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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, March 8, 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

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan. Mr.

7 Loscombe. Mr. Joyce.

8 MR. JOYCE: Here.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

12 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
13 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON POLICE PENSION
14 COMMISSION MEETING HELD JANUARY 25, 2012.

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

17 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. CONTROLLER'S REPORT
18 FOR THE MONTH ENDING JANUARY 31, 2012.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. AGENDA OF THE
22 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD
23 MARCH 14, 2012.

24 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
25 If not received and filed. Do we have any

1 clerk's notes, Mrs. Krake?

2 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any
4 council members have announcements at this
5 time?

6 (Mr. Rogan and Mr. Loscombe take the
7 dais and join the meeting.)

8 MR. MCGOFF: I'd just like to
9 mention that this Saturday is the St.
10 Patrick's Day parade. It kicks off at
11 11:00. It's I believe one of the great days
12 in the City of Scranton if people come and
13 celebrate and enjoy the parade responsibly,
14 and I know a lot of hard work is put into
15 making it a great parade for families and I
16 would ask that everyone that can please come
17 to the parade and enjoy it, but again, enjoy
18 it responsibly.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McGoff.
20 Is there anyone else? St. Ann's Maronite
21 Catholic Church located at 1320 Price Street
22 in West Scranton will hold it's annual
23 Lenten fish dinner tomorrow, Friday, March
24 9, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The tickets to the
25 buffet-style dinner are \$12 and can be

1 purchased at the door.

2 Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic
3 Church, 1309 West Locust Street in Scranton
4 will hold a pierogi and clam chowder sale
5 every Saturday before and after the 4:00
6 mass and Sunday before and after the 11 a.m.
7 mass during the Lenten season. Pierogies
8 are \$6 per dozen and clam chowder is \$6 per
9 quart. Be sure to pick up these delicious
10 homemade Lenten treats. Also, a bake sale
11 and basket raffle will be conducted on palm
12 Saturday and Sunday, March 31, and April 1,
13 before and after the weekend masses.

14 The Fraternal Order of Eagles, 493
15 Meridian Avenue in Scranton will hold a
16 pre-purple day epilepsy benefit on March 24,
17 2012, from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Admission is \$5
18 and includes food, live entertainment from 8
19 to 11 p.m. and basket raffles featuring
20 autographed books by cake boss Buddy
21 Velastro. All proceeds benefit the Anita
22 Kaufmann Foundation for the awareness of
23 epilepsy and World Purple Day. For more
24 information call the Eagle's club at
25 961-5495.

1 take on city hall, he is the gentleman.
2 Mrs. Krake?

3 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
4 PARTICIPATION.

5 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
6 tonight is Andy Sbaraglia.

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
8 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians.
9 You tell me the SRA has the money to pay off
10 all of the legal costs that's associated
11 with this deal with Buona and the other
12 place?

13 MS. EVANS: Obviously they must
14 have.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, they just went
16 bankrupt and we had to pay a million and a
17 half so you can tell me, where is the money
18 coming from to pay these people, and I hope
19 it ain't from us. I hope someone looks
20 into -- not that I begrudge what he did, you
21 know I supported Buona all the way along
22 plus that office building that they are
23 going to build never was built. If you
24 remember the grandioso plans they brought
25 before us was a joke, \$33 million down the

1 drain there, but nobody seems to care.

2 Let's go onto the agenda. You are
3 looking into a procedure now for the
4 disposal of police vehicles?

5 MS. EVANS: Yes.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Why wasn't -- you
7 know the city was advertising to sell I
8 think 25 vehicles before this came out?
9 They already put out a bid for somebody to
10 buy them. Why now are we coming after the
11 them 25 vehicles or so?

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I may address
13 that, Mr. Sbaraglia, I believe I have spoken
14 with Chief Duffy at some point a few weeks
15 ago and with the new price on scrap metal
16 and stuff like that they may end up in the
17 better position scrapping them rather than
18 selling them outright as they have intended
19 to previously. That's just an option they
20 are looking at.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: A vehicle that's
22 in -- everything on it they give you \$200
23 bucks for, I think some of them vehicles we
24 may have gotten more than \$200, we got have
25 scraped them ourself for \$200, why we had to

1 go out on bids to do that, I don't know.
2 All I know is it was in the paper, it was
3 advertised and they are going to do it and
4 not only did they do it this year they did
5 it a few years before, too. I heard that
6 the only person able to bid on them was
7 Mr. DeNaples up there and he got the
8 contract.

9 MS. EVANS: I can tell you from the
10 ordinances it says that junked police
11 vehicles between zero dollars up to \$20,000
12 may be disposed by obtaining at least three
13 sealed quotes from scrap metal businesses.
14 Junked police vehicles valued at \$20,000 and
15 up may only be disposed of pursuant to a
16 formal bid advertised in the newspaper of
17 general circulation and opened at a formal
18 bid opening by the city controller.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: And I believe they
20 have a little of both there. There were
21 some that were sitting so long that, you
22 know, basically it's just --

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: Are you telling me
24 the scrap dealers are going have a used car
25 lot? Is that what you are saying? Up to

1 \$20,000, a vehicle worth \$20,000 they are
2 going to buy them for scrap and put them in
3 a lot? No way. They should have been open
4 for bids, every vehicle should be open for
5 bids. If they can't get the bids then you
6 go like that. That's a last resort, not a
7 first resort.

8 Let's go over to "D". It has to do
9 with the hiring of this environmental
10 company. What is CECO doing for us that we
11 are paying all that money to CECO? They are
12 our city engineer. Why can't they go out
13 there and check on them cuts and paving?
14 Why do we need to have a private contractor
15 to check on these cuts and paving? Surely
16 CECO is very well able to do that type work
17 and being they are the city engineer and
18 that's what it is, they are not paying
19 Mr. Pocius, they are paying CECO for the
20 city engineer, what was it \$1,700 or \$1,600
21 a month, okay? What's the reason they can't
22 do that job? After all we are paying, what
23 are we pay them for if not engineering? If
24 they are not doing the city engineering job
25 then we should go out and hire a city

1 engineer that will do a city engineering
2 job.

3 MS. EVANS: I can tell you, again,
4 that the legislation, I'll read you parts of
5 it, "Contract is to include complete
6 inspection, review specifications, drawings
7 and plans, prepare field reports, attend
8 construction meetings, prepare and review
9 construction pavement requests, and
10 generally oversee the entire project
11 entitled "Paving city streets to include
12 handicap curb cuts." The funding for the
13 construction and inspection services is
14 funded through the US Department of Housing
15 and Urban Development, HUD, and is the
16 provider of funding for the project entitled
17 "Paving of city streets to include handicap
18 curb cuts."

19 So, obviously, this firm, Shoener
20 Environmental, will be paid through HUD as
21 part of the project.

22 MR. ROGAN: I would also add they
23 were by far the lowest bidder. The bid was
24 \$19,750, the second lowest was \$36,000, then
25 there was one \$49,763.

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: No, that really
2 isn't too much. We paying CECO \$160,000 a
3 year. I don't care if you get extra money,
4 it's not extra money, it comes from all our
5 pockets. It's nothing that the government
6 gives is extra, it comes from somebody's
7 pocket and if CECO is a city engineer that
8 should be under his umbrella to go out there
9 and check them things. I don't know why we
10 need it, they got extra money and you know
11 what I think about contracts, all they are
12 is contributions. You give a contract out
13 and get a contribution. I'm strictly
14 against anything, especially in our
15 condition. We shouldn't be doing anything
16 that ain't an emergency because what's going
17 to happen to the taxpayers? You don't even
18 want to think about it. I mean, you are
19 going to go out and borrow \$40 million at 6
20 percent or 3 percent or 4 percent, added
21 onto what we already owe, I mean, what's the
22 sense of living in this city? That's all
23 you are going to do is working to pay off
24 all these lawsuits and overruns with this
25 and that money, and you talk about overages,

1 that bridge on Lackawanna Avenue, how many
2 overruns do they have there? Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ozzie Quinn.

4 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Scranton
5 Taxpayers' Association. Good evening. I'd
6 like to congratulate Attorney Hughes myself.
7 I think going back that that's the -- you
8 are the first one to ever beat a
9 condemnation in the City of Scranton and
10 that was a lot of condemnation made through
11 the SRA. The only one that came near, I
12 think, was McNamera in the 600 block of
13 Monroe Avenue if you remember that. They
14 appealed and appealed and appealed until
15 they finally gave up, but you are to be
16 congratulated and commended on that.

17 MR. HUGHES: Well, thank you, Oz.

18 MR. QUINN: I want to ask a
19 question, first of all, you probably all saw
20 the single audit now, Rossi's audit?

21 MS. EVANS: We have.

22 MR. QUINN: Would you have changed
23 your budgets in any way, the 2011 budget now
24 after reviewing the budget if you had it
25 beforehand? Would it have made any

1 difference?

2 MS. EVANS: Well, I think the
3 greatest difference was the fact that in
4 2011, the 2011 TAN was used to pay off the
5 2010 TAN and that created an immediate \$5
6 million budget hole for the city. That's
7 something certainly I'm sure all of council
8 would have liked to have known about at the
9 time and it could have, I'm sure, altered
10 the budget.

11 MR. QUINN: Do we know the long-term
12 debt?

13 MS. EVANS: Yes, I'm going to
14 announce that tonight during motions.

15 MR. QUINN: And the interest that
16 will be on that?

17 MS. EVANS: The interest will be
18 included, yes. I'll address it as principal
19 and principal plus interest.

20 MR. QUINN: Okay. Great. On page
21 21 of the independent report, okay, it had
22 the statement of the revenues, the City of
23 Scranton revenues expenditures and changed
24 the balance fund, in the December 31, 2010,
25 and in revenues under intergovernment they

1 have \$11,332,680 provided by OECD, okay?
2 Now, we all know OECD is federal money
3 unless it could be -- it couldn't be a UDAG
4 fund to be returned, but underneath that
5 they have the expenditures, they have --
6 first they have the total revenue
7 \$75,198,098, but then they go into
8 expenditures and expenditures are
9 \$82,027,585, so the expenditures are in
10 excess of \$6,829,490 -- \$829,490, but they
11 don't mention that OECD money. I don't know
12 how they come to that. It looks like they
13 are bringing up the revenues by using OECD
14 when that money is not actually part of the
15 budget, you know? Have you checked that
16 out, Frank? I would appreciate that, okay?

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I will.

18 MR. QUINN: Thank you. And I want
19 to put point out the fact that in the end
20 they have a lot of findings in regard to the
21 OECD, okay, and they have recommendations
22 for the findings.

23 Now, last week I was on the phone
24 with an special agent of the Office of
25 Inspector General, Kerry Rubinstein, and he

1 sent me the link for the audit 11.7 million
2 audit of November 2010, and actually they
3 have concluded, okay, and I read the audit,
4 and one of the things that's in there is
5 that there was a conflict of interest and
6 SRA that the director was hiring his own
7 firm, and they said that under HUD
8 regulations you can't do that, okay?

9 But Rossi's pointing out all of
10 these -- all of these findings in OECD, but
11 he doesn't have any citations and, like, he
12 should have got together, is he aware there
13 is \$11.7 million hanging out there yet of --
14 this is nonfederal funds that we have to
15 repay. Now, so this Mr. Rubinstein referred
16 me over to Mr. Bynum, who is the regional
17 director of HUD. I spoke with him and he
18 says the management is looking at it now and
19 they should be finished and he asked me to
20 call him the first week of April.

21 So what I'm talking about we might
22 be paying \$11.7 million. This and the one
23 that they did in the independent audit what
24 do we got over here, you know? Obviously
25 they didn't bet their resumes or things like

1 that. Holy goodness for crying out loud,
2 that's terrible to have all of these
3 findings and audits and rewards and stuff
4 like that, but I appreciate it, Frank, if
5 you would do that for me and find out for
6 that, okay?

7 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

8 MR. QUINN: Thank you very much.
9 The last thing I want to do is on 7-G, is
10 it? On that money that you are approving
11 tonight for South Side, is it? I want to
12 commend you on that. The irony is that they
13 should never be asking for that and I want
14 to commend the residents, too. The irony of
15 it is that if the mayor had done what he was
16 supposed to do with keeping up the
17 neighborhoods we wouldn't be rebuilding them
18 again, you know? So he is the last one to
19 thank. I want to thank the council for
20 doing this and I wish it would happen all
21 over the city. You would have to be in all
22 respect blind to drive around this city and
23 all -- every neighborhood would need grants,
24 you know? It's terrible. It's ashamed.
25 Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

2 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

3 MS. EVANS: Hello.

4 MR. ELLMAN: What would Ozzie do if
5 he couldn't waive his hands around while he
6 is talking?

7 MS. EVANS: I think he would still
8 be able to --

9 MR. ELLMAN: Well, my dear friends,
10 listen to this for a minute, on the 2500
11 block of North Main, which is a block to my
12 right, there is a large house and abandoned
13 duplex that's been there for a year and the
14 other house been there for years. On my
15 block, the 2600 block, I got a condemned
16 house and an empty house across the street.
17 On the 2700 block, these are just little
18 short blocks of a few houses now, the 2700
19 block is a house in foreclosure that's been
20 that way a couple of years. Now, across the
21 street on the 2800 block, get this one,
22 there is a duplex, a duplex, a duplex, a
23 house and two empty apartments on one block.
24 Now, if you turn on Marvin where I
25 walk the dog there is three empty

1 apartments, behind it on Welles is an empty
2 apartment and a three-unit building that's
3 empty. I think that's 23 apartments empty
4 in the space of a couple of football fields.
5 You know, you want to know where I'm going
6 with all of this, all of these developers
7 all they want to do is get tax money, tax
8 exemptions, tax breaks, KOZs, loans to build
9 more apartments. You know, you can see what
10 was coming. The handwriting was on the wall
11 about all of these apartments, you know, Lee
12 Morgan was talking about it months ago.

13 There is not -- that Lackawanna
14 Medical School cannot fill up every \$2,500
15 apartment in the city, and I had a very
16 successful businessman tell me a couple of
17 weeks ago -- last week when the article was
18 in the paper about the Lace Factory, that
19 place is too big to develop into apartments.
20 You know, a quarter of the city could fit in
21 there. It's going to end up like the high
22 school out there, grants and loans and never
23 be developed. They are already advertising
24 for money, I guess you have all seen it.

25 And the people need -- this city

1 needs some tax money brought in. We don't
2 need a bunch of developers that keep getting
3 our money, you know. Well, I will go to --
4 I'll get off that subject before I explode.

5 I just -- I don't know how to say it
6 diplomatically, but I don't think I ever
7 heard so much disappointment from people
8 like I have this week over this obscene,
9 corrupt school board and the way they
10 showed-- all of the indifference they showed
11 the people of this city is unbelievable.
12 You know, using a feeble excuse that they
13 didn't know this and they didn't know it was
14 unacceptable to take a bribe and give the
15 money back, that's like a drunk saying he
16 didn't remember having an accident or
17 something, you know. This school board just
18 has no credibility with the people of the
19 city and something needs to be done
20 immediately. They just need to be replaced
21 and some honest people take their places.

22 You know, I can imagine my answering
23 machine tomorrow, somebody will be giving me
24 all kinds of heck on it. Last week I had
25 some screaming banshee yelling about ARC. I

1 listened about ten times and she was so
2 excited I don't know to this day what she
3 said except she was rather peeved. You make
4 a lot of enemies when you up here some
5 times.

6 Well, I got some more notes here,
7 but, you know, it's like I just said, there
8 is handwriting on the wall what is happening
9 and what's going to happen and a lot of
10 people don't see it. I'd like to -- I'm
11 glad you back with the living. I guess God
12 is going to punish you and make you stay
13 down here and listen to me for a couple more
14 weeks or so. I have to go and I want to --

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

16 MR. ELLMAN: I'd like to stay for
17 the meeting, but I have to go, I have an
18 appointment, but I want to quell any rumors
19 that I'm meeting Paris Hilton.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. ELLMAN: There is nothing
22 between me and Paris Hilton, I want
23 everybody to know that.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,

1 Council. Bill Jackowitz, disappointed South
2 Scranton resident and member of the
3 Taxpayers' Association.

4 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

5 MR. JACKOWITZ: Why am I
6 disappointed with Scranton? Why is Scranton
7 still a distressed city? Why have taxes
8 been raised, city, school and county? Why
9 do taxpayers have to pay for the elected
10 officials' mistakes? Why are only campaign
11 contributors, friends and spouses hired by
12 local government and jobs not advertised for
13 the best qualified?

14 Let's start with the school district
15 and school board. Schools are the most
16 important reason people and businesses
17 locate to a city along with the tax
18 structure of the metropolitan area, not
19 parks like previous council members have
20 told us.

21 These are the official 2011 rankings
22 for the Scranton school district and
23 schools, which play a large part in the
24 success or failure of the community, in this
25 case, the City of Scranton. They are rated

1 by stars. Scranton School District ranked
2 419 out of 548 Pennsylvania school
3 districts. They get one star.

4 High schools, there is two high
5 schools, Scranton High School ranked 345th
6 out of 683 Pennsylvania high schools. They
7 get two stars.

8 West Scranton High School ranked 437
9 out of the 683 Pennsylvania high schools.
10 They also get two stars.

11 Middle schools, we have three.
12 South Scranton ranked -- I hope that
13 citizens are listening to these rankings
14 because they are terrible. South Scranton
15 ranked 685th out of 854 Pennsylvania public
16 middle schools. They get one star.

17 Northeast Intermediate School ranked
18 560th out of the 854 Pennsylvania public
19 middle schools. They get two stars.

20 West Scranton Intermediate School
21 ranked 566 out of 854 Pennsylvania public
22 middle schools. They also get two stars.

23 Elementary schools, we have 11 of
24 them. McNichol's Plaza ranked 1,184th out
25 of 1,655 Pennsylvania elementary schools.

1 One star.

2 Whittier ranked 764 out of 1,655
3 Pennsylvania elementary schools. They get
4 three stars, so at least they are trying.

5 Kennedy ranked 1,406 out 1,655
6 Pennsylvania elementary schools. They get
7 one star.

8 John Audubon ranked 1,396 out of
9 1,655 Pennsylvania elementary schools. They
10 also get one star.

11 Francis Willard ranked 997 out of
12 1,655 Pennsylvania elementary schools, they
13 get two stars.

14 Lincoln-Jackson ranked 1,332 out of
15 1,655 Pennsylvania elementary schools. They
16 get one star.

17 William Prescott ranked 1,184 out of
18 1,655 Pennsylvania elementary schools. They
19 also get one star.

20 John Adams ranked 1,007 out of 1,655
21 Pennsylvania elementary schools. They get
22 two stars.

23 Charles Sumner ranked 1,281 out of
24 1,655 Pennsylvania elementary schools. They
25 also get one star.

1 And Charles Bancroft ranked 1,423
2 out of 1,655 Pennsylvania elementary
3 schools, they also get one star.

4 Finally, John Marshal ranked 316th,
5 what an improvement, out of 1,655
6 Pennsylvania elementary schools. They get
7 three stars. What are they doing right at
8 John Marshal that they are not doing in the
9 rest of the schools in the City of Scranton?

10 The next scheduled school board
11 meeting will be 2 April at the
12 administration building located on North
13 Washington Avenue. My hope is that Scranton
14 taxpayers and parents of the Scranton school
15 children will attend. Ralph, I hope to see
16 you, Tony, Charlotte and Chris in attendance
17 at the school board meeting. It's about
18 time you put an end to this.

19 Solutions to Scranton's problems:
20 Stop the nepotism at all levels. Advertise
21 and accept applications and resumes for all
22 jobs. Only hire qualified people. Remember
23 what Commissioner O'Malley stated yesterday,
24 he stated about a recent hiring, "He was not
25 hired because he contributed to my campaign,

1 he was hired because he is my friend."

2 Is nepotism illegal? No. Is it
3 ethical? No. Does it make things better?
4 No. Just look around Scranton and
5 Northeastern, Pennsylvania. It's full of
6 nepotism, we are distressed for 20 years,
7 the taxpayers are paying millions and
8 millions and millions of dollars because of
9 elected officials mistakes and they are
10 appointees and administrators that they
11 appointed who are not qualified because they
12 were friends of the elected officials.

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

15 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. David
16 Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton and taxpayer.
17 Last week I brought up an address where a
18 business was told to go bankrupt, a local
19 business, and that I strongly suspected that
20 they were at least KOZ if not given
21 community development money of some type,
22 the address is 224 Wyoming Avenue. The
23 business was Galucci's Music Studio, and
24 they are a small concern owned by a couple
25 and they bought out Mr. Gallucci when he

1 became too old to run the business and it's
2 a rotten shame because the competition in
3 that type of industry is atrocious, it's
4 crushing.

5 For instance, up at Guitar World a
6 few weeks ago they had a significant Gibson
7 guitar on sale for half price, it lists
8 around \$1,000, and they were selling it for
9 a little over 500, so that's what these
10 local people are against -- are up against,
11 and on top of it you can get lessons down
12 there, they have relocated to Washington
13 Avenue and hopefully they will do fine, but,
14 you know, people can't afford to pay double
15 the price just because some guy that got a
16 lot of COM-D money or a KOZ wants to charge
17 the pants and shirt off of somebody's back.

18 And with Lackawanna Avenue, the 500
19 project, I mentioned it about a year ago and
20 in front of the hot dog place, Coney Island,
21 now, he refurbished the sidewalks and
22 everything and there is a little space at
23 the end of the curb, that guy won't even fix
24 the street lamp and replace the street lamp
25 and finish the end of the curb. You can go

1 by there and see it, and I also feel that
2 with Buona Pizza that should have been a
3 bookend. I mean, it's just gives an
4 appearance of vindictiveness and
5 spitefulness that they didn't go in there
6 and fix the whole thing. At least if you
7 don't repair the sidewalks, at least put the
8 lamps in and whatever, maybe they are even
9 paying for it for all I know, so I really
10 love to see something change with that some
11 day.

12 And with that PEL the last time
13 Janet had a speech on that was to have PEL
14 go around to these institutions and ask for
15 these donations, why should we be portrayed
16 like the evil landlord or something or some
17 kind of a mafia extortionist, and I'm going
18 to make it brief tonight.

19 PA, we just passed a voter ID bill
20 that the Senate, and it has to be reconciled
21 with the House, but a lot of these are
22 American legislative abstain council, it's
23 the same in different words, all throughout
24 the states. In Tennessee, a former
25 legislature was refused at the polls. In

1 Ohio, a World War II veteran refused at the
2 polls. A lot of these people are too old to
3 even have a photo ID and it's just ashame
4 that somebody that fought in World War II
5 gets refused at the polls, I mean, why do
6 they bother if that's going to be the case.

7 And about three weeks ago the
8 government -- federal government got a \$26
9 billion settlement from a few banks for
10 illegal foreclosures on houses. They didn't
11 have the proper paperwork, they had nothing
12 to back them up, and they took the houses
13 and foreclosed on them anyway.

14 Now, you know, in Ohio Mr. Casey is
15 using the money to tear those houses down
16 instead of compensate the wrong people, and
17 in Wisconsin Governor Walker put them into
18 the general fund. It's ashame that after
19 the Attorney Generals went through all of
20 this these people are using to line their
21 own friends and their own pockets. It's a
22 rotten shame.

23 And while I'm going to give them the
24 golden parrot blessing tonight, may the
25 golden parrot deposit his droppings right in

1 the middle of their foreheads. Thank you
2 and have a good night. And don't forget,
3 bawk, bawk.

4 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
6 Council. Marie Schumacher.

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: I guess I would
9 like to start this evening, again, I am very
10 frustrated because there were things I
11 wanted to talk about, but then there are
12 always things it seems in Seventh Order that
13 will be voted on tonight, but I do want to
14 ask a couple of things.

15 Number one, correct something, about
16 a month ago Mr. Loscombe said he would have
17 for me the annual operating costs of the
18 Keyser Avenue substation next week and so I
19 hope during motions tonight you will let me
20 know what that is.

21 I would like to make a correction.
22 Last week on the blight legislation that I
23 referenced I said it was HB-900, it was
24 really SB-900.

25 And then I would like to request

1 Mr. Joyce if he would take some time out of
2 one of the meetings really soon to give a
3 synopsis of the revised Recovery Plan as it
4 stands now and then maybe give us some idea
5 of the path from here to the end of April
6 and how we are going to get a revised
7 Recovery Plan by then.

8 Now, 27-G, which troubles me
9 immensely for any number of reasons, but
10 first and foremost is because I tend to be
11 a-- I don't know, but I do know what's in
12 that 500 block of Cedar Avenue and it's a
13 bank that was going to be part of a library
14 plan and so just because I'm a little bit
15 skeptical and I would like to make certain
16 that there is -- that this isn't a bait and
17 switch that's what's in the legislation
18 tonight and the resolution in Section I
19 where it says, "The city," I would like that
20 they make changes to the plan, I would
21 really like it made clear before you vote on
22 it that the city -- that it requires the
23 approval of city council in the amendments
24 to that plan so that if other things go by
25 the wayside and the bank comes into the

1 picture you all have an opportunity to
2 represent us as we wish to be represented.

3 Also, page one of the application
4 asks if the project is related to another
5 previously submitted project, and if so, to
6 indicate the previous project's name.
7 However, the answer given was "yes" but
8 there is a blank on what the previous
9 project was named. I think that's
10 important.

11 Also, before approval I would like
12 to know specifically what properties in the
13 500 block of Cedar are condemned and
14 abandoned. I was down there this afternoon
15 and I parked and I looked at them and there
16 is only one property on the odd side of the
17 street, on the odd numbered side of the
18 street, that has not had a recent facelift.
19 I know there has been a facade program as
20 part of the money that United Neighborhood
21 Centers got and I wonder if we are going to
22 be tearing down buildings that we just paid
23 to put a facade.

24 Also, in other places there it talks
25 about pointing, repointing as part of the

1 ones that are going to be restored, but
2 there is only two properties that would -- I
3 mean, brick and stone are the only things to
4 my knowledge that have to be repointed and
5 since we don't know what the properties are
6 I would assume the one in the middle of the
7 block where the South Side magistrate moved
8 out because it had bedbugs or some such
9 critters in there, anyway, something that
10 wasn't desirable, that property seems to
11 have had nothing done, so perhaps that's one
12 that's coming down, but there is no map that
13 shows which properties are involved. It
14 doesn't have map numbers, it doesn't have
15 street addresses and I would really like to
16 know because most of them had been sided or
17 they're mason stucco buildings.

18 There are inconsistencies that are
19 also troubling. In one page it says they
20 are going to do condemned and abandoned
21 properties, but try as I might I looked at
22 the properties and I couldn't find one
23 placard that said there was a condemned
24 property in the 500 block of Cedar. I went
25 back again tonight and looked on my way here

1 and there wasn't, and again, a lot of them
2 had already been resided and other
3 improvements made recently, since I bank
4 across the street.

5 If I may just finish up on this
6 thought, there is three existing -- it says
7 there are three existing historical
8 buildings, I would like to know where they
9 are and which buildings -- which ones are
10 going to be torn down to be in-filled
11 because there are no empty lots on that
12 street.

13 I would also like to know what
14 caused the project to go from 3.9 million in
15 2010 in less than two years to go up to 7
16 1/2 million and that works out to -- they
17 claim they are building 26 apartments, that
18 works out to \$288,000 for each apartment and
19 for that we could rehab buildings, 26
20 buildings maybe and get families in there.
21 I think this needs a lot more research
22 before it's passed and I hope --

23 MS. EVANS: Ms. Schumacher, if you
24 could give your questions in writing to --

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: I will try. As I

1 say, I really planned on not to speak on
2 this tonight, but I went over the stuff and
3 I just have to --

4 MS. EVANS: I'm sure we will do our
5 best to guess get the answers to those
6 questions and I would say, too, I'm sure
7 Mr. Rogan would be anxious to talk to
8 probably Ms. Aebli about this and get the
9 answers for you.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Because, as
11 I say, I would hope maybe we could wait a
12 little bit until some of these answers come
13 in. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
15 cares to address council?

16 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Janet.

17 MS. EVANS: Hi, Chrissy.

18 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Good to see you
19 back tonight.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

21 MR. SLEDENZSKI: This is for you,
22 Jack. Just for you, buddy. I don't know
23 what it is, but read it.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: It's money.

25 MR. SLEDENZSKI: It ain't money,

1 Jack. It's not money. It ain't money.

2 Jack, it's a mess up there. Jack, it's a
3 mess, it really is.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: We'll get on it,
5 buddy.

6 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Well, girls, with
7 softball this year, good luck. Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?
9 Mrs. Krake.

10 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
11 MOTIONS.

12 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do
13 you have any comments or motions at this
14 time?

15 MR. MCGOFF: Very briefly. I just
16 want to mention that the rental registration
17 ordinance is not on tonight's agenda because
18 there is still some legislation that needs
19 to be drafted prior to it being voted upon
20 in Seventh Order and hopefully that will be
21 prepared by next week and the rental
22 registration will be back on the agenda as
23 soon as possible.

24 MS. EVANS: That's priority for next
25 week, number one.

1 MR. MCGOFF: That's all. Thank you.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Before I start
5 what I had prepared, would any -- I figure
6 just discuss this now openly and make it a
7 little easier, would anyone have an
8 objection to tabling Item 7-G this week? It
9 seems that there are a lot of concerns
10 brought up and I would definitely take a
11 swing by there myself and talk to Linda and
12 try to get some of those answers.

13 MS. EVANS: I don't have any
14 objection.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would agree with
16 you.

17 MS. EVANS: You'll have to make the
18 motion to table it.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, I'll do that when
20 the time comes, I just wanted to discuss it
21 now.

22 Next, I just wanted to update on a
23 few items that were brought up last week.
24 Last week the conditions of Pike Street was
25 brought up by a resident and I spoke to

1 Mr. Galdieri on the phone last week and I
2 actually just missed a call from him
3 yesterday and have to get back to him, but
4 the DPW hasn't even gone up there to patch
5 the holes, never mind put it on a paving
6 list or move forward with a permanent
7 solution, but it's very frustrating as a
8 council person when people come to you, and
9 I know Mr. Loscombe as well I spoke to Mr.
10 Galdieri, and you relay this to the
11 department head and nothing gets done.

12 And I thought, you know, for once
13 even the Scranton Times did an article on
14 it, this will light a fire under the DPW,
15 the next day the truck should be up there at
16 least patching the holes. To this day,
17 still nothing.

18 Mrs. Krake, could we please send a
19 follow-up to Mr. Dougher asking for an
20 urgent reply on that.

21 Next, we all received a petition
22 from the residents of the Grace Street area
23 regarding the property at 519 Grace Street
24 that it turns out it was a PEMA/FEMA buyout
25 so it does have to remain, you know,

1 greenlands, things of that nature, it can't
2 be developed. The mayor also reached out to
3 some of the neighbors, I spoke to some of
4 the neighbors, the project will not be
5 moving forward to put a parking lot there so
6 that's good news.

7 Finally just a few comments, I'm
8 sure we all received an e-mail that PEL
9 wants to schedule a caucus with council to
10 discuss the revised Recovery Plan and I'm
11 normally not one for predictions, but I have
12 a sneaky feeling that the administration is
13 going to play games with us and try to back
14 council into a corner and try to pass a
15 recovery plan with very little input from
16 council, one that contains massive tax
17 increases for the people, and further cuts
18 to public safety.

19 I believe the mayor is going to do
20 this by once again threatening payless
21 paydays for employees. I do believe that
22 because of the mayor's mismanagement the
23 city is broke. It's not a surprise,
24 everyone knows it is, but it seems that the
25 administration runs out of money always at

1 the most convenient times for them to try to
2 get something out of council. I'm hoping
3 that when we meet with PEL it will be
4 productive. I hope that each one of us when
5 we give our suggestions they will be
6 considered and included in a revised
7 Recovery Plan, so I do look forward to
8 meeting with them and I hope it's more of an
9 open discussion than PEL coming in and
10 saying, "This is what we have to do,"
11 because at the end of the day council and
12 the administration are the ones that make
13 the decisions for the city, not PEL.

14 There is no question that
15 Pennsylvania Economy League and this
16 administration have run the city --
17 hopefully that's it for the sirens so I can
18 finish my thought now. There is no question
19 that the Pennsylvania Economy League and
20 this administration have the city in a far
21 worse financial shape right now than when
22 PEL came into the city and when Mayor
23 Doherty took office. We can't keep going
24 down the road of borrowing and spending and
25 taxing, it's not going to work. Everyone is

1 going to be driven out of the city.

2 You know, I always talk about the
3 wage tax, 2.4 percent for the city, plus 1
4 percent for the school district. Somebody
5 who lives in the city, and we don't want you
6 to move out, but if they do move out you can
7 move to a surrounding neighborhood or
8 community, Old Forge, Taylor, Dunmore, and
9 pay 1 percent, so you are essentially just
10 by leaving the city you are getting a 2.4
11 percent increase in pay plus property taxes
12 are lower, mainly on the school end more so
13 than the city end, and their services are
14 just as good if not better than ours, and
15 they can access the city at any point during
16 the day to use our services, our parks,
17 different events going on in the city, and
18 if that person happens to work in the city
19 they don't pay anything. There is no
20 commuter tax in the city, which is something
21 I think we desperately need.

22 But I hope the meeting with PEL
23 moving forward will be productive. I hope
24 there is no more gamesmanship on the part of
25 the mayor and PEL and I do have comments on

1 a few of the agenda items and I will hold
2 those until we vote, and that is it.

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

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you. I
7 just have a few. First I want to thank
8 everybody for calling me and wishing me
9 well. I don't have my voice back yet, but
10 this is one of those illnesses that seem to
11 hang on here, so please bear with me. I
12 just have a couple of things I wanted to
13 mention.

14 I read in the paper about the Joyce
15 property deal, how it has fallen apart and
16 I'm very disappointed with that. I would
17 hope that, you know, that somebody will come
18 aboard and get those places up and about. I
19 believe we have spent government money on
20 those along with, you know, with a lot of
21 other finances put into them. It's just
22 ashamed that a few years ago everything
23 seemed so promising and we have lost these
24 projects at this point and I just hope that
25 they don't linger as vacancies.

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Next is the Pike Street.

Mr. Galdieri, I guess he appeared here last week. I did meet with him and I did -- and he said I promised him that the road would be paved, I can't promise any road is going to be paved. I did assure them that if the city presented a paving list to this council body that we would make sure that was on it at that point, we would add it to it or whatever the best we could, and I think it was clarified that the list that was in the paper was basically an OECD list, low to moderate income properties that can only be done through CDBG funding. We still haven't received any kind of a list on city streets to be paved and hopefully we will, they will be able to do something. In the meantime, they should be up there repairing it.

And there is couple of issues up there besides the road paving. I see probably some zoning issues where on both sides of the road there is a lot of litter dumped there, pilings of the tires, debris, I believe it might be from the junk yards on both sides they would have to secure their

1 fences or whatever. There is a telephone
2 pole with street signs down at the corner.
3 There is numerous issues and nobody as a
4 taxpayer should have to put up with that,
5 you know, driving home to their homes every
6 day that they pay, you know, significant
7 taxes for to just have to dodge those holes,
8 and again, like I said, just dodging those
9 holes is bad enough, but the nice scenic
10 ride in there marred by all of this other
11 stuff is ashame and, you know, I would hope
12 that maybe we could get to Mr. Dougher and
13 get some actions done, and I know that's not
14 the only street that there is a major issue,
15 we have several going up to the Vo-Tech and
16 returning from the Vo-Tech just to name a
17 few that have been on our complaint list for
18 a long time and year after year these
19 streets have been disintegrating. They are
20 not getting better, they are getting worse,
21 and we have to get a paving program together
22 through the city itself and I hope we can
23 work on something on that in the near
24 future.

25 Next item I had here is Ms.

1 Schumacher had mentioned about the police
2 precincts and that. I had had a meeting
3 with Chief Duffy and we discussed several
4 issues, that was basically the first issue I
5 wanted to discuss with him. Basically what
6 they are paying now is their electric bill
7 and their water bills. Any of the precincts
8 that they have at the current time and any
9 that he would be looking for in the future
10 is a donated structure. There is no monthly
11 or annual rents. They have the same police
12 officers that gives a presence in the
13 neighborhoods, just as we should continue
14 with our presence in the neighborhoods with
15 the fire department, but I'll discuss that
16 in a little bit.

17 But as far as how much it's going to
18 cost at this point because it's brand new,
19 again, it's going to be minimal, you know,
20 it's just the water used there to wash their
21 hands and use the bathroom. It's not shower
22 facilities or anything, and the electric is
23 just your daily light fixtures and stuff.
24 As far as telephone and cable, that's all
25 part of the package with Comcast and that's,

1 you know, they have just transferred them
2 from their offices as they were.

3 So I believe, you know, at a minimal
4 cost it's well worth the investment,
5 personally I believe that for the presence
6 in the neighborhoods and, you know, I
7 believe Chief Duffy has checked it out and,
8 you know, he has some pretty good locations
9 at this point, but it will serve to see what
10 else he is going to do with those.

11 And just to go back to continue on
12 public safety on the fire department issues,
13 we are getting into vacation season coming
14 around the corner for a lot of the personnel
15 and what alarms me is that over the past
16 several weeks over many weekends the entire
17 west side of the river has had no fire
18 protection due to the lack of manpower.

19 Fortunately, we have had a pretty
20 moderate winter, it could have been a lot
21 worse. We fortunately haven't had any
22 situations as they had in Wilkes-Barre just
23 over the last couple of days, but that could
24 happen on a dime. As I stated before, we
25 are playing Russian roulette with the public

1 safety cuts that this administration has
2 pulled. Just today they had a fire on West
3 Side, fortunately, Engine 7 was open. Last
4 week they had a fire on Lafayette Street and
5 I happened to be going by, I think it was
6 last week, maybe two weeks ago, but
7 fortunately, again, Engine 7 was able to
8 respond, otherwise, it could have extended
9 to the house next door. If Engine 7 wasn't
10 on that fire today it would have had a good
11 roll. It was going pretty good on the
12 exterior.

13 While they were at the fire
14 apparently there was a small fire up in the
15 Hill Section and the gentleman that owns the
16 business came pounding on the door of Engine
17 15, which has no signs, not knowing anyone
18 was there, banging on the door to get the
19 firemen there to respond but, unfortunately,
20 Engine 15 has been closed pretty much the
21 past couple of years and it's ashame. So it
22 look a long time for someone to respond,
23 fortunately it was a small enough fire that
24 they caught it, but that's not going to
25 happen all the time.

1 And another thing that I learned
2 today that really alarms me is that any of
3 the -- the new policy is any places with
4 automatic alarms they are only responding
5 the assistance chief's car and Rescue 1 to
6 those alarms. Now, from what I understand,
7 and I don't know if it was today or the last
8 week, there was an alarm pulled at I believe
9 it was Neil Armstrong School and from what I
10 understand the principal was very distraught
11 over the response time and apparently, and
12 again, I got this from secondhand sources,
13 had called the chief's office to complain.
14 It was a good ten minutes plus for Rescue 1
15 to respond over there.

16 This is bad policy. They have
17 had -- they had an alarm right here on Adams
18 Avenue. You know who they sent? Rescue 1.
19 Engine 4 was sitting in the barn here. I
20 don't know who comes up with these policies,
21 but they are very unprofessional and very
22 dangerous. Something has to be done to
23 protect the people of this city. I know we
24 have been talking about it, but I'm going to
25 tell you one thing, before there is any kind

1 of plan done, Recovery Plan, our public
2 safety has to be addressed. It's going to
3 be too late when something happens to any
4 one of you out there then the screaming is
5 going to start. I want that to be taken
6 care of now before we have a Wilkes-Barre
7 incident, and that was with full manpower in
8 Wilkes-Barre.

9 God knows what will happen here, but
10 I don't want the screaming to happen after
11 the fact. I don't want there to be any
12 after the fact. You pay your tax dollars
13 for the protection you deserve. They have
14 been squandered for ten years on other
15 things and yet they have been fumbling their
16 noses at your public safety, and I am really
17 disappointed at what's been going on and now
18 that I'm feeling a little better I hope to
19 be fighting a little bit more, and I think
20 that's all I have at this point. Thank you.

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

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Just a few matters
25 of business tonight. As one may or may not

1 know, this year the City of Scranton is
2 required to deposit all real estate tax
3 revenue into a lockbox to pay back the 2012
4 Tax Anticipation Note until the Tax
5 Anticipation Note is paid or June 31, 2012,
6 which is the payoff due date.

7 Thus far our tax collector, Bill
8 Courtright, has been making deposits
9 directly into this lockbox which is held in
10 Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank.
11 Scranton City Council has received
12 notification from the tax office that
13 \$2,818,320.73 was deposited into the lockbox
14 on March 6. The \$2,818,320.73 consisted of
15 \$2,769,111.24 from 2012 and \$49,209.49 in
16 taxes from 2011.

17 As one may or may not know,
18 Northeast Revenue Services is responsible
19 for collecting delinquent real estate taxes
20 for all years with the exception of the
21 2011, which is collected by the Scranton
22 Single Tax Office.

23 Northeast Revenue Services has also
24 sent us a check in the amount of \$130,459.93
25 which was received on March 7. This

1 encompasses delinquent real estate taxes
2 that were collected between February 1 and
3 February 29, 2012, for years prior to 2011.

4 West Scranton residents have
5 reported -- well, on another topic that's
6 not financial, West Scranton residents have
7 reported that the already condemned property
8 located at 1406 West Gibson Street is in
9 even worse condition than it was when it was
10 first condemned. Residents report that this
11 property is now becoming a haven for
12 graffiti that residents are worrying may be
13 gang related. In addition, residents fear
14 that this property is now becoming a safety
15 hazard as there is a great deal of debris in
16 the backyard making it difficult to even
17 enter the premises. With this in mind,
18 residents are requesting that the property
19 be demolished if possible.

20 Mrs. Krake, please contact the
21 Department of License, Inspections and
22 Permits as well as the mayor's office and
23 find out what can be done about this
24 nuisance property.

25 West Scranton residents also

1 informed me that there is a streetlight out
2 in the 1400 block of Manilla Place, which is
3 located directly in the back of the 1400
4 block of West Gibson Street. Residents fear
5 that suspicious activity has been occurring
6 since this streetlight has been out, such as
7 drug deals.

8 Mrs. Krake, can you please contact
9 Mitchell Electrical to report that the light
10 is out and ask them to repair the light as
11 soon as possible. The pole number is
12 100WSCR1517.

13 And pursuant to what Mr. Sbaraglia
14 mentioned earlier tonight, Mrs. Krake, can
15 you please send a request to the SRA
16 inquiring the total amount spent on legal
17 costs in fighting against Mr. Staldoni and
18 Mr. Piccolino in regard to their businesses.

19 And finally tonight, I would just
20 like to give some big kudos to the Scranton
21 Police Department. Both Councilman Rogan
22 and I brought up some businesses where
23 synthetic marijuana, including Jay Bee's
24 Kingdom was being sold, and I understand
25 that this business today was raided along

1 with some other businesses and this business
2 was closed by the Police Department of
3 Scranton. So I really like to congratulate
4 our police department for their hard and
5 diligent work in serving our community, and
6 that's all I have for tonight.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I could just add
8 what you just said, Mr. Joyce. As part of
9 my conversations with Chief Duffy those
10 issues were brought up and, you know, he
11 commended anyone that brings anything like
12 that to their attention, and I was assured
13 when I spoke to him that they were under
14 investigation that, you know, they had to
15 make sure the time was right with their
16 investigation to do what Mr. Joyce just
17 announced, so I do commend them also on
18 that.

19 MR. ROGAN: I would also concur with
20 my colleagues, a great job to all of the
21 police that were involved, and I can mention
22 it now that, you know, it's over, when I
23 went into one of these places to do a little
24 investigating myself and I relayed it to
25 Mrs. Krake and the chief in bold message

1 back said, "Tell Councilman Rogan not to go
2 into these places anymore."

3 But I'm glad it's taken care of and
4 hopefully, you know, it sends a message to
5 any other convenient store, Jay Bee's
6 Kingdom-type place that's wants to sell
7 illegal products, synthetic drugs, which are
8 really not synthetic drugs they are drugs,
9 and hopefully this is the end of it in the
10 city.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: I did assure the
12 chief you were there on official business.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
14 evening. I would like to begin by
15 apologizing for my absence from council
16 meetings due to health problems. I fully
17 recognize the importance of these meetings
18 and my duties and responsibilities as a
19 council member.

20 During a recent city council
21 meeting, I discussed the importance of the
22 payments in lieu of taxes or PILOTS from
23 large tax exempt institutions with a
24 particular emphasis on the efforts to gain
25 increased PILOTS in Rhode Island.

1 Additional research proved even more
2 enlightening and I would like to share it
3 with you. The mayor of Providence, Rhode
4 Island, in February announced a deal with
5 Johnson and Wales University under which the
6 institution would more than triple its
7 volunteer payments to the financially
8 struggling city from \$309,000 to at least
9 \$958,000 a year the Associated Press
10 reported.

11 The agreement is tied to the
12 Universities' expansion plans. If the
13 University acquires an additional parcel in
14 the so-called knowledge district on the edge
15 of downtown, Johnston and Wales could
16 contribute as much as \$1.45 million annually
17 to the City of Providence.

18 Mayor Angel Tavaris has asked the
19 city's largest tax exempt institution,
20 including Brown University, to significantly
21 increase the amounts they pay in lieu of the
22 property taxes. Mayor Tavaris wants more
23 than \$40 million from Brown University over
24 the next ten years. He met with Brown's
25 president, Ruth Simmons, and called those

1 discussions positive. Brown currently
2 contributes \$1.2 million in lieu of taxes as
3 well as payments on buildings not used for
4 educational purposes. In total, Mayor
5 Tavaris has asked the largest tax exempt
6 institutions for \$7.1 million more for this
7 fiscal year to help close the deficit and
8 stave off a possible bankruptcy.

9 In Scranton, a distressed city which
10 faces 20 to 30 million dollar awards to
11 police and fire, large tax exempts remain
12 untouched. Since Scranton's largest
13 nonprofits ignore city council members and
14 the mayor's request for PILOT payments,
15 perhaps the county Tax Assessor's Office can
16 assist us in determining vacant and taxable
17 properties owned by the large tax exempts
18 located in the City of Scranton.

19 Mrs. Krake, please send letters on
20 behalf of Scranton City Council to the
21 county commissioners and the county tax
22 assessor requesting a determination of all
23 vacant and taxable properties not used for
24 educational or research purposes belonging
25 to the University of Scranton, Marywood

1 University, and Lackawanna College and
2 Johnson College. Vacant and taxable
3 properties owned by Geisinger Community
4 Medical Center and General Dynamics and the
5 dollar amount of taxes that would be owed on
6 any and all such properties owned by the
7 aforementioned large tax exempts. Scranton
8 City Council respectfully request a reply on
9 or about before April 4, 2012.

10 In addition, Scranton City Council
11 requests a joint meeting with the Lackawanna
12 County Commissioners, Mr. John Foley of the
13 Tax Assessor's Office, Mayor Doherty and
14 Mr. William King, superintendent of the
15 Scranton School District in order to
16 discussion vacant and taxable properties
17 owned by Scranton nonprofits.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Might you include the
19 president of the school board in this as
20 well?

21 MS. EVANS: Certainly. Next, as
22 Finance Chair Mr. Joyce discussed during
23 last week's council meeting, the 2010 audit
24 that was submitted to the Office of the
25 Chief of Clerk in Scranton City Council on

1 February 17. The only addition I will make
2 to his prior comments is a report on the
3 long-term debt. The total principal debt of
4 the City of Scranton as of December 31,
5 2010, is \$177,792,551. The total long-term
6 debt, which includes both principal and
7 interest payments, is \$291,154,935. We must
8 also consider that the 9.85 million in
9 unfunded debt borrowing, debt refinancing
10 and the millions in the Supreme Court awards
11 to the police and fire will significantly
12 increase the aforementioned figures. As
13 such time as those financial transactions
14 are completed, council will report the
15 increase in long-term debt.

16 Next, I wish to provide brief
17 updates on a variety of important issues.
18 First, the Pennsylvania Economy League
19 submitted it's latest revisions to the
20 previously issued revised Recovery Plan to
21 the mayor and city council this week. Those
22 revisions are approximately three pages in
23 length, so that much of the plan has
24 submitted in November remains intact.

25 It is important to note that this is

1 only a first step in what will be an ongoing
2 lengthy process and that the submitted
3 document is a work in progress and not a
4 document written in stone. Both Mayor
5 Doherty and city council will work together
6 to try to reduce a plan ultimately that is
7 fair and feasible for all stakeholders.

8 In fact, the mayor and I have been
9 in weekly contact throughout the past
10 several weeks regarding a variety of
11 significant city issues, including the
12 development of a revised Recovery Plan as a
13 joint effort.

14 Second, Northeast Revenue Service
15 provided us with a calendar for the Scranton
16 Treasurer's sale. NRS will conduct a
17 Treasurer's sale or tax sale on June 4,
18 2012, and will advertise the sale three
19 times prior to June 4 in at least two
20 newspapers of general circulation, and the
21 legal newspaper published and printed in
22 Scranton. As individual notices are
23 provided to delinquent taxpayers, the
24 collection of delinquent revenues is
25 increasing.

1 In addition, NRS has created a tax
2 delinquency website which is accessible to
3 the public. Listings will be kept
4 up-to-date as taxpayers who have fallen on
5 hard times or suffered illness are able to
6 pay as well as those who have remained
7 delinquent for numerous years finally meet
8 their responsibilities. You may access the
9 website at [www.Scrantontaxes](http://www.Scrantontaxes.com), all one word,
10 dot com. Again, www.Scrantontaxes.com.

11 Both City Council and the
12 administration are very pleased by the job
13 performance and demonstrated accountability
14 of Northeast Revenue Service.

15 Third, the administration continues
16 to work toward a financial agreement with
17 lending institutions to obtain the 9.85
18 million unfunded debt borrowing. As part of
19 the process, the administration may draft
20 legislation to include the Court ordered tax
21 increase to repay the unfunded debt
22 borrowing. The borrowing must then approved
23 by the Department of Community and Economic
24 Development or DCED, and finally,
25 legislation will be submitted by the

1 administration to city council for its
2 approval of the financial agreement.

3 One designated use of these funds
4 will be payment in full to Pennstar Bank to
5 settle the litigation against the Scranton
6 Redevelopment Authority and the City of
7 Scranton to enforce the city's delinquent
8 tax repurchase obligation.

9 Fourth, the City of Scranton applied
10 for the federal SAFER grant in order to
11 increase manpower in the Scranton Fire
12 Department. Administration made application
13 for 50 firefighters, which would return the
14 total number of firefighters to 150 and
15 reopen fire stations. Typically, comparable
16 municipalities receive 12 to 15 firefighters
17 however. I have no documented timeline for
18 notification of the grant award and
19 reinstatement of the firefighters, although,
20 I have heard that notification may occur in
21 the Fall of 2012. Council hopes that our
22 city is awarded funding for 50 firefighters,
23 but we will be grateful for any number of
24 positions that can be funded to improve
25 public safety for all Scranton residents.

1 Fifth, city council wishes to send a
2 letter to City Controller Novembrino
3 requesting copies of monthly vouchers for
4 any and all payments made from the UDAG
5 repayment account, commonly referred to as
6 the Re-Re checking account effective January
7 1, 2012, and up to and including December
8 31, 2012. I know that we had received these
9 reports for approximately a six-month period
10 in 2011 and then for some reason they no
11 longer were submitted to council's office
12 and council tends to maintain a monthly
13 check on that account.

14 Finally, I have a few citizens'
15 request for the week. Neighbors report that
16 the intersection of River Street and Meadow
17 Avenue has worsened due to garbage having
18 been dumped at this location. Also, the
19 home adjacent to this property is
20 deteriorating. According to neighbors the
21 house is vacant and the door had been opened
22 for a prolonged period of time.

23 ATVs and dirt bikes arrive daily at
24 approximately 1:45 p.m. at the former Daron
25 Northeast property on Dickson Avenue. The

1 resulting noise and clouds of dirt have
2 become as problematic as the concrete block
3 business had been for several years. When
4 possible, please send a patrol car to this
5 location to address this issue.

6 Residents of Hamm Court ask that
7 this court is included in the city paving
8 project. They state that Hamm Court is
9 located in a low income revitalization area
10 of South Side. Also, residents recently
11 found syringes, water bottles filled with
12 urine, and bags of garbage on this court.

13 In addition, some potholes measured
14 three to four feet in diameter. Please
15 forward letters from the Scranton City
16 Council to Linda Abeli, Mark Dougher and
17 Mayor Doherty requesting that Hamm Court is
18 included in the forthcoming paving project.

19 Also, city council urges the paving
20 of Dewey Avenue behind the 200 block of
21 North Merrifield Avenue. I had spoken with
22 Mr. Vaughn, senior citizen and resident of
23 North Merrifield Avenue in the past
24 regarding Dewey Avenue and requested its
25 paving more than once without a successful

1 resolution.

2 In addition, I had requested the
3 paving of Pike Street several times in the
4 past two years, possibly longer, again,
5 without any DPW action having been taken.
6 And please include Pike Street in the city
7 council's request as well. And I know
8 Councilman Rogan had made a similar request
9 earlier tonight, I believe that these
10 letters have to go out to the parties I
11 enumerated who are involved this the
12 situation and they must be made to
13 understand that city council is insisting on
14 this since these have been ongoing issues
15 particularly for myself who has been here
16 longer than any of city council member, this
17 has to be addressed. Everyone has been more
18 than patient who resides in those areas.

19 Residents report that garbage is
20 collected on East Mountain Road on Thursdays
21 and within the development that lies one
22 block away it is collected on Fridays. East
23 Mountain residents wish to know if all East
24 Mountain garbage collections can occur on
25 the same day. And a letter to Mr. Dougher,

1 DPW director, please provide City Council
2 with an update on the water problems at
3 Gerrity's Supermarket parking lot and the
4 200 block of Boland court, and that's it.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, could I
6 just mention --

7 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

8 MR. MCGOFF: There was one
9 announcement that I forget to make earlier.
10 Matthew's Mission the Easter Eggstravaganza
11 which will be the 2nd, it's held in memory
12 of Matthew Newell is being held on March 31
13 at Harmony Field in South Scranton from
14 11:30 to 2:30. Last year was a great
15 success and they are planning on even a
16 bigger turnout this year and it was a great
17 event for, you know, young kids and families
18 and please support it the best you can.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry.

22 MS. EVANS: That's fine.

23 Mrs. Krake.

24 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING AND
25 ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR THE

1 DISPOSAL OF CITY-OWNED POLICE VEHICLES.

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

5 MR. MCGOFF: So moved.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

7 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
8 those in favor -- -

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question.

10 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry.

11 MR. ROGAN: I'm sorry about that. I
12 know it's only the first reading, but
13 Mr. Sbaraglia brought up some valid points
14 and I don't see how the city is going to
15 make out by selling these vehicles to a
16 scrap yard. Anyone who has ever scraped a
17 vehicle knows you receive a very, very, very
18 small amount of money. They pay you for the
19 metal basically, and if these were auctioned
20 off to other municipalities or even kept on
21 hand so the parts can be used and repaired
22 for other Scranton police vehicles, I think
23 it would be, you know, a much wiser choice
24 for the taxpayer and also if we had some of
25 the parts on hand it would speed up the

1 process of repairs.

2 You know, it says in the legislation
3 junk list vehicles valued between zero
4 dollars and \$20,000. I don't think any of
5 these vehicle are going to be fetching
6 \$20,000 in a junk yard. I think the best
7 procedure for this is simply an auction,
8 auction them off to the highest bidder.
9 Don't only limit it to three scrap yards,
10 but let anyone, another municipality or
11 scarp yard, so I will be voting "no" on this
12 legislation.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I could just
14 add --

15 MS. EVANS: I know that Councilman
16 Loscombe and I several weeks ago had visited
17 the DPW and saw firsthand the number of
18 police vehicles that are no longer in use
19 and incapable of being used parked down in
20 the lots of the DPW, several of which are
21 off to the side in the back. They have not
22 been used in I'd say over a year or more.

23 We had suggested using parts from
24 some of the vehicles for repairs currently
25 to those vehicles that are in use within the

1 police force. In fact, it was that day I
2 believe that we had both brought up the fact
3 that there was no reason for these vehicles
4 to have been parked for a period of a year
5 or longer with nothing having been done when
6 certainly the city could realize revenue
7 from their sale or scrapping or the removal
8 of the car parts from those vehicles,
9 etcetera.

10 So at least this is I think a move
11 in the proper direction. It's certainly far
12 more advantageous than allowing the vehicles
13 to continue to sit for another year or two,
14 but I think if we can perhaps send a letter
15 to Chief Duffy mentioning your ideas for an
16 auction or whatever else you wish if you
17 would like to --

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes, that would be fine.
19 If they can't be used they can't be used,
20 but why limit it to three bids from three
21 scrap companies when I feel up in an auction
22 it could be other municipalities that need
23 parts or a private -- you know, could be the
24 scrap yards that wind up getting it, but
25 having an auction I think you would realize

1 more money than having a close bid for three
2 individuals.

3 MS. EVANS: So I think if we did
4 send that letter and include your ideas in
5 the letter to the chief, you know, he can
6 make a decision on that. He may decide that
7 that is, in fact, the direction to take and
8 in the meantime we'll have the legislation
9 move forward and should we not receive a
10 response from him by the Seventh Order
11 reading then we can table it until he does
12 provide us with.

13 MR. ROGAN: That sounds good.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I could just add,
15 maybe there is some confusion, I will
16 clarify this, but I will get together with
17 the chief prior to next week, he told me any
18 time there was any question on any of the
19 issues, but as Mrs. Evans stated there were
20 vehicles on the side of the garage, there
21 were a number of vehicles in the parking
22 area and I think what has happened is the
23 ones that were on the side of the garage
24 have been languishing there for more than a
25 year, for several years, and they were

1 basically scrap metal. The other vehicles
2 were the ones that the prior bid was on,
3 that lot of vehicles.

4 MS. EVANS: Yes.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: So I think what they
6 have done is separate them and this other
7 group they want to scrap and figure they
8 have already striped the parts off that they
9 need and stuff, so I believe, and I'll
10 verify that that's exactly the case, but
11 I'll meet with the chief in the mean time.

12 MS. EVANS: Very good, and then you
13 could let --

14 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, let me know.
15 Chief Duffy has always been good at getting
16 back to us. It just seems, you know, to be
17 that we would get more money from people
18 that want to buy them.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure. In my
20 conversation with him he was looking for as
21 much as he can get for everything, so I'm
22 sure he has definitely looked at it, but
23 that was the impression that I understood
24 because rather than sell that group with the
25 other group that was usable that that was

1 only worth scrapping them. That's what they
2 want to do, to dispose of them.

3 MR. ROGAN: That being said, I will
4 vote to pass it along this week and if we
5 don't get a response it's tabled, that would
6 be fine. If it goes to Seventh Order for a
7 final vote as it stands I will vote "no."

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
9 anyone else on the question? All those in
10 favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

17 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. CREATING AND
18 ESTABLISHING A NEW ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY OF
19 SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
20 DEVELOPMENT ("OECD") TITLED ENTERPRISE ZONE
21 ("EZ") PROGRAM ACCOUNT NO. 18A0101 FOR THE
22 RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF ENTERPRISE ZONE
23 ("EZ") PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE
24 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
25 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("DCED").

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

12 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

15 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. AUTHORIZING THE
16 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
17 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN INSPECTION
18 SERVICES CONTRACT WITH SHOENER ENVIRONMENTAL
19 TO PROVIDE INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE
20 CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE PROJECT ENTITLED:
21 "PAVING OF CITY STREETS TO INCLUDE
22 HANDICAPPED CURB CUTS".

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

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

9 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

12 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. APPOINTMENT OF
13 MICHAEL MULLER, 906 NORTH IRVING AVENUE,
14 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, AS A MEMBER
15 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD.
16 MR. MULLER WILL BE REPLACING MICHELE DEMPSEY
17 WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON OCTOBER 11, 2011. MR.
18 MULLER'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 11,
19 2016.

20 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
21 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be
22 introduced into its proper committee.

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. JOYCE: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: On the question?

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I do see that
2 Mr. Miller has his resume attached in the
3 backup.

4 MS. EVANS: Yes, he does.

5 MR. ROGAN: I thank him for sending
6 that in.

7 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the
8 question? All those in favor of
9 introduction signify by saying aye.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

16 MS. KRAKE: 5-F. APPOINTMENT OF ELLA
17 RAYBURN, NORTH WEBSTER AVENUE, SCRANTON,
18 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, AS A MEMBER OF THE
19 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD FOR AN
20 ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM. MS. RAYBURN'S
21 CURRENT TERM EXPIRED ON OCTOBER 11, 2011 AND
22 HER NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 11,
23 2016.

24 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. JOYCE: Second.

4 MS. EVANS: On the question?

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Mrs. Krake, can we
6 please request a resume from Ms. Rayburn
7 before next week's meeting? Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Anyone else? All those
9 in favor of introduction signify by saying
10 aye.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

17 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

18 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 21,
19 2012 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
20 COUNCIL NO. 40, 2010, ENTITLED, "AN
21 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
22 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
23 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
24 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
25 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

1 TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
2 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
3 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
4 SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM, BY TRANSFERRING
5 \$39,800.00 FROM PROJECT NUMBER 08-120
6 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO PROJECT NUMBER
7 11-229.1 UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF
8 NORTHEASTERN PA - CONDEMNATION PROGRAM.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
12 pass reading by title.

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

22 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
23 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 22, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE
24 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
25 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT AND

1 DISBURSE FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
2 JUSTICE, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED
3 POLICING SERVICES (COPS) FOR THE 2011 COPS
4 HIRING PROGRAM GRANT.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
8 pass reading by title.

9 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
19 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 23, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE
20 - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY
21 ACCOUNT NO. 02.229604 ENTITLED "2011 COPS
22 HIRING PROGRAM" FOR THE RECEIPT AND
23 DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS BY THE SCRANTON
24 POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR PAYMENT OF SERVICES
25 FOR A POLICE OFFICER.

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

3 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C
4 pass reading by title.

5 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION
15 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR
16 ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 18, 2012 -
17 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
18 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
19 ACCEPT AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE
20 WALMART FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF
21 \$2,000.00 TO PURCHASE TOYS AND COATS FROM
22 THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL
23 TOY/COAT DRIVE.

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

1 Committee on Finance?

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

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

15 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
20 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR
21 ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 19, 2012 -
22 CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY
23 ACCOUNT NO. 02.229602 ENTITLED "SCRANTON
24 POLICE HOLIDAY TOY & COAT DRIVE" FOR THE
25 RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF DONATIONS

1 RECEIVED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO
2 PURCHASE TOYS AND COATS DURING THE HOLIDAY
3 SEASON FOR AREA FAMILIES.

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

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

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

20 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

24 MR. HUGHES: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
25 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION-

1 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 20, 2012 - TRANSFERRING
2 FUNDS FROM FUND 01 CITY OF SCRANTON 2006
3 SERIES A TAN ACCOUNT WHICH FUNDS AND ACCOUNT
4 ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR THE CONDUCT OF CITY
5 BUSINESS, AND ABOLISHING AND CLOSING SAID
6 ACCOUNT AND TRANSFERRING THE FUNDS REMAINING
7 IN SAID ACCOUNT TO THE PNC GENERAL FUNDING
8 CHECKING ACCOUNT LISTED BELOW.

9 MS. EVANS: What is the
10 recommendation of the Chair for the
11 Committee on Finance?

12 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
13 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
14 passage of Item 7-C.

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question?

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes. On the question,
18 did we ever get a response from a letter we
19 sent asking if there were any other
20 outstanding monies to be transferred?

21 MS. EVANS: I think we will have to
22 defer to Mrs. Krake.

23 MR. ROGAN: I don't remember seeing
24 anything. I don't want to vote this down
25 because the city needs the money, but just

1 if there is any moneys out there definitely
2 would like to get it for the general fund.

3 MS. KRAKE: I don't believe that we
4 did.

5 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, I didn't think I
6 saw any. Could we send a follow- up on
7 that?

8 MR. JOYCE: Yes, please send a
9 follow-up.

10 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on
11 the question? Roll call, please?

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

19 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
24 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-
25 RESOLUTION NO. 8, 2012 - APPOINTMENT OF JACK

1 EMILIANI, 946 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE,
2 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER
3 OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT
4 AUTHORITY FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR
5 TERM. MR. EMILIANI'S CURRENT TERM EXPIRES ON
6 FEBRUARY 14, 2012, AND HIS NEW TERM WILL
7 EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 14, 2017.

8 MS. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
9 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
10 passage of Item 7-D.

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

12 MS. EVANS: On the question?

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes. We did not receive
14 a resume; correct?

15 MS. EVANS: I don't believe we did.

16 MR. ROGAN: And we have gone through
17 this for the last two years since I have
18 been on council. It's very frustrating that
19 when the mayor appoints somebody to a board
20 or commission that they can't send a resume
21 to city council. I have not met this
22 gentleman, he may be one of the best,
23 hardworking -- most hardworking people in
24 the world, but without knowing the person
25 how does the mayor expect us just to stamp

1 it through, so because of that, again, I
2 will be voting "no".

3 MR. MCGOFF: Just let me comment,
4 this is a reappointment, it's not a new
5 appointment and I still believe that on
6 reappointments, while appointing somebody
7 new, yes, perhaps a resume is in order, for
8 a reappointment I don't believe it's
9 necessary.

10 MR. ROGAN: I myself, and I believe
11 most of us, maybe Mrs. Evans, weren't here-

12 MS. EVANS: Oh, I don't know him.

13 MR. ROGAN: I was just going to say
14 we weren't here for the initial appointment
15 because it was a five-year term, and five
16 years ago I know myself and Mr. Loscombe and
17 Mr. Joyce weren't here, so we didn't even
18 have the initial opportunity to receive the
19 resume and look it over so --

20 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to add
21 that I, myself, have concerns with members
22 of the Scranton Redevelopment Authority. As
23 I noted earlier, the city is making payment
24 of quite a sum of money to Pennstar Bank to
25 settle litigation that was actually and for

1 an agreement that was entered into by the
2 Scranton Redevelopment Authority. As I have
3 also indicated in the newspaper, the
4 agreement was doomed to failure from the
5 moment the ink dried on the signatures, as
6 our solicitor likes to say, because the
7 collection rate was unfeasible, and in
8 addition to that, each time city council has
9 requested a caucus with members of the
10 Redevelopment Authority, information from
11 the Redevelopment Authority, we have
12 received curt answers. There is a most
13 definite lack of transparency within that
14 authority as well as an accountability to
15 other -- to the branches, the elected
16 branches of government in this city and city
17 taxpayers, so I will be voting "no".

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: No.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

25 MR. JOYCE: No.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

2 MS. EVANS: No. I hereby declare
3 Item 7-D is not adopted.

4 MS. KRAKE: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION
5 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
6 FOR ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 9, 2012 -
7 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
8 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
9 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
10 APPROPRIATENESS FOR SCRANTON CONNELL, LP,
11 595 E. LANCASTER AVENUE, ST. DAVIDS,
12 PENNSYLVANIA FOR INSTALLATION OF A SIGNAGE
13 BAND AND SIX (6) INDIVIDUAL AWNINGS AT THE
14 CONNELL BUILDING,
15 121-133 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE, SCRANTON,
16 PENNSYLVANIA.

17 MS. EVANS: What is the
18 recommendation of the Chair for the
19 Committee on Community Development?

20 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
21 Committee on Community Development, I
22 recommend final passage of Item 7-E.

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

8 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

12 MS. KRAKE: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION
13 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR
14 ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 10, 2012 -
15 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
16 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
17 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY
18 OF SCRANTON ("THE CITY"), THE REDEVELOPMENT
19 AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON (THE
20 "SRA") AND PENNSTAR BANK ("PENNSTAR") TO
21 SETTLE LITIGATION FILED AGAINST THE CITY AND
22 SRA BY PENNSTAR BANK CONCERNING AN AGREEMENT
23 OF SALE AND PURCHASE OF TAX CLAIMS FOR WHICH
24 PENNSTAR PROVIDED FINANCING.

25 MS. EVANS: What is the

1 recommendation of the Chair for the
2 Committee on Finance?

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

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make a
21 motion to table Item 7-G.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question?

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, rather than -- I'm
25 afraid about just tabling this, but rather

1 than sending letters could somebody contact
2 Mr. Hanley to ask the questions that are
3 involved? He has been very responsive in
4 the past and I think that if we can get
5 answer to these questions verbally as
6 opposed to through the mail --

7 MR. ROGAN: I will be in touch with
8 Ms. Aebli actually tomorrow. I actually
9 missed a call from her on a meeting today,
10 so I have a few other matters to discuss as
11 well.

12 MR. MCGOFF: As I said, I think
13 Mr. Hanley, too, would be --

14 MR. ROGAN: Sure.

15 MR. MCGOFF: -- a good source to
16 contact.

17 MS. EVANS: I think it's important
18 that we have Mrs. Schumacher's questions and
19 that in some capacity someone is able to
20 provide a written update on this because I
21 certainly don't think anyone is going to be
22 able to recall accurately responses to all
23 of those matters.

24 MR. ROGAN: I'll discuss it verbally
25 and ask for a written response.

1 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the
2 question? All those in favor of the motion
3 to table Item 7-F signify by saying aye.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
9 have it and so moved. Item 7-F is -- or
10 7-G, I'm sorry, is tabled.

11 Before we adjourn, I would just like
12 to announce that prior to next week's
13 council meeting there will be a public
14 caucus conducted at 6:00 p.m. in city
15 council chambers in order to discuss the
16 LERTA program with the developer who is
17 interested in the construction of I believe
18 it's senior citizen apartment dwellings on
19 Dickson Avenue at the site of the former
20 Daron Northeast.

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

23 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

24 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
25 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER