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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, January 12, 2012

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  
(Not Present.)

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE  
(Not Present.)

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR  
(Not Present.)

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. Mr.

7 Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce. Mrs.

10 Evans.

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

13 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX  
14 ASSESSOR'S REPORT, HEARING DATES FOR  
15 NOVEMBER 16, 2011 AND DECEMBER 7, 2011.

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

18 3-B. MINUTES OF THE FIREMEN'S  
19 PENSION COMMISSION MEETING  
20 HELD OCTOBER 26, AND NOVEMBER 16 OF 2011.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE  
24 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING HELD  
25 NOVEMBER 16, 2011.

1 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
2 If not, received and filed.

3 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE  
4 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING  
5 HELD NOVEMBER 16, 2011.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE  
9 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD  
10 NOVEMBER 16, 2011.

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

13 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
14 FOR THE MONTH ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2011.

15 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
16 If not, received and filed. Do we have any  
17 clerk's notes this evening, Mrs. Krake?

18 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any  
20 council members have announcements at this  
21 time? Mr. Joyce and Mr. Rogan are unable to  
22 attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Joyce is ill  
23 and Mr. Rogan is out of town.

24 The Scranton/Lackawanna County  
25 Taxpayers' Association will hold a very

1 important meeting to elect officers for 2012  
2 next Tuesday, January 17, at 6:00 p.m. in  
3 Scranton City Hall. Anyone interested is  
4 urged to attend. That's it.

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

7 MS. EVANS: Before we begin our  
8 citizens' participation this evening, I  
9 would ask please that audience members turn  
10 off all cell phones and remain quiet during  
11 this portion of the meeting in that council  
12 will be able to hear the speakers and that  
13 those in the audience as well are able to  
14 hear the speakers. And our first speaker  
15 this evening is Andy Sbaraglia.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
17 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, a  
18 few days ago there was big headlines in the  
19 paper City losses 200 -- I think \$250,000.  
20 I don't know. I don't know who to blame,  
21 but I assume they are blaming council for  
22 it. They blamed council for everything in  
23 the newspaper but nobody said anything about  
24 the 30 million we have to borrow to pay off  
25 the borrowing that was caused by the mayor

1           himself. That 30 million we have to pay was  
2           caused by the mayor's policies, no one  
3           else's. You have always, council has always  
4           -- I guess the first two weeks before you  
5           really went through all of the taxes was  
6           normal in the procedure that you are to  
7           follow, but it's -- what are you going to do  
8           today? I mean, if the newspaper is going to  
9           cry about the 200,000 or 230,000 and forget  
10          about the 30 million, it's pretty stupid,  
11          but whoever said they were smart at the  
12          newspaper.

13                        But here we stand starting the new  
14          year with a heck of a lot of old problems.  
15          It's ashame. Too bad you couldn't sit up  
16          there and be clear and say, hey, you got to  
17          look forward to something. We don't have  
18          much to look forward to because the past is  
19          terrible. I read in the paper another  
20          attack on Chamberlain again. If I'm not --  
21          I think everyone in Chamberlain paid \$52  
22          bucks I think. They do get that fee, right?  
23          The \$52 few that everybody has to pay that  
24          works in the city.

25                        MS. EVANS: Oh, the LST tax.

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: And parking was  
2 always allowed there. Why somebody got it  
3 in their right mind to put meters there is  
4 beyond me. I would be happy to have a plant  
5 in the city like Chamberlains and do what I  
6 can to keep the people in the city and  
7 hoping they would move into the city, but I  
8 know with the tax situation is they are  
9 making a good buck, them taxes are murder  
10 and there is nothing you can do about it,  
11 you know?

12 Like I say, in the very beginning  
13 years and years ago no one minded to pay  
14 them high wage tax because your grandmother  
15 and mother had low taxes on their homes and  
16 we are able to live fairly comfortable on  
17 their benefits, but not today. They  
18 hammered them people like crazy. Now I am  
19 up in them ranks and I guess they will be  
20 hammering me soon if I live long enough.

21 But the point is the city really is  
22 in financial trouble, deep, deep financial  
23 trouble, and I don't see a window that we  
24 can look out to say how are we going to get  
25 out of this problem. It's getting deeper

1 and deeper, you and I know that and you  
2 can't just keep taxing the people. They are  
3 already taxed. This is a bad time to even  
4 think about taxes. Even the county all of  
5 sudden looks at something and says, hey,  
6 maybe that's not a good idea. I guess they  
7 should -- we already went through with the  
8 Republicans when they got in with that huge  
9 tax increase, now that Democrats got in  
10 there and want another huge tax increase, so  
11 what are we getting for our money? Very  
12 little. We lost the county -- you know, you  
13 can't do nothing with the county, so I won't  
14 mention it, what they had to sell off, but  
15 the city maybe we can do a little at least  
16 to soften the slide or hold the slide, I  
17 guess. I don't think you can stop it, but  
18 you might get them to hold it up a little.

19 People keep attacking this council  
20 as supermajority, and believe me if we had a  
21 supermajority ten years ago we wouldn't be  
22 where we are today. You cannot do what --  
23 anybody with common sense would say, you  
24 can't just do it all at once. You want to  
25 make changes, you want improvements, there



1 is no question about that. The old DPW site  
2 was pretty bad, there is no question about  
3 it, so there was nothing wrong with a new  
4 DPW site, but when you need everything new  
5 at the same time this is what the problem  
6 is.

7 I mean, you just can't keep  
8 borrowing thinking that there is going to be  
9 people to keep paying. Scranton is losing  
10 population little by little and I guess what  
11 the Hispanics it sort of stabilized I think  
12 at \$67,000, but that's not enough to take  
13 care of the debt. And when you see a  
14 building going there or new building there  
15 or that building or whatever we need maximum  
16 taxes we can get on that building no matter  
17 what because you already got maximum taxes  
18 on the houses. Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ozzie Quinn.

20 MR. QUINN: Thank you. Good  
21 evening. Ozzie Quinn, Taxpayers'  
22 Association.

23 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

24 MR. QUINN: Under "A" motions, first  
25 of all, I want to vindicate myself in regard

1 to that Scranton Lace and the neighborhood  
2 associations. You know, I spoke to  
3 Mr. Hubbard after and the fact is that the  
4 Scranton Lace, you know, you look at it and  
5 they are not covering the whole area. There  
6 is Von Storch Avenue, there is the 600 block  
7 of Marian Street, there is Dickson Avenue,  
8 there is a whole area in there that people  
9 are not aware of what's going on, so I just  
10 want to let you know. I lived on Sanderson  
11 Avenue just over about three blocks so I  
12 know that neighborhood, so I just wanted to  
13 bring that to your attention.

14 Also, under "A", motions, I want to  
15 commend council for giving ECTV \$20,000 to  
16 continue televising. I understand that they  
17 are going to start streaming the program and  
18 it's going to be on several different  
19 channels, okay, and \$20,000 isn't much, but,  
20 you know, you are commended because of the  
21 fact that people can know what's going on  
22 directly here in the city, all right?

23 And on "K" I see where there is an  
24 ordinance where the authorizing the mayor  
25 for half a million dollars -- to transfer

1 half a million dollars from different  
2 projects, and one I was concerned about was  
3 the Hill Neighborhood association. I'm a  
4 member of the Hill Neighborhood association  
5 and I wrote the application back in the  
6 Connors' administration for this program.  
7 It was approved by the city council and it  
8 was approved by the mayor and then when the  
9 Doherty administration come in here it went  
10 right down the tubes. If you are going  
11 to -- if you are going to do anything with  
12 it I know the streets are bad and  
13 everything, but I would ask you to meet with  
14 the Hill Neighborhood Association officers  
15 in a caucus here or something or whatever or  
16 send them a letter to come in or something  
17 to discuss this because this has been  
18 hanging on for a long time, this  
19 application, and if has to go I would like  
20 to see it go, I know the roads are bad, but  
21 I would like to still see it go to ECTV  
22 where if they are going to streamline it's  
23 going to go to different channels and truly  
24 open up the doors \$20,000, but they are  
25 going a lot of volunteer work, okay?

1                   Now, also I want to talk about SAPA.  
2                   You know, Scranton Area Planning  
3                   Association. You know, recently the Luzerne  
4                   County and Lackawanna County Regional  
5                   Planning Commissions combined to do a master  
6                   plan, a comprehensive plan, and they are  
7                   hoping that all municipalities in the both  
8                   counties go along with the various parts of  
9                   a plan, okay, and it has to do with sprawl,  
10                  zoning and everything, okay?

11                  And I want to commend the council  
12                  because they turned down the SAPA because of  
13                  the fact that if you did join the SAPA you  
14                  probably would have been paid money -- you  
15                  probably would have been committed, okay,  
16                  you would have lost your identity for being  
17                  able to do stuff, okay? Whereby under the  
18                  Regional Planning Commission plan you  
19                  haven't lost it, okay? You still have a  
20                  right to, you know, to turndown what you  
21                  want to do, but if you are under SAPA and  
22                  you join that I think you were obliged to go  
23                  with whatever they wanted to do, so I wanted  
24                  to commend you for doing that.

25                  And I would advise you again for

1 asking the city planning or the Scranton  
2 City Planning Commission to meet with the  
3 Lackawanna County Regional Planning  
4 Commission to discuss this here master plan,  
5 okay?

6 Public safety, you know, I'm very  
7 much concerned, Ash Street covers all where  
8 I live, it covers Petersburg, I live down by  
9 the -- people don't know where it's at  
10 anymore, the little England section, Bunker  
11 Hill, whatnot. That's a big area, okay?  
12 And then you get to East Mountain. You  
13 know, East Mountain, a lot of people think  
14 of East Mountain they think of East Mountain  
15 Road, they never realize, okay, not talking  
16 about the other side, okay, to the left  
17 where we go up on the right, all that area  
18 is about a mile and a quarter of houses all  
19 the way back there, all right? And I know  
20 that that is the highest realty tax  
21 producing area in the city, okay? And to  
22 take a fire station away from those people  
23 and, you know, there is homes up there and  
24 it's just unbelievable, you know, that if  
25 something ever happens on River Street, the

1 bridge, and they have to go up 307 forget  
2 about it, okay?

3 The last one I want to ask you  
4 quickly, if I could, the Scranton Times on  
5 Tuesday, January 10, "City to tackle blight.  
6 \$1.1 million available."

7 They are going to raze buildings ten  
8 to 15,000. Now, how many times have I come  
9 up here through the years seven years asking  
10 for a rehabilitation program to eliminate  
11 this blight, okay? Here you have a  
12 situation where you have contractor  
13 specialists out there. You could, if you  
14 have any know how, you could sell these  
15 buildings to contractors to fix them up,  
16 okay? I bet you nobody in OECD ever goes  
17 around the various communities to find out  
18 what's going on and I just -- I don't like  
19 the idea and I just want to say one thing  
20 here, okay, and I will finish as quickly a I  
21 can.

22 Mayor Chris Doherty said that the  
23 City Department of Public Works' employees  
24 maintain some of the properties and, excuse  
25 me, and that you just can't keep cutting

1 parks and DPW. The 2012 \$85.3 million  
2 budget cut 20 DPW workers. DPW workers are  
3 hard workers, there is no doubt about it,  
4 but the fact is what he is doing with this  
5 and what they are talking about blight,  
6 eliminating blight, okay, that's throwing  
7 perfume on the pig. That's what it amounts  
8 to, okay? Thank you very much.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Mr. Quinn, if you would  
11 like to take a look at this and then you can  
12 return it to Ms. Carrera, there is an  
13 explanation for the Hill Neighborhood  
14 Association Funding as well as all of the  
15 categories of funding from which the money  
16 is going to be transferred toward,  
17 handicapped curb cuts and the heating  
18 program, so if you would like to read  
19 through that and then at your leisure just  
20 return it to Ms. Carrera.

21 MR. QUINN: Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Carl Kupchunas.

23 MS. KUPCHUNAS: Mrs. Evans, actually  
24 Liz Hubbard was on top of the list and I was  
25 switched places with Liz so actually she

1           should be ahead of me and then I'll go after  
2           Liz.

3                     MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4                     MS. HUBBARD: Good evening, Council.  
5           Liz Hubbard, Scranton resident and taxpayer.  
6           I have a couple of issues and maybe a  
7           question, but I want to preface my question  
8           with a statement that I think recycling is a  
9           great thing and I've recycled for years and  
10          years before I even moved back to the city.  
11          I pay for the recycling in the city. Now, I  
12          know of three bars that put out 20, 10, more  
13          than that, cans of recycling and the DPW --  
14          and they are the blue city recycling cans  
15          and the DPW is picking them up.

16                    Now, my question is are they paying  
17          for that because I have to pay for it?  
18          Could you look into that?

19                    MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure.

20                    MS. HUBBARD: And my second issue,  
21          this wonderful project that they want to do  
22          at the Lace Company, there are two buildings  
23          in the 1500 block of Mylert Avenue that  
24          should have been condemned and demolished  
25          years ago. They haven't had a roof on those



1 buildings in 20 years. They are just shells  
2 of buildings and there is people in there  
3 working, apparently I think a couple of  
4 years ago part of the roof fell and injured  
5 someone that was working in there. Now, if  
6 the city is so interested in cleaning up  
7 blight those two buildings would be a good  
8 place to start because that would enhance  
9 the area of the Lace Company and anybody  
10 coming to look at the Lace Company, but  
11 those buildings are really truly an eyesore  
12 and I feel they are a hazard.

13 And, I mean, the city is busy  
14 ripping houses down for people around town,  
15 get rid of those ugly things that are  
16 dangerous and all of the junk that's parked  
17 out in front of them and across the street  
18 and it's just a mess. Anyway, so if you  
19 could look into that I'd like maybe an  
20 answer to those questions.

21 But the recycling, I mean, I'm all  
22 for recycling, pick it up for the bars, but  
23 they should have to pay, too.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: I agree.

25 MS. HUBBARD: Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Mr. Kupchunas.

2 MR. KUPCHUNAS: Good evening. My  
3 name is Carl Kupchunas. I'm a lifelong  
4 resident of lower Greenridge. The reason  
5 I'm here today is to express support for the  
6 Scranton Lace Company project with the  
7 stipulations that the developers had  
8 indicated to our neighbors at a meeting at  
9 the Lace Company property this past Sunday.

10 After suffering through three  
11 floods, finally something good is happening  
12 to our lower Greenridge neighborhood. The  
13 project is also good for the city in  
14 general. With many businesses leaving the  
15 city under the leadership of Mayor Doherty,  
16 most recently the LT Verrastro Company had  
17 left the city, it's not nice to know that  
18 some new businesses will be making Scranton  
19 their home.

20 However, I did have some concerns  
21 about the project before the meeting on  
22 Sunday. At the meeting with the developers,  
23 they had assured us that the college  
24 dormitories were for graduate students of  
25 the Commonwealth Medical College and not

1           dormitories for the Lackawanna County Junior  
2           College. Another concern was about the  
3           tavern on the legislation. The developers  
4           assured us that there would be no tavern,  
5           the requesting liquor license was for a  
6           restaurant that would be in the complex.

7                     The developer further agreed that  
8           zoning in the 1400 of Albright and Gardner  
9           Avenues would be changed to R-2 residential  
10          which will protect the residents of that  
11          area, which is where my home is currently  
12          located. I am pleased with the developer's  
13          proposal and that they are willing to go on  
14          public record with the changes that the  
15          lower Greenridge residents have concerns  
16          about.

17                    Prior to the meeting on Sunday I was  
18          concerned that this might be another  
19          backdoor deal by Doherty like the recent  
20          Daron Industries debacle on Dickson Avenue  
21          where Doherty painted a rosy picture for the  
22          neighbors and it ended up being a nightmare  
23          for the neighbor. However, after speaking  
24          to the developers, I'm sure that the  
25          Scranton Lace Company project will be a

1 benefit not only to our neighborhood, it  
2 will be a benefit to the entire City of  
3 Scranton and I'm excited about what the  
4 future is going to bring to our neighborhood  
5 and the Scranton Lace Company project.

6 In other matters, I'm very concerned  
7 about the cuts in fire protection caused by  
8 Mayor Doherty. Many years ago before the  
9 Doherty administration there was a small  
10 fire at my home after lightening hit the  
11 antenna on my house. The fire company was  
12 there in less than two minutes and damage  
13 was minimal.

14 Now, last month there were times  
15 there were only four firehouses open for the  
16 entire 27 square miles of the City of  
17 Scranton. This is frightening especially if  
18 there is more than one call at a time. I  
19 recommend the residents of the Scranton go  
20 to [www.Scrantonfire.com](http://www.Scrantonfire.com) which has a daily  
21 listing of the closed fire houses then call  
22 the mayor to let him know that you are not  
23 pleased with dangerous cuts in public  
24 safety. There were already three people in  
25 Scranton that lost their life due to

1 Doherty's cutting public safety. That's not  
2 acceptable. Let's hope and pray that no  
3 more people lose their life because of cuts  
4 in public safety.

5 Finally I have a question for  
6 council, who gets the money from the LST tax  
7 which, was formerly called the Right to Work  
8 Tax? What that is is a \$1 per week taken  
9 from the paycheck of anyone who works in  
10 Scranton it's a total of \$52 for the year,  
11 what government entity gets the money from  
12 that tax and what is it used for? Every  
13 time -- I ask several people, nobody seem to  
14 know where it goes. To me that would be a  
15 very sizable amount of income and that would  
16 be good for the city. I really don't know  
17 where it goes. And thank you very much for  
18 your time. If you could get me that  
19 information I would appreciate it.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Marie Schumacher.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

23 Marie Schumacher again.

24 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: I have a few brief

1            comments hopefully because the real reason  
2            I'm here tonight deals with the fire  
3            protection, but I do have comments, on 5-J I  
4            can't understand which the their equipment  
5            located in a pump station located beneath  
6            Mattes Avenue applies to. If it applies to  
7            Scranton equipment or is it going to  
8            ammunition plant company equipment, so I  
9            would like that clarified.

10                    On "K", 5-K, I would like to know  
11                    what the percent split is going to be  
12                    between the road reconstruction and the  
13                    handicapped curb cuts and I would like to  
14                    see a list of the streets that are to be  
15                    reconstructed, identified before passage.

16                    And then again on 7-A, I think it's  
17                    fine that the lower Greenridge Association  
18                    approves of this project, but what about  
19                    other areas in the city? Once you pass this  
20                    as general as it is, all neighborhoods could  
21                    make it a tavern, so in this particular  
22                    instance with the Lace Works it's going to  
23                    be a restaurant, part of a restaurant and  
24                    the neighbors approve of that, but once you  
25                    put tavern in there you have to stick with

1           it and other neighborhoods may not want to  
2           have a tavern in their neighborhood, and  
3           that's why I think you need specific  
4           incentive areas. I'm in favor of the Lace  
5           Company project. It's been an eyesore for  
6           years with overgrown grass and things, but I  
7           do think the specific areas have to be  
8           identified and I do think that every project  
9           should have to come in before council  
10          because it's right that all neighborhoods  
11          get to comment on projects in their  
12          neighborhoods not just the first project  
13          under the new ordinance.

14                   And now to my reason, again, I'd  
15          like to provide you maps. I sincerely wish  
16          that each of you could have been with me  
17          last Friday. The weather was balmy and I  
18          took my little guy that I babysit and we  
19          went for a walk and we went up to see the  
20          fire truck at Engine 10, and when we got  
21          there surprise of surprises there was no  
22          fire engine in there, there was a police  
23          vehicle, and it was then despite having been  
24          told that Engine 10 was still operating and  
25          was only under brownout conditions that was

1 not the case. I called the fire chief, I  
2 called the police chief and learned the sad  
3 news that, in fact, it's closed.

4 Now, if you look at the map that I  
5 gave you, I just can't tell you what that  
6 feeling was. I have actually had nightmares  
7 this week where I dreamed that there is a  
8 house on fire and people come from across  
9 the street with a garden hose and I wake up.  
10 I mean, this is very scary. If you look at  
11 that map and now, again, I apologize for the  
12 analogy that I'm going to draw here because  
13 I know that Crisp Avenue Bridge was a real  
14 issue, if that, again, if that street had  
15 been properly maintained we never would have  
16 had that problem, but it wasn't, it wasn't  
17 dredged and that's part of the bigger issue,  
18 but look at all of the time that you all  
19 spent talking about that, how inconvenient  
20 that was to the residents in that area.  
21 Look at the small area that was affected.

22 Look at the map below. I have  
23 circled or sort of drawn a ballpoint line  
24 around what is East Mountain and how you  
25 access East Mountain. Those are the pink



1 lines. You come up River Street, Linwood  
2 avenue I know a truck from downtown couldn't  
3 and I don't think any truck could make it up  
4 Linwood Avenue. You have Seymour Avenue and  
5 Snook and Cleveland. And see where they  
6 are? See where the majority of the houses  
7 are? I mean, I'm not too bad, but you go--  
8 and this isn't just flatland like you have  
9 in other sections of the city, these are  
10 hills. These are city streets, they are  
11 narrow streets, and you go up the top -- say  
12 something if you are up the top of Fig  
13 Street, I mean, I can't believe that  
14 everybody from those places aren't here.

15 And I took a look at the budget  
16 because I'm very upset that the council did  
17 not do more for our protection in the budget  
18 and I looked at -- if I may finish this --  
19 my --

20 MS. EVANS: Quickly, please.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: My dollars and  
22 cents here. You -- or council said we would  
23 have \$600,000 as a figure from a grant that  
24 is expected to come in this year to be  
25 applied. I have heard somebody, and I don't

1 know if it's accurate, but the figure of a  
2 million dollars to maintain the 29  
3 firefighters that were dismissed as of the  
4 first of January. If you take the  
5 unemployment compensation figures from the  
6 2012 budget, which is \$1,208,000 and  
7 change, and subtract what was in for the  
8 past year 2011, you still have \$1,094,329  
9 increase in unemployment compensation. If  
10 you divide that by 51, I know it's just for  
11 an average, that equates to \$21,451 per  
12 person that was let go at the beginning of  
13 this year. If you multiply that times 29  
14 you come up with \$622,079. You add that to  
15 the other \$600,000 and you have well over  
16 the million dollars that is needed to keep  
17 those people.

18 I cannot understand a council that  
19 would rather vote for \$1 million of  
20 unemployment compensation when that could be  
21 applied toward a salary and we could have  
22 our fire protection. I think that East  
23 Mountain is extremely, extremely vulnerable.  
24 On a lot of sides up there there is forest,  
25 there is apt to be forest fires, it's forest

1 area if it gets dry. There is some older  
2 homes in there. It's not a very good --  
3 it's not a very good feeling and I'm very  
4 disappointed and I hope that's corrected  
5 very, very soon. Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And Doug  
7 Miller.

8 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.  
9 Doug Miller, Scranton.

10 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

11 MR. MILLER: I just want to begin  
12 real briefly tonight, I just wanted to  
13 respond to a comment that Mrs. Schumacher  
14 just made and, you know, with all due  
15 respect to Mrs. Schumacher, you know, I  
16 respect her for coming up to the podium and  
17 appreciate her suggestions and everything,  
18 but I just had to respond to a statement she  
19 made regarding council's lack of action on  
20 public safety. I just have to say I don't  
21 think it's fair to necessarily criticize  
22 this council, I believe when you take a look  
23 at the position you were in and what you did  
24 allocate funding to reinstate 13 firemen so  
25 I don't think it's fair to really come up

1 here and quite point the finger at this  
2 council when, in fact, this is all the  
3 mayor's hands down as it has been for the  
4 last ten years.

5 What I think we should be doing is  
6 coming up here commending this council for  
7 what they did and we all know you were in a  
8 very tough situation with this and, of  
9 course, we wish we could have kept all 29.  
10 In the situation we were in, you were able  
11 to find some funding, I believe a \$600,000  
12 retiree grant if -- maybe if somebody wants  
13 to -- -

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Prescription.

15 MR. MILLER: Prescription, that's  
16 right, that's what it was, and now it's in  
17 the mayor's hand and we will see what he  
18 does with it.

19 But moving on here, I would like to  
20 begin tonight on agenda Item 5-G regarding  
21 the garbage fee, and I just have to say as I  
22 have stated many times before this is a fee  
23 that I never believed in. I believe it's a  
24 taxation without representation and I  
25 believe this is why we pay our taxes. This

1 is a prime example. We pay taxes for  
2 services such as garbage collection and I  
3 don't believe that we should be placing any  
4 more burdens on the residents of this city,  
5 including those living on fixed incomes such  
6 as senior citizens and others out there who  
7 are struggling to meet their obligations,  
8 and so tonight I would just request of  
9 council, I'm not sure what your positions  
10 are on this matter, but I would ask you as a  
11 concerned resident looking out for those who  
12 are struggling to consider voting this down  
13 because as we have looked at some of the  
14 recommendations PEL made recently I believe,  
15 and yet again you can correct me if I'm  
16 wrong, but they actually recommended that we  
17 increase it to over \$200.

18 Again, we get another unrealistic  
19 expectation that PEL had of us and just yet  
20 again another reason why we should continue  
21 -- we should again consider distancing  
22 ourselves from PEL. So, as I said, I would  
23 just ask that you consider voting this down.  
24 The residents can't take anymore of this.

25 Regarding 5-I, legislation dealing

1 with ECTV, I'm very supportive of this  
2 legislation. I want to commend council for  
3 placing it on the agenda and feeling that  
4 it's necessary to provide the \$20,000 in  
5 funding for ECTV for the next coming year.  
6 I believe it just goes to show, you know,  
7 our willingness to continue the transparency  
8 and accountability not only in our city  
9 government, but through other educational  
10 programming that is shown on that station  
11 and I just want to thank ECTV for the  
12 services they provided and, obviously, we  
13 look forward to continuing that for the next  
14 year.

15 The next issue I have tonight is  
16 going back to a Right-to-Know request that I  
17 submitted I'd say probably going back three  
18 weeks now regarding the Nay Aug Park light  
19 show, which I requested a copy of the  
20 expense report operating the 2010 light  
21 show, and for those of you who aren't  
22 familiar with this topic, obviously we had  
23 some issues with the 2011 light show where  
24 lights were left on at all hours of the day,  
25 certainly adding unnecessary expenses, and

1 I'm still at this point waiting for a  
2 response from Mr. McGowan on this matter and  
3 I hope to get one shortly. I don't believe  
4 it should take more than a month to get a  
5 response, but at the same time it's probably  
6 been happening, you know, here in the city  
7 for quite some time so it's really not  
8 surprising to me, but hopefully we will hear  
9 something soon.

10 The next issue is dealing with the  
11 Parking Authority and their decision to  
12 remove the parking meters from the  
13 Chamberlain location and also installing "No  
14 Parking" signs. If we go back I believe to  
15 2009, if we can all remember, the  
16 installation of the meters had to come  
17 through council and I believe it was one of  
18 the last pieces of legislation that the  
19 mayor's rubber stamp majority voted on and  
20 approved. So my question tonight is why  
21 wouldn't this council majority have been  
22 sent legislation to approve not only the  
23 removal of the meters, but also the  
24 installation of the "No Parking" signs? I  
25 think this is yet again another example of

1 the administration picking and choosing when  
2 they want to follow the proper procedure  
3 and, you know, I think tonight perhaps we  
4 can get some clarification on this as to why  
5 council didn't have any say in this matter  
6 because I just think, you know, these  
7 authorities they think they are going to  
8 dictate what goes on and they are very  
9 misinformed. They weren't elected to  
10 represent the residents of this city and  
11 when you have people like Bob Scopelliti and  
12 other people running these authorities who,  
13 quite frankly, aren't even qualified to run  
14 the town and make decisions I don't believe  
15 it's appropriate.

16 And finally tonight, if I can just  
17 real brief, as we begin a new year and a new  
18 chapter in the city it's my sincere hope  
19 that we can begin to create or establish a  
20 working relationship between the council and  
21 the mayor, and as I have stated numerous  
22 times from this podium, this council  
23 majority has reached out to the  
24 administration on several occasions, on  
25 budget issues and a wide variety of other



1 issues, but unfortunately, that attempt to  
2 create a relationship was ignored by my way  
3 or the highway attitude and I just feel that  
4 as we begin a new year in order for us to  
5 begin the revitalization of the city and  
6 build a bright future for the next  
7 generation we need the cooperation, but it  
8 starts with the man downstairs. The mayor  
9 needs to put his ego and politics aside and  
10 he needs to work with this council majority.

11 You have been left with quite a  
12 mess, and I have said many times, I couldn't  
13 tell you how sorry I feel for you, but at  
14 the end of the day the only ones that suffer  
15 from all the chaos and all the bickering  
16 back and forth are the residents of this  
17 city, and I know that council -- or I know  
18 that the residents of this city have four  
19 watchdogs that are looking out for them and  
20 I know you will continue to do so for the  
21 next few years to come, and I appreciate  
22 your time tonight. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bill  
24 Jackowitz.

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,

1 Council. Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton  
2 resident and member of the Taxpayers'  
3 association. Can someone please give me the  
4 update and the statutes report on 2010  
5 audit?

6 MS. EVANS: I'm going to address  
7 that briefly under my motions tonight.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, because I  
9 haven't read anything in the paper about it  
10 being released and I haven't heard anything  
11 and I'm just hoping that has been released  
12 and you have copies of it.

13 Okay, also I would like to just  
14 possibly could be tomorrow's headline maybe,  
15 maybe not, but I understand a local bank  
16 found \$3 million in parking meter money in  
17 the Parking Authority as late as today. If  
18 that is true, I hope the Times and WNEP and  
19 everybody else do a thorough investigation  
20 into it because I'm being told that money,  
21 that \$3 million has been in the Parking  
22 Authority for quite sometime and the mayor  
23 and other people have known about it. So if  
24 this is true I hope an investigation is done  
25 with it and I hope it's the headlines in

1 tomorrow's paper, "Local bank finds \$3  
2 million hidden parking revenue money."

3 We have no fire, we have police  
4 protections being cut and everything else,  
5 we don't have no new vehicles for our  
6 emergency people, but yet we have \$3 million  
7 that could possibly be hidden and tucked  
8 away in an account that the mayor and other  
9 people in the administration knew about,  
10 including the director of the Parking  
11 Authority because it was found in his  
12 banking accounts.

13 Okay, Mr. Loscombe, if I may please,  
14 has the firefighters and police officers  
15 been laid off according to the new 2012  
16 budget?

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, they have.

18 MR. JACKOWITZ: Mr. McGoff, have all  
19 DPW workers been laid off according to the  
20 2012 budget or are some of them still  
21 working?

22 MR. MCGOFF: It was my understanding  
23 that letters were sent to them, termination  
24 letters were sent.

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: Can you find out for

1 me, please, and the citizens as to whether  
2 or not they are still working and being paid  
3 or not, that's my question. I'm not talking  
4 about letters. A letter doesn't mean  
5 anything.

6 MR. MCGOFF: All I can -- the only  
7 answer I can give you at this time is that  
8 at a meeting the other day the Human  
9 Resources Director said that letters were  
10 sent to all employees that were terminated.

11 MR. JACKOWITZ: If you would,  
12 please, could you please find out next week  
13 for sure whether or not they all have been  
14 laid off and they are not working? Because  
15 the firefighters and police officers have  
16 been, am I correct, Mr. Loscombe?

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Correct.

18 MR. JACKOWITZ: So what's fair for  
19 the firefighters and police officers should  
20 also be fair for the DPW. That's my opinion  
21 and my opinion only. So, Mr. McGoff, if you  
22 can please find that out for me I would  
23 greatly appreciate it.

24 I see where there is an issue on  
25 today's agenda about the insurance. Is the

1 city fully insured as of January 12, 2012?

2 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: We are.

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: We are insured?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll be doing some  
6 addressing to that issue, too, in my  
7 comments.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, does that have  
9 to come to council for approval?

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: Just as long as it  
13 comes through council and it's going through  
14 proper channels because there has been too  
15 much in the city that seems to go away and  
16 not followed proper procedures.

17 As far as the parking meters go in  
18 the Chamberlain Corporation, again, Scranton  
19 has become the laughing stock of the entire  
20 area because everywhere you go people just  
21 laugh and say, "What, Scranton can't make up  
22 their mind? Do they want the parking meters  
23 or do they want the parking meters there,  
24 where are they going to be next week?"

25 And then as far as "No Parking"

1 signs go, again, I always thought that that  
2 had to be approved by council. He put "No  
3 Parking" signs in front of the Lackawanna  
4 County jail, the signs are still there, but  
5 people are parking there because it's  
6 illegal. These signs are illegal, they  
7 should be removed. Again, contact Mr.  
8 Dougher and have Mr. Dougher remove those  
9 signs from the front of the county jail.

10 Same thing goes with down here at  
11 the Chamberlain Corporation, we have --  
12 General Dynamics is one of the biggest  
13 industries we have in the City of Scranton.  
14 What are you trying to do, run these people  
15 out of here? First we are going to put  
16 parking meters in there for their employees  
17 to park then we are going to pull the  
18 parking meters out and then we are going to  
19 put "No Parking" signs there?

20 Come on, people, let's be for real.  
21 I mean, no wonder why the City of Scranton  
22 has nothing. No one wants to come here.  
23 They pay high taxes and high fees, except  
24 for the fire chief, he doesn't pay fees  
25 until after he gets caught, but everybody

1 else pays for their fees, and then you want  
2 to know why people are leaving the city and  
3 they don't want to stay here.

4 Now we find out there is a  
5 possibility of \$3 million being hidden in an  
6 account at the Parking Authority for parking  
7 revenue, for parking tickets revenue. If  
8 this is true I hope it's blasted all over  
9 the news media and I hope they do a thorough  
10 investigation into it because that's \$3  
11 million that has been sitting there from  
12 what I'm being told for a few years and  
13 being hidden, lack of a better word, being  
14 hidden, and if this is true we need -- the  
15 citizens of this city of the taxpayers and a  
16 residents of this city need to know what's  
17 going on and it's the news media's  
18 responsibility to do that and that includes  
19 the Times-Tribune. We have a reporter here  
20 at every meeting every week so let's get it  
21 on. It's 2012 the new year.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Just to  
23 comment very briefly on some of what  
24 Mr. Jackowitz stated, I was informed when I  
25 arrived at the council's office this evening

1           that, indeed, \$3 million has been found in  
2           bank accounts and I believe it is an account  
3           connected with the Scranton Parking  
4           Authority. Other than that, we have no  
5           further information. I don't know who found  
6           the money or how the money was discovered.  
7           I do not know what the use of the money will  
8           be in the future, but I do know that that is  
9           an issue that has to be discussed with the  
10          administration and certainly the use of  
11          those funds, those newly discovered funds,  
12          should be decided by council and the mayor  
13          and beyond that I have no further  
14          information for anyone.

15                 MR. MCGOFF: May I just -- I, too,  
16                 was made aware of it via phone call  
17                 approximately 5:00, quarter to five. It was  
18                 my understanding from the phone call that  
19                 the account in question was not a Parking  
20                 Authority account, but it was a city account  
21                 into which monies from the Parking Authority  
22                 and from fees, meters whatever had been  
23                 deposited, and so that it was not a Parking  
24                 Authority -- I understanding it's not a  
25                 parking authority account, but a city



1 account.

2 MS. EVANS: Right, it's a city  
3 account, but I think the procedure is that  
4 the Scranton Parking Authority makes those  
5 deposits --

6 MR. MCGOFF: Right.

7 MS. EVANS: -- into that account from  
8 the city's parking meters and from the  
9 parking tickets.

10 MR. MCGOFF: And then it's supposed  
11 to be transferred to --

12 MS. EVANS: To the general fund.

13 MR. MCGOFF: To the general fund.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes, and for some reason  
15 that did not occur. I don't know for how  
16 many years, for example, this has been  
17 occurring in order that, you know, \$3  
18 million has been accumulated, but certainly  
19 council will be looking into this and, as I  
20 said, I believe that the uses of this money  
21 must be decided upon jointly.

22 MR. VANORDEN: It could be used to  
23 hire the firemen back.

24 MS. EVANS: Well, I normally don't  
25 allow anyone from the audience to --

1 MR. VANORDEN: I'm very sorry, I'm  
2 sorry.

3 MS. EVANS: But I have to say that I  
4 certainly do agree with that. Mr. Ellman.

5 MR. ELLMAN: You can call me Ronnie.  
6 My friends call me Ronnie.

7 MS. EVANS: All right, Ronnie.

8 MR. ELLMAN: Before I made my  
9 impassioned speech before, which is probably  
10 the shortest in my young career, these  
11 people sitting there are business people and  
12 I worked long enough for a business person  
13 to know they would do everything, they will  
14 find every loophole humanly possible to find  
15 to save money on taxes and so forth. Those  
16 KOZ things, they will do everything. All  
17 they did was blow a bunch of smoke in some  
18 people's ear what they plan to do, just like  
19 the Goodwill place. Enough said.

20 And in all seriousness, I would like  
21 to suggest that council have Mr. Hughes look  
22 into the possibility of putting a zone  
23 around these universities and colleges as  
24 quick as they can. You can take that for  
25 what it's worth. I know something you

1 don't.

2           You know, I realize Mr. Doherty has  
3 a lot of supporters because I run into them.  
4 A lady stopped me a couple of days ago at  
5 the Dollar Store and was talking to me and  
6 she is solely supports them and tells me  
7 about his visions and so forth. To me,  
8 Mr. Doherty it's like he picked up a brick  
9 and could have built a beautiful house but  
10 instead he took that brick and smashed a  
11 window. Is that a metaphor? Do you  
12 understand what I'm trying to say.

13           MS. EVANS: Yes.

14           MR. ELLMAN: You know, I'm not  
15 against the man like people say, it's not a  
16 personal thing, I just think he has just  
17 done such a poor job. He ought to stand in  
18 front of Redner's or Price Rite and just  
19 talk to some people and see -- get the  
20 feeling of the city. He is just so aloof  
21 from -- so out of tune with the people in  
22 the city, you know.

23           I sure wish council could get the  
24 budget. I phoned Debbie in the tax bureau  
25 to see what my taxes would be before I spend

1 the money at the Taurus Club or somewhere,  
2 she told me it would be a couple of months.  
3 Well, this month, you know, next month.  
4 They have no idea how to compute it. And  
5 now today I saw Mr. O'Brien and I was hoping  
6 they would do something. I could pay my  
7 taxes this year, but I have talked to so  
8 many people that just -- they just can't.  
9 They just don't have nothing else to give  
10 up.

11 I was thinking about buying a later  
12 model car, you know, I was going to let it  
13 go. I just spent \$300 to get my car through  
14 inspection instead of trading it in and  
15 somebody lost some money along the way  
16 because instead of buying a new car it goes  
17 towards taxes. That's not helping nobody.  
18 Well, it is. I don't mean it that way, but  
19 it's not helping the economy.

20 But, I don't know, I just have all  
21 of these people tell me their problems and  
22 things and it just breaks my heart. It  
23 really does. I mean this sincerely. I'm  
24 not just saying that. I hear these sad  
25 stories and they just don't have no where

1 else to go for money anymore for their  
2 property. And this grant money could be  
3 used for police and to fix up houses and for  
4 firemen and I think that would be just a lot  
5 more important than fixing up an old  
6 building. It won't end up being a tax  
7 giveaway like everybody is talking about.  
8 It's not there. I know what I'm talking  
9 about. You damn well believe me I know that  
10 building is not going to be like they stood  
11 here and bragged about it. Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Les Spindler.

13 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
14 Council. Les Spindler, city homeowner and  
15 taxpayer.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Welcome back. Happy  
18 New Year.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. You, also.

20 MR. SPINDLER: I'm thrilled that  
21 these meetings are switched to Thursday  
22 nights. I recently started a second job in  
23 the evenings and couldn't come to the  
24 meetings on Tuesday nights anymore, so I  
25 want to thank council for moving the

1 meetings to Thursday night just for me.

2 In all seriousness, I have been  
3 coming here for ten years fighting for what  
4 is right for this city and I am glad I can  
5 continue doing it, and off the bat I want to  
6 talk about this headline in the Sunday  
7 Doherty newsletter, is there a cause for  
8 alarm with a question mark? Scranton Fire  
9 Department facing huge changes in 2012. It  
10 shouldn't be a question mark on here, it  
11 should be about five exclamation marks  
12 because there is cause for alarm, which I  
13 have been coming here for months and years  
14 saying this.

15 We had one deadly fire last year,  
16 and I have said it before, with these cuts  
17 there is going to be more deadly fires. And  
18 I told Mrs. Schumacher I agree with Doug and  
19 I disagree with her. Chris Doherty said he  
20 is not going to use the \$600,000 to bring  
21 back the firefighters. Lord knows I've been  
22 fighting for years here to keep firefighters  
23 on and police officers. Council could have  
24 found \$5 million, he wasn't going to keep  
25 the firefighters on. He would use it for

1 something else, so I don't think council  
2 deserved that criticism.

3 I, too, want to talk about these  
4 meters. I spoke out against them for  
5 originally being put there, now they are  
6 taken out without council knowing about it,  
7 and I'm sorry that Attorney Hughes isn't  
8 here tonight I was going to ask could that  
9 legally be done? Could he circumvent  
10 council like this? So, Mrs. Evans, if you  
11 can ask this question for next week?

12 MS. EVANS: Yes. You can certainly  
13 pose that question to our attorney. I can  
14 say though that we were informed of it. We  
15 received a letter, I don't recall the date,  
16 from Attorney Kelly, city solicitor,  
17 indicating that the meters would be removed  
18 from Mattes Avenue and they were going to be  
19 placed on the polls in the area surrounding  
20 CMC Hospital. And, of course, part of the  
21 justification, which we were all well aware  
22 of, was that the meters on Mattes Avenue  
23 were not generating revenue, whereas the  
24 meters that had operated in the area of the  
25 CMC were always lucrative.

1                   Now, in addition to that nothing,  
2                   however, was said about the installation of  
3                   "No Parking" signs. We were simply informed  
4                   that, you know, this arrangement was going  
5                   to occur and chiefly because the agreement  
6                   between the City of Scranton and CMC  
7                   Hospital for permit parking for the area  
8                   along CMC expired on December 31, 2011, and  
9                   that agreement was actually settled upon  
10                  because one of the CMC's garages had been  
11                  under repair for about two years and so the  
12                  CMC was actually paying -- well, this is  
13                  another can of worms. The CMC was paying  
14                  for their parking, put it this way, the  
15                  money it seems went to the Scranton Parking  
16                  Authority when the money should go to the  
17                  City of Scranton and we passed legislation  
18                  to that effect, and to this day I still  
19                  haven't determined whether the CMC funds  
20                  were kept by the Scranton Parking Authority  
21                  or then given to the city from the Scranton  
22                  Parking Authority because the CMC did pay  
23                  the money to the Parking Authority rather  
24                  than the city.

25                         So anyway, long story short, the



1 garage is up and running, there is no need  
2 for permit parking around CMC any longer and  
3 so the meters are now in that area where  
4 they will generate revenue.

5 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah, but I think  
6 according to when I read the Doherty  
7 newsletter shouldn't that legislation come  
8 before council to remove those meters and  
9 put signs up?

10 MS. EVANS: I would tend to believe  
11 so in that whenever, for example, when the  
12 meters were to be placed on Mattes Avenue  
13 that came before council. When the meters  
14 had been removed, for example, in the Hill  
15 Section in the area of the University of  
16 Scranton council had to approve that  
17 legislation. So, yes, it would seem that  
18 that legislation should have come before us,  
19 but I did want to clarify that we were  
20 notified by letter and, you know, I have to  
21 add that if it had come before us in  
22 legislation I would have approved it  
23 because, obviously, those meters were  
24 absolutely futile.

25 MR. SPINDLER: It was a waste.

1 MS. EVANS: On Mattes Avenue.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Okay, thank you.

3 Mr. Loscombe, someone asked me a question  
4 recently about the lights on the West  
5 Lackawanna new bridge, I explained to them  
6 what was wrong, the wire cable or whatever  
7 is crimped.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's right.

9 MR. SPINDLER; is there any update on  
10 that?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, now that we  
12 have a new director of Public Works I plan  
13 on getting together with him and see if he  
14 is going to do anything. As Mr. Brazil  
15 stated on the news, Channel 16 and the  
16 newspaper that he was going to be there  
17 within that week, but that was back in July,  
18 and there are several issues with that  
19 bridge and they have to be addressed and by  
20 state recommendations as of last year they  
21 have until the end of this year, the end of  
22 2012, I believe it's November, to address  
23 the numerous issues that the state had  
24 pointed out to them. Perhaps they are going  
25 to wait until the last minute as usual, that

1 I don't know.

2 But they did promise on the news and  
3 everything they were going to take care of  
4 the sidewalks and try to get something up  
5 with the lighting. It bugs me every time I  
6 go over that bridge.

7 MR. SPINDLER: You bet me to it. I  
8 was going to suggest since we have a new  
9 director now maybe you could talk to him and  
10 maybe he would be better than Jeff Brazil  
11 was.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I'm hoping.  
13 We'll see.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Hopefully. It can't  
15 be any worse. Something else about that  
16 Lackawanna Avenue bridge, I brought this up,  
17 but I didn't put it in writing, almost a  
18 year ago maybe about coming down into the  
19 city on the bridge trying to make a left  
20 turn there.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: That was also  
22 presented to them and --

23 MR. SPINDLER: I asked for a left  
24 turn arrow, has anything been said?

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Nope.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Because it's almost  
2 impossible to make a left turn there when  
3 it's busy. As I said, the first time I came  
4 I said I waited for four light changes once  
5 to get through there.

6 Next thing, I agree with Doug again  
7 and I have stated this year after year, I  
8 don't think the garbage fees are fair. We  
9 pay taxes for this service, we pay taxes for  
10 all our services. Like he said, it is  
11 taxation without representation. The people  
12 have enough burden in this city to pay  
13 paying all their taxes and paying their  
14 bills, we don't need a garbage fee, and I  
15 hope council considers not voting for that.  
16 And that's all I have tonight. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Edwin Tobin.

18 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Councilwoman  
19 Evans, is it possible to get on the list?

20 MS. EVANS: Pardon?

21 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Is it possible to  
22 still sign up on the list?

23 MS. EVANS: Oh, when the list is  
24 finished then I'll ask if any other others  
25 wish to address council and you are

1                   certainly welcome to.

2                   UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you.

3                   MR. TOBIN: Good evening, council.

4                   MS. EVANS: Good evening.

5                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

6                   MR. TOBIN: I'm to the point that  
7                   I'm beginning to wonder why we even bother  
8                   having you people. I have nothing against  
9                   you. I think you are doing a wonderful job  
10                  the way you are doing -- of what you can do,  
11                  but it seems that our mayor has complete  
12                  control over what goes on in this city.  
13                  And, Madam President, may I ask Councilman  
14                  McGraw a question?

15                  MS. EVANS: Yes.

16                  MR. TOBIN: Mr. McGraw.

17                  MR. MCGOFF: McGoff.

18                  MR. TOBIN: McGoff.

19                  MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

20                  MR. TOBIN: I'm sorry.

21                  MR. MCGOFF: That's all right.

22                  MR. TOBIN: You were sworn in last  
23                  week, weren't you?

24                  MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I was.

25                  MR. TOBIN: You raised your hand,

1 put one hand on the Bible?

2 MR. MCGOFF: I did so.

3 MR. TOBIN: You swore to that you  
4 would uphold the constitution of the United  
5 States --

6 MR. MCGOFF: And the Commonwealth.

7 MR. TOBIN: -- and the state of  
8 Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

10 MR. TOBIN: And all it's laws;  
11 right?

12 MR. MCGOFF: Absolutely.

13 MR. TOBIN: Do you know of any  
14 federal law that the city or -- the city is  
15 breaking?

16 MR. MCGOFF: Of any federal law?

17 MR. TOBIN: Federal law?

18 MR. MCGOFF: I do not.

19 MR. TOBIN: What about your handicap  
20 door downstairs?

21 MR. MCGOFF: I --

22 MR. TOBIN: I have a letter here.  
23 It's a copy from city council. May I read  
24 it?

25 MS. EVANS: Yes.

1 MR. TOBIN: February 25, 2010. Mark  
2 Seitzinger. "Dear Mr. Seitzinger, as a  
3 follow-up to a resident's request brought to  
4 the attention of Scranton City Council your  
5 assistance is requested in resolving a  
6 problem with the handicap entrance to city  
7 hall located off of Dickson Court. When  
8 approaching the entrance, the blue lit decal  
9 on the door says, "Easy open. Pull the  
10 door." Underneath it it's a big sign  
11 "Automatic", and I will repeat that word,  
12 "automatic door. It doesn't work.

13 This is a fact was true when the  
14 police department was located in the  
15 basement of city hall and when alerted by  
16 the pushing the button could automatically  
17 open the door. Since the police department  
18 has moved and the air phone is probably no  
19 longer operational, could it be removed from  
20 outside the entrance to city hall?

21 Also, make any public facilities  
22 have buttons installed inside on and outside  
23 entrance that could be pushed to activate an  
24 automatic door for persons with a disability  
25 who need to conduct business at city hall.

1                   What would be the possibility of having  
2                   these automatic door operation buttons  
3                   installed at the handicap entrance to city  
4                   hall.

5                   Please provide council with a  
6                   written response of corrective action taken  
7                   for this above-reference concern on or  
8                   before March 9, 2010."

9                   It is now 2012. I came into this  
10                  building last Monday to get this letter. On  
11                  the way out, a gentleman hollered at me,  
12                  "Wait a minute, I'll open that door for  
13                  you."

14                 I thanked him, I thought that was  
15                 very nice of him, and I said to him, "Aren't  
16                 those great signs on the door? Automatic  
17                 door, pull to open."

18                 His answer to me was, "Oh, the motor  
19                 burnt out and we have been trying to get the  
20                 man to come here and fix it."

21                 I looked at him and I said, "Two  
22                 years?"

23                 He says, "It hasn't been two years."

24                 I says, "Would you mind telling me  
25                 your name?"



1                   His name was Mark Seitzinger. I  
2                   says, "I have a letter right here that was  
3                   sent to you two years ago about this door.  
4                   He looked at it and he saw the top part it  
5                   says, "Copy, City Council Scranton."

6                   "Oh, from them."

7                   And he walked away from me. You  
8                   take your conclusions from that. What do  
9                   people in wheelchairs -- I defy and I'll  
10                  stay here tonight and anyone that wants to  
11                  try it, take this wheelchair, go downstairs,  
12                  go outside and see the fun you have trying  
13                  to get in here.

14                 As a matter of fact, when Mrs. Krake  
15                 wrote this letter for me, and I think if she  
16                 will she will correct me vouch for it, she  
17                 told me she understood it was broken way  
18                 before that, been broken at least two years  
19                 before that.

20                 Cooperation? Where is the  
21                 cooperation here, Mr. McGoff? You keep  
22                 hollering if council cooperates with the  
23                 administration maybe more will get done.  
24                 How about them cooperating with the council  
25                 and the citizens of the City of Scranton?

1                   Here's another law on your books,  
2 sidewalk law. What does it mean? Can you  
3 tell me? It means it should be fixed;  
4 right?

5                   MR. MCGOFF: They should be  
6 accessible, yes.

7                   MR. TOBIN: I turned Mr. Wolfe up  
8 here, the plumber, I don't know whether he  
9 is still there or not but that's the sign on  
10 the building, three years ago when Mr. Hayes  
11 was the safety director here, I took him up  
12 and showed him that sidewalk. Last week I  
13 come down there and I became an airplane. I  
14 hit that sidewalk and I went flying. Thank  
15 God I didn't break an arm or a wrist or a  
16 leg or a hip or a back, I just bruised  
17 myself badly, but at 82 years of age how  
18 many times have I got to bruise myself on  
19 the sidewalks of the City of Scranton before  
20 somebody does something?

21                   Mr. Rogan is in the administration  
22 of our councilmen, Mr. Barletta. Couldn't  
23 he take this down to say -- to Mr. Barletta  
24 and say, "What can we do about this?"

25                   I mean, everybody says, "We can't do

1 anything. The mayor has complete  
2 authority."

3 He has complete authority over  
4 federal laws? What have you done,  
5 Mr. McGoff and Mr. Loscombe? I wouldn't  
6 pick out just you, you all swore to the same  
7 thing last week. Even you, Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MR. TOBIN: What have you done to  
10 correct federal laws that you know is being  
11 broken in this city. Are we all afraid of  
12 the mayor? I have gone to Senator Casey's  
13 Office to find out how I can possibly who I  
14 can get ahold of in the ADA Office and in  
15 the FBI office to get this investigated  
16 because it seems to me that's the only way  
17 anything is going to get done. Excuse me  
18 for going over my time, but I think it's  
19 about time you people were lambasted, all of  
20 you. You are not doing your job. You swore  
21 in front of a priest, a judge, your parents  
22 that you would uphold the law and you are  
23 not doing it. What do we have to do to get  
24 you to do it?

25 I know if I get ahold of the right

1 people and they say, "Will you press  
2 charges?" I'll be the first one on the list  
3 because I'm getting tired of being hurt.

4 I lost a very, very close friend and  
5 classmate in Korea who was over there  
6 fighting for our very same laws and rights  
7 and we are laughing at him now. Think about  
8 it, please. Do something about, please,  
9 before somebody gets killed or gets  
10 seriously injured.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Tobin.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Lee Morgan.

14 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

16 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I have  
17 here today is I just listened to this last  
18 gentleman speak right now, I think his  
19 solution is to call the Pennsylvania Bar  
20 Association here locally and ask an attorney  
21 to take his case pro bono and proceed into  
22 the Court and get an order of the Court to  
23 correct any deficiencies that he wants to  
24 bring to the Court's attention because  
25 that's the only way in my opinion the laws

1 are going to function here and sometimes is  
2 comes to the individual to move mountains  
3 because it's obvious to me that government  
4 will never move a mountain because it's too  
5 busy doing things maybe that it shouldn't be  
6 doing.

7 Another thing I would like to say is  
8 I would like to, you know, I read the  
9 Scranton Times newspaper that the Scranton  
10 School District is considering implementing  
11 a program for an evening -- not a school  
12 lunch program, but a supper program for the  
13 residents in this city and I really think  
14 that it's a necessary program and if they  
15 would consider implementing that I think it  
16 would be a great benefit to the community  
17 considering the statistics on the amount of  
18 people in America living below the poverty  
19 level.

20 Another thing is I think we need to  
21 take a good look at where the cuts in  
22 government are going. LIHEAP was cut, food  
23 stamps were cut, local programs are cut. I  
24 mean, the bedrock of everything that  
25 ordinary people need to survive is being cut

1 away.

2 In my own opinion I know that for  
3 weeks prior to the election, you know, we  
4 kept putting the big boy chair up there for  
5 the mayor and I really think that people  
6 need to realize that is the mayor playing  
7 politics and is he the only one playing  
8 politics? Does the council play politics?  
9 Do other elected officials play politics?  
10 And I just think is it time for us in this  
11 country, not just here but everywhere, to  
12 put politics aside and start really  
13 implementing programs and ideas that benefit  
14 people separate of politics because the  
15 founder of our nation thought that politics  
16 and political parties were the worse thing  
17 we could do to our nation? And I have to  
18 say that after 200 years he was right then  
19 and if he was here and he voiced the same  
20 opinion he would be right now.

21 I don't know, you know, we had -- we  
22 had the debate here, I guess you could call  
23 it a debate about the Scranton Lace  
24 building. Well, in my opinion, you know, I  
25 never said that we were moving money away

1 from fire and police protection, I merely  
2 said that we couldn't afford to fund it.  
3 You know, we are talking about cutbacks to  
4 DPW, but we have a tipping fee for the --  
5 well, you could call it the refuse tax or be  
6 in the city, that's turned a surplus for a  
7 long time, and that fee wasn't supposed to  
8 generate revenue, and the last time I  
9 checked it was and my question is if that  
10 fee was generating revenue why wasn't that  
11 money used to keep the DPW employees on the  
12 job?

13 In regards to the millions of  
14 dollars that was recently found, you know,  
15 it's not political. Every branch of  
16 government needs to use the power it's given  
17 not to play politics but to protect it's  
18 residents. Some speakers have gotten up  
19 here and spoke about how people outside of  
20 the area have opinions of the city. I hear  
21 it all the time. I mean, in places 50 miles  
22 away they just can't believe what's happened  
23 to this city. They can't believe we are  
24 tearing down all our neighborhoods. They  
25 can't believe the blight we have created,

1 and to be honest with you I think most of  
2 the residents can't believe we have done  
3 that and I just think it's time for in  
4 January to realize that, you know, it's nice  
5 to say that the mayor is playing politics,  
6 but is he the only one? And is time maybe  
7 to just move away from politics and make  
8 decisions that benefit people, and is  
9 necessary to always one up your opponent at  
10 the public's expense or would it be more  
11 important to implement legislation that  
12 would create an atmosphere here to create  
13 jobs in development. We have always, I have  
14 heard it for a very long time, how we blame  
15 the Chamber of Commerce for all the bad  
16 things in the Scranton Times.

17 And I really have to say if you are  
18 resident in this city and you don't vote you  
19 need to grow up. You need to sit in that  
20 big boy or big girl chair and get involved.  
21 All of these things that have happened here  
22 have happened because people didn't  
23 participate. I'd like to come to this  
24 council meeting some day and find an  
25 outrageous number of people here that want



1 to participate. A thousand would be a good  
2 start of. Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Dave Dobrzyn.

4 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave  
5 Dobrzyn.

6 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

7 MR. DOBRZYN: Resident of Scranton  
8 and taxpayer and so forth. Okay, first of  
9 all, Happy New Year to everybody.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. DOBRZYN: Now, I'd like to start  
12 with something that Pat said a couple of  
13 weeks ago about the efficiency studies on  
14 the DPW. It's the management's option to do  
15 an efficiency study, so if he wants to study  
16 it, but I think the lynchpin on any  
17 efficiency study with those people is that  
18 we have to standardized disposal methods  
19 because everybody just goes out and throws  
20 their garbage at the end of the lot and  
21 doesn't recycle -- or a lot of people, and  
22 it just makes a big mess and so I can  
23 understand it would be more appropriate if  
24 we gave them all a shovel by the time they  
25 get around for picking up the trash which is

1 every week, but the animals get into it and  
2 it gets blown around and thrown around and  
3 I'm sure it's costing us a lot of money and  
4 the people that dispose of it properly and  
5 pay their bills on time and so forth, well,  
6 we are the ones that are supporting people  
7 doing that.

8 I'm also concerned, I know Pat is  
9 not here this week, he is in charge of the  
10 police? Are you, John?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

12 MR. DOBRZYN: This business with  
13 the-- over the Christmas holidays with the  
14 fights down the school, are there any  
15 increases in patrols there that could  
16 prevent those kids because, you know,  
17 sometimes -- a weaker kid could get chased  
18 around by a bully and if you fight back the  
19 appearance is sometimes the weaker kid  
20 could -- I wound up in the high school  
21 principal's office for that. I had kids in  
22 school in the 8th grade chasing me around  
23 because I'm so big, you know.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: They have resource  
25 officers at the school that have a radio

1           that can contact additional, but I guess  
2           right after that they did have them going  
3           through a metal detector or whatever.

4                   MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah, it's hard to  
5           cover all of the schools because it starts  
6           even in grade school that kind of behavior,  
7           but it gets a little more serious when it  
8           goes up towards high school, but anyway.  
9           One thing that you might want to keep in  
10          mind there, I walk the river trail and I see  
11          some kids going through there, so if they  
12          are having problems with being bullied maybe  
13          the teachers should tell them to stay out of  
14          that section and try to walk in a normal  
15          route where they wouldn't get jumped by a  
16          bully, you know --

17                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah.

18                   MR. DOBRZYN: -- and worked over.

19                   And this parking at General  
20          Dynamics, I know somebody that is supervisor  
21          at General Dynamics and it's interesting --  
22          it might be interesting to mention that the  
23          employees of General Dynamics are on a  
24          strike against purchasing things in the  
25          Scranton borders. They are actually denying

1           our merchants and local businesses business  
2           because of this parking situation. They  
3           refuse -- if they have to buy gas they try  
4           to buy it up in Peckville or down in Old  
5           Forge where they are traveling from as  
6           opposed to -- just because we have those  
7           parking meters down there and now we have a  
8           "No Parking" zone which the only time I have  
9           ever seen that parking down in that area is  
10          maybe for the St. Patty's Day parade, you  
11          know, so they should go and take them down,  
12          please, and just let those -- and maybe we  
13          can smooth things over and get a little  
14          business for people, you know, because they  
15          are not stopping in Scranton, that's my  
16          understanding, for anything that they need  
17          because of that parking situation.

18                    It cost them about \$8 a day right  
19                    now or more in quarters just to park at  
20                    those meters with the current rates and now  
21                    we have turned around and banned parking  
22                    there altogether.

23                    And a I know a few weeks ago I  
24                    mentioned Moosic Street and I was told that  
25                    it's a state responsibility, but now

1 in-between the eight and nine hundred  
2 block -- seven and eight hundred block of  
3 Moosic Street we have several holes that I  
4 have seen in the paper that it was the Sewer  
5 Authority at fault. They were -- they had  
6 to excavate there and the patches they are  
7 doing are terrible. It's a brand new  
8 street. I don't know care if they ever fix  
9 the street, fix the Sewer Authority first,  
10 you know, and the water company and gas  
11 company.

12 Okay, well, I'll try to make it  
13 quick. Mr. Chenis was -- he is a KT in  
14 economics, he came up with the theory of  
15 government spending money to improve the  
16 economy and jump starting a new economy and  
17 it no longer works as well as what it did  
18 because if we hire a bunch of public  
19 employees and give them money they go out  
20 and by foreign projects or foreign products  
21 and there is no ripple effect anymore, so it  
22 used to work a lot better after the great  
23 depression. So the golden parrot of 2011  
24 goes to both the Republicans and the  
25 Democrats for their trade packs like Korea,

1 North Korea where they are employing slave  
2 labor and paying the government of -- South  
3 Korea is paying North Korea for the slaves.  
4 Thank you very much both the Republicans and  
5 the Democrats and bawk, bawk, bawk. Have a  
6 good night.

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

9 MR. TORDO: My name is Alex Tordo.  
10 I am the campus and community organizer for  
11 the Energy Justice Network and my goals and  
12 responsibilities in Northeast Pennsylvania,  
13 I live out in Pike County and I have worked  
14 for the last six months up in rural  
15 townships, and this is the first time I have  
16 come to you, because I have been helping  
17 township residents, small town residents  
18 work in their townships regarding gas  
19 drilling, fracking, the Marcellus shale  
20 issue.

21 There are a few issues that I would  
22 like to urge your -- and I can correspond  
23 later this week with you or next week before  
24 the next meeting about opportunities for  
25 Scranton to address contamination of the

1 Lackawanna river that is sent downstream to  
2 you from Susquehanna County where the  
3 headwaters are, the western part of Wayne  
4 County, which is -- there are many permits  
5 in Susquehanna County that -- especially  
6 with the recent news of Lenox Township,  
7 L-E-N-O-X, the aquifer there was found to be  
8 contaminated by the Pennsylvania Department  
9 of Environmental Protection this week, in  
10 addition to the town of the Dimock and  
11 surrounding towns that have reported impacts  
12 in their aquifer which is part of the  
13 headwaters of the Lackawanna river.

14 Scranton shouldn't have to take  
15 toxic trespass of decisions made upstream  
16 from you. Those toxic chemicals that are  
17 used in drilling can be spilled, can be  
18 dumped illegally, can be contaminating the  
19 aquifer and should not be sent down stream  
20 to you.

21 In addition, in term of economic  
22 development in Lackawanna County there have  
23 been three permitted wells in Lackawanna  
24 County, one of them was in North Abington  
25 Township, which we recently found expired

1           this past month in December, so I think that  
2           one is in North Abington Township is behind  
3           Roba's Tree Farm near Waverly. It's a very  
4           sensitive place to put a ten acre well pad  
5           having the industrial site with homes  
6           adjacent to the property. It's also by the  
7           Lackawanna County State Park.

8                         Property values in Scranton I  
9           believe being from Pike County and the  
10          Poconos region, we all know the Poconos,  
11          that that's a huge asset that the rural  
12          esthetic value of our heritage in this area  
13          that has become comprised by prior issues  
14          like the coal industry, right, that have  
15          been -- those are assets that I think are  
16          valuable to living in Northeast  
17          Pennsylvania, the beauty, the fishing, the  
18          hunting. I'm a hunter and that's one of the  
19          core reasons why I'm offended by some of the  
20          decisions the gas industry has made to dump  
21          in game land in Bradford County and things  
22          like that.

23                        I think Scranton should look into  
24          helping or assisting in whatever way  
25          possible, Lackawanna County developing a



1 lease map for the county to identify what  
2 parcels and lots have been leased to gas  
3 drillers. I believe that, for example, if  
4 you want to start a bed and breakfast that  
5 might derive money for the region in the  
6 area and there are leased parcels and lots  
7 in the city you may think twice if there is  
8 it a possibility that in the future the  
9 property may be developed for natural gas  
10 drilling and may ruin the visual esthetic of  
11 what you are trying to draw people towards  
12 with recreation, which is the heart of the  
13 Poconos economy.

14 So as small town citizen I come to  
15 the City of Scranton asking you to consider  
16 the lease map issue, the Lackawanna County  
17 river quality and impacts on that and it  
18 might just be a quarterly water tests,  
19 things like that, and also to identify the  
20 permits that are adjacent to the river or  
21 within the water shed.

22 In addition, I attended the  
23 Susquehanna river basin commission meeting  
24 with members of the community that live  
25 along or were effected by the flooding and

1 things like that. There is -- the  
2 reservoirs upstream on the Susquehanna river  
3 were not drained adequately before the  
4 hurricane because of -- partially, and this  
5 isn't the only reason, but they were  
6 concerned about over withdrawals from the  
7 river because of the gas drillers who  
8 require 1 to 9 million gallons of water per  
9 frack and they do up to ten fracks per well,  
10 so if you don't understand that a question  
11 of the gas, the Susquehanna river residents  
12 want answers.

13 They presented their argument in  
14 Wilkes-Barre that last meeting to the  
15 federal commission for the river that where  
16 the reservoir is not drained because of the  
17 gas drilling and did that enhance or cause  
18 the flooding and are we paying the price in  
19 our property values and devastation in our  
20 communities because of this industry and  
21 some of the disrespectful ways that they are  
22 behaving and whether you support drilling or  
23 not having a map of the leases and things  
24 are valuable assets for economic development  
25 and should be considered and it's a great

1 tool for all of us to consider the future of  
2 our region and the long-term industrial  
3 choices we want to make and what we allow  
4 and bring in here because we have some great  
5 assets. We have the largest wind capacity  
6 out of any Appalachian state. We have  
7 sunlight, we have geothermal capacity, so  
8 I'd like to see more great industry and  
9 technology and manufacturing and things like  
10 that in place of guys like me getting hurt  
11 on these jobs, too, I couldn't tell you all  
12 of the stories I've heard with young men  
13 being injured and getting hired to the most  
14 dangerous parts of the drilling operation.  
15 I'd like to see that Scranton take a bold  
16 step and take on the biggest companies in  
17 the world, Exxon Mobile and Chevron and I  
18 know you are a small and you're underfunded,  
19 but you guys can do it and please look into  
20 that. Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who  
22 would like to address council?

23 MR. VANORDEN: Good evening. The  
24 first thing I want to address is the issue  
25 with Mr. Tobin I think --

1 MS. EVANS: Excuse me, before you go  
2 on any further can you give your name?

3 MR. VANORDEN: Oh, I'm sorry.  
4 Michael Vanorden, Occupy Scranton. Hello.  
5 On the issue of Mr. Tobin and the handicap  
6 access area, I thought a little over two  
7 years is little bit much. I think it should  
8 be fixed immediately. I think two weeks to  
9 fix that would be an ample amount of time  
10 and I'm going to put pressure on the mayor  
11 to make sure that it is done and I'm going  
12 to give him a two-week deadline and if it's  
13 not fixed I am going to seek legal counsel  
14 for Mr. Tobin to go after the city for  
15 violation of his federal rights under the  
16 American Disabilities Act, and it's not  
17 going to look good.

18 The second issue I have is very  
19 simple, you know, like I said, I'm not  
20 originally from Scranton, I have been here  
21 about years, I'm from Elizabeth, New Jersey,  
22 this area is hurting for business and the  
23 sales in the malls and, you know, it's  
24 collapsing. One of the things my town  
25 initiated several years ago was they lowered

1 the taxes in a particular shopping district  
2 to 3 percent and the economics in that city  
3 is booming. You can look it up on Google,  
4 talk to the mayor of home town, Chris  
5 Bolage, and it does -- brings people from  
6 New York City, from Stanton Island because  
7 of the sales tax on certain items is 3  
8 percent, and there's a lot of revenue coming  
9 in because of that. It's something you  
10 should think about.

11 Another thing, a more serious thing,  
12 is the homeless issue. Last Thursday or  
13 Friday evening I was down by St. Anthony's  
14 Haven, there is a limited number of beds in  
15 there for women. To be exact, there is two  
16 bunk beds for a total of four, and there are  
17 two cots that are listed for a total of six  
18 women, and that particular night four women  
19 were turned away because they reached their  
20 capacity. That's the only shelter in the  
21 city.

22 Because of my knowledge with the  
23 first organization I was able to get them  
24 shelter at the Red Carpet Inn. You know,  
25 three of those people had shelter, the other

1           one found some place to go.

2                   The city has plenty of vacant  
3 buildings here. I cannot see why the mayor  
4 can't take it upon himself in these times of  
5 years to say, okay, I can open this building  
6 for a safe haven for the people in this type  
7 of climate, this time of year, even it's ten  
8 people, that's ten less people off the  
9 street who may die out there. You know,  
10 it's winter, it's cold, and it's going to  
11 get colder. People are going to get sick  
12 and die.

13                   And I've been talking with a  
14 particular person right now, I'm not going  
15 to mention his or her name, but that  
16 individual I'm working directly with that  
17 person and we are hoping that we can get the  
18 building that that person has looked at and  
19 I believe that person is just waiting for a  
20 response from the mayor himself. If that  
21 falls through, there is nothing else except  
22 St. Anthony's. I mean, granted a lot of  
23 people are out there because they choose to  
24 be out there, but a lot of them are also out  
25 there because they got psychological and

1           mental needs and they don't know how to take  
2           care of themselves.

3                        So people have to reach out in the  
4           community and the City of Scranton. It's  
5           not about the dollar, it's about their life,  
6           you know, it's about the human life, it's  
7           about a human life and something really,  
8           really has to be done about this and it's a  
9           serious issue and it's only going to get  
10          worse. People are losing their jobs and  
11          losing their homes, where are they going?  
12          Tents, railroad tracks, under bridges, it's  
13          going to get worse, so we have to try to  
14          figure out a solution.

15                      You know, this virtually is a small  
16          crisis brewing within this city and the  
17          country and we really, really have to do  
18          something about this now before it's too  
19          late. Thank you.

20                      MS. EVANS: Thank.

21                      MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Vanorden, I  
22          apologize, I did receive your call, I  
23          haven't had a chance to respond. Tomorrow  
24          I'm catching up on my calls, so if you are  
25          available tomorrow you will hear back from

1 me.

2 MR. VANORDEN: Actually, I won't be,  
3 but early next week would be fine. I got a  
4 little thing I'm doing in Philadelphia  
5 tomorrow, but I do appreciate your  
6 remembering. I was going to mention that to  
7 you, but okay.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: I apologize, but we  
9 got a little backed up so0.

10 MR. VANORDEN: Understand. Thank  
11 you.

12 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who  
13 cares to address council?

14 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.  
15 Nelson Ancherani, resident and taxpayer.  
16 Recording secretary of the FOP, First  
17 Amendment Rights, voicing my opinion. Well,  
18 here we are in 2012, ten full years since  
19 the current administration took office. The  
20 question is are we better off today than we  
21 were on January 1, 2002 before the  
22 coronation? I say, no.

23 In January of 2002 the mayor and his  
24 administration started out with a \$3 million  
25 surplus. Fast forward to now and we are



1 borrowing 9 million plus for unpaid bills  
2 for 2011. Is that better off now than on  
3 January 1, 2002, when we had a surplus from  
4 Connors? That is only one example.

5 In 2002, we had 165 police officers,  
6 this includes some federally funded officers  
7 and our budget was \$57,500,000. In 2012 we  
8 have a 139 police officers, no federally  
9 funded officers, and our budget is \$85  
10 million.

11 In 2002, the tax rate was 29.8  
12 percent less than it is now in 2012.

13 2002 we had 150 firefighters and our  
14 budget was \$57,500,000. In 2012 we have 101  
15 firefighters and our budget is \$85 million.

16 Are we better off or safer now than  
17 on January 1, 2002? In 2002 we had 571  
18 employees and our budget was \$57,500,000.  
19 Now we have approximately 470 employees and  
20 the budget is \$85.

21 We are paying for taxes for less.  
22 We are service oriented, not a business.  
23 Are we better off now than we were on  
24 January 2, 2002, with less services for our  
25 29.8 percent increase in taxes? Our

1 long-term debt is now over 300 million.

2 By totaling the city's ten budgets  
3 from 2002 through 2011, and if the loans for  
4 those ten years were added onto the budget  
5 total the city would have taken in over \$861  
6 million. That's a lots of money. What do  
7 we have to show for it in infrastructure?  
8 Look at the streets, for example. Kane  
9 Street from Pittston Avenue to Stafford  
10 Avenue is deplorable. Okay, there is a  
11 couple of cemeteries there and possibly they  
12 don't pay taxes, but there are homes and  
13 businesses there. I'm sure they pay  
14 intoxicants taxes. We can't forget city  
15 taxpayers also use that street and they  
16 deserve better. Oh, I forgot, it's not  
17 about public safety driving on streets that  
18 are deplorable and can be dangerous, it's  
19 about money.

20 20 to 30 million owed to the police  
21 officers and firefighters because of broken  
22 contracts and endless arbitration and court  
23 battles, payments to attorneys and court  
24 costs that have cost the city over \$4  
25 million over the years, and this is

1 according to the mayor. The raises that the  
2 union workers will be getting will not be  
3 anywhere near what they are if the city sat  
4 down, but they did sit down but the  
5 negotiating wasn't done in good faith by the  
6 city. At one point both sides shook hands  
7 and the city threw the kibosh into it and  
8 everything was off. The mayor wanted to  
9 bring the unions to our knees, but what was  
10 accomplished that the taxpayers are being  
11 brought to their knees, and they may not  
12 even have any knee pads.

13 I keep saying it, it did not have to  
14 be this way. Just remember what the mayor  
15 said, it's not about public safety, it's  
16 about money. How about that? That's a  
17 quote from our mayor in the slimes on  
18 Sunday, January 8, 2011 -- I'm sorry, 2012.  
19 The story is titled, "Cause for alarm?  
20 Scranton Fire Department facing huge changes  
21 in 2012." By Josh Mrozinski, staff writer.  
22 What did you think about that? Is that what  
23 is thought of about Scranton residents, it  
24 is not about public safety? What is it  
25 about? There are 70,000 plus residents in

1           this city and it's not about their safety?  
2           How much is safety worth? We have 29  
3           firefighters less at the beginning of this  
4           year plus the previous layoffs and vacancies  
5           through attrition. So far we have been very  
6           lucky. I hope we continue to be lucky  
7           because even one person getting a minor  
8           injury is not acceptable.

9                         Again, how much is the public and  
10           the firefighters and our own safety worth?  
11           The answer is "no" we are not better off.  
12           Thank you.

13                        MS. EVANS: Thank. Is there anyone  
14           else?

15                        MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

16                        MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, any comments  
17           or motions this evening?

18                        MR. MCGOFF: A few. First, just to  
19           deal with the idea of people on council  
20           doing their duty and not being engaged in  
21           politics and so on, I firmly believe that  
22           everyone on council acts in what they feel  
23           to be the best interest of the city. We  
24           disagree on a lot of items and we may  
25           disagree on what we feel to be the best

1 interest of the city, but I think all of us,  
2 you know, act in that way and at times maybe  
3 we don't deal with some issues that exist  
4 simply because we may not be aware of those  
5 issues and I know that, you know, members  
6 that come here, there are people that come  
7 here to speak try to make us aware of  
8 certain issues and I thank Mr. Tobin, you  
9 know, for being here and making people  
10 aware. The only way in which you can get  
11 things done is to be made aware of what's  
12 happening so that you can take some action  
13 and hopefully we can do something to  
14 alleviate some of the issues that were  
15 addressed.

16 Second, the \$3 million that was for  
17 want of a better word found, lacking really  
18 proper information about it I don't want to  
19 comment too much. Certainly over the next  
20 few days we will hopefully get some  
21 resolution where that came from, and I agree  
22 that I think they -- the questioning of  
23 getting \$3 million may seem somewhat ironic,  
24 but I think we do have to ask some questions  
25 and I think the big questions that we have

1 to really ask is how that \$3 million will be  
2 used, whether it's for prior bills from 2011  
3 or whether it can be used to reduce the  
4 unfunded debt or can it be used for, you  
5 know, 2012 issues such as reinstating  
6 positions in public safety, you know,  
7 wherever, DPW or wherever we may. I think  
8 that's -- and again, as you said, something  
9 that needs to be done jointly, and again, in  
10 what we all agree would be the best interest  
11 of the city.

12 As far as the Lace Works, which has  
13 been discussed this evening, I don't live in  
14 that area, I drive -- the only -- I drive  
15 through that area every once in awhile and I  
16 can understand the frustration that people  
17 in this area must have with living around  
18 that eyesore and I think that any project  
19 that offers hope to restoring some semblance  
20 of the order and esthetics to that area is  
21 worth our consideration.

22 From what I see, the project is one  
23 that is certainly meaningful and it was  
24 brought up about job construction and -- or  
25 about job creation and I sit here and just

1 the construction jobs alone that would be  
2 created in that project would be a benefit  
3 to the city. I don't care if they were --  
4 you know, what the term would be. It's  
5 putting people to work and then, you know,  
6 afterwards we are left with something that  
7 is on the tax rolls and a benefit to the  
8 community, so I think it's -- to me it's a  
9 no-brainer in supporting that type of  
10 project.

11 And I know that there are some  
12 people -- you know, concerns about grants  
13 and all, as far as I know most of the grants  
14 that we be received are pretty much specific  
15 to that type of project and it's not money  
16 that could be used elsewhere, you know, and  
17 again, in infusing the economy with that  
18 type of money is I think beneficial.

19 And the zoning concerns that we may  
20 have for the future, I think that those are  
21 problems that we deal with in the future and  
22 I'm very supportive of this program and  
23 hopefully we can get resolution to it this  
24 evening.

25 There was a meeting I believe

1           yesterday with the Parking Authority and the  
2           Landmark Bank and the city administration I  
3           was unable to attend the meeting, I  
4           originally said I would. I know Mrs. Krake  
5           attended on behalf of council and I hope  
6           that there is some -- or I believe that  
7           there is, you know, some efforts to make  
8           these parking authorities more responsive to  
9           council, to everyone.

10                   I know that we received a letter  
11           from Landmark Bank and there are a number of  
12           caveats that they have for the funding.  
13           Some of the things that we actually  
14           mentioned, one of the them being a more  
15           comprehensive budget and the bank's approval  
16           of their budget. I know which we talked  
17           about getting something, you know, more  
18           substantial from them and I know the other  
19           thing that was mentioned was a parking  
20           study, which the Parking Authority said  
21           that-- I believe said that they were perhaps  
22           not able to fund completely and perhaps the  
23           city would assist in the funding of that  
24           study, maybe that would be something that  
25           would be worth looking at and I know briefly



1 talking with Mrs. Krake she did mention, and  
2 correct me if I'm wrong, that the bank was  
3 also encouraging or that the Parking  
4 Authority look to implement more efficient  
5 method for the collection of meter fees  
6 and/or meter and all which goes back to what  
7 Mr. Loscombe had originally proposed under  
8 the StreetSmart-type program. So hopefully  
9 there is some movement there, and again, I'm  
10 sorry that I did miss the meeting and I  
11 would have liked to have reported more, I'm  
12 sure Mrs. Krake has information that she can  
13 share with us.

14 The meetings with PEL that have been  
15 held over the -- that I have attended over  
16 the last couple of weeks while we've been  
17 away at least for a short while talked about  
18 a number of issues, one of the things that I  
19 was going to talk about was the unfunded  
20 borrowing, but with this \$3 million found  
21 I'm sure that the application for unfunded  
22 borrowing is now going to come under  
23 different scrutiny as to the amount that  
24 would be needed to, you know, that we would  
25 need to borrow and so on and so I was going

1 to report that they were awaiting a date  
2 with the court, that everything had been  
3 filed and we were awaiting going to court.  
4 I don't know if that is going to change.

5 The other thing that was mentioned  
6 was the parking tax that -- or the parking  
7 that we had talked about for the parking  
8 garage tax or --

9 MS. EVANS: Oh, yes.

10 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, I'm probably  
11 misstating what it was, but one of the  
12 things they talk about was whether it would  
13 be more appropriate to rescind current  
14 legislation or to amend the current  
15 legislation so maybe it's something that we  
16 can look at so we can move forward with that  
17 proposal as well.

18 And one other item that was  
19 mentioned during that, during the meetings  
20 with PEL, came up about fire equipment and  
21 the condition of the fire equipment and it  
22 was mentioned that I had always thought that  
23 the fire department had a separate  
24 maintenance component and I was told that a  
25 number of years ago that was removed and

1           that right now maintenance of the fire  
2           equipment is being done by one mechanic from  
3           DPW who, as was said, does a great job of  
4           trying to deal with it, but is not trained  
5           in specifically dealing fire equipment, and  
6           Mr. Loscombe will probably know more about  
7           that than I, and the request was that  
8           perhaps we could look into funding somehow a  
9           training, you know, for people who will be  
10          working on these -- on the equipment so that  
11          they are capable of dealing with some of  
12          problems that exist with the fire equipment,  
13          and there were a number of other things done  
14          at those meetings, but another day.

15                   And lastly, and the last thing, I  
16                   was going to wait until the legislation, but  
17                   I do want to just briefly mention about the  
18                   real estate millage. When it was presented  
19                   or as it has been presented it is, as I  
20                   said, when you do the math if you take -- I  
21                   don't want to go through all of the numbers,  
22                   from the assessor's office the value of the  
23                   city land is somewhere a little over 92  
24                   million. When you multiply that by the  
25                   millage as we are proposing and then times

1 the collection rate of 87 percent, which is  
2 pretty, you know, kind of the normal, you  
3 get almost \$9 million -- or, excuse me. You  
4 get 8 million -- or if you multiply the  
5 millage times the assessment 92 million --  
6 you get \$8 million, almost \$9 million. If  
7 you do improvements, which are somewhere  
8 around 292 million times the millage you get  
9 a little over \$6 million, and then if you  
10 add those together and then multiply them by  
11 the collection rate, I'm terrible with math,  
12 it comes out to \$13.1 million, and that's  
13 what I was saying, and I don't mean to be  
14 critical, I'm not trying to be critical of  
15 Mr. Joyce or, you know, with the budget, I  
16 just feel that we are looking at the  
17 possibility of a shortfall due to -- you  
18 know, due to this situation, that we  
19 budgeted for 13.9 and the numbers, if they  
20 hold true, will produce only 13.1.

21 Now, obviously, one or two thing or  
22 both things could occur over, you know,  
23 2012. The assessed value of land would  
24 increase, which would increase the amount  
25 that we are collecting. I don't know that

1 that's going to occur. I know it was  
2 mentioned that, as was mentioned here and  
3 was mentioned at the PEL meeting, by Mrs.  
4 Krake I believe, about defending going them,  
5 going to the appeals, assessment appeals and  
6 defending on those appeals, and I'm told  
7 that the school district does that not on a  
8 regular basis but when there are large  
9 appeals, large businesses or something  
10 appealing it, would that increase the  
11 assessed value enough to makeup the \$800,000  
12 that we are seeing, I don't know. Perhaps.

13 The other thing that we can look at  
14 is an increased collection rate. I know  
15 Mr. Courtright is doing his best at the  
16 Single Tax Office. I don't know that we can  
17 ask him to do more. I guess we can ask. If  
18 the collection rate, you know, goes to 90,  
19 92, 93, then, yes, we will meet the 13.9  
20 million, but it is just something that  
21 concerns me.

22 I will vote in favor of the millage.  
23 It's been, you know, it's part of the  
24 budget, it's been already passed through as  
25 part of the budget, again, it's just a

1 concern that I have and hopefully over the  
2 next, you know, then it will be resolved  
3 over the next year and that's all.

4 MS. EVANS: If I could just for a  
5 second?

6 MR. MCGOFF: Sure.

7 MS. EVANS: I don't want to speak  
8 for Mr. Joyce, but I'm aware of that  
9 recently, I don't know whether it was this  
10 week or late last week, Mr. Joyce did speak  
11 with Gerry Cross from PEL and they discussed  
12 the matter that you brought forth and  
13 Mr. Cross after having spoken with Mr. Joyce  
14 felt comfortable with what -- you know, with  
15 Mr. Joyce's formula.

16 And I think, you know, to maybe  
17 address the potential shortage that you are  
18 concerned about, for example, well, let's  
19 begin with the figures provided from Mr.  
20 Courtright. I had spoken with him several  
21 times and I know Mr. Joyce did as well.  
22 Originally we were plugging \$300,000 in,  
23 which was very conservative, for 888 monies.  
24 Mr. Courtright after additional conversation  
25 felt that he could go with \$500,000 and that

1 was on basically we were discussing the  
2 \$500,000 mark because of the recommendation  
3 of Ryan McGowan who wanted to set it at  
4 \$500,000 rather than Council's \$300,000 and  
5 so having spoken with Mr. Courtright I think  
6 everyone felt comfortable then that we would  
7 go along with Mr. McGowan's suggestion.

8 What was also discussed at the time  
9 was that I think it's Burkhardt will be  
10 collecting the taxes as well.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Burkheimer.

12 MS. EVANS: Burkheimer, correct,  
13 will be collecting taxes as well and at that  
14 time Mr. McGowan had wanted council to  
15 actually place a figure of \$1 million into  
16 the 888 monies rather than the \$500,000 that  
17 was I don't want to say guaranteed by  
18 Mr. Courtright because you can't guarantee  
19 anything, but Mr. Courtright felt  
20 comfortable with, but Mr. Courtright did add  
21 he couldn't speak for Burkheimer, he has  
22 never had any dealings with them. But Mr.  
23 McGowan that the city would be getting  
24 \$500,000 in addition to Mr. Courtright's  
25 collection of \$500,000. However, we felt

1           having had no experience with Burkheimer  
2           that that was quite a risk to take with the  
3           budget, a jump of \$500,000 there. So again,  
4           that's apparently quite a possibility.

5                     In addition to that, I know that  
6           council, for example, allocated \$120,000 --  
7           well, for OECD for the repayment to HUD of  
8           the ineligible activities and since we  
9           received legislation from Ms. Aebli  
10          concerning transfers of funding, I noticed  
11          that in reading the backup on that that the  
12          mayor wanted OECD or Ms. Aebli to request of  
13          HUD that our CDBG funding be cut in order to  
14          cover the ineligible activities. So there  
15          again, we have possibly another \$120,000  
16          that's going to become available. We have,  
17          as you know, we set aside the \$600,000 that  
18          we all wanted used towards the reinstatement  
19          of the 13 firefighters. The mayor has said  
20          on more than one occasion he will not use  
21          the money in that way and he will use it for  
22          financial purposes, and so even though I  
23          don't agree with that decision there he has  
24          that money available to him as well.

25                     MR. MCGOFF: And all I wanted, I



1           have a concern, hopefully all of the things  
2           that, you know, we are looking at occur and  
3           then this doesn't become a concern and  
4           maybe, again, if we are aware of the  
5           situation perhaps we can look at doing some  
6           things to make sure that or to try and get  
7           it closer to that 13.9 than, so thank you.

8                       MS. EVANS: You are welcome. And,  
9           Mr. Loscombe, I'm sorry, do you have  
10          comments or motions?

11                      MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I have a few and  
12          I'll try to be as brief as possible. I just  
13          want to address a couple of issues that were  
14          brought up tonight. Mr. Morgan mentioned  
15          that, you know, we may be playing politics  
16          or whatever and that's his opinion, but I  
17          just wanted to follow that up with the fact  
18          that city council if you accused of us  
19          playing politics the one thing we don't do  
20          we don't play politics with other people's  
21          lives, contrary to others who play politics.

22                      Mr. Tobin, I would like to address  
23          very valid concerns, I mean, it's ashame  
24          it's gone this far. He has the definite  
25          right to be as upset as he is, and I just

1 want top finish that with the fact that when  
2 we submit a request to a department head we  
3 expect it to be followed up and completed  
4 and responded to, unfortunately, that hasn't  
5 happened too frequently, and us being a  
6 part-time body, we are not in the office  
7 every day to follow-up or get the responses.

8 A lot of times when someone has a  
9 concern if they don't hear anything in a  
10 couple of weeks they will call us and  
11 re-alert us and we will try to follow-up on  
12 it, and I assure you now that I'm aware of  
13 this that I will follow-up on it for you and  
14 do what I can at this point, but I think we  
15 all even though we are a part-time body and  
16 there is full-time employees in this  
17 building that are supposed to be doing this  
18 stuff, that any one of our families will say  
19 we are full-time employees because we are  
20 dealing with issues around the clock and we  
21 try to do as much as we can.

22 We get probably dozens of issues on  
23 a daily basis brought into Mrs. Krake and,  
24 you know, we try to -- again, first option  
25 is to let the appropriate department handle

1           it and, unfortunately, that hasn't been  
2           happening.

3                   MR. TOBIN: Can I answer your  
4           question or statement, please? How long are  
5           these issues supposed to be not taken care  
6           of?

7                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, as I said --

8                   MR. TOBIN: Here the situation right  
9           here with this automatic door we know of it  
10          two years that we have been breaking the  
11          federal law?

12                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Exactly.

13                   MR. TOBIN: And possibly for six  
14          years.

15                   MS. EVANS: Yes, thank you,  
16          Mr. Tobin.

17                   MR. TOBIN: How long is the  
18          sidewalks?

19                   MR. LOSCOMBE: What I'm trying to  
20          state is that when it was initially brought  
21          their attention they should have acted on it  
22          right away, we should have received a  
23          response. I have only been here two years.  
24          The employees that are responsible for that  
25          should have taken care of it. They should

1           have responded to us, but we can't -- we  
2           don't have the ability to have go to the  
3           stack every day and see if we have  
4           responses, we rely if you do have a problem  
5           to contact us again and say, "Listen, it's  
6           been three weeks and nothing has been done."

7                   MR. TOBIN: I'm questioning your  
8           responsibilities, the mayor --

9                   MR. LOSCOMBE: I understand.

10                  MR. TOBIN: -- is the boss.

11                  MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, it's beyond --

12                  MR. TOBIN: Why wasn't it --

13                  MR. LOSCOMBE: It exceeded what it  
14           should have been.

15                  MR. TOBIN: And, I mean, the way I  
16           was answered Monday about this handicapped  
17           door, evidently if I take Mr. Seitzinger's  
18           answer, he was just told about it.

19                  MS. EVANS: Well, thank you,  
20           Mr. Tobin.

21                  MR. LOSCOMBE: He doesn't read his  
22           mail, but I assure you I will be giving you  
23           a call.

24                  MR. TOBIN: I mean, this is what's  
25           aggravating.

1 MS. EVANS: Yes, but I --

2 MR. TOBIN: And every time you talk  
3 to somebody, "That's not my job" or "I can't  
4 do anything about it."

5 MS. EVANS: Well, and I know exactly  
6 what you are saying, I have been here a long  
7 time and I have dealt with a great deal of  
8 frustration for many years, but the fact of  
9 the matter is that the mayor hires and the  
10 mayor fires and that city council as a  
11 legislative body has no authority over these  
12 departments heads. Mr. Seitzinger, for  
13 example, is the head of licensing,  
14 inspections and permits.

15 We can make requests on your behalf  
16 and we do this regularly for all of the  
17 citizens of Scranton who contact us, we can  
18 make a request, however, we cannot force any  
19 department, it's not within our scope of  
20 authority to force any department to do  
21 anything. The mayor -- they, in other  
22 words, take their orders from the mayor and  
23 they are responsible to the mayor not to  
24 city council.

25 Now, for example, if we want to talk

1 with even department heads for any request  
2 we make we must send a copy to the mayor of  
3 the city and if he says, you know, he agrees  
4 that can be done then it might happen. If  
5 he says, I couldn't be bothered and puts it  
6 into the trash, that's the way it goes  
7 because, in other words, these department  
8 heads won't even come into a council meeting  
9 to discuss these issues with council unless  
10 they receive the permission of the mayor to  
11 do so, which is why we have never had any of  
12 them here. Well, I could be wrong, if  
13 anyone else recalls having had them here in  
14 the last two years. I know we have wanted  
15 Mr. Seitzinger, we have wanted Mr. Brazil,  
16 and that has not happened.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: I think we may have  
18 had Mr. Brazil on an issue here, but that  
19 was it.

20 MR. TOBIN: Mrs. Evans, may I speak  
21 to you after the meeting?

22 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you. And  
23 I'm so sorry. Mr. Loscombe.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Oh, that's okay.

25 MR. TOBIN: I would like to speak to

1 both of you after the meeting.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: And just a couple of  
3 other things, the meters down at Chamberlain  
4 were discussed. I don't know if we can  
5 officially ask Mrs. Krake to send a letter  
6 to Scranton Parking Authority and the law  
7 department to get the status on that and why  
8 it wasn't presented to city council, and if  
9 in the meantime they could please remove the  
10 "No Parking" signs until it's resolved, at  
11 least give the public that opportunity.

12 I noticed in the newspaper the  
13 mention of funding for a fire truck that the  
14 city is purchasing. I just wanted to remind  
15 the public that the money put in for the  
16 fire truck was put in the CDBG funding by  
17 this city council in our amended budget  
18 after they tried to lease a fire truck and  
19 it was put on hold because I believe they  
20 were waiting for the audit at that time, the  
21 leasing company, and it just fell apart, so  
22 this city council took it upon themselves to  
23 fund for a fire truck. That was not  
24 mentioned in the newspaper article.

25 Also, blight. There was an issue on

1 money for blight. Again, this city council  
2 in it's amended budget has taken on the  
3 attack on blight, we are the ones that have  
4 put extra money in there to fight blight,  
5 and I just wanted to get that on the record,  
6 too, because that's not something you read  
7 in the Scranton Times.

8 A couple of other issues, the  
9 recycling with DPW I had also had some  
10 questions on at that, also, and I believe we  
11 sent a request back a year or so ago  
12 regarding a bar in West Scranton and I don't  
13 know if he ever received a valid response,  
14 but if we could send a letter to DPW  
15 requesting their policies for recycling at  
16 businesses, particularly taverns and bars.  
17 If we can find out what the story is on  
18 that.

19 Let's see here, I'm going to  
20 elaborate on this a little more next week,  
21 but I do have to address our public safety  
22 with the fire department, the cutbacks.  
23 It's incredible. I mean, we are playing  
24 Russian roulette on a daily basis and what  
25 appalled me was to see the Sunday Times



1 article in the paper where the mayor states,  
2 "We pay for what we can afford, Mayor Chris  
3 Doherty said, adding the public will remain  
4 safe with the changes."

5 Unbelievable. This is not about  
6 public safety, this is about money. He has  
7 put a price on your lives, people. Where is  
8 the outrage? Are we going to wait until we  
9 have fatality before the public is outraged  
10 over this? It's crazy and it's going to  
11 happen. We are playing Russian roulette on  
12 a daily basis. We are going to have a  
13 catastrophe, and it's an embarrassment for  
14 us with surrounding communities when they  
15 see what we have here.

16 But I would just hope, and I have  
17 been in some discussions, and I would hope  
18 we are able to work something out on this  
19 and I will elaborate on that a little bit  
20 further. But, again, we have brought this  
21 up week after week and it's certainly,  
22 especially for new business coming into town  
23 to see how their protection has been  
24 decimated, and it's you know what it's going  
25 to do to their business, their insurance

1 rates are going to triple. It's going to be  
2 significant while this man sits down there  
3 and makes comments like that, and I believe  
4 in another day in the newspaper he is more  
5 concerned about cutting grass. I don't  
6 understand it. I don't understand where the  
7 outrage is. I just can't figure it out.

8 And then I happen to pick up a copy  
9 of the Citizens' Voice I saw in on the  
10 newsstand, when I saw the cover I had to  
11 grab it because here's Mayor Layton in  
12 Wilkes-Barre in front of city council, which  
13 I guess he does on a regular basis, and he  
14 is under the gun on a lot of stuff down  
15 there, but he is man enough to get up in the  
16 public where he should be and face the  
17 public and answer the questions.

18 We are talking about getting  
19 together and working things out. Come right  
20 here, Mr. Mayor. I won't put the chair  
21 there, but this is the place to work it out.  
22 We work for the public, you work for the  
23 public. No more playing with their lives.

24 And just finally, the Lace Works  
25 project, I think it's a very great thing for

1 the city. I mean, a building that's been  
2 sitting vacant I don't think anybody else  
3 would pick it up. I like the ideas for the  
4 building. I think they are putting a major  
5 investment in that area themselves, and what  
6 really impressed me was the fact that they  
7 were willing to hold back and discuss the  
8 situations with the neighbors who were  
9 concerned, and that happened on more than  
10 one occasion and we could have -- they could  
11 have had this approval already, but they  
12 were willing to let us have another public  
13 hearing, which they all came and answered  
14 questions and I believe the neighbors -- the  
15 neighborhood associations had all of their  
16 questions answered and in listening to their  
17 speaking tonight I believe it's a benefit to  
18 the neighborhood and to the city and I just  
19 wish a lot of luck, go on with the project,  
20 and hopefully you will tackle more. Thank  
21 you very much.

22 MS. EVANS: And, thank you,  
23 Mr. Loscombe. Mr. McGoff, did you want to  
24 add anything?

25 MR. MCGOFF: It was just with the

1 recycling, didn't we the last time this came  
2 up wasn't the -- we collected at some, like,  
3 private establishments because it increased  
4 the volume and we got rebates, that we  
5 got some type of recycling rebate for the  
6 added collection?

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: You may be correct  
8 there.

9 MR. MCGOFF: I'll look into it. But  
10 I'm pretty sure that that was why recycling  
11 was collected at some places where regular  
12 refuse wasn't collected.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Right, commercial  
14 establishments. But, however, if they are  
15 going to do it at one or two or three they  
16 are going to have to do it at 100. I mean,  
17 you can't pick and chose which --

18 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not sure how it  
19 works, Mr. Loscombe. Like I said, I will  
20 see if I can --

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: But that definitely  
22 benefits us on the recycling.

23 MR. MCGOFF: I'm pretty sure that's  
24 the reason why it was done.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you, gentlemen.

1 Good evening. Scranton City Council opens  
2 this 2012 session with hope for a continued  
3 cooperation of the Doherty administration  
4 and the Pennsylvania Economy League. Firm  
5 goals for the forthcoming year that include  
6 the implementation of payroll, commuter and  
7 amusement taxes for 2013 and valid financial  
8 and public safety concerns that require our  
9 steadfast vigilance.

10 I wish to begin tonight by bringing  
11 the public up-to-date and clarifying recent  
12 city issues. First, a 2010 audit draft will  
13 be provided by Rossi & Company in order that  
14 the city can submit it to the banking  
15 community in compliance with their  
16 requirements for the issuance of a 2012 TAN.  
17 When the 2010 audit is formally completed it  
18 will be submitted to city council and it's  
19 contents may then discussed publically.

20 Second, in cooperation with the  
21 administration city council will introduce  
22 tonight six pieces of legislation that will  
23 set the tax rates for calendar year 2012.  
24 Council could not place this legislation on  
25 it's agenda until it was submitted by the

1 administration. In a letter dated January  
2 3, 2012, to Ryan McGowan, Attorney Hughes  
3 and Nancy Krake, City Solicitor Kelly asked  
4 to be forwarded the millage rates in order  
5 that he could draft legislation to be  
6 included on the January 12 council agenda.

7 On January 4, Councilman Joyce,  
8 Finance Chair, forwarded the millage rate to  
9 city council's office which then provided  
10 the figures to the appropriate parties on  
11 January 5. The six pieces of tax  
12 legislation were not submitted to the Office  
13 of City Council until Monday, January 9.

14 When reviewing previous year's time  
15 lines, it can be determined that tax  
16 legislation was not approved in the  
17 beginning of the January. For example, city  
18 council's first regularly scheduled meeting  
19 of 2011 was held on January 4 because no  
20 Sine Die or reorganization was required.  
21 However, the tax legislation was not  
22 submitted in time to place on council's  
23 January 4 meeting agenda, thus, it was first  
24 introduced during the January 11 meeting and  
25 passed by suspending the rules during the

1 January 18 meeting.

2 In 2012, which required a  
3 reorganization meeting in compliance with  
4 the Home Rule Charter, council followed the  
5 timeline and pattern of the prior years. At  
6 no time was a council meeting delayed.  
7 However, no problem regarding the setting of  
8 the millage occurred until now and whether  
9 it is wise or unwise, the mayor appears to  
10 have decided against pursuing the \$250,000  
11 that has been lost in realty transfer tax  
12 for the sale of the Moses Taylor Hospital to  
13 Community Health Systems and city council  
14 must respect his decision.

15 Third, it was recently reported that  
16 the city will have \$1.1e million for blight  
17 removal in 2012, and I know that my  
18 colleague, Mr. Loscombe, addressed this  
19 himself just a few minutes ago. In  
20 addition, Scranton will have \$1.5 million  
21 available for paving program and handicap  
22 curb cuts in low to moderate income areas in  
23 2012. These significant financial increases  
24 in both programs are primarily due to the  
25 increased dollar amounts allocated by this

1 council.

2 Further, the mayor stated in the  
3 January 10 edition of the Times, city DPW  
4 workers maintain some of these blighted  
5 properties and that's why you just can't  
6 keep cutting parks and DPW. However, LIPS  
7 director, Mark Seitzinger, remarked that  
8 it's still the responsibility of the  
9 landowner to maintain his property after a  
10 structure has been razed by the city.

11 The newspaper article also stated  
12 that the 2012 budget cut 20 DPW workers, and  
13 that is true, but I have since learned that  
14 a number of those workers have been  
15 reinstated, including two of the four  
16 foremen who were previously reinstated by  
17 the mayor into the 2011 budget as well,  
18 three who will take the positions of the  
19 three retirees, and still others who will  
20 fill the positions of those who are out on  
21 workers' comp in 2012. Therefore, it  
22 doesn't appear that the DPW cuts amount to  
23 the 20 contained in the 2012 budget.

24 Thus, with my colleagues agreement,  
25 I ask Mrs. Krake to send a letter on behalf



1 of Scranton City Council to Mrs. Novembrino,  
2 our city controller, to request the  
3 following information: The total number and  
4 names of DPW employees who have been  
5 reinstated into any and all DPW Parks and  
6 Rec and flood control positions in 2012, and  
7 the account number and line item in the 2012  
8 operating budget from which each employee  
9 will be paid.

10 Recently I have spoken with  
11 Mrs. Novembrino several times and she has  
12 been most helpful during our discussions.  
13 Because she is such a trusted, respected  
14 official, I believe she can provide this  
15 information and will help city council to  
16 keep a watchful eye on city finances.

17 Next, included in tonight's agenda  
18 is legislation to enter into an easement  
19 agreement for the Scranton Army Ammunition  
20 Plant, formerly known as Chamberlain, to  
21 maintain their equipment located in a pump  
22 station beneath Mattes Avenue. One has to  
23 wonder if the placement of "No Parking"  
24 signs on Mattes Avenue might be connected in  
25 some way to this legislation, particularly

1           when examining the maps that were attached  
2           within the backup to the legislation. Now,  
3           I know these maps were drawn in 2001 and  
4           2002 which, of course, makes them ten years  
5           antiquated at this point, however, in  
6           looking at them it appears that there is  
7           going to be, as a project is underway, there  
8           has to be traffic control in the area and so  
9           it may be tied into the placement of these  
10          signs, but however, I'm taking a leap on  
11          that observation.

12                         And so, Mrs. Krake, if you could  
13          would please send a letter to the mayor and  
14          DPW director on behalf of city council  
15          asking who authorized the placement of "No  
16          Parking" signs on Mattes Avenue or in  
17          General Dynamics and for what purpose were  
18          these signs installed?

19                         Finally, tonight's agenda also  
20          includes an emergency certificate for the  
21          immediate passage of a resolution to enter  
22          into a contract for insurance services.  
23          According to the legislation, the broker of  
24          record remains the same as it has been for  
25          the last ten years and the insurance

1 companies remain the same as in 2011.  
2 Although the backup provided by the  
3 administration contains an insurance  
4 proposal prepared on December 9, 2011, by  
5 Robert J. Knowels, Jr., this proposal  
6 includes the same problems with which  
7 council took issue in January of 2011.

8 For example, according to this  
9 recent proposal the city still insures the  
10 Albright and Greenridge libraries, which the  
11 city hasn't owned since 2010 when the deeds  
12 were given to the Library Authority and the  
13 South Side Sports Complex, which purportedly  
14 the city hasn't owned since 2003.

15 Equally important, page 25 of the  
16 proposal states: "Premium quotation,  
17 insured, the City of Scranton, policy term  
18 1-1-11 to 1-1-12, the dates of last year's  
19 contract renewal.

20 In addition, questionable quotes  
21 such as for the clock at Providence Square  
22 remain untouched. For example, the clock is  
23 insured for \$30,000 while the deductible is  
24 \$25,000. As you may recall, city council  
25 approved the city insurances last January

1 for a six-month period and urged the mayor  
2 to place the broker of record, and thereby  
3 city insurances, out to bid in the Spring of  
4 the 2011. The mayor ignored council, paid  
5 the full premium in early 2011, and stated  
6 in the Scranton Times that he would be put  
7 the city insurances out to bid later in  
8 2011. It seems that the mayor did not keep  
9 his promise and that the proposals submitted  
10 on December 9 of 2012 is bogus.

11 Perhaps, the administration forgets  
12 that city council passed an ordinance which  
13 puts all professional services out for bid  
14 with very few exceptions and the city's  
15 insurances and the broker of the record do  
16 not meet these exceptions. Therefore, I  
17 can't approve this legislation as it stands.

18 Lastly, I have a few citizens'  
19 requests from East Mountain residents and  
20 South Side residents that I will provide to  
21 our office tomorrow for follow-up with the  
22 appropriate city departments, and that's it.

23 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AMENDING FILE OF  
24 COUNCIL NO. 6, 1976 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE  
25 (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL

1 REVENUE PURPOSES ON THE TRANSFER OF REAL  
2 PROPERTY SITUATE WITHIN THE CITY OF  
3 SCRANTON; PRESCRIBING AND REGULATING THE  
4 METHOD OF EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF SUCH  
5 TAX; CONFERRING POWERS AND IMPOSING DUTIES  
6 UPON CERTAIN PERSONS, AND PROVIDING  
7 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE RATE OF THE  
8 REALTY TRANSFER TAX AT TWO AND EIGHT TENTHS  
9 PERCENT (2.8%) FOR CALENDER YEAR 2012.  
10 **(EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED)**.

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

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

19 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AMENDING FILE OF  
24 COUNCIL NO.100, 1976, ENTITLED "AN  
25 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL AND

1 SPECIAL TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977", BY  
2 SETTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR  
3 2012. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

9 MS. EVANS: On the question?

10 MR. MCGOFF: Just once again, I  
11 would like to express my concerns and put it  
12 on the record. Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Anyone else?  
14 All those in favor of introduction signify  
15 by saying aye.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. AMENDING FILE OF  
21 COUNCIL NO. 11, 1976, ENTITLED "AN  
22 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) ENACTING, IMPOSING A  
23 TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES IN THE  
24 AMOUNT OF TWO PERCENT (2%) ON EARNED INCOME  
25 AND NET PROFITS ON PERSONS, INDIVIDUALS,

1 ASSOCIATIONS AND BUSINESSES WHO ARE  
2 RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OR  
3 NONRESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR  
4 WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED OR BUSINESS  
5 CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,  
6 REQUIRING THE FILING OF RETURNS BY TAXPAYERS  
7 SUBJECT TO THE TAX; REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO  
8 COLLECT THE TAX AT SOURCE; PROVIDING  
9 FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTION AND  
10 ENFORCEMENT OF THE SAID TAX; AND IMPOSING  
11 PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS", BY IMPOSING  
12 THE WAGE TAX AT TWO AND FOUR TENTHS PERCENT  
13 (2.4%) ON EARNED INCOME FOR THE YEAR 2012  
14 FOR RESIDENTS. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE  
15 ATTACHED)

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

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. AMENDING FILE OF  
4 COUNCIL NO.7, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE  
5 (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A MERCANTILE  
6 LICENSE TAX OF 2 MILLS FOR THE YEAR 1976 AND  
7 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER UPON PERSONS ENGAGING IN  
8 CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS AND BUSINESSES THEREIN;  
9 PROVIDING FOR ITS LEVY AND COLLECTION AND  
10 FOR THE ISSUANCE OF MERCANTILE LICENSES;  
11 CONFERRING AND IMPOSING POWERS AND DUTIES  
12 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF THE CITY OF  
13 SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY  
14 IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX AT  
15 SEVEN-EIGHTHS OF A MILL (.000875) FOR  
16 CALENDAR YEAR 2012. **(EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE  
17 ATTACHED)**

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

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

25 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.



1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

4 MS. KRAKE: 5-F. AMENDING FILE OF  
5 COUNCIL NO.8, 1976, ENTITLED "AN  
6 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) PROVIDING FOR THE  
7 GENERAL REVENUE BY IMPOSING A TAX AT THE  
8 RATE OF TWO (2) MILLS UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF  
9 OPERATING OR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE CITY  
10 OF SCRANTON AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS  
11 RECEIPTS THEREFROM; REQUIRING REGISTRATION  
12 AND PAYMENT OF THE TAX AS CONDITION TO THE  
13 CONDUCTING OF SUCH BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR  
14 THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX;  
15 PRESCRIBING SUCH REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS  
16 AND RECORDS; CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES  
17 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING  
18 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE BUSINESS  
19 PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE RATE OF SEVEN-EIGHTHS  
20 OF A MILL (.000875) FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR  
21 2012. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED)

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

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 5-G. AMENDING FILE OF  
10 COUNCIL NO.17, 1994 ENTITLED "AN  
11 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) AUTHORIZING THE  
12 GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
13 ENACT' A WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE'  
14 FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING REVENUE TO COVER  
15 THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION COSTS  
16 INCURRED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE  
17 DISPOSAL OF REFUSE", BY IMPOSING A WASTE  
18 DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE OF \$178.00 FOR  
19 CALENDAR YEAR 2012. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE  
20 ATTACHED)

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

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: 5-H. AUTHORIZING THE  
9 SINGLE TAX OFFICE TO COLLECT THE 2011  
10 DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES FOR THE CITY OF  
11 SCRANTON.

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

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: 5-I. AMENDING FILE OF  
25 COUNCIL NO.56, 2011, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED

1 "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2012" BY  
2 TRANSFERRING \$20,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.  
3 01.401.13090.4299 (CONTINGENCY - OPERATING  
4 EXPENSES) TO ACCOUNT NO.01.020.00000.4201  
5 (PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) TO PROVIDE FUNDING  
6 TO ECTV FOR OPERATING EXPENSES DURING THE  
7 YEAR 2012.

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

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 5-J. AUTHORIZING THE  
21 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
22 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN EASEMENT  
23 AGREEMENT FOR THE SCRANTON ARMY AMMUNITION  
24 PLANT TO MAINTAIN THEIR EQUIPMENT LOCATED IN  
25 A PUMP STATION LOCATED BENEATH MATTES

1 AVENUE.

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

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

7 MS. EVANS: On the question? I know  
8 that one of our audience members asked  
9 earlier to whom the equipment belongs, it  
10 belongs to the Scranton Army Ammunition  
11 Plant. They will be entirely responsible  
12 for it's maintenance and replacement should  
13 anything occur and it will never be  
14 designated back to the city ordained to the  
15 city in any way. At all times will the  
16 Scranton -- I don't what they are calling  
17 themselves here, Scranton Army Ammunition  
18 Plant be entirely responsible for the costs  
19 for their own equipment and that pump  
20 station and the underground equipment as  
21 well. Is there anyone else on the question?  
22 All those in favor of introduction signify  
23 by saying aye.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 5-K. AMENDING FILE OF  
4 COUNCIL NO. 40, 2010, AS AMENDED ENTITLED,  
5 "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
6 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
7 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO  
8 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR  
9 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
10 TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
11 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT  
12 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY  
13 SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM", BY  
14 TRANSFERRING A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$500,000.00  
15 FROM PROJECTS 05-15 EMERGENCY FLOOD RELIEF,  
16 07-225 SLIBCO, 05-155 HILL NEIGHBORHOOD  
17 ASSOCIATION, 05-172 LACKAWANNA COLLEGE  
18 (SCRANTON LACE), 10-199 SCRANTON CULTURAL  
19 CENTER, 10-237.2 CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT  
20 LIVING, 10-175 TELESPOND SENIOR SERVICES,  
21 INC. TO PROJECT 11-04 RECONSTRUCTION OF  
22 ROADS AND HANDICAP CURB CUTS.

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

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

3 MS. EVANS: On the question? I know  
4 that, again, that someone asked for a list  
5 of the streets that will be paved using this  
6 money. I believe that list is developed by  
7 OECD and probably with some direction from  
8 the DPW director as well. Council does not  
9 determine the streets that are be to paved  
10 or the handicapped curb cuts that are to be  
11 addressed in any area of the city, but  
12 please keep in mind, once again, this is  
13 money that has to be put toward low to  
14 moderate income areas of the city.

15 All those in favor of introduction  
16 signify by saying aye.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: 5-L. AUTHORIZING THE  
22 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
23 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR  
24 INSURANCE WITH HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT  
25 INSURANCE EXCHANGE (H.A.R.I.E.), INDIAN

1 HARBOR INSURANCE COMPANY/XL INSURANCE,  
2 PHILADELPHIA INDEMNITY INSURANCE COMPANY,  
3 ARCH INSURANCE COMPANY AND SCOTTSDALE  
4 INSURANCE COMPANY FOR THE CITY INSURANCE  
5 COVERAGES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2012  
6 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2013. (EMERGENCY  
7 CERTIFICATE ATTACHED)

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would like to make  
9 a motion to amend Item 5-L as follows:  
10 Number one, in the summary title inserting,  
11 "After January 8, 2013, with the premium to  
12 be paid for the first quarter only, ending  
13 March 31, 2012."

14 Number 2. In the fourth whereas  
15 clause after "interest" inserting "To be  
16 paid for the first quarter only ending March  
17 31, 2012."

18 And No. 3, inserting the fifth  
19 whereas clause as follows: "Whereas, by  
20 Ordinance File of Council No. 41, 2010,  
21 which amended the City's Administrative  
22 Code, the City of Scranton must bid  
23 professional services over \$10,000 as  
24 required by Ordinance File of Council No.  
25 14, 2010, which the city did not do so for



1 hiring Knowel's Associates, LLC, as the  
2 city's insurance broker to provide insurance  
3 coverage for the city."

4 And No. 4, inserting the six whereas  
5 clause as follows: "Whereas, to comply with  
6 Ordinances File of Council Nos. 41, 2010 and  
7 14, 2010, the city must develop a bid  
8 proposal for the insurance brokers to submit  
9 bid for the city's insurance for property,  
10 equipment, and equipment breakdown, general  
11 liability, crime, employee dishonesty, EDM  
12 with commercial automobile coverage to be  
13 bid by February --" it's 30 days from today  
14 I believe.

15 MS. EVANS: Today is the 12th.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: "February 12, and  
17 awarded by March 8, with the legislation  
18 submitted to council for the March 15, 2012  
19 meeting."

20 Number 5, in the now, therefore,  
21 clause in the tenth line after "Scottsdale  
22 Insurance Company," inserting, "With  
23 premiums to be paid for the first quarter  
24 ending March 31, 2012, only."

25 Number 6, also in the now,

1           therefore, clause in the 15th line, after  
2           "Insurance contract", inserting, "With the  
3           requirements that the city comply with  
4           Ordinances File of Council No. 41, 2010, and  
5           14, 2010, by developing a bid proposal for  
6           insurance brokers to submit bids for the  
7           city's insurance coverage for property,  
8           equipment, equipment breakdown, general  
9           liability, crime, employee dishonesty in  
10          money and commercial automobile coverage to  
11          be bid by February 12, 2012, and awarded by  
12          March 8, 2012, with legislation submitted to  
13          council for the March 15, 2012, meeting  
14          awarding the bid to the lowest most  
15          responsible bidder."

16                   MS. KRAKE: Mrs. Evans I would just  
17                   like to point out that our office has made a  
18                   clerical error. In the first part it should  
19                   say, "After January 1," not "January 8."

20                   MS. EVANS: In number one?

21                   MS. KRAKE: Yes.

22                   MS. EVANS: Thank you. Let the  
23                   motion stand as for number one in the  
24                   summary title inserting, "After January 1,  
25                   2013, with the premium to be paid for the

1 first quarter only ending March 31, 2012."

2 We have a measures on the floor, is  
3 there a second?

4 MR. MCGOFF: I'll second.

5 MS. EVANS: On the question?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just on the question,  
7 I believe Mrs. Evans alluded to it in her  
8 comments, that it is beneficial to any  
9 municipality to have their insurances bid  
10 every few years, usually three to five  
11 years, and that would be the same with your  
12 own personal insurances.

13 We have replacement cost coverages,  
14 in looking at these coverages, as Mrs. Evans  
15 has stated, I believe some of the coverages  
16 are too low, some may be too high, and with  
17 the deductibles there is things in there we  
18 shouldn't even cover under the policy.

19 Again, as Mrs. Evans has stated, the  
20 libraries, we still have to clarify that,  
21 and the South Side Complex, among many  
22 things, but it's due diligence for any  
23 insurance broker to go out and appraise each  
24 structure and come up with a valid  
25 replacement cost, and that's something I

1 don't believe has been done in over ten  
2 years. I believe it's time to do it now  
3 and, you know, it may save us money, it may  
4 increase the premium, because we may be  
5 underinsured on the structures, but the  
6 problem is if you insure your house for  
7 \$100,000 and the replacement cost value is  
8 \$200,000 and you have a fire and the fire  
9 does \$50,000 worth of the damage the  
10 insurance adjustor is going give you \$25,000  
11 because you have only insured it 50 percent  
12 of the value, and I believe our attorney can  
13 agree with that.

14 But that's part of the problem and  
15 when we do have a problem like that it's  
16 going to be too late. But, you know, there  
17 is many companies out there that could bid  
18 on this, and maybe Mr. Knowels and his  
19 company will the successful bidder, he has  
20 had it for ten years, he knows the territory  
21 here, but I do think rather than just carbon  
22 copying every year that we have to look at  
23 everything we have and insure it properly.

24 And we tried to do this last year,  
25 and I mentioned I think two weeks ago it's

1 déjà vu all over when they found the \$5  
2 million hole again, it's last year repeating  
3 itself again. Hiring people back in the DPW  
4 after our budget was passed, not putting out  
5 the contract to bid, but we cannot -- we  
6 received this on January 8, the coverage is  
7 from January 1, so for us to do our due  
8 diligence we can't deny this tonight and  
9 say, no, we are going to vote against it, we  
10 would have no coverage. We have to keep the  
11 city covered for liability purposes and  
12 property purposes, everything, so we can't  
13 risk that situation, so what we are doing is  
14 allowing Knowel's Associates to continue  
15 this policy for three months, basically they  
16 will get an annual policy, but all they have  
17 do is make a first quarter payment and by  
18 that time it should be bid out and the  
19 successful bidders will be announced at that  
20 time, but I'm just hoping it's a great  
21 benefit for everybody.

22 And I would also say if this passes  
23 that we must notify Mrs. Novembrino along  
24 with this not to pay an annual premium only  
25 to pay the first quarter as per our

1 ordinance. And that's all I have on the  
2 question.

3 MS. EVANS: And I would add to that  
4 that I do have a copy that was submitted to  
5 us today by Mrs. Novembrino of the voucher  
6 for the insurance in the amount of \$410,318.  
7 I also have before me a copy of the check  
8 which is dated 1-6-12, in the aforementioned  
9 amount, however, it's my understanding that  
10 that check has not been sent. It was  
11 awaiting tonight's emergency certificate,  
12 the approval of that, and so I think what  
13 Mr. Loscombe brought up is that much more  
14 important that the controller be notified  
15 first thing in the morning of the result of  
16 tonight's vote and in the event that this  
17 amendment is successful that check cannot be  
18 sent.

19 Is there anyone else on the  
20 question. All those in favor of the motion  
21 signify by saying aye.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
25 have it and so moved. At this time I'll

1 entertain a motion that item 5-L, as  
2 amended, be introduced into it's proper  
3 committee.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would like to a  
14 make to suspend the rules to move Items 5-B,  
15 5-C, 5-D, 5-E, 5-F, 5-G to Sixth and Seventh  
16 Order and 5-L to Seventh Order to be  
17 considered for final passage based on the  
18 attached emergency certifies.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

1 MS. KRAKE: We have supplied to  
2 council two supplemental addendum agendas  
3 that you should have in front of you?

4 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you.

5 MS. KRAKE: 6-A, FORMERLY, 5-B.  
6 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 1,  
7 2012, AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
8 COUNCIL NO. 6, 1976 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE  
9 (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL  
10 REVENUE PURPOSES ON THE TRANSFER OF REAL  
11 PROPERTY SITUATE WITHIN THE CITY OF  
12 SCRANTON; PRESCRIBING AND REGULATING THE  
13 METHOD OF EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF SUCH  
14 TAX; CONFERRING POWERS AND IMPOSING DUTIES  
15 UPON CERTAIN PERSONS, AND PROVIDING  
16 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE RATE OF THE  
17 REALTY TRANSFER TAX AT TWO AND EIGHT TENTHS  
18 PERCENT (2.8%) FOR CALENDER YEAR 2012.  
19 **(EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED)**.

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

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Chairman, I move  
23 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: On the question? All



1 those in favor signify by saying aye.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

6 MS. KRAKE: 6-B, FORMERLY 5-C,  
7 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 2,  
8 2012 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
9 COUNCIL NO.100, 1976, ENTITLED "AN  
10 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL AND  
11 SPECIAL TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977", BY  
12 SETTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2012.  
13 **(EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED)**.

14 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by  
15 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Chairman, I move  
17 that Item 6-B pass reading by title.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 6-C, FORMERLY 5-D,

1 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 3,  
2 2012 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
3 COUNCIL NO. 11, 1976, ENTITLED "AN  
4 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) ENACTING, IMPOSING A  
5 TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES IN THE  
6 AMOUNT OF TWO PERCENT (2%) ON EARNED INCOME  
7 AND NET PROFITS ON PERSONS, INDIVIDUALS,  
8 ASSOCIATIONS AND BUSINESSES WHO ARE  
9 RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OR  
10 NONRESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR  
11 WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED OR BUSINESS  
12 CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,  
13 REQUIRING THE FILING OF RETURNS BY TAXPAYERS  
14 SUBJECT TO THE TAX; REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO  
15 COLLECT THE TAX AT SOURCE; PROVIDING  
16 FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTION AND  
17 ENFORCEMENT OF THE SAID TAX; AND IMPOSING  
18 PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS", BY IMPOSING  
19 THE WAGE TAX AT TWO AND FOUR TENTHS PERCENT  
20 (2.4%) ON EARNED INCOME FOR THE YEAR 2012  
21 FOR RESIDENTS. **(EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE**  
22 **ATTACHED)** .

23 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by  
24 title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Chairman, I move

1           that Item 6-C pass reading by title.

2                   MR. MCGOFF:   Second.

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

5                   MR. MCGOFF:   Aye.

6                   MR. LOSCOMBE:  Aye.

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

9                   MS. KRAKE:   6-D, FORMERLY 5-E,  
10           READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 4,  
11           2012 - AN ORDINANCE -AMENDING FILE OF  
12           COUNCIL NO. 7, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE  
13           (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A MERCANTILE  
14           LICENSE TAX OF 2 MILLS FOR THE YEAR 1976 AND  
15           ANNUALLY THEREAFTER UPON PERSONS ENGAGING IN  
16           CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS AND BUSINESSES THEREIN;  
17           PROVIDING FOR ITS LEVY AND COLLECTION AND  
18           FOR THE ISSUANCE OF MERCANTILE LICENSES;  
19           CONFERRING AND IMPOSING POWERS AND DUTIES  
20           UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF THE CITY OF  
21           SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY  
22           IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX AT  
23           SEVEN-EIGHTHS OF A MILL (.000875) FOR  
24           CALENDAR YEAR 2012.  **(EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE**  
25           **ATTACHED)**

1 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by  
2 title of Item 6-D, what is your pleasure?

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Chairman, I move  
4 that Item 6-D pass reading by title.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

12 MS. KRAKE: 6-E, FORMERLY 5-F,  
13 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 5,  
14 2012 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
15 COUNCIL NO.8, 1976, ENTITLED "AN  
16 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) PROVIDING FOR THE  
17 GENERAL REVENUE BY IMPOSING A TAX AT THE  
18 RATE OF TWO (2) MILLS UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF  
19 OPERATING OR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE CITY  
20 OF SCRANTON AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS  
21 RECEIPTS THEREFROM; REQUIRING REGISTRATION  
22 AND PAYMENT OF THE TAX AS CONDITION TO THE  
23 CONDUCTING OF SUCH BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR  
24 THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX;  
25 PRESCRIBING SUCH REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS

1 AND RECORDS; CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES  
2 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING  
3 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE BUSINESS  
4 PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE RATE OF SEVEN-EIGHTHS  
5 OF A MILL (.000875) FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR  
6 2012. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED)

7 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by  
8 title of Item 6-E, what is your pleasure?

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Chairman, I move  
10 that Item 6-E pass reading by title.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 6-F, FORMERLY 5-G,  
19 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 6,  
20 2012 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
21 COUNCIL NO.17, 1994 ENTITLED "AN  
22 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) AUTHORIZING THE  
23 GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
24 ENACT' A WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE'  
25 FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING REVENUE TO COVER

1 THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION COSTS  
2 INCURRED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE  
3 DISPOSAL OF REFUSE", BY IMPOSING A WASTE  
4 DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE OF \$178.00 FOR  
5 CALENDAR YEAR 2012. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE  
6 ATTACHED)

7 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by  
8 title of Item 6-F, what is your pleasure?

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Chairman, I move  
10 that Item 6-F pass reading by title.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

18 Is there anyone who wishes to  
19 address council on Item 7-B, 7-C, 7-D, 7-E,  
20 7-F, 7-G and 7-H, as amended, the emergency  
21 certificate legislation, that have been  
22 moved to Seventh Order?

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes, Marie  
24 Schumacher. I guess what is now what was  
25 5-C, put it that way, in past years we have

1           always had great specifying of all the  
2           millage rates except for the real estate,  
3           that's always been done in the past, and I'm  
4           assuming that's the general, but I would  
5           like to know what the millage is for these  
6           general and special taxes as a taxpayer?

7           MS. EVANS: I don't know that's in  
8           the backup.

9           MS. SCHUMACHER: Mrs. Krake has it,  
10          I believe.

11          MS. KRAKE: 5-C? Was it 5-C?

12          MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes.

13          MS. KRAKE: I do have the original  
14          file.

15          MS. EVANS: Okay.

16          MS. KRAKE: Would you like me to  
17          read it?

18          MS. EVANS: Yes, please.

19          MS. KRAKE: Land .096701.

20          Improvements .0210 --

21          MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm sorry, would  
22          you start with improvements again?

23          MS. KRAKE: Yes. Land .096701.

24          Improvements .021030.

25          MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. And are

1           there any other taxes being levied? It said  
2           general and special. Is there a special  
3           tax?

4                   MS. KRAKE: I think that description  
5           goes back to 1976.

6                   MS. SCHUMACHER: To 1976, okay.  
7           Thank you very much.

8                   MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

9                   MR. MCGOFF: I'd like to make a  
10          motion to take File of Council No. 59, 2011,  
11          from the table.

12                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

15                   MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

19                   MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A, FOR  
20          CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR  
21          ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 59, 2011  
22          (FORMERLY TABLED) - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL  
23          NO. 74, 1993 (AS AMENDED), ENTITLED THE  
24          ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON,  
25          BY AMENDING SECTION 306 TABLE OF PERMITTED



1 USES BY DISTRICT; SECTION 307 B.4. TABLE  
2 OF LOT AND SETBACK REQUIREMENTS BY DISTRICT;  
3 601.A.5. MIXED-USE ADAPTIVE REUSE; TABLE  
4 6.1 OFF STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS; SECTION  
5 602.E. LOCATION OF PARKING.

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

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question? I  
11 think what might have been missed this  
12 evening, and I'll get through this quickly,  
13 is that an RACP grant was approved by this  
14 council for this Scranton Lace Project and I  
15 believe that would have happened about a  
16 year ago. This is I feel a very good  
17 project, it will better lower Greenridge, it  
18 will better the City of Scranton, and I am  
19 very, very pleased that those who reside in  
20 the immediate vicinity are so supportive of  
21 the project as well and I thank these  
22 gentlemen for taking the extra step and  
23 reaching out to the community and being a  
24 very good neighbor. You certainly set the  
25 bar for other projects citywide because, as

1 was indicated earlier, this certainly does  
2 change the zoning citywide, so we will have  
3 to, as Mr. McGoff said, take it situation by  
4 situation and just make sure that everyone  
5 is as amenable and compliant as Mr. Cordaro  
6 and Mr. Constantine and Attorney Jones have  
7 been. Anyone else on the question? Roll  
8 call, please.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
15 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted. Much  
16 luck to all.

17 MS. KRAKE: 7-B, FORMERLY 6-A - FOR  
18 CONSIDERATION FOR THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -  
19 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 1, 2012 -  
20 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 6, 1976  
21 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING  
22 A TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES ON THE  
23 TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY SITUATE WITHIN THE  
24 CITY OF SCRANTON; PRESCRIBING AND REGULATING  
25 THE METHOD OF EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF SUCH

1 TAX; CONFERRING POWERS AND IMPOSING DUTIES  
2 UPON CERTAIN PERSONS, AND PROVIDING  
3 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE RATE OF THE  
4 REALTY TRANSFER TAX AT TWO AND EIGHT TENTHS  
5 PERCENT (2.8%) FOR CALENDER YEAR 2012.  
6 **(EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED)**.

7 MR. MCGOFF: I'd like to make a  
8 motion to appoint Mr. Loscombe as temporary  
9 Chair on Finance.

10 MS. EVANS: I second the motion. On  
11 the question? All those in favor signify by  
12 saying aye.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
16 have it and so moved. What is the  
17 recommendation of the Chair for the  
18 Committee on Finance?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: As temporary  
20 Chairperson for the Committee on Finance, I  
21 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
24 call, please?

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
6 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

7 MS. KRAKE: 7-C, FORMERLY 6-B - FOR  
8 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -  
9 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 2, 2012  
10 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.100, 1976,  
11 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) LEVYING  
12 GENERAL AND SPECIAL TAXES FOR THE FISCAL  
13 YEAR 1977", BY SETTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE  
14 YEAR 2012. **(EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED)**.

15 MS. EVANS: What is the  
16 recommendation of the Chair for the  
17 Committee on Finance?

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: As temporary  
19 Chairperson for the Committee on Finance, I  
20 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
23 call, please?

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

4 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
5 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

6 MS. KRAKE: 7-D, FORMERLY 6-C, FOR  
7 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -  
8 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 3, 2012 -  
9 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 11, 1976,  
10 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)  
11 ENACTING, IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE  
12 PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO PERCENT (2%)  
13 ON EARNED INCOME AND NET PROFITS ON PERSONS,  
14 INDIVIDUALS, ASSOCIATIONS AND BUSINESSES WHO  
15 ARE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OR  
16 NONRESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR  
17 WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED OR BUSINESS  
18 CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,  
19 REQUIRING THE FILING OF RETURNS BY TAXPAYERS  
20 SUBJECT TO THE TAX; REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO  
21 COLLECT THE TAX AT SOURCE; PROVIDING  
22 FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTION AND  
23 ENFORCEMENT OF THE SAID TAX; AND IMPOSING  
24 PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS", BY IMPOSING  
25 THE WAGE TAX AT TWO AND FOUR TENTHS PERCENT

1 (2.4%) ON EARNED INCOME FOR THE YEAR 2012  
2 FOR RESIDENTS. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE  
3 ATTACHED) .

4 MS. EVANS: What is the  
5 recommendation of the Chair for the  
6 Committee on Finance?

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: As temporary  
8 Chairperson for the Committee on Finance, I  
9 recommend final passage of Item 7-D.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

11 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
12 call, please?

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
19 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

20 MS. KRAKE: 7-E, FORMERLY 6-D - FOR  
21 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -  
22 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 4, 2012 -  
23 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 7, 1976,  
24 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING  
25 A MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX OF 2 MILLS FOR THE

1 YEAR 1976 AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER UPON  
2 PERSONS ENGAGING IN CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS AND  
3 BUSINESSES THEREIN; PROVIDING FOR ITS LEVY  
4 AND COLLECTION AND FOR THE ISSUANCE OF  
5 MERCANTILE LICENSES; CONFERRING AND IMPOSING  
6 POWERS AND DUTIES UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF  
7 THE CITY OF SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING  
8 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE  
9 LICENSE TAX AT SEVEN EIGHTHS OF A MILL  
10 (.000875) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2012. (EMERGENCY  
11 CERTIFICATE ATTACHED)

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

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: As temporary  
16 Chairperson for the Committee on Finance, I  
17 recommend final passage of Item 7-E.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

1 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
2 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

3 MS. KRAKE: 7-F, FORMERLY 6-E - FOR  
4 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -  
5 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 5, 2012 -  
6 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.8, 1976,  
7 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)  
8 PROVIDING FOR THE GENERAL REVENUE BY  
9 IMPOSING A TAX AT THE RATE OF TWO (2) MILLS  
10 UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF OPERATING OR  
11 CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
12 AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS RECEIPTS THEREFROM;  
13 REQUIRING REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF THE  
14 TAX AS CONDITION TO THE CONDUCTING OF SUCH  
15 BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND  
16 COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX; PRESCRIBING SUCH  
17 REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS AND RECORDS;  
18 CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES UPON THE TAX  
19 COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY  
20 IMPOSING THE BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE  
21 RATE OF SEVEN-EIGHTHS OF A MILL (.000875)  
22 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2012. **(EMERGENCY**  
23 **CERTIFICATE ATTACHED)**

24 MS. EVANS: What is the  
25 recommendation of the Chair for the



1 Committee on Finance?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: As temporary  
3 Chairperson for the Committee on Finance, I  
4 recommend final passage of Item 7-F.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

6 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
7 call, please?

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
14 Item 7-F legally and lawfully adopted.

15 MS. KRAKE: 7-G, FORMERLY 6-F - FOR  
16 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -  
17 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 6, 2012  
18 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.17, 1994  
19 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)  
20 AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY  
21 OF SCRANTON TO ENACT' A WASTE DISPOSAL AND  
22 COLLECTION FEE' FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING  
23 REVENUE TO COVER THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND  
24 COLLECTION COSTS INCURRED BY THE CITY OF  
25 SCRANTON FOR THE DISPOSAL OF REFUSE", BY

1 IMPOSING A WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE  
2 OF \$178.00 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2012.

3 (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

4 MS. EVANS: What is the  
5 recommendation of the Chair for the  
6 Committee on Finance?

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: As temporary  
8 Chairperson for the Committee on Finance, I  
9 recommend final passage of Item 7-G.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

11 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
12 call, please?

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
19 Item 7-G legally and lawfully adopted.

20 MS. KRAKE: 7-H, AS AMENDED, WHICH  
21 WAS FORMERLY 5-L - FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE  
22 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
23 RESOLUTION NO. 20, 2012 - AUTHORIZING THE  
24 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
25 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR

1 INSURANCE WITH HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT  
2 INSURANCE EXCHANGE (H.A.R.I.E.), INDIAN  
3 HARBOR INSURANCE COMPANY/XL INSURANCE,  
4 PHILADELPHIA INDEMNITY INSURANCE COMPANY,  
5 ARCH INSURANCE COMPANY AND SCOTTSDALE  
6 INSURANCE COMPANY FOR THE CITY INSURANCE  
7 COVERAGES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2012  
8 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2013. (EMERGENCY  
9 CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

10 MS. EVANS: As Chairperson for the  
11 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
12 passage of Item 7-H, as amended.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

21 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
22 Item 7-H, as amended, legally and lawfully  
23 adopted.

24 If there is no further business,  
25 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

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MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVANS: This meeting is  
adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER