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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE: FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 56 - 2011,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE CITY
GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY
OF JANUARY 2012 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31 2012 BY
THE ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET FOR
THE YEAR 2011

HELD:

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

LOCATION:

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

1 MS. EVANS: I'd like to call this
2 public hearing to order. Roll call, please.

3 MS. KRAKE: Mr. McGoff.

4 MS. EVANS: I believe he is here and
5 will be returning shortly.

6 MS. KRAKE: Councilman Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. KRAKE: Councilman Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. KRAKE: Councilman Joyce.

11 Councilwoman Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Here. Notice of public
13 hearing. Notice is hereby given that
14 Scranton City Council will hold a public
15 hearing on Tuesday, November 29, 2011, at
16 5:30 p.m. in council chambers, second floor
17 municipal building, 340 North Washington
18 Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania. The purpose
19 of said public hearing is to hear testimony
20 and discuss the following:

21 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 56 - 2011,
22 APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE
23 CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON
24 THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY 2012 TO AND
25 INCLUDING DECEMBER 31 2012 BY THE ADOPTION

1 OF THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE
2 YEAR 2011.

3 Our first speaker is Wayne Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Good evening, Council.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

6 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

7 MR. EVANS: I have some information
8 for you for a start. Good evening again.
9 My name is Wayne Evans, I'm a homeowner,
10 property owner, and small business owner in
11 the City of Scranton. Tonight I am here as
12 the vice president of the Greater Scranton
13 Board of Realtors and I would like to
14 discuss the mayor's budget which includes an
15 increase in the realty transfer tax from 2.5
16 to 2.9 percent, a 16 percent increase.

17 The realty transfer tax is a tax
18 paid whenever real estate is bought or sold.
19 The base rate in Pennsylvania is 2 percent,
20 municipalities can increase this tax and
21 Scranton, to the detriment of home
22 ownership, has chosen to do just that. The
23 rate is currently at 4 percent. With the
24 proposed increases we will be the second
25 highest in the state and over two times in

1 the other municipality in Lackawanna County.
2 Our realty transfer tax is higher than both
3 Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and almost twice
4 that of the City of Harrisburg, a city which
5 is currently seeking bankruptcy protection
6 and financial takeover from the
7 Commonwealth's of Pennsylvania.

8 As you know, the real estate market
9 nationwide has been trending downward since
10 2008 and the City of Scranton is no
11 exception. In fact, since 2006, the year of
12 the last increase in the realty transfer
13 tax, the City of Scranton has seen a
14 dramatic reduction in the sales of single
15 family homes and other properties. In 2006,
16 495 single family homes were sold in
17 Scranton. It is estimated that by the end
18 of this year 250 single family homes would
19 have been sold in 2011. That is a reduction
20 of nearly 50 percent. The sales volume for
21 single family homes in 2006 was \$48 million.
22 Year to date, it's \$20 million, a reduction
23 of over 58 percent.

24 We currently have an inventory of 15
25 months of single family homes within the

1 City compared with an inventory of five
2 months in 2006. Simply put, if not one
3 single home was added for sale it would take
4 approximately 15 months to sell all the
5 homes now for sale in Scranton, maybe longer
6 if the market continues to slow.

7 Additionally, homes are now on the
8 market an average of 140 days as compared to
9 88 days in 2006.

10 We have seen the average sold price
11 of a single family home fall from a high of
12 \$104,876 in 2007 to the current average of
13 \$82,864. You and I have lost at least 20
14 percent in the value of our homes.

15 We have to find a way to stop those
16 trends. And now with the proposed increase
17 of 38 percent property tax increase by
18 Lackawanna County and the 9 percent increase
19 by the City of Scranton as proposed by the
20 mayor's budget, an increase in the realty
21 transfer tax would make buying homes in
22 Scranton a nearly impossible task for the
23 middle income families who so desperately
24 strive to maintain and expand.

