 Munley is on the wrong side of this
2 thing at this point. But what I would
3 like to see, I'd like to see why the
4 court administrator came forward and
5 dismissed these two people. That
6 hasn't come forward yet. And I just
7 really believe that it's important to
8 find out what the problems are in
9 Family Court to address them and to
10 clean house there. And like I said, I
11 can always come back here another time
12 and talk about other city issues but I
13 think when you step into a court of
14 law, I think the president judge
15 should be responsible for the people
16 he appoints and the way they function
17 in their offices that he appoints them
18 to and I think that Judge Harhut did
19 an extremely poor job over an
20 extremely long period of time and him
21 and the judges in Family Court have
22 caused a lot of pain in this
23 community, and it was unnecessary and
24 it was completely bias and I
25 appreciate your time.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
3 South Scranton resident, member of the
4 Taxpayers Association. First of all,
5 I would like to congratulate
6 Councilman McGoff and Councilman
7 Loscombe on their victory in the past
8 election and also Mr. Morgan for
9 running a campaign and throwing his
10 hat into the ring.

11 You know, I've said this a long,
12 long time ago. There's two five
13 letter words, power and money. Okay.
14 If you have power, you have money. If
15 you have money, you have power. It's
16 as simple as that. That's exactly
17 what happened in all the scandals.
18 You can research every scandal that
19 has ever happened in this area and the
20 United States of America and I
21 guarantee you you will trace the power
22 and the money. Okay? I don't care if
23 it's a political scandal, I don't care
24 if it's a school scandal, I don't care
25 if it's any sports scandal, it all

1 boils down to power and money. That's
2 the reason why I'm a firm believer,
3 well, here's the political side,
4 terminis because if you're in one
5 place for too long, you're going to
6 get caught up with it. I don't care
7 who you are. I don't care if you're a
8 bishop, I don't care if you're a
9 football coach, I don't care if you're
10 a councilman, I don't care if you're
11 the president of the United States.
12 If you're there too long, you're going
13 to get caught up in it because, again,
14 we go back to those two words, power
15 and money; money and power.

16 Now, as far as the election goes
17 that we just had last week I found it
18 to be a total disgrace and a total
19 sham. No one came out to vote. The
20 turn out rate was horrible. I had --
21 I bet you I had over a 100 phone calls
22 last Monday and Tuesday, people
23 calling me asking me who to vote for
24 because they didn't know anything.
25 They didn't even know who was running

1 for council, they didn't know who was
2 running for county commissioner, they
3 didn't know anything. They didn't
4 know who was running for city
5 controller. That's disgraceful.
6 That's the reason why the elections in
7 Northeastern Pennsylvania are a joke,
8 they really are, because no one pays
9 attention, no one knows the voting
10 records of incumbents, nobody knows
11 what the candidates stand for because
12 they don't care and I blame the
13 citizens of Scranton. I blame the
14 citizens of Lackawanna County for this
15 because they don't want to make -- to
16 take the time or make the effort.
17 Now, everybody is throwing their hands
18 up in the air. People are coming,
19 asking me, how can this happen, how
20 can this city be so far in debt. My
21 answer to them, where the hell have
22 you been the last ten years. We have
23 been talking about this year after
24 year after year, right here from this
25 podium. Where have you been?

1 Watching Dancing with the Stars and
2 all this other junk. Now, all of
3 sudden you find out that you can't pay
4 your taxes. The county just raised
5 your taxes 37.5 percent the day after
6 the election. Wasn't that very nice
7 of our new commissioners? I think it
8 was. You know, now the mayor, he's
9 getting ready to raise the taxes now,
10 I think, 29 percent or whatever it is.
11 It doesn't matter. The majority of
12 people in the City of Scranton and
13 Lackawanna County cannot afford to pay
14 these taxes. We had a 26 percent tax
15 increase three years ago. I asked,
16 what was the benefit to that tax
17 increase. I still haven't got an
18 answer. I'll ask that question again.
19 Hopefully tonight someone on council
20 will answer it. What was the benefit
21 of the 26 percent tax increase that we
22 got three years ago? We lost police
23 officers, we lost firefighters, our
24 services overall in the city have
25 depleted. They're no longer as good

1 as they once were. Why did we have to
2 pay 26 percent more in taxes. Now, it
3 looks like we're going to have to pay
4 29 percent more, plus another
5 38 percent for the county and guess
6 what, the school board hasn't even
7 gotten their tax in yet. So how much
8 are they going to raise it? For what?
9 What do the citizens of Scranton get
10 for it? You know, in my opinion I
11 don't see anything. The police cars
12 are falling apart. I don't think
13 we've gotten any new fire apparatus in
14 years, you know. The roads, the
15 curbs, everything, it's falling apart.
16 We're borrowing more money, another 20
17 million dollars supposedly. What do
18 we get for our money? Again, Mayor
19 Doherty, if you're listening, I asked
20 you this 11 years ago, I'll ask you
21 again. Where has the money gone? I
22 don't know. I don't think he knows
23 either.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
25 anyone else who cares to address

1 council?

2 MR. DOBZYN: Good evening,
3 council. Dave Dobzyn. Resident of
4 Scranton and taxpayer.
5 Congratulations to the candidates that
6 one. Once again Bill expressed it
7 pretty good. Sham on everybody that
8 didn't turn out. I mean, if you're in
9 the hospital lying in pieces that's
10 one thing but that was sad, that was
11 sad. Every citizen in this town
12 should owe it to themselves to
13 familiarize themselves with the issues
14 and see who is running and get out and
15 vote. It only takes 15 minutes.
16 Believe me, the lines weren't long.
17 Okay.

18 Once again, we don't have our
19 audit together --

20 MS. EVANS: That's correct.

21 MR. DOBZYN: -- mainly because of
22 stalling and I seen this year in and
23 year out the audit never gets done and
24 they're supposed to somehow come out
25 with a comprehensible budget. It

1 can't be done. Sham on the
2 administration and their lack of
3 cooperation in that area. They're
4 five months late as of today.

5 Now, on this Sunshine Law could
6 we possibly explain why you people
7 can't meet with the mayor in private
8 because Austin Burke suggested that
9 and obviously, you know, down the line
10 you'll probably be criticized for it
11 if you did it so let's get that out if
12 you can. And fire and police lay
13 offs, this is just crazy. It doesn't
14 make sense. The only thing -- we
15 don't have any fire apparatus left and
16 we have a few policemen on the streets
17 and it's a sham. I would suggest to
18 the public if this holds true, make
19 sure your alarms are beefed up and
20 have plenty of good batteries in them
21 and maybe Mayor Doherty as far as the
22 police are concerned would like to
23 have a standard ground ordinance
24 instead of the typical you're arrested
25 if you chase somebody out of your

1 house using a marshal's firearm or
2 something. This is ridiculous. There
3 was just an invasion up in the Hill
4 Section last night. Their chances of
5 being caught judging by what I read
6 are just about nil.

7 So, once again, we really need
8 that audit and I sympathize with you
9 people, it's not your fault, but it's
10 just totally disgusting how late that
11 audit is and I don't know how you can
12 plan on anything or get anything
13 together as far as a comprehensive
14 plan.

15 And once again I'd like to appeal
16 to the citizens of the country to get
17 on-line, go to getthemoneyout.com in
18 small case and sign the petition to
19 get a constitutional amendment against
20 big money in politics because that's
21 what our problem is. Too many people
22 are bought in this country. The
23 average congressman has to raise about
24 \$50,000 a week to run for office and
25 the man with the most money wins 94

1 percent of the time. So there you
2 have it.

3 Now, I read an article recently
4 and I'd also like to appeal on trade
5 packs, especially public employees.
6 They're the last unions that exist. I
7 haven't belonged to a union for 25 or
8 30 years mainly because the company
9 that was unionized went belly up and
10 it certainly wasn't the fault of the
11 union, but with these trade packs,
12 there's 40,000 people in Seoul, South
13 Korea, demonstrating against the trade
14 pack that we signed which brings
15 400,000 in from the North to work
16 their jobs, and the wages will be paid
17 to the government of North Korea and
18 all of this jobless and homelessness
19 translates -- that's what it
20 translates into. I mean, people --
21 the second wave of people that got
22 foreclosed on, they were people that
23 got caught up from the Wall Street
24 gamut.

25 Now, finally the golden parrot

1 aware, Jim DeMint said that veterans
2 in the United States don't need any
3 special treatment. Shame on him.
4 He's a congressman or senator from, I
5 think, it's South Carolina. Jan
6 Brewer from Arizona fired her anti
7 Jerry Mandarin -- head of anti Gerry
8 Mandarin council and the night 2006
9 post office congress -- 2006 Congress
10 created a lot of these problems with
11 the post office by requiring a 75 year
12 funding of retirement. Some of these
13 people haven't been born yet and they
14 have to have their retirement paid up
15 in full. And once again my dog is
16 watching TV. Hi, Jinx. Have a good
17 night. Quack, quack to all these
18 friendly people at the bottom of the
19 list.

20 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else
21 who cares to address council?

22 MR. SLEDNESZSKI: Welcome back,
23 Jackie. I told you would get elected,
24 didn't I? Jack, congratulations.
25 Congratulations, Mr. McGoff, too, both

1 of you. Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Chris.

3 MR. GAFFNEY: Good Evening,
4 council. My name is Jack Gaffney,
5 city homeowner, vice president for
6 Local 60 Firefighters Union.

7 I apologize beforehand if I'm
8 little scatterbrain. I obviously
9 wasn't planning on speaking but I have
10 a few thoughts I want to say. There's
11 a couple people, things I would just
12 like to ask questions to starting with
13 the Scranton Times. Newsworthy.
14 Newsworthy to me means getting the
15 truth out, getting out information
16 that is vital to its residents as a
17 newspaper of a town. Vital to its
18 residents is the fact that on three of
19 the last four days three fire stations
20 were opened. Going back last year,
21 the fire chief says, and I can't
22 exactly remember the number but it was
23 over 40. There will be more than 40
24 people working on any single day.
25 This will be better. At most there

1 was 20. One day I believe there was
2 18, not quite 40-plus. That's
3 newsworthy. Newsworthy to me is last
4 Tuesday due to scheduled time off,
5 vacation time, holiday time which is
6 personal time, scheduled time off for
7 a certain number of guys each shift,
8 we had an enough guys to cover every
9 fire station in the city, including
10 the first one that usually gets
11 browned out up in the Hill Station,
12 Engine 15. The reason why Engine 15
13 was closed that day was because we
14 didn't have any engines available to
15 us. That's newsworthy. We have
16 enough guys to man the firehouse but
17 the city can't maintain a fleet of
18 engines. Every spare engine was
19 accounted for, whether it was in for
20 routine maintenance, whether it had
21 broken down or it was being used
22 elsewhere. We had to take those guys
23 and put them at a different fire house
24 for the 24 hours. That should be in
25 the paper.

1 Response times, obviously anyone
2 who is even a firefighter could see
3 that with two or three firehouses,
4 your response time is going to go up.
5 That's obvious. I don't think we're
6 going to see that in the paper which
7 gets me to who I would like to think
8 is like the Wizard of Oz, the fire
9 chief. Get out from behind the
10 curtain. You're saying these layoffs
11 are bothering you he made 27 phone
12 calls last December and told every
13 single one of those guys, "This is
14 killing me. This bothers me." He
15 told the eight guys back in August,
16 "This bothers me." He made the
17 comment today, "This is killing me.
18 This is bothering me. This isn't
19 right." Is he going to say it in the
20 paper, is he going to make -- is he
21 going to have a press conference? I
22 doubt it. That's newsworthy. Stick
23 up for your men. You are one of us.
24 You were one of us. You're going to
25 benefit off of these outrageous raises

1 that we're getting that you're
2 constantly criticizing. You're going
3 to benefit from them.

4 Mr. McGoff, I've known you since
5 I'm a kid. You have made the comment,
6 vindictive behavior, personal
7 animosity, there's no way for decision
8 making in the city. I agree,
9 100 percent I agree. What I don't
10 agree with was you said that as far as
11 council. That should be the city as a
12 whole.

13 MR. MCGOFF: I believe I just
14 said it in general.

15 MR. GAVIN: No, you didn't. If
16 you want, I can show it to you after
17 the meeting on my cell phone because
18 you put it out on the internet.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

20 MR. GAVIN: I agree with you,
21 council, the city, the mayor, whoever,
22 those things should not be in the
23 decision making, I agree
24 wholeheartedly. As I said before, I
25 just -- this is bothering me as being

1 one of the 28 guys that's on the
2 chopping block. Someone said to me
3 just on the way here, "Oh, does this
4 affect you?" As I said before here
5 and as other people have said, it
6 affects everybody. It's not just me,
7 it's not just the guy ahead of me, the
8 guy behind me, the guy at the end,
9 it's everyone. I would just wish that
10 the truth would get out and that
11 people could make a conscious decision
12 and see what has been happening.
13 Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
16 council. Marie Schumacher, city
17 taxpayer. First, a special
18 request, I would like to ask that
19 beginning next week you begin
20 including property owners in your
21 opening prayer. What nobody seems to
22 care about in this area is the ability
23 of the people to pay. Politicians
24 have the power to do whatever they
25 want, tax however they want, and if

1 you don't like it, you can move or
2 they can take your home and your
3 lifetime investment away from you and
4 sell it for peanuts and what's the
5 skin off their knuckles, it's none.

6 I would also like a personal note
7 to ask Mr. McGoff to find out if the
8 city is going to remove leaves this
9 year. I know they've been slow in
10 falling but for those of us with
11 allergies, the leaf mold, it would
12 very nice if we could get schedule out
13 and get rid of some of the leaves that
14 are sitting around rotting.

15 And then I would like to know two
16 weeks ago you all sent a letter to
17 find the operating cost of the new
18 Keyser Avenue police substation that
19 you authorized two weeks ago. Can you
20 tell me what the operating cost of
21 that are going to be on an annual
22 basis?

23 MR. JOYCE: We still didn't
24 receive a response on that but we'll
25 followup with that for you.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: I still think
2 that was shortsighted. That's what we
3 needed another location, another
4 central location to maintain while
5 we're -- meanwhile we're cutting.
6 Excuse me. And then I'm really
7 disappointed that apparently the city
8 would rather -- at least the
9 administration of this city would
10 rather pay unemployment compensation
11 than provide fire protection. And I
12 suppose on top of -- if this budget of
13 the mayor's is passed, that in
14 addition to the county's 38 percent
15 and the city's 29 percent and the
16 school district's 1.7 percent
17 increases, we'll probably also get
18 property insurance increases because
19 our firehouse -- I know my personal
20 carrier says five miles and I
21 seriously doubt whether there will be
22 a five mile radius, there will be any
23 protection for my property or my
24 neighbor's properties. I think this
25 is immoral. I think it's

1 unconscionable.

2 And now just to lighten the mood
3 just a little bit. Andy earlier said
4 that the budget was laughable so maybe
5 I can share a few of the jokes in the
6 budget with him. I'm going to give
7 you three figures. One is the 2011
8 budget, actual operating budget, how
9 much has been received in revenue for
10 the first three quarters of the year
11 and then how much is in the budget for
12 2012? Building permits, I'm really
13 sure there is going to be a lot of
14 that going on. The budget for this
15 year was 1.2 million for the first
16 three-quarters of the year. They
17 collected 305.5 thousand dollars and
18 so what do you forecast for next year,
19 1.3 million. Dog and kennel licenses,
20 \$14,500 in the 2011 budget; collected,
21 \$8,074. And so what do we do for next
22 year, we up it to \$59,940. Non class
23 of licensing and permits, budgeted at
24 \$65,000 this year; collected, \$250;
25 budget for next year, \$5,390; child

1 day care budgeted for this year,
2 \$4,000; collected so far, zip; in the
3 budget for next year, another \$4,000;
4 personal boarding care, \$7,000 in this
5 year's budget; collected, \$980; and
6 the budget recommended for 2012,
7 another \$7,000; and the budget is full
8 of those, lots of room for work. And
9 I look forward to the budget hearing.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Schumacher, I
12 just wanted to comment very briefly.
13 You spoke about the dog licenses and
14 how it increased by a great amount.
15 The primary reason why it increased by
16 a great amount is in the budget
17 proposal, the mayor wants to charge
18 \$20 for a dog license rather than \$9,
19 not that there will be an influx of
20 dogs into the City of Scranton by any
21 means.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: It still doesn't
23 compute.

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I still know
25 what you mean.

1 MS. ROSKI: Good evening,
2 council. Mary Ann Roski, Scranton
3 taxpayer, homeowner. And
4 congratulations to Mr. McGoff and
5 Councilman Loscombe. And I'm going to
6 start with what I heard on the news
7 tonight when I saw the mayor once
8 again blaming police and firemen on
9 why he has to increase taxes. Again,
10 again and again he put the blame on
11 the police and firemen, our priority
12 of safety. Then he's going to 33
13 percent for business and mercantile
14 taxes. We have hardly any businesses
15 in the city to begin with so he's
16 going to put a 33 percent tax hike on
17 them. Where are they going to go?
18 They're not going to be around long.
19 And how are we -- where are our
20 taxpayers here tonight? Where are
21 they? I don't read the newspaper
22 because it's like our local Enquire.
23 It's a big lie. It's a joke. The
24 only thing you can count on the them
25 is the obituaries. Everything else is

1 false. So subscribe to everybody,
2 they can do what they want to do but
3 it's all false. I will not give a
4 dime to those people. They tell lies
5 with all -- with everything, okay.
6 Now, the mayor, I don't know what he
7 thinks he's going to accomplish by
8 raising our taxes. Ten years police
9 and firemen have not had raises. If
10 he gave them raises every two years,
11 we wouldn't be in this position. Why
12 doesn't this man look in mirror for
13 five minutes, look within himself and
14 say, okay, who do I blame? Look at
15 what's happening to this city in the
16 past so many years compared to where
17 it was and look at himself and say,
18 I'm to blame. You know, there was a
19 song, Michael Jackson had a saying,
20 The man in the mirror. If anybody
21 listens to those words, if you want to
22 change the world, look at the man in
23 the mirror. You want to change the
24 city, look at yourself in the mirror
25 and do something about it, Mayor

1 Doherty, not sink us. We're sinking.
2 We're in quick sand. We're up to
3 here. Next year this time we're going
4 to be up to our eyeballs. We're not
5 even going to breathe, we're going to
6 suffocate. Is it fair? Is it fair?
7 And 29 firemen to go. My God, what is
8 he trying to do to us. Where is our
9 safety? We've been paying taxes. We
10 had 25 percent increase since 2007 or
11 whatever it was with previous council
12 members. Wasn't that enough? Haven't
13 we been paying for safety all this
14 time. Where else is our money going?
15 He's giving raises to everybody, all
16 his higher ups, everybody is getting a
17 raise, everybody is getting a raise
18 except the taxpayers and the firemen
19 are being let go, the policemen
20 because they are going to get their
21 raises that they were supposed to get,
22 we get a 29 percent increase in taxes.
23 We shouldn't have to pay that. He got
24 us in this position. He's the one
25 that is sinking us, nobody us, no

1 policemen, no firemen. If it wasn't
2 for them, we would have no city. I
3 would say the only profession that can
4 go on strike are the police and
5 firemen and I wish they would and they
6 could. I wish they would and they
7 could. And if they all called in sick
8 one day and decided, you know what, we
9 have the flu today, we all got it from
10 each other, we are not going in. What
11 would happen to our city? Could the
12 mayor volunteer himself to go in a
13 fire? Would he go to a firehouse and
14 get in the truck and go to a fire and
15 get his hose and use it? What would
16 he do? What would he do? So it's
17 about time, mayor, you've got to
18 listen to the people. Granted, most
19 of them are not here because you know
20 what, talking to the mayor gets us
21 nowhere. Everybody gets disgusted.
22 And that's where I have been for
23 years. That's where I've been for
24 years. Now, I come here and I speak
25 and I feel and the taxpayers of this

1 city if you want a change in the right
2 direction before we suffocate and we
3 are in quick sand up to our eyeballs,
4 come here, comer here, taxpayers.
5 Don't be afraid, nobody is going to
6 hurt you. Council members are
7 fantastic, the people here are
8 fantastic. Nobody is going to bite
9 you. Just come and speak your mind.
10 That's all you have to do. Please, we
11 do not need less firemen or less
12 police officers. We do not need 33
13 percent increase in our business and
14 mercantile tax, we do not need 29
15 percent of taxpayers for the city. I
16 can't talk about county here. You are
17 not the county. But I'll tell you
18 something, I watched the news tonight.
19 Waverly had more people fighting with
20 the county commissioners than we have
21 here tonight fighting for our rights
22 in the City of Scranton. Now, mayor,
23 we have been paying taxes. I don't
24 know what we're paying for and you're
25 going to increase it again, for why?

1 Because you're going to blame the
2 police and firemen that you have the
3 money now and ten years you couldn't
4 give them what they wanted and they
5 come begging to you for it. It's a
6 shame. It's a shame.

7 Now, I do have a question. On
8 our garbage fee, \$178 a year. Can I
9 finish that question?

10 MR. JOYCE: Absolutely, yes.

11 MS. ROSKI: Where -- I know DPW
12 gets paid, everybody gets paid -- the
13 higher ups get the most and the lower
14 ones get nothing. Where does the \$189
15 go? Like why are we paying -- they're
16 getting from the city but we're paying
17 \$189 for the homeowners.

18 MR. ROGAN: Well, the purpose of
19 the fee is to pay for garbage
20 collection. The fee does not -- it's
21 not high enough to pay for garbage
22 collection. The tax dollars are also
23 being used towards that.

24 MS. ROSKI: Right. But we pay
25 the additional 189, right? Like

1 yearly we pay \$189 on our garbage?

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes. The fee, it
3 goes towards the salaries and all
4 refuse collectors --

5 MS. ROSKI: Well, our taxes do,
6 too?

7 MR. JOYCE: Correct. Both of
8 them, it all goes into the general
9 funds and those funds are used to pay
10 employees as well as other expenses.

11 MS. ROSKI: Are they all used or
12 do we have any funds available with
13 that?

14 MR. JOYCE: No.

15 MR. ROGAN: No. Excuse me. The
16 garbage fee in my opinion is
17 officially low. If the garbage fee
18 was set at a dollar amount where it
19 cost for the service to the resident,
20 people would realize they're paying a
21 lot more for the garbage collection
22 than a little less than \$200 a year.

23 MS. ROSKI: Okay. You know, I
24 was just wondering where that money
25 now how it plays into with taxes and

1 this and that. Okay. Thank you.

2 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, council. I
3 was totally disgusted with things. I
4 was going to stay home and watch that
5 new program tonight about those guys
6 that buy the -- storage stalkers and
7 all that.

8 MR. ROGAN: It's a favorite of
9 mine.

10 MR. ELLMAN: Everything was good
11 until I saw our esteemed mayor on TV
12 talking about the new tax increase and
13 it just exploded in my head. You
14 know, if he thinks that I'm going to
15 get a second job to support this, he's
16 wrong. I'm not going to borrow no
17 money to support it, I'm not going to
18 sell anything I have to pay taxes. My
19 solution is I'm going to put up my
20 house up for sale and I'm just going
21 to leave Dodge. That's it. I've had
22 enough. I have never seen such gross
23 incompetence from a mayor, from a
24 governor, and I'm not mad at the two
25 commissioners. I didn't vote for them

1 and at least they made an attempt.
2 But Chris Doherty, if you guys allow
3 his picture to go up there with these
4 honorable men, there's something
5 wrong. He is an absolute disgrace to
6 this city if there ever was one. It's
7 a shame. You know, I'm one of the ten
8 or 15,000 senior citizens on a fixed
9 income and I don't have a house to go
10 and I can't afford to have my taxes
11 double, I just can't. You put a
12 pencil to it, it's not \$100 extra.
13 I'm looking at \$400 and \$300. That's
14 without all the other expenses. You
15 know -- you know, I've told you
16 several times I've talked to little
17 old ladies right across the street.
18 They've lost a house because they
19 couldn't afford all the expenses
20 involved, a house that their husband
21 left them. You know, now there's 400
22 houses coming up in January in
23 foreclosures. I guess Doherty wants
24 to make it a 1,000 or something next
25 year. He is such a complete failure

1 trying to run a city and govern the
2 city -- it's just unimaginable. You
3 know, you can't conceive somebody
4 being so damn stupid like that. It
5 just doesn't end with him. Lawsuits.
6 He wants to double my taxes, I don't
7 have even have sidewalks and curbs.
8 Do you know where the money? The
9 block money, he took it and tore down
10 the three-story apartment building
11 next to the Taurus Club in that empty
12 lot. You know what's there now? A
13 dumpster for the restaurant and it
14 kills two parking places. There never
15 was a lien put on that for tearing it
16 down. I looked a couple years ago, he
17 didn't put a lien on it. See, that's
18 what couple of spaghetti dinners will
19 get you. You know, you want to double
20 something, double the rents at Valley
21 View. This bum who told me I was a
22 disgrace. He lives up there with a
23 girl for nothing. You know, I pay
24 taxes. I contribute something to
25 society. You know, starting with the

1 governor, there's 700 million dollars
2 of that walk around money he won't
3 touch it to help homeowners. You
4 know, really, you go to that parking
5 lot because I've been in it. It's
6 full of Escalades, Lincolns,
7 limousines, all the taxpayers are
8 paying for it and he wants -- and
9 everybody talks -- I keep listening
10 to, they talk about the children, the
11 future for the children. There's no
12 future around here. How the world
13 does somebody -- let's just take Doug
14 Miller, how is he going to grow up and
15 raise a family in this city with rents
16 and house ownership. My insurance
17 used to be \$292 a year five, six ago.
18 Now it's over \$1,300. You know, my
19 income hasn't gone up. A couple weeks
20 ago I go up and have coffee with Mr.
21 DeNaples in the morning. I was coming
22 back at seven, 7:30, you know what I
23 saw on Washington? The street
24 cleaner. You know, in 20 years I've
25 seen it three or four times go by my

1 house. Down there it's, you know,
2 it's an everyday occurrence. Those
3 people, they've got curbs and
4 sidewalks. I can't walk down what's
5 left of the sidewalk because cars park
6 on them because there's no curb to
7 keep them off. And this is the city
8 that this man wants me to double my
9 taxes and, you know, it's just a
10 shame. You know, being a Southerner,
11 it's instilled, when you grow up, it's
12 instilled in you to own a piece of
13 land. Almost everybody I grew up with
14 when they were small, they talked
15 about having a home or a house or a
16 ranch or a farm or something. In this
17 city all the people they dreamed of
18 owning a home, it's turned into a
19 nightmare. I've talked to these
20 people this week. It's a living --
21 just a terrible nightmare having a
22 house in this city now with the lack
23 of leadership that this state and the
24 county and the city has. Like I said,
25 at least the two commissioners tried

1 to do something. And if you people
2 don't do something about the vermin
3 that runs that University of Scranton
4 buying everything in sight, you won't
5 have to worry about a budget. It's
6 just over with for this city. You're
7 just looking at the handwriting on the
8 wall.

9 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you, Mr.
10 Ellman.

11 MR. ELLMAN: Well, like I said,
12 I'll be out of your hair. You won't
13 have to worry about me pretty soon
14 because I'm just leaving. I've had
15 enough. It's just a shame. When I
16 sold property down South to have a
17 piece up here, it's a shame for anyone
18 to be subjected to stuff like this.
19 And I'm not mad at you people. It's
20 just this government has a lot of --
21 American people have let the
22 government get away from them, I
23 guess. People have no say so no more.
24 Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MR. HARTMAN: Good evening,
2 council. Frank Hartman, Tripp Park
3 Neighborhood Watch. Can I come up to
4 the -- so I can show you these?

5 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you.

6 MR. HARTMAN: First of all, I
7 just want to say nobody invited me
8 here tonight to speak. I'm the kind
9 of person that gives credit where
10 credit is due.

11 Last week Saturday at around 4:30
12 I work down in Exeter, I got a phone
13 call saying that my family was in a
14 real bad car accident on Main Avenue,
15 my daughter, my niece, my nephew who
16 was seven and my daughter is 11, my
17 mom and my sister, and I tell you one
18 thing, if we didn't have Rescue 1,
19 they wouldn't be here today. My
20 sister was trapped in the car for over
21 40 minutes. I want to personally
22 thank firefighter Jack Hewlett. I
23 know Jack from up at Tripp Park with
24 the Missy League. He was there with
25 my sister. He never left her side. I

1 would also give out a special thanks
2 to Officer to Paul Stafursky who is my
3 next door neighbor. My dad is 80
4 percent loss of hearing in each ear.
5 I called Paul, I asked him, I told I'm
6 down in Exeter that he can go to my
7 parents' house and let my dad know
8 what happened. And he says, "Well if
9 I can't, I will definitely have
10 somebody do it." Well, he went up
11 there, he told my dad and they brought
12 him back down to the accident scene.

13 Also I would like to thank Taylor
14 Rescue 95, the Old Forge Police
15 Department, the Taylor Police
16 Department and our police department.
17 Everybody gives the negativity for the
18 firemen and the cops. Half of my
19 friends are firemen, half of my
20 friends are cops. I'm glad I have
21 them here. They -- I don't know.
22 They're the best, they're trained,
23 they're the best people that we have
24 around. And I saw on the news today
25 that he wants to cut 29 firemen. By

1 those pictures there, if he cuts
2 anybody, there's no reason for that.
3 My sister wouldn't be here today, you
4 know, and thank God we have them and
5 we need them. There's times on fires
6 the first people in the building are
7 the firemen. Everybody is watching
8 around, just watching them. And you
9 can't tell -- anybody can't come up
10 here and say those firemen don't do
11 their job. They do their job. The
12 cops, as I said I'm the chairperson of
13 the Tripp Park Neighborhood Watch. I
14 went out and I got a scanner last
15 year. I want anybody to go out and
16 buy a scanner and listen to those
17 calls that those police go on. Every
18 911, anyone of those calls, the police
19 responded; domestic, the police
20 respond. I don't know how people
21 could say that public safety is
22 ruining the city. We need them and we
23 need more. My sister wanted to come
24 tonight but she's not up to it. My
25 mom and dad is at the house so I

1 brought my daughter down with me just
2 to say thank you. And to everybody
3 that was involved in that accident if
4 they're watching, for myself and my
5 family we just want to say thank you
6 and we appreciate all your help.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.
8 Is there anyone else who cares to
9 address council?

10 (No response.)

11 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake.

12 MS. KRAKE: Fifth Order, 5A.

13 MOTIONS.

14 MS. EVANS: Before I call on
15 Councilman McGoff this evening, I'd
16 like to take a minute on behalf of
17 Scranton City Councilman to wish Rose
18 Talerico a very, very happy birthday.
19 She will celebrate and I don't know
20 that I should say the number. Should
21 I, Mr. McGoff?

22 MR. MCGOFF: Absolutely.

23 MS. EVANS: Yes, okay. I was
24 always told that a lady are gentleman
25 never reveals a lady's age but in this

1 case then I'm sure we should. And
2 Rose will be 90-years-old on
3 November 19th and she is a very
4 faithful viewer of Scranton City
5 Council meetings. She never misses
6 one. In fact, she won't even accept a
7 phone call during a city council
8 meeting. So, Rose, thank you so much.
9 We love you here at City Council and
10 have a very happy birthday and many
11 more. God bless.

12 And, Mr. McGoff, any comments or
13 motions this evening?

14 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. First,
15 obviously the topic of conversation is
16 the budget that was presented today in
17 the mayor's budget. Certainly there
18 are a lot of questions with the
19 budget. Any number of things that can
20 be looked at and certainly I hope that
21 we will do that over the course of the
22 next few days, few weeks. Obviously I
23 don't think there's anyone who doesn't
24 think that there will be changes made.
25 I don't think that this will be the

1 budget that we, you know, vote on or
2 have the final vote on. Obviously
3 there will be amendments and hopefully
4 changes that are more palpable to all.

5 The one thing I would like to ask
6 and I don't know is since we only
7 received it today, is there a timeline
8 for dealing with the budget? I know
9 there are certain time constraints. I
10 was just wondering if we had
11 established anything --

12 MS. EVANS: As you are aware, the
13 budget must legally be passed by
14 December 15th. It will be introduced
15 at next week's council meeting.
16 Thereafter, there will be the second
17 and third readings. Council will
18 present its amendments to the budget
19 for a vote.

20 Mrs. Krake, I believe we would
21 have a public hearing on the mayor's
22 budget as well. So that will be
23 scheduled prior to either next week or
24 the following week's meeting.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. I think

1 that, again, you know, the timing of
2 this is, you know, important for the
3 public and for us. Hopefully we can
4 involve everyone in the process of
5 working on this budget. And my last
6 thing is that hopefully there is some
7 type the cooperative effort between
8 the administration and council in
9 framing this budget. I certainly
10 would hope to avoid the problems that
11 occurred in 2011 with the budget.
12 Whose ever fault it was, you know, I
13 don't want to place blame anywhere but
14 hopefully by the cooperative effort,
15 we can frame a budget that is
16 acceptable and is one that is workable
17 for both the administration and
18 council.

19 Second thing that I did want to
20 mention is the deficit that we're
21 facing for 2011. I know we've asked
22 in the past. It's been mentioned in
23 the past. There have been proposals
24 sent to the council by the mayor.
25 They have not be placed on the agenda.

1 I think it's at a point where it's
2 becoming critical. It's beyond
3 critical, I guess I should say, to
4 deal with this problem. Again, I
5 would ask that either we place
6 these -- the mayor's proposals on the
7 agenda or that we arrive or someone
8 arrives at some alternative for
9 dealing with the 2011 deficit, and I
10 guess at this point I was going to
11 ask, are there any alternative
12 proposals that will be made in the
13 near future for dealing with the 2011
14 deficit?

15 MS. EVANS: We've already made
16 our proposal to the banks and I was
17 going to the address that tonight
18 under motions. The banks are awaiting
19 the audit. The banks have not turned
20 city council down. But the
21 administration has withheld the audit,
22 the information required for the
23 audit, I should say, as well as East
24 Scranton Redevelopment Authority and a
25 number of attorneys and I'm sure that

1 if the mayor intends to even proceed
2 to the courts to borrow for unfunded
3 debt even a visiting judge is going to
4 require that audit. So I would advise
5 that the administration gets moving on
6 it.

7 MR. MCGOFF: And that is all.
8 Thanks.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And, Mr.
10 McGoff, could I have the photos,
11 please? I'd like to return them to
12 this gentleman. I know he had wanted
13 them before he left tonight.

14 And, Mr. Rogan, do you have any
15 motions or comments this evening?

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I would like to
17 start off by congratulating Councilman
18 Loscombe and Councilman McGoff on
19 their wins on last week's election. I
20 agree with many of what the residents
21 stated here tonight and the turn out
22 was very low and that's unfortunate.
23 Maybe more people would register to
24 vote in the next election.

25 I guess I'll start up off with

1 the budget. Obviously I don't think
2 any of us had the time to read over
3 the entire document, but I will make
4 some general comments and my feelings
5 on the budget. You know, it seems to
6 me that Mayor Doherty took
7 presidential candidate Herman Cain's
8 9-9-9 Plan into a blender and it came
9 out as 29, 29 and 33 where you have 29
10 firefighters being laid off; 37,
11 depends on which way you work the
12 numbers, a 29 percent tax increase on
13 properties and 33 percent tax increase
14 on business owners. This is not the
15 solution to the problems we are facing
16 in this city. The taxpayers cannot
17 afford to spend another dime in taxes.
18 People are already on the verge of
19 losing their homes. We just had a
20 county commissioners institute a back
21 door tax increase two days after an
22 election which besides that, that's
23 nothing to do with council but the
24 people in Scranton will also be paying
25 that tax increase. We have the mayor

1 who wants to increase taxes nearly
2 30 percent on the residents. We have
3 the school board that very likely
4 might raise taxes and we have a
5 president who wants to raise taxes.
6 Where are the people going to get the
7 money from. The people are already
8 overtaxed. We can't afford it. And
9 not to mention the taxes are going up
10 but services are going down. I have
11 said in my campaigns for council and
12 here time and time again, the most
13 important job of government is to
14 provide public safety. If that's
15 government does, we've done our job.
16 Everything else is a bonus. Going
17 through section by section, obviously
18 what the mayor is trying to do to the
19 fire department, I agree with Mr.
20 Gervasi, it's political, it's
21 completely political cutting 29 guys
22 who are out there every day keeping us
23 safe. I don't want to know which
24 firehouses are going to be closing
25 because I know West Side to West Side

1 is a big section of the city. South
2 Side, you know, when you look at the
3 size of the city and we're going to
4 have to all these stations closing.
5 You, know what if there are two fires
6 or a fire and a car accident at the
7 same time. Where are we going to get
8 the guys from? The police, the paper
9 is already trying to spin and the
10 mayor is already trying to spin it
11 that he's increasing the police
12 officers. That's not the case. Some
13 positions are going back that were
14 eliminated by the mayor just a few
15 months ago. It's not a net increase
16 from last year's budget. The Single
17 Tax Office, the mayor is cutting, I
18 believe, 15 positions from the Tax
19 Office and this is the office that
20 brings our revenue into the city.
21 Now, I understand that some cuts
22 should be made in that office because
23 the Tax Office won't be collecting the
24 wage tax anymore. I wonder if the
25 mayor has consulted with the tax

1 collector and how many positions he
2 believes were used for wage tax
3 collection that could be eliminated
4 because there should be some cuts in
5 that office but not 15 people. And,
6 again, it always boils down to my
7 favorite department, the DPW. When
8 the mayor is gutting public safety
9 year after year, cutting cops, cutting
10 firemen, he offers a buyout for the
11 DPW. If we need to cut there which I
12 believe we absolutely do, why not
13 layoff DPW workers the same way the
14 police officers or firemen are laid
15 off. Why do they get to the golden
16 parachute and no one else does.
17 That's all I'm going to say on this
18 for now. Looking through, there's so
19 many problems with this budget from,
20 you know, increased taxes to cuts in
21 public safety, the increases in fees
22 which some of them aren't crippling,
23 you know, dumpster permits, secondhand
24 dealers, parking spaces, dog licenses,
25 it's a lot more than just a tax

1 increase and there's a lot more to it
2 than that. It doesn't affect
3 everyone, the permit fees but it
4 affects a lot of people within the
5 city. We can't keep going down this
6 path. You know, Chris Doherty has
7 been a tax and spend mayor from day
8 one but he won't spend in the areas
9 that he needs to. It's all been
10 parks, it's been this and that,
11 everything but the parts of the city
12 that matter, keeping the people safe.

13 And finally with my colleague's
14 agreement, Mrs. Krake, can you please
15 send a letter to the county
16 commissioners asking because of their
17 tax increase if they plan to move
18 forward with the reassessment. I know
19 -- I think we all agree that we do
20 need a reassessment and it's one of
21 the few areas where I think council
22 and PEL agree that we need to see
23 where people's properties are worth to
24 determine if they're paying the right
25 amount of taxes or not. And it's not

1 something council could do. It's
2 something we need the county
3 commissioners to do and I'm hoping
4 that now that they did raise taxes,
5 they will be bringing in more revenue
6 that they could add that as, you know,
7 as part of their platform moving
8 forward. And obviously I'll have more
9 about the budget once I read the whole
10 thing but that's all tonight.

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

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I have a few
15 comments. First, I'd like to start
16 off as we wish Mrs. Talerico a happy
17 birthday, I would like wish my mother,
18 Mary, a happy birthday. She'll turn
19 80 on the 18th. I hope she's not
20 upset I've mentioned that.

21 MS. EVANS: And she's a grand
22 lady.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: And she can run
24 circles around me, trust me.

25 Secondly, I would like to

1 congratulate Mr. McGoff and Mr. Morgan
2 has left here but for a very good
3 campaign and a lot of issues were
4 brought out, and I'm happy to be
5 working with Mr. McGoff again here.

6 Next, what Mr. Bolus brought up
7 before, you know, I think it's
8 appalling that someone with that
9 professional stature has to go and
10 take people's signs out of a yard. I
11 don't even think they know me, I
12 wouldn't know them, but if they have a
13 problem with the neighbor or whatever,
14 that's not the way to go about it. I
15 mean, going out on the campaign trail
16 with all of these gentlemen, all of
17 the other candidates, no one ever
18 moved another candidate's sign. We
19 respected each other. First of all,
20 we realized the value of them. I'm
21 not a rich candidate and these things
22 aren't cheap and, you know, maybe
23 professors make a lot of money but,
24 you know, it just puts a bad light on
25 their place of employment, the

1 University of Scranton, and I'm just
2 -- it's just upsetting. You know, I
3 can see if it was a couple kids doing
4 it but, you know, not to belabor that
5 anymore. And unfortunately I
6 haven't had a chance to look at the
7 budget at all. Actually when it was
8 handed to me and ironically when they
9 were handed out today, there happened
10 to be a big fire on Olive Street, and
11 as soon I was given this, I was told
12 there was a fire on Olive Street and I
13 went over to see what was going on,
14 and this was a situation where, you
15 know, we had, you know, we didn't have
16 all the companies closed that were
17 closed the past few days, however, we
18 did still did not enough companies to
19 respond to a second alarm which they
20 needed at that. They did ultimately
21 end up with, I believe, calling in
22 some overtime and that's right now.
23 That's before 37 more cuts. I can't
24 understand what is going to happen at
25 that point. You know, I'm the

1 chairman of the committee on public
2 safety and I get accused of being a
3 union man. You know, I'm not talking
4 about the unions. I'm talking about
5 your life, your safety. I can't
6 believe someone can sit behind a desk
7 with a pen and paper and cross off 37
8 names without any regards for your
9 life. Am I upset? You damn right I'm
10 upset. I don't have an adjective to
11 say how I feel. I live in an area of
12 town where there was no coverage the
13 other day for a couple days either. I
14 don't know how they plan on doing
15 this. But the way I feel right now
16 and I would like to know from our
17 solicitor if it's possible if we can
18 conduct a public hearing with the
19 mayor, Mr. McGowan and our fire chief
20 to face the public and explain to them
21 their plan to cover the people in this
22 city with the amount of manpower they
23 plan on utilizing in this budget.
24 We're putting public safety at extreme
25 risk, and I think the public should be

1 able to ask them how they plan on
2 doing it and how they came about with
3 this plan. There is no plan. It's
4 just vindictiveness is even an easy
5 word to use. Again, there's not an
6 adjective to describe it. Is he
7 vindictive towards me because I'm
8 super majority and I was a
9 firefighter, is he vindictive to the
10 public safety because they won
11 arbitration awards? They've had
12 ten years, ten years to put aside
13 money every year just in case this
14 happened, and they didn't. Now
15 they're laying it on you. But they
16 blame the unions, they blame the
17 council and, again, I've heard it
18 several times before, they never look
19 in the mirror. But he's the head of
20 this city, he's the mayor. He has to
21 face the music if he's putting out a
22 budget like this here because as Mr.
23 McGoff said we can make amendments to
24 this budget what we did last year.
25 Was it followed? No. So you can get

1 bet your butt he's going to use his
2 budget no matter what amendments we
3 do. And that's appalling. And if one
4 person is injured because of this lack
5 of manpower, I'm going to hold all
6 three of those people responsible.
7 And I want them to answer to the
8 public at a public hearing and let
9 them explain how they plan on
10 protecting this city. That's all I
11 have to say.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr.
13 Loscombe. Councilman Joyce, do you
14 have any comments or motions?

15 MR. JOYCE: I do. Tonight I
16 would like to congratulate both of my
17 colleagues, Mr. Jack Loscombe and Mr.
18 Bob McGoff on their successful bids to
19 retain their seats on city council.
20 They both ran very respective
21 campaigns as did their opponent, Mr.
22 Morgan who was a frequent about many
23 issues at the podium on just about
24 every Tuesday. Okay.

25 As you may know, earlier today

1 Mayor Doherty issued a 2012 operating
2 budget to Scranton City Council that
3 called for a 29 percent real estate
4 tax increase, a real estate transfer
5 tax increase, an increase in business
6 privilege mercantile tax as well as an
7 increase in various fees. In the
8 mayor's budget there were also
9 staffing reductions primarily to the
10 fire department and the Tax Office. A
11 great portion of this tax increase was
12 caused by a loan that the SRA
13 defaulted on which is going to cost us
14 1.6 million dollars in 2012 as well as
15 other measures such as the recent
16 arbitration awards which could have
17 been settled a long time ago if Mayor
18 Doherty negotiated a contract with the
19 fire and police unions and, you know,
20 I've read a lot about this in the
21 newspaper but simply blaming Act 47 is
22 not an excuse for Mayor Doherty's
23 failed labor negotiations. The budget
24 presented by the mayor is a huge blow
25 to the taxpayers of Scranton. Since

1 we all received the budget today, I'm
2 sure that with everyone's work
3 schedules no one has really had the
4 opportunity to review the budget
5 document thoroughly. As finance chair
6 of city council, I'm asking each
7 member to do so. Mr. McGoff stated in
8 the Scranton Times that he sees the
9 future of city council acting in a
10 business as usual fashion. With this
11 in mind I'd like to change the way
12 that the budget process is handled.
13 Tonight I ask all of my colleagues to
14 submit by next week their
15 recommendations on how the mayor's
16 budget should be amended. When doing
17 so, if any of my colleagues suggests
18 that positions are eliminated or the
19 restatement of positions is followed
20 through with, I also ask to also
21 recommend where the decreases or
22 increases in revenue should come from
23 with your suggestions. Simply stating
24 I don't want to reinstate X amount of
25 employees doesn't cut it. As you

1 have -- you have to have a plan from
2 where the revenue will come from to
3 reinstate those employees if you state
4 that you want to retain them. So if
5 you have the idea that you want to
6 reinstate firefighters, come up with a
7 plan where the revenue is coming from.
8 If you want to state that you want to
9 cut so many people in say another
10 department, come up with a plan, come
11 up with a budget. Provide the
12 suggestions. Simply saying no to the
13 mayor's budget is not a viable
14 solution if you don't have a plan.
15 City council is faced with a really
16 stuff task here and, you know, if any
17 of my colleagues state that they want
18 to lower taxes and reinstate all the
19 workers that were cut, it's simply
20 rhetoric and grandstanding if you
21 don't have a plan on how to do it.
22 We're looking at a situation with a
23 number of firefighters cut and the tax
24 revenue that would be realized with
25 the tax increase, we're looking at

1 about probably six or seven million
2 dollars. So it's sad but it can't go
3 both ways.

4 On other matters we still don't
5 have a completed audit. In our last
6 council meeting I requested from
7 Mr. McGowan, our business
8 administrator, to provide a status
9 update on the open items that Rossi
10 and Rossi had issued written
11 correspondence to us about it. To
12 this day this request had not been
13 fulfilled. As you know, city council
14 has presented a plan and to have a
15 meeting with representatives from
16 Fidelity Bank to pitch our plan for
17 the 2011 deficit. In order to make a
18 decision on our plan for the president
19 and vice president of Fidelity want to
20 see the 2012 operating budget which
21 was just sent down to council today as
22 well as the audit. The lack of a
23 completed audit can also be a large
24 part of the reason why the city is not
25 attracting many bidders for the 2012

1 tax anticipation notes. And just in
2 case anyone listening does not know
3 what that is, these are short term
4 loans to pay for pay for operating
5 expenses while the city awaits wage
6 tax revenue for a given fiscal year.
7 Point in mind, we need to get the
8 audit completed.

9 With this in mind, Mrs. Krake,
10 please contact Mr. McGowan on my
11 behalf and ask him for an update on
12 the status of all open items that have
13 not been submitted to us from Rossi
14 and Rossi, also ask him by date rather
15 than simply state I am working on it.
16 At our last meeting there an apparent
17 issue also with Mr. Brazil, the
18 director of DPW allowing a worker to
19 let his son use the city DPW vehicle
20 for personal use to take an ACL exam.
21 While this is certainly not in the
22 best interest of the city, I have
23 other concerns about this matter. In
24 council's mailbox city council
25 received an update from the

1 Pennsylvania Department of General
2 Services in regard to the purchase of
3 federal surplus property. When
4 exploring the items that the
5 Department of General Services offers
6 on their website, one of the items
7 that cities can purchase at discounted
8 prices are surplus trucks and vehicles
9 which are a common use for DPW
10 operations. When purchasing federal
11 surplus property there are strict
12 guidelines that must be adhered to.
13 One of those guidelines which was in
14 bold print on a letter we received in
15 our office about the program is that
16 no personal use of federal surplus
17 property is permitted.

18 With this mind, Mrs. Krake,
19 please contact Mr. Brazil to inquire
20 whether the truck went out to the DPW
21 worker was a truck purchased through
22 the federal surplus program. If the
23 truck that Mr. Brazil allowed an
24 employee to use for his son was
25 purchased through this program which

1 I'm not saying that it was, it would
2 be a violation of federal regulations
3 and this is a matter that seriously
4 needs to be explored.

5 Since the mayor's 2012 budget
6 seems to be the largest issue tonight,
7 you know, just to conclude, I just
8 want to say that I recognize that 2012
9 budget submitted by the mayor places a
10 large blow on the residents of
11 Scranton. I can assure you that I
12 will working diligently to help soften
13 that blow. We will do the best that
14 we could. We will represent the best
15 interest and we will fight for you.
16 And that's all.

17 MS. EVANS: Good evening. To
18 date Scranton City Council has not
19 received the 2010 independent audit of
20 the City of Scranton despite Mayor
21 Doherty's public statement that the
22 audit would be completed by the first
23 week of November. Rather, city
24 council received on November 9th the
25 most recent audit status report

1 provided by Robert Rossi and Company
2 which includes a list of over 12 open
3 items that were to be completed on/or
4 before March 15th, 2011; April 15th,
5 2011; June 14th; August 30th;
6 September 2nd; October 3rd and October
7 24th, 2011, by the city
8 administration, the Scranton
9 Redevelopment Authority and various
10 attorneys. The local banking
11 community has expressed clearly its
12 need to receive the 2010 audit and the
13 mayor's 2012 proposed budget in order
14 to reach decisions on city borrowing
15 and the issuance of 2012 tax
16 anticipation notes or TANS. Further,
17 the banks want to see what the city
18 owes for all outstanding invoices,
19 where the city stands financially and
20 how the city will pay for borrowing
21 outstanding bills including court
22 awards. In other words, the lenders
23 want financial documents, not visions
24 and promises. Thus, it would seem
25 that a judge and no doubt it would be

1 a very visiting judge rather than a
2 locally elected judge would also
3 require the 2010 audit in order for
4 the Court to approve borrowing for
5 2011 unfunded debt. In the Sundays
6 Times Mr. McGoff stated that council
7 failed to find a bank willing to buy
8 into its plan. Perhaps Mr. McGoff
9 knows something that neither I, nor
10 Solicitor Hughes knows. The banks are
11 awaiting the 2010 audit and the
12 mayor's 2012 proposed budget. In
13 addition, during the first week of
14 November I was informed by Attorney
15 Hughes that he had discussed borrowing
16 options with Attorney Brian
17 Koscelansky of Stevens and Lee at
18 request of officers of Fidelity Bank.
19 Attorney Koscelansky suggested an
20 additional plan on behalf of the
21 Scranton Parking Authority and the
22 mayor which would allow the Scranton
23 Parking Authority to borrow 14 million
24 manage and operate the parking meters
25 for 15 years and receive a 100 percent

1 of parking meter and ticket revenue
2 for those 15 years. Thus, Attorney
3 Koscelansky's plan was a convoluted
4 version of the mayor's original plan
5 to sell the parking meters to the SPA
6 and focus on restoring the authority's
7 financial health rather than the
8 fiscal health of our city. In
9 response, Attorney Hughes then
10 suggested that the authority could
11 borrow the six million needed to the
12 fill the city's 2011 deficit and the
13 city would make the annual payments
14 using its own parking meter and ticket
15 revenues. Attorney Hughes suggested
16 the use of the SPA to borrow because
17 the process would be made more rapid
18 than the one followed by a
19 municipality. Regardless, the banking
20 community requires the city's
21 financials and the Doherty
22 administration refused to provide
23 them. Council did not fail, Mr.
24 McGoff. Let's try to be more
25 accurate. Council continues to pursue

1 its proposal which is more financially
2 sound and beneficial than the mayor's
3 plan because it doesn't allow for the
4 sale of parking meters. Rather, the
5 city would retain its meters and
6 collect its own revenues which would
7 be turned over to the bank to meet
8 annual debt service for a ten-year
9 period. City council's plan would
10 successfully address this year's six
11 million dollar deficit caused by the
12 mayor's use of a 2001 TAN to pay a
13 2010 TAN and other prior years' bills.
14 Equally important, the newspaper
15 article stated that council has since
16 asked the mayor to provide legislation
17 to authorize borrowing for unfunded
18 debt. That statement is completely
19 false. I did not make this request.
20 Councilman Loscombe, did you request
21 the mayor to send us legislation for
22 his borrowing?

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Not at all.

24 MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan, did
25 you make that request?

1 MR. ROGAN: Not formally. I
2 would like us to vote on some
3 proposal, though.

4 MS. EVANS: I understand what you
5 are saying but according to the
6 newspaper council has asked the mayor
7 to send down new legislation for
8 unfunded borrowing.

9 MR. ROGAN: No.

10 MS. EVANS: No. Mr. McGoff, did
11 you make that request?

12 MR. MCGOFF: I did not.

13 MS. EVANS: Okay. Thank you.
14 Obviously then except for asking
15 Councilman Joyce who is out of the
16 room at the moment, council didn't ask
17 the mayor to provide this legislation
18 and no legislation was received by
19 council's office or city council
20 members. Throughout October finance
21 chair Frank Joyce and I submitted
22 numerous revenue generators and cost
23 cutting measures to Mayor Doherty for
24 inclusion in his 2012 proposed budget
25 and to the Pennsylvania Economy League

1 for inclusion in the revised recovery
2 plan. Our suggestions are documented
3 in the black and white and council
4 received a response from the
5 Pennsylvania Economy League on
6 November 7th but to date we have
7 received no answer or comments from
8 Mayor Doherty. Nevertheless, the
9 mayor submitted his 2012 proposed
10 budget to City Council's Office today,
11 the final day or deadline dictated by
12 the Home Rule Charter. At no time did
13 the mayor contact me to discuss either
14 his proposed budget or my suggestions
15 for cutting costs and generating new
16 revenue. Was any council member
17 contacted by the mayor to provide
18 input into his proposed budget?

19 MR. ROGAN: No.

20 MR. MCGOFF: No.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

22 MS. EVANS: Well, that response
23 speaks volumes regarding the mayor's
24 leadership philosophy, may way or the
25 highway.

1 Also the accuracy of the mayor's
2 proposed budget must be brought into
3 serious question since it was
4 developed without the use of the 2010
5 independent audit of the City of
6 Scranton which the Doherty
7 administration has purposely and
8 continuously stonewalled. Beyond the
9 administration's intentional failure
10 to produce a required audit, I will
11 reserve comment on the mayor's
12 proposed budget until such time as I
13 have closely reviewed it. Council is
14 not interested in assessing blame.
15 Everyone knows who is to blame.
16 Council is only interested in
17 solutions and will examine the budget
18 line by line in order to soften the
19 blow to Scranton taxpayers. Also as
20 Mr. Joyce has already done, I ask that
21 every council member submit their
22 ideas for budget amendments to the
23 finance chair Mr. Joyce or to me. Be
24 sure suggestions include reciprocal
25 alternatives in revenues and expenses

1 in order to maintain a balanced
2 budget. Do not make additions to the
3 expenditures without making additions
4 to revenue and do not make cuts
5 without reflecting accurate changes in
6 related and required area such as
7 health care, unemployment, pension, et
8 cetera. Councilman Joyce and I think
9 most of the public isn't aware of this
10 but Councilman Joyce is close to
11 completing his master's degree in
12 business administration. He maintains
13 a grade point average of 4.0 which to
14 those who have been in academics
15 throughout our career recognize is
16 perfection. He's been inducted this
17 Spring into an international business
18 honor's society and will be inducted
19 into another business honor society.
20 And although Mr. Joyce is highly
21 qualified to serve as the chairman of
22 finances and, in fact, would make an
23 excellent business administrator, each
24 council member should pull his weight
25 in this process by providing not only

1 suggestions but also coordinating
2 financial figures to either Councilman
3 Joyce or to myself. Now, since
4 today's meeting with municipal union
5 heads was cancelled by this
6 administration, members of city
7 council will remain available to
8 discuss mitigation of the Supreme
9 Court award, if necessary, and will
10 present those results to the mayor,
11 the media and the public for
12 everyone's review. In the interim the
13 mayor should visit the local
14 nonprofits to urge pilot payments to
15 the city as soon as possible. He is
16 well acquainted with the board and
17 officers of these organizations since
18 some of his family members are seated
19 on these boards of directors. While
20 he put forth an initial but feeble
21 effort in 2010, many of his former
22 administrators were obtaining
23 employment at these institutions. If
24 the mayor is asking the taxpayers to
25 pay nearly 30 percent more for far

1 less at the same time he absolutely
2 has the responsibility to urge the
3 local nonprofits to contribute their
4 fair share in revenue, not in kind
5 contributions.

6 And finally I have just a few
7 citizens' request for the week.
8 Residents of 100 block of North
9 Garfield Avenue request the
10 installation of a 'do not enter' sign.
11 They report that countless drive up to
12 street rather than traveling south and
13 that many street signs are faded.
14 Area homeowners request the
15 installation of a streetlight in the
16 middle of the 500-block of Manly
17 Place. Several months ago a show down
18 occurred between two criminals and
19 police officers. Criminals were able
20 to hide in this location because it is
21 entirely dark. Also a cement slab was
22 thrown through a homeowner's kitchen
23 window. Intoxicated individuals have
24 been found sleeping outdoors in the
25 evening and dog owners walk their pets

1 regularly without cleaning up after
2 them. So these homeowners employ the
3 city administration to help them. And
4 that's it.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Evans, can I
6 just one thing? I forgot.

7 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Several months ago
9 we sent a letter requesting signage on
10 Mulberry Street, street signs, and
11 there's still none there. I've heard
12 several complaints, people looking for
13 the hospital. They can't find Quincy
14 Avenue, almost rear end accidents from
15 people out of town slowing down trying
16 to figure what street they're on and I
17 don't know what it's going to take but
18 we did issue a letter last year.
19 There was no response. If we can just
20 reissue another letter to Mr. Brazil
21 to see that this could be done or if
22 the university can put temporary
23 signs. I mean, I don't know who is
24 responsible there because they're
25 still putting their poles up, too.

1 MS. EVANS: And I recognize there
2 are physical constraints certainly but
3 I was discussing with Councilman
4 Loscombe tonight the fact there are
5 new 'no parking' signs that have been
6 installed very recently in front of
7 the Lackawanna County Prison, and the
8 legislation for the installation of
9 those signs hasn't even come before
10 city council for approval yet. In
11 fact, I received that legislation only
12 this afternoon for inclusion on next
13 week's agenda. So evidently the city
14 has these signs and has the money and
15 the ability to install them so I think
16 we should be doing something more
17 useful.

18 MR. JOYCE: Just as a general
19 question since you're done speaking.
20 I wanted to insure that all council
21 members received this memo from PEL,
22 the Act 47 Coordinator's Financial
23 Review Projections. I just picked
24 this up. Just looking through here
25 there's some differences in numbers

1 that I think especially in relation to
2 Workers' Compensation. So I would
3 encourage everyone to review the
4 budget document as well as review
5 PEL's projections to make sure that
6 everything evens out and that
7 everything aligns with each other so
8 that PEL and the administration
9 aren't, you know, a million or two
10 dollars apart on a certain item.

11 MS. EVANS: And, thank you,
12 Councilman Joyce.

13 MS. KRAKE: 5B. ACCEPTING A ONE
14 THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) DOLLAR
15 CONTRIBUTION FROM SANOFI PASTEUR
16 PRESENTED TO THE
17 CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: Sixth Order, no
8 business at this time. Seventh Order,
9 no business at this time.

10 MS. EVANS: If there is no
11 further business, I'll enter a motion
12 to adjourn.

13 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

14 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
15 adjourned.

16 (Proceedings concluded at
17 8:48 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

Amelia Nicol, RPR
Official Court Reporter