25 And what does all of this mean to

1 those wishing to buy a home in Scranton?
2 The realty transfer tax and the purchase of
3 a home in Scranton for \$100,000 would be
4 \$4,400. The same transaction for a home in
5 Dickson City or Dunmore or Moosic or even
6 Clarks Summit would be \$2,000.

7 Sadly, it would seem that in an
8 attempt to catch the big fish in the world
9 of commercial and investment property sales,
10 those wanting to purchase a home in Scranton
11 are caught in that same net. That's not
12 fair. If you look at the document before
13 you with a heading "Residential Closings",
14 you will see that the highest percentage of
15 real estate closings for single family homes
16 is below \$75,000. Again, a tax meant to
17 catch the fish involved in real estate
18 transactions does severe collateral damage
19 on our low and middle income families
20 wishing to buy a home.

21 Additionally the real estate
22 transfer tax is discriminatory because it is
23 assessed against one type of asset, real
24 estate.

25 The real estate transfer tax is

1 regressive and fails to account for the fact
2 that lower income homeowners spend a higher
3 percentage of their income on housing than
4 do higher income homeowners.

5 Up-front costs are the biggest
6 constraints to home ownership for first time
7 home buyers, most of which are lower and
8 middle income buyers.

9 The mayor's budget on it's face
10 continues the attack on the American dream
11 of home ownership in our city. Nationally,
12 65 percent of all residents are homeowners.
13 In Scranton that number is 55 percent.
14 Economically healthy cities are not defined
15 by how many renters occupy their
16 neighborhoods, but an economically healthy
17 city can be easily defined by how many
18 homeowner occupy their neighborhoods.
19 Existing individuals and families that are
20 homeowners make a great sacrifice when they
21 made Scranton their home and now we must
22 support a new generation of Scrantonians
23 hoping to make that same decision.

24 We fully understand that you have a
25 tremendous task at hand and we wish you well

1 in your endeavor. We only hope that you
2 agree that rolling back this progressive tax
3 will send a positive message. When it comes
4 to Scranton's future, home ownership matters
5 and it should. Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bill
7 Jackowitz.

8 (Whereupon while Mr. Evans was
9 speaking Mr. Joyce took the dais and joined
10 the meeting.)

11 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening, city
12 council. As you can see, there is again a
13 small turnout as -- was this advertised? I
14 didn't see it anywhere in the newspaper,
15 maybe I missed it.

16 MS. EVANS: Yes.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: I didn't see it on
18 WNEP or WBRE or anywhere.

19 MS. EVANS: No, it certainly was
20 advertised in the newspaper according to
21 law.

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: Oh, it was
23 advertised?

24 MS. EVANS: Yes. And hung
25 downstairs.

1 MR. JACKOWITZ: It's ashame again
2 that no one is here. Have we received the
3 audit yet?

4 MS. EVANS: No, we have not.

5 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, here it is
6 November 29, we still don't have the audit.
7 How are we going to do a budget without the
8 audit? I mean, do we know how much the
9 police and fire unions Court ruling is going
10 to cost the City of Scranton? Do we know
11 for a fact how much it is going to cost?

12 MR. JOYCE: We haven't received a
13 definitive figure.

14 MR. JACKOWITZ: So how are we going
15 to do a budget? We have no audit, we have
16 no idea how much this is going to cost us,
17 but yet we have an \$84 million budget out
18 there which is \$9 million higher than last
19 year's budget. How are we going to do that?

20 I mean, really, I feel sorry for you
21 people because -- and I don't feel sorry for
22 very many people, but I feel sorry for you
23 guys because you guys got a task upon you.
24 You are not going to get any cooperation
25 from the administration. You might as well

1 accept that right now. It's not going to
2 happen. You know, we can talk about
3 cooperation all we want, but it's not going
4 to happen, they are not going to cooperate.
5 They haven't cooperated with us, otherwise,
6 we would have had the audit at least by now
7 anyway. If not by the end of May, but at
8 least by now.

9 Again, you know, how are we going to
10 do this? I mean, the county is raising our
11 taxes 38 percent, okay? Now the city wants
12 to raise our taxes 29 percent. The school
13 board is going to raise it 2.5, I think
14 that's as high as they can go. It's all
15 coming out of the same tax base.

16 Like Mr. Evans said, you know, the
17 majority of the people in this city, believe
18 it or not, are poor. You know, I mean, we
19 can have all of the spin we want on it, but
20 the bottom line is they are poor. I just
21 don't see how the average Scrantonian or the
22 working Scrantonian, the medium class
23 Scrantonian is going to be able to afford
24 all of this.

25 Again on top of all this is the

1 mayor's proposed budget. He wants to cut
2 more firemen. He wants to cut 29 more
3 firemen, which in the long run is going to
4 raise their fire insurance because there is
5 going to be less firemen on the street,
6 higher response times. I understand he
7 wants to increase -- he cut the police
8 officers, I think he wants to put five more
9 police officers back on the street, which is
10 good, I applaud that. But again, we are
11 getting less services for more money.

12 Now, people have voted for tax
13 increases in the past and it didn't work.
14 It did absolutely nothing to improve the
15 financial situation for the community of
16 Scranton and for the Scranton residents,
17 okay? And statements have been made, well,
18 I'm a taxpayer, also. Well, some taxpayers
19 can afford to pay higher taxes, most
20 taxpayers in Scranton cannot afford to pay
21 higher taxes, okay? So I don't buy into
22 that argument.

23 The point I'm trying to make is we
24 cannot have a tax increase in my opinion.
25 The citizens of Scranton cannot afford it.

1 The mayor and his band of merry men and
2 women, his Doherty three and all of the
3 other Doherty rubber stampers, are the ones
4 who put us in this position and that's a
5 fact, okay? That's not speculation, that is
6 a fact. He has been the chief
7 administrative officer of this city for 10
8 years, he made all the rules, he is the one
9 who sent everything down to city council
10 because like in his own words, "All I need
11 is three votes."

12 He had his three votes. We have
13 unbalanced budgets that were passed that
14 were never looked at, were never reviewed
15 except for Mrs. Evans and Mr. Courtright who
16 tried, but they were always outvoted three
17 to two, so now we are in a position that we
18 are in right now. Okay, we have an \$84
19 million budget. I think that's way too
20 high. I think the county budget is only 92
21 million for the entire county, we are at
22 84r. The budget is too high. We need to
23 cut that budget. And the budget needs to be
24 cut and I don't mean by hundreds of
25 thousands of dollars, I'm hoping for a

1 couple of million, a few million dollars in
2 the budget, at least get it back down to the
3 75 it was at last year, especially if we are
4 going to suffer cuts in the fire department.

5 You know, there were no new
6 emergency vehicles purchased in the last
7 four years, the last ten years to be exact.
8 Yeah, we had some police cars purchased, but
9 they are all falling apart now. The only
10 police cars that are operational in this
11 city are the ones that the police officers
12 purchased themselves, okay, because they
13 take care of the vehicles not like the city
14 does. The city does not take care of them.

15 So I guess what I'm trying to say is
16 I hope as a whole and as a body the five of
17 you sit down and really review his budget
18 and we don't play politics and we don't play
19 gotcha and we don't play games because we
20 are talking about 70,000 Scrantonians, you
21 know, who are suffering for the most part.
22 Some people can afford higher taxes, most
23 people can't. Some people can afford, you
24 know, to live a good life, most people in
25 this city can't because there is no jobs, we

1 have the highest unemployment, we have over
2 11,000 people in this county in poverty or
3 below poverty, that needs to all be taken
4 into consideration.

5 The citizens of this City of
6 Scranton are not the ones responsible for
7 the financial disaster the City of Scranton
8 is in. Mayor Doherty is, the three prior
9 council people, Ms. Fanucci, Mrs. Gatelli
10 and Mr. McGoff are because they voted lock,
11 step and barrel for everything that the
12 mayor sent down here, unbalanced budget or
13 not, they voted for it and they approved it
14 and we can go back all the way to 2002 if
15 you want to, don't punish the citizens of
16 the Scranton. It is not our fault,
17 especially the working people who go to work
18 40 hours a week only to have their mayor and
19 their city government spend the money and
20 waste the money. Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Jackowitz, you
23 brought attention to the sparse attendance
24 here this evening, but noticeably absent
25 from this meeting are three gentleman that

1 we had submitted requests to be here, Mayor
2 Doherty, Business Administrator McGowan, and
3 Chief Davis. They had personal letters to
4 be here to answer any questions that we had
5 basically on the fire protection, but
6 apparently they chose not to appear to
7 answer the questions of the taxpayers.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: I understand your
9 point, Councilman Loscombe, but I didn't
10 expect them to be here.

11 MR. JOYCE: I just wanted to clear
12 up another point that you brought up
13 regarding the police officers. I'm not sure
14 if it was Mayor Doherty's original intention
15 to add back officers that he had laid off in
16 the past, that's something that was
17 confirmed by the Supreme Court ruling from
18 my understanding that there had to be 12
19 officers per shift. With the layoffs that
20 the mayor instituted back earlier in the
21 year that was not the case, and perhaps our
22 public safety chair can confirm that and
23 that's why he stated that the Supreme Court
24 ruling in favor of the fire and police union
25 was going to cause a tax increase. So I

1 don't know if that had not been the case if
2 there would have been as high a tax increase
3 sent down to us in the proposed budget, and
4 maybe you can comment about that.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, correct me if
6 I'm wrong in this, also, prior to laying off
7 the 13 police officers, if we had hired two
8 police officers and paid two police officers
9 those 13 would still be on duty paid with
10 COM-D funds. We would be paying for two
11 police officers. There would be 15
12 additional police officers on the street.
13 However, the fact that he laid them off, now
14 he had to bring six back, those six aren't
15 being paid by COM-D funding, those six have
16 to come out of our budget where we have six
17 instead of 15 where would only have to pay
18 two.

19 These are the kind of decisions that
20 are being made downstairs and I can't
21 understand, but it's everybody's fault but
22 theirs, and I repeat this every week, you
23 know, people tell me don't play the blame
24 game, but we have been here for two years
25 not ten years, and it has spiraled downhill

1 for the last ten years. We are all working
2 for you, trying do the best we can for you,
3 but it does get frustrating when things
4 aren't produced to us. Again, how can we
5 formulate our budget without this audit? We
6 have been pushing since May. Somebody has
7 to be held accountable, and I'm totally
8 discouraged, trust me. That's all of I have
9 to say on that, I'm sorry.

10 MS. EVANS: There are no other
11 speakers who have signed the sheet for this
12 evening, is there anyone else who cares to
13 address city council?

14 MS. KRAKE: Mrs. Evans, excuse me,
15 we did receive a phone call in our office
16 today telling us that Chief Davis would not
17 be able to attend because he was hunting.

18 MS. EVANS: Oh, thank you. I don't
19 know if the public heard that, but we did
20 receive -- we did receive a response at
21 least from the Chief of Police for his
22 absence at this public hearing --

23 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: The fire.

24 MS. EVANS: The fire chief, I'm
25 sorry.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: I didn't know you can
2 hunt in the dark though.

3 MS. EVANS: It is because he is
4 hunting. I would ask, however -- (gavel
5 banged) that the audience remain silent so
6 that we can hear each speaker and that
7 council members remain silent as well so
8 that the public has the opportunity to
9 speak.

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
11 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
12 I'm not going to sit here and tell you what
13 was done wrong for the last ten years, that
14 would be foolish because I cannot go back to
15 correct it, I have tried. For ten years I
16 have been saying that was going to happen,
17 but now it did happen. Now we've got to
18 move forward. I heard that our mayor was
19 down in Harrisburg trying to get a 1 percent
20 sales tax tacked onto the six that we
21 already pay. I don't know, I think the
22 legislature somewhere in their wisdom said
23 that certain cities could impose a greater
24 sales tax.

25 Now, I don't know if that was in the

1 budget or not, that sales tax proposal,
2 because I guess it has to be done down in
3 Harrisburg, but if it is passed, which I
4 doubt, but say it does pass, we all know we
5 are in competition with our surrounding
6 communities. Should that go into effect
7 there would even be less people buying in
8 Scranton when they can, you know, go a
9 little -- a couple of blocks out of the way
10 to get it cheaper, so that's not a viable
11 solution. Why the mayor would even propose
12 that is beyond me, but he looks up at the
13 sky, I guess and says, that's the limit.
14 People of Scranton could pay anything, but
15 that's not the case.

16 We all looked at the budget. Like I
17 told you I guess at the very beginning, I
18 feel sorry for you, I really do. I feel for
19 you because I would have a tough time making
20 the decisions you have to make but they got
21 to be made, somewhere along they got to be
22 made. I know we are going to get a raise in
23 taxes, there is no way out of it. I'm not
24 crazy with the mayor borrowing \$30 million
25 next year, borrowing all the interest on

1 the people. I mean, I don't really want to
2 get -- I guess when I speak during the
3 normal session I'll go back and tell you
4 what happened all the way up to where we are
5 and why we are here now. Unfortunately,
6 that's the trouble with getting in the
7 whole. You seem to get a lot of information
8 along the line, which I did. But like I
9 said, I don't envy you because the solutions
10 you've got to make are too tough for me to
11 even talk about them.

12 I cry for the people of Scranton, I
13 cry for the people that are on social
14 security, I cry for people who are on fixed
15 incomes because they are going to get
16 whacked like never before. I wish they had
17 paid more attention what was being done
18 instead of Nay Aug, maybe then we wouldn't
19 be where we are now. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

22 Mr. Sbaraglia, I just wanted to make a
23 comment, that 1 percent sales tax that Mayor
24 Doherty was lobbying for or that he wants to
25 lobby for that is not in the 2012 operating

1 budget.

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

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
5 Marie Schumacher.

6 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: First, I would like
8 to say I wish you would have invited our
9 state reps and senator. They have an
10 obligation to us, too. They know that this
11 city is one-third of the assessed value, our
12 real estate is consumed by tax exempt
13 entities, at least people you have agreed to
14 tax exempt, I don't agree with that, I'll
15 get into that later, but they have some
16 obligation here and it's time to bring them
17 in. They do scant little for there what is
18 it now, \$80,000 plus benefits, a couple of
19 meetings, and they need to be involved.

20 Also, I know that the legal notice
21 that was in the newspaper said the budget
22 was at the Albright Library. I went to the
23 ago Albright Library last night to finish, I
24 had spent time two weeks ago in the clerk's
25 office reviewing their budget, but there was

1 no budget there. And, fortunately, Judy,
2 the wonderful person in the library, knew
3 that it is on the Scranton Times-Tribune
4 website in it's entirety, so I was able
5 to -- I wasn't able to access it last night,
6 but I was today, so it's sort of hard to
7 comment if you can't find it. If you are
8 out working and you can't find time to
9 actually review the document. I think
10 that's terrible.

11 I noticed there is nothing set aside
12 for the purchase of the Serenity Army
13 Reserve Center, which as you know became
14 available though the BRAC, the base
15 realignment closure from eons ago. Still
16 not settled and I testified at that hearing
17 that the city did not have the matching
18 funds as did other entities who are
19 interested in the property, but for some
20 reason the city went ahead, so I would like
21 to request tonight that the city council
22 send a letter to the BRAC Committee and let
23 them know that we did not have the money for
24 the matching funds to purchase the Serenity
25 Army Reserve Center, and I'm sure if we did

1 they would probably go ahead and sell it for
2 a dollar to the Scranton School District.
3 Gardner School wants it, I say let them have
4 it.

5 Also, parking. Now, parking ticket
6 revenue, of course, is not in the budget
7 because of the mayor's plan to sell the
8 parking meters to the Parking Authority, so
9 I understand that is not going to happen. I
10 feel secure that you are not going to do
11 that as you said that, but I wonder then do
12 we need to set aside for the Scranton
13 Parking Authority to pay for their debt, and
14 I didn't find that either. I know the
15 Parking Authority already sent money in for
16 next year's bond and I'm sure it will be
17 even worse the following year so that's
18 another set aside that I can't find in the
19 budget. There is no --

20 MR. JOYCE: If I could briefly, I'm
21 sorry to interrupt you. In the debt service
22 columns towards the back of the budget -- or
23 in the nondepartmental expenditures, there
24 is an operating transfer to the Scranton
25 Parking Authority for \$400,000. That's the

1 assumption on what the deficit of the
2 Parking Authority would be if we were to
3 sell the meters to them. If we don't sell
4 the meters to them, that would become \$1.6
5 million as they stated --

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm aware of that,
7 yeah.

8 MR. JOYCE: So that would have to
9 increase from \$400,000 to \$1.6 million.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Absolutely. And
11 that's what I'm asking, you know, to make
12 sure that it doesn't get overlooked. Also,
13 I couldn't find a set aside for the
14 reimbursement to HUD. Now, we all know it's
15 not going to be \$11 million, but about
16 \$200,000 would be prudent, and if it comes
17 in less than that then, you know, it
18 certainly -- I'm sure we can find another
19 place for it.

20 Now, again, I know I'm going to
21 sound like a broken record because I talk
22 about this every year, but I think you
23 people need to sit down and review all of
24 the tax free properties for compliance with
25 the state statutes. I think there a large

1 percentage of those properties are not
2 eligible really for -- that you could
3 challenge their taxes -- property tax exempt
4 status, and I think now is the time to do
5 that.

6 I noticed the false alarm calls are
7 now limited to one and then it's going to be
8 \$300 for each false alarm. Now, if we can
9 charge taxpayers why can't we charge every
10 other tax exempt property for every call
11 that's made to a tax exempt property whether
12 it's fire or police?

13 Cable TV revenue. ECTV -- the
14 proposal that the mayor accepted from ECTV
15 had a percentage of the cable TV revenue
16 going to ECTV for their operating funds. I
17 don't see any -- it looks as though it's all
18 being put in the operating budget and if we
19 want to continue I think we are going to
20 have to come up with some money for them.

21 Then, how will the second tax
22 anticipation note that received no bids,
23 what is the plan for replacing that revenue?

24 I would like to ask, also, that the
25 health care costs be separated between

1 active employees and retired employees.

2 And if I may have a couple more
3 comments? The workers' comp has gone from
4 1.9 or 2.0 in the current year to 3.5. I
5 don't understand why. I have read the
6 lengthy analysis and at the end of the
7 budget it's clear as mud to me, but I don't
8 know how we could have dipped down to 1.95
9 this year and gone up to 3.5. I'm
10 disappointed there is no new computer system
11 for tracking permits and fees because we
12 definitely need more transparency there, and
13 I guess I'll stop there and let somebody
14 have the podium and I'll be back during the
15 regular meeting.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MR. JOYCE: Just to clarify one of
18 your inquiries, in regard to retirees, I
19 don't have the number offhand, I actually
20 did ask our business administrator, Ryan
21 McGowan, for the number of employees that --
22 well, actual employees, retired employees
23 that are being paid health insurance through
24 the city, and I have the number of employees
25 at home and I could forward that over to

1 you, but as far the cost, I believe it's
2 somewhere between the seven to eight million
3 dollar range as far as what the health care
4 costs for all of the retirees that the city
5 still funds health benefits to.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: I mean, that's
7 obviously more important than the quantity
8 because like, you know, some people don't
9 spend hardly anything and other people run
10 up hundreds off thousands of dollars so I
11 would like to see that still. Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
13 cares to address council? Thank you all for
14 your participation. This public hearing is
15 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER