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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, March 15, 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

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. JOYCE: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MR. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Here.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

13 MR. JOYCE: Before we begin, I would
14 just like to announce that I was speaking
15 with Mrs. Evans, Councilwoman Evans before
16 the meeting. Her aunt had passed away and
17 the viewing is out of town. She will be
18 trying to make it to the meeting as she is
19 currently in route. Third order.

20 MS. CARRERA: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
21 DEPOSIT MADE BY THE SCRANTON SINGLE TAX
22 OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,818,320.73 TO
23 FIDELITY BANK FOR THE 2012 TAN DEBT.

24 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?
25 If not, received and filed.

1 MS. CARRERA: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
2 REPORT FROM HEARING DATE FEBRUARY 29, 2012.

3 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?
4 If not, received and filed.

5 MS. CARRERA: 3-C. LACKAWANNA COUNTY
6 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND
7 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATIONS FOR CEDAR AVENUE,
8 NORTH SIDE, STAFFORD AVENUE, NORTHWEST SIDE,
9 AND STAFFORD AVENUE, SOUTH SIDE.

10 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?
11 If not, received and filed. Are there any
12 clerk's notes?

13 MS. CARRERA: No, there are not.

14 MR. JOYCE: Do any council members
15 have announcements at this time?

16 MR. MCGOFF: Just two brief things.
17 First of all, this Saturday is St. Patrick's
18 Day and people who are -- happy St.
19 Patrick's Day to all, and again, ask people
20 to please don't perpetuate the stereotype,
21 act responsibly and celebrate responsibly
22 and it's a great day.

23 And secondly, again, I will --
24 congratulations to the Holy Cross Crusaders
25 boys basketball team, won last night and are

1 now advancing to the state quarter finals in
2 the Class Double A and will play Saturday
3 for possible semi-Easter final game and good
4 luck to them, and that's all.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: The West Side Falcons
6 will be holding a fundraiser on March 24
7 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Haggerty's, 421 North
8 Main Avenue. Beautiful West Side. \$10
9 donation at the door, 50/50's will be sold
10 and this is to help raise funds for helmets
11 and helmet decals for the West Side Falcon
12 players. Thank you.

13 MR. JOYCE: Do any other council
14 members have announcements? Fourth Order.

15 MS. CARRERA: FOURTH ORDER.

16 CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION.

17 MR. JOYCE: Our first speaker
18 tonight is Ozzie Quinn.

19 MR. QUINN: Good evening, Scranton
20 Taxpayers' Association. First of all, you
21 said for the LERTA for the one on Pittston
22 Avenue it was a variance? That wouldn't be
23 a variance.

24 MR. HUGHES: No, no. There was a
25 variance that it was a light industrial

1 zone. They had a variance from the zoning
2 board to put up this housing project there.

3 MR. QUINN: Why would they get a
4 variance? A variance is a hardship, that
5 would be a zoning change.

6 MR. HUGHES: I have no idea. All I
7 know is that --

8 MR. QUINN: Well, I mean, if you are
9 going to put that ordinance together I would
10 check with the zoning board because I don't
11 think it's a variance. I think it's a -- I
12 think it's a change in the zone. Period.

13 MR. HUGHES: Well, they didn't
14 change -- that comes through council. If
15 there was a change in the zone --

16 MR. QUINN: No, no, I'm not going to
17 get in a debate with you, somewhere along
18 the line I think you could get into an
19 argument about this with somebody that might
20 be trying to do something about it because I
21 don't think it's a variance, I think it's a
22 zone change and that's it, and there is a
23 big difference. A zoning change is a
24 hardship such as if your sidewalk is three
25 feet and it has to be two feet, that's a

1 hardship.

2 The other thing I wanted to mention
3 the fact is that tonight I heard about UNC,
4 United Neighborhood Center, the development
5 team from out of New York, housing, I heard
6 about people going into housing, heard they
7 going to get the LERTA, for people who don't
8 know what LERTA is it's a low -- local
9 Economic Tax Abatement Program, it means
10 they don't -- they are taxable, and,
11 Mr. Hughes, is it still on a descending
12 scale?

13 MR. HUGHES: I wasn't listening. Is
14 it what?

15 MR. QUINN: Is the tax abatement for
16 the developer, is it on a descending scale?
17 You mentioned that it was one million, one
18 million and one million, that wouldn't be
19 descending. I recall from Boscov's that
20 they are all descending, so 100, 90, 80, 70,
21 60 down to zero. The developer didn't get a
22 100 percent tax abatement every year.

23 MR. HUGHES: No, it was a tax
24 abatement every year.

25 MR. QUINN: But it's sliding.

1 MR. HUGHES: No. For every million
2 dollars invested that year is forgiven and
3 it accumulates up, so if it's an \$8 million
4 project there is no real estate tax on the
5 improvement for eight years.

6 MR. QUINN: And is that.

7 MR. HUGHES: And then at the end of
8 the eighth year it then becomes assessed and
9 then they pay the real estate taxes on the
10 improvements.

11 MR. QUINN: Would that -- I'm sorry
12 about keeping this up, I only have five
13 minutes here, but is there going to be a
14 public hearing on that? That changes from
15 the original Scranton zone ordinance in
16 regard to the descending --

17 MR. HUGHES: No. The mall was an
18 \$80 million, \$90 million project. It was
19 capped at ten years, so they didn't pay any
20 tax on the improvements for a period of ten
21 years. There was no taxes paid on the
22 improvements. It was just a tax paid on the
23 land.

24 MR. QUINN: I beg to differ.

25 MR. HUGHES: Then at the end of 10

1 years they then went in and it was assessed

2 --

3 MR. QUINN: I beg to differ. I
4 might be wrong, but I think it's a
5 descending, goes from 100 down to zero. You
6 know what, a tax abatement, whether it be
7 LERTA, enterprise zone, we have another
8 enterprise, they are going to open up
9 another enterprise zone line item here, you
10 know, as I said last week Mrs. Evans said
11 \$313 indebtedness by the City of Scranton
12 and now she is going to join the mayor and
13 council and try to get \$9.85 million to free
14 up unspent funds, you know, that's out there
15 and, you know, it's going to be used like
16 another credit card. What did you think
17 will happen next year? Mark my words, we
18 will be here again doing the same thing.

19 Let's finish it. Let's get behind
20 -- I'm sick of the school district, we saw
21 what happened over at the school district
22 and for all of the nerve of them backing a
23 LERTA with the indebtedness they have and
24 hiring people and now they are asking us to
25 for a tax, but we could just about pay our

1 taxes and they are asking for help. Forget
2 about this. Forget about it, you know?
3 It's about time maybe we start looking at
4 bankruptcy in the City of Scranton rather
5 than saying, "We can do it. We can do it.
6 We can do it." Well, maybe we can't do it.
7 Everybody is afraid of that word bankruptcy.

8 I want to go on and say that 7-A,
9 the United Neighborhood Center is getting
10 \$39,800 for a condemnation program. It
11 doesn't list the projects. How come? It
12 doesn't list the --

13 MR. ROGAN: The condemnation program
14 is for condemnation assistance when
15 residents are, for instance, say --

16 MR. QUINN: I'm not asking that. I
17 want to know what projects the 39,000 is
18 coming from?

19 MR. ROGAN: I asked Linda that same
20 question myself, it's under the general
21 economic development. It's not earmarked
22 for a specific project.

23 MR. QUINN: You just got that out of
24 her saying that?

25 MR. ROGAN: Well, I spoke to her.

1 MR. QUINN: You mean there is
2 \$39,000 hanging around there?

3 MR. ROGAN: There is money
4 appropriated for economic development every
5 year. The money is being transferred from
6 economic development to cover the costs of
7 this program. We tried transferring money
8 from a project that couldn't be used, I
9 think it was three weeks ago, and it was
10 shot down 3-2.

11 MR. QUINN: Seems kind of weird to
12 me. Okay, I want to ask you one thing, Andy
13 argued the fact about the engineer -- they
14 are hiring someone to check the handicap
15 curbs that are going to be put in the city
16 and why isn't the city engineer? There is
17 no amount in here with about how much the
18 contract is and, you know, there is always
19 change orders and they kill you. Why
20 doesn't the city engineer do it? No amount
21 in here and you expect -- you are going to
22 vote "yes" and all of us taxpayers are going
23 to say okay? Fed up with it. Fed up with
24 paying these -- this money out like it's
25 just coming out from the Treasurer's Office

1 up here and it's just falling out of a tree.

2 You know, do you ever follow a
3 master plan or do you just say, "Yeah, we
4 are going to build over here, that's a good
5 idea. We are going to build over here."

6 Did any of you ever look at a master
7 plan? Did you ever know when the last
8 master plan of the City of Scranton was
9 done?

10 MR. ROGAN: I would gander it was
11 quiet awhile ago.

12 MR. QUINN: Quite awhile ago. You
13 know, the cities go by the master plan.
14 That's why it prepared them, and I
15 appreciate it if you would do something
16 about it and I appreciate could I get an
17 answer on that question I had last week,
18 Mr. Joyce?

19 MR. JOYCE: I'm still researching
20 into it, I will have the --

21 MR. QUINN: Researching. It takes a
22 phone call, doesn't it, to find out? I'm
23 getting angry as a taxpayer, I'm getting
24 very angry and so is the taxpayers. Thank
25 you.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: Our next speaker is
3 Bill Jackowitz. Good evening, Scranton City
4 Council. Bill Jackowitz, a very
5 disappointed and angry South Scranton
6 resident.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: And member of the
9 Taxpayers' association. It seems that every
10 week the situation in Scranton worsens.
11 Now, last week we found out that we're \$300
12 million in long-term debt. You know, let's
13 look at this logically and look at this
14 realistically. Who is responsible for that
15 \$300 million debt? Is it the residents, the
16 residents who have been come hearing year
17 after year after year arguing and begging
18 city councils, past city councils, present
19 city councils, current Mayor Doherty not to
20 borrow more money, not to fight the police
21 department, not to fight the fire
22 department, who is responsible for this \$300
23 million debt? Is it the citizens and
24 taxpayers or is it the mayor and past
25 Scranton City Councils and present Scranton

1 City Council who is authorizing all of his
2 borrowing and we just continue to borrow and
3 borrow and borrow and ask the taxpayers for
4 more and more money.

5 We have the lowest -- the highest
6 unemployment rate, and we have had that for
7 years now. We have the lowest median family
8 income, we have the lowest per capita
9 income, but yet now we are losing police
10 officers, we are losing firefighters, we
11 have had -- we had a structure burn down in
12 West Side, we find out that a fire truck
13 carrying the water had to come from South
14 Scranton all the way to West Scranton, two
15 and a half times the distance as they would
16 have had to travel if the Luzerne fire
17 station was open. But yet Chief Tom Davis
18 and Mayor Christopher A. Doherty who are
19 responsible for this \$300 million debt tried
20 to tell us that there was no wasted time and
21 response time was not any longer than it
22 would have been.

23 You mean to tell me that a fire
24 truck can come from South Side to West Side
25 at the same time that it would come from

1 West Side to go to West Side? I'm sorry,
2 I'm not buying what you are selling, okay?

3 We have a city serious problem in
4 the City of Scranton. Then we find out that
5 they don't even have an emergency team that
6 entered the building which they are required
7 to have. Where was that emergency team?
8 Why wasn't it there? Why are the taxpayers
9 and residents lives and safety being
10 jeopardized because Mayor Doherty and past
11 rubber stamp city councils authorized and
12 allowed the City of Scranton to go over \$300
13 million in debt?

14 Now, residents, fire insurance is
15 going up. We are going to have a major
16 emergency. What's going to happen if
17 someone is trapped in that building? What's
18 going to happen if we have a handicap
19 individual on the second or third floor or
20 someone who is sick who can't get out of
21 that building? Don't you think that two and
22 a half miles further distance is going to
23 make a difference? Don't you think if we
24 don't have an emergency response team on the
25 scene at the scene to enter that building

1 and rescue people, don't you think that's
2 going to make a difference? But yet the
3 residents and taxpayers are the ones who
4 suffer. Our taxes have been raised twice in
5 the past three years. Why? Why? Our
6 services are been cut, we lost firefighters,
7 we lost police officers, roads are not being
8 paved, bridges are not being fixed, but yet
9 our taxes went up.

10 I hope someone tells me that.

11 Mr. McGoff, you voted for all of this. I
12 hope during your motions tonight you will
13 explain it to the taxpayers of Scranton why
14 their taxes went up and why their fire
15 services and police services went down and
16 why Fire Chief Tom Davis is trying to
17 convince the residents that our safety is
18 not being jeopardized and response time is
19 not being made longer because of the cuts.

20 Remember, Fire Chief Tom Davis, 93
21 percent of the firefighters voted no
22 confidence in him. Why is he still even a
23 fire chief? And remember, he installed new
24 windows in his house and didn't even pay his
25 for his permits and fees and install them

1 until after it was made public that he did
2 not get the proper building permits, but yet
3 we are supposed to believe him when he is
4 saying that time and responses are not being
5 jeopardized?

6 How can that be. If you got to go
7 two and a half times the distance how could
8 that not add added time to the response
9 time. Please, someone tell me that during
10 motions tonight. Jack, you are the safety
11 guy, explain it to me. Maybe I'm not -- I
12 can't understand that. Tell me why there
13 was no emergency response team on the ground
14 to go in and rescue people if our safety is
15 not being jeopardized. Maybe Mr. McGoff can
16 help you because he voted for all of this.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

18 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is
19 Petere Lamandre.

20 MR. LAMANDRE: Good evening,
21 Council.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

23 MR. LAMANDRE: Peter Lamandre,
24 Greater Scranton Board of Realtors. I did
25 provide some of the commentary ahead of time

1 so you can review it, but just to put it on
2 the record. On behalf of the Greater
3 Scranton Board of Realtors, once again, we
4 do want to say that we do enforce done and
5 do some support the concept of the rental
6 registration. We just feel there is couple
7 of editorial tweaks that may beneficial for
8 enforcement. My commentary two weeks ago
9 primarily was about enforcement, and I want
10 to make that clear, because there was some
11 questions as far as my commentary. The
12 reality is the ordinance has some teeth in
13 it and there is actually some more changes
14 very recently it looks like from the
15 previous proposed copy, and it's actually
16 good, but just some of the editorial things.

17 One, removal of the word "agent" may
18 be prudent as it may create vicarious
19 liability for the agent based on the actions
20 or inactions of an owner. Under the
21 definition of a property owner they include
22 the word "agent" and if the owner fails to
23 take action or does take action contrary the
24 agent may have nothing to do with that, but
25 they could still be held liable over that.

1 If an agent is fault they should be
2 definitely held liable, but they shouldn't
3 be accountable for the actions of a third
4 party such as the client or the owner of the
5 property.

6 In Section 1-X any -- concerning the
7 word legally, any person who legally
8 occupies the property. It defines a tenant
9 as anyone who occupies the property, if you
10 have a squatter on the property they
11 technically occupy the property, should an
12 owner be held liable for the actions of a
13 squatter? I don't think so. It should be
14 someone who is legally occupying that
15 property, regardless of whether or not they
16 have a lease, that's fine, but they should
17 be legally there. If they are illegal there
18 and trespassing the owner shouldn't be
19 liable for that.

20 MR. MCGOFF: But if an owner -- I
21 don't mean to interrupt, but --

22 MR. LAMANDRE: Sure.

23 MR. MCGOFF: I was going to say if
24 an owner is cognizant of someone illegally
25 occupying the property then --

1 MR. LAMANDRE: Absolutely. I mean,
2 an example I can give, I was inspecting a
3 property with a potential client the other
4 day, it was about a week and a half ago in
5 the Hill Section, and when we were
6 inspecting the property one side was vacant
7 and we found someone asleep in the second
8 floor with heroine needles and we called the
9 police and had him removed. The owner
10 didn't know that they were there, but
11 technically the police arrived and with the
12 ordinance the way it is currently written
13 everything is changed from "may" to "shall",
14 so technically that would have been a
15 disruptive conduct report, if you read the
16 ordinance by the letter of it, and that
17 owner should not have been held liable for
18 that.

19 MR. MCGOFF: I understand.

20 MR. LAMANDRE: Part of the concern
21 becomes when you take it from a "may" to a
22 "shall" then all of those things that happen
23 there needs to be a disruptive conduct
24 report and the owner may not actually be at
25 fault, so that's the purpose of that

1 particular commentary.

2 A couple of the sections give
3 reference to the sphere in which an agent
4 could leave within the property from 20
5 miles, it's been shrunk down to ten miles.
6 What we would propose is in addition to
7 living adding the wording "Or operate a
8 business."

9 If you are looking to send notices
10 to someone, you want them to probably get to
11 them between 9 to 5. If they are a business
12 and they occupy either -- the person who may
13 physically be the agent may not live in
14 Scranton, but their business may be in
15 Scranton or their business may be in close
16 proximity to Scranton, so adding the word
17 "business" would definitely be helpful.

18 Just on a personal note, I don't
19 live within ten miles of the City of
20 Scranton, effectively even though I
21 currently operate a business because I live
22 within 20 you would effectively being saying
23 I can't operate the property then because
24 it's in the City of Scranton, so that's just
25 a personal note, but my business is within a

1 quarter of a mile of the City of Scranton
2 and that's where I am primarily every single
3 day, so just, again, some commentary.

4 In addition to that, this is a
5 carryover from a comment from last time,
6 just some consideration in the ordinance for
7 the fact that if an owner is lawfully trying
8 to evict a tenant if subsequent the
9 disruptive conducts report occur that
10 shouldn't be held against him, and again,
11 the way the ordinance is written everything
12 is "shall" not "may" and if the owner is
13 trying to get rid of the tenant and they are
14 trying to do what they need to do, you could
15 be holding them liable for actions that they
16 are actually trying to remedy and the delay
17 is not because of their inaction, but just
18 because of the statutory requirements for
19 removing the tenant from the property.

20 And lastly, just it would probably
21 be helpful in terms of a landlord
22 enforcement and even the city's enforcement
23 if there was actually a penalty inside of
24 the ordinance for a tenant who violates the
25 ordinance. There is all sorts of penalties

1 for an owner who violates the ordinance, if
2 they don't act or they don't do this and
3 they don't do that there is all sort of
4 penalties, but if the tenant is the cause,
5 if the tenant isn't dealing properly with
6 the recycling, for instance, that counts as
7 a disruptive conduct report. If the tenant
8 isn't doing that, if the owner is providing
9 them with the proper receptacle and telling
10 them they need to do it, shouldn't the
11 tenant be held to some degree of liability,
12 whether it's citation or something?

13 And that's really it, and in
14 conclusion I want to thank you for your
15 time. If you have any questions, I would be
16 happy to clarify anything that I stated.

17 MR. ROGAN: I have one question, I
18 see in here the amendments that were
19 presented, it's amending the mileage from 20
20 miles away to ten.

21 MR. LAMANDRE: Yes.

22 MR. ROGAN: And did you review all
23 of the --

24 MR. LAMANDRE: I did.

25 MR. ROGAN: What is your

1 organization's position on the ordinance as
2 it stands?

3 MR. LAMANDRE: As it stands, 20
4 miles provides a sufficient pool of
5 qualified individuals, whether they are
6 professional or non, that would allow
7 someone who is -- I mean, 20 miles away you
8 can get there in theory 20, 25 minutes.
9 That's not a very long time. Shrinking it
10 down to ten is not necessarily a bad thing,
11 but it would reduce the pool, so by adding
12 not only living but working within that
13 sphere we feel that it would provide a
14 sufficient pool of qualified individuals
15 that would be able to accept the notices on
16 behalf of the city and behalf of the owner.

17 MR. ROGAN: I tend to agree what you
18 are saying, 20 miles in this day and age
19 is -- I work more than 20 miles away from
20 where I live.

21 MR. LAMANDRE: Well, I can tell you
22 this, there are similar ordinances in the
23 area that have some spirit of where they
24 need to be, ten miles would be the smallest
25 sphere that exists in Lackawanna or Luzerne

1 County. I believe Wilkes-Barre is 25,
2 Carbondale is 20, so ten miles would be the
3 smallest. It's not necessarily an issue,
4 when you say 20 and live, but once you
5 shrink it to live and ten I feel you are
6 reducing that pool too small.

7 MR. ROGAN: I agree. You know,
8 obviously we don't want the rental agent to
9 be someone who lives out in Jersey.

10 MR. LAMANDRE: Absolutely.

11 MR. ROGAN: I would take them hours
12 to get to the city, but ten miles from here
13 is --

14 MR. LAMANDRE: It's down Route 6,
15 it's down from, you know, Clarks Summit. I
16 can tell you this, there has been the city
17 has called me and I have actually beat the
18 officers there, so, I mean, if you are close
19 and you are good you can get there before
20 there is a problem.

21 MR. ROGAN: And I have some of the
22 same concerns you do and in listening to
23 what other speakers have to say about the
24 ordinance, my biggest concern is I wanted -
25 this to be more of an -- other people have

1 mentioned it as well, self-sustaining
2 program. The way it's setup I don't see the
3 enforcement aspect as much with getting the
4 inspection, I think the inspection for me is
5 the key because if you are paying a fee you
6 should receive a service.

7 MR. LAMANDRE: Right.

8 MR. ROGAN: A fee to receive the
9 inspection. If you are paying a fee to not
10 receive an inspection is a tax, so if the
11 inspections won't take place, and I already
12 know from speaking to inspectors in the
13 city, that we are understaffed. If the city
14 cannot accommodate the inspections, it's
15 basically passing a tax.

16 MR. LAMANDRE: Right. One concern
17 about if you are going to make mandatory
18 yearly inspections, and I see this in other
19 municipalities that do mandatory yearly
20 inspections, as someone who manages in that
21 area, they sometimes use that as a vehicle
22 to force an owner to bring things up to code
23 that should have been legally conforming at
24 the time that the improvements were actually
25 done, and they use that as a vehicle to say,

1 "Well, this does not meet code now, so in
2 order for me to issue you a rental license
3 you need to now bring it up to code."

4 And that seems contrary to building
5 codes. If a property is existing and it met
6 the codes at the time in which the permits
7 were issued and nothing has changed, then
8 typically the building codes allow for that
9 to remain that way, and as long as an
10 inspection wouldn't be used as a vehicle to
11 upgrade properties forcibly, then that's
12 something you may be able to support, but if
13 it's going to be used in that manner, that's
14 something we would oppose.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: I agree with that 100
16 percent.

17 MR. ROGAN: And I support the
18 inspection, that's the part of program I
19 like the most to keep tabs, mainly it's not
20 the local guy that's the problem, the guy
21 that lives 20, 30 miles away doesn't seem to
22 be the problem, it seems to be landlords
23 that live hours away that don't care about
24 what happens to our city and they only care
25 about getting the check in the mailbox.

1 MR. LAMANDRE: Correct. There was
2 one, and I don't know if I stated this when
3 I was going over my commentary, Section 7-A,
4 "All notices shall be sent to the owner," it
5 says, "Or agent," and my concern there is
6 sometimes, one, notices aren't actually
7 sent, I can definitely tell you that. Two,
8 owners who live two, 300 or 3,000 miles away
9 from are sometimes mentally and physically
10 attached from the property, if the ordinance
11 would require it to be sent to the local
12 agent, when in reality you think about the
13 purpose of the local agent is to receive the
14 ordinance then the ordinance should also
15 mandate that the local agent receives it so
16 that they are better equipped to actually
17 handle the problem, as opposed to an owner
18 who might be traveling or out of the
19 country.

20 I have owners that are in the
21 military. They are not going to get your
22 letter. They are just not going to get your
23 letter, so if you send a letter to them, and
24 that's the way the ordinance reads, they
25 will be in noncompliance. So by mandating

1 that it also be sent to the agent I think
2 that would close that loop and provide the
3 protection and the notice that you are
4 seeking.

5 MR. ROGAN: That's a good point.
6 This should be exceptions for active duty in
7 the military.

8 MR. LAMANDRE: Thank you.

9 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is
10 Annette Palutis.

11 MS. PALUTIS: Good evening. My name
12 is Annette Palutis, I'm a resident of the
13 City of Scranton and a retired teacher, and
14 recently it came to my attention that there
15 is an opportunity to refurbish North
16 Scranton Junior High School, and as we all
17 know that's an architectural landmark in our
18 community. I taught at that school for 27
19 years and when they were making attempts to
20 close the school, I helped organize parents
21 and we went before the school board and at
22 that time they said the school might be
23 caving and they scared some of the people.

24 Now, it's 28 some years later, the
25 school is still standing there. The problem

1 was that they had not repaired the roof and
2 the bricks were falling off the top because
3 the mortar had dissipated, and at that time
4 then the consultant said it would cost \$11
5 million to refurbish the school, and I made
6 the comment to the board that they would
7 have a building that would be worth over \$80
8 million if they refurbished it and spent the
9 \$11 million, and the architect corrected me
10 and he said, "No, the building would be
11 worth more than \$100 million."

12 But we did not prevail and, of
13 course, they closed the school, and probably
14 spent \$11 million more busing all of those
15 students all over the city, but that isn't
16 the problem before us tonight, the problem
17 is to save this property, and I believe that
18 we have an opportunity now to do this.

19 This is good development because,
20 first of all, there is a civic component and
21 there is also an architectural component,
22 there is a monetary component and, more
23 importantly, if this building is refurbished
24 you are going to have a monument that will
25 live long after us, and I believe this is

1 the last opportunity. Goodwill has owned
2 this property and has tried for some 15
3 years to refurbish it. They do have \$4
4 million that was granted to them by the
5 Rendell administration, but that would be
6 lost if they don't get this further funded.

7 And so it came to my attention, I
8 saw there was an editorial in the Scranton
9 Times saying that if we wrote to this
10 Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency that
11 perhaps we could influence them to please
12 consider doing this because it will result
13 in 60 housing units and they will maintain
14 the auditorium as space for the community to
15 use and, believe me, it's a magnificent
16 auditorium because I produced and directed
17 shows there for 27 years and it is a
18 magnificent building.

19 Now, I don't know if it's
20 appropriate if you can do this, but if you
21 can I am here to ask this board to please
22 consider writing to this agency. I have the
23 information and I am also here so that I am
24 asking the people in the audience and the
25 people who are viewing us at home to please

1 consider doing this and perhaps the camera
2 people can put up the information. If I
3 just give it to you, you may not hear it
4 appropriately, and if that's doable I would
5 appreciate that, also. Thank you very much.

6 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Ms. Palutis.

8 MR. ROGAN: Before the next speaker
9 comes up, with everyone's agreement I'm all
10 for sending a letter to the Pennsylvania
11 Housing Finance.

12 MR. JOYCE: I was actually going to
13 mention that myself. Yes, I'm in favor as
14 well.

15 MR. ROGAN: So if nobody objects.

16 MS. PALUTIS: The young lady just
17 told me that she was one of those students
18 that had to leave the school and go to South
19 Scranton.

20 MR. JOYCE: Ms. Carrera, if we could
21 send a letter out that would be greatly
22 appreciated. Our next speaker is Doug
23 Miller.

24 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
25 Doug Miller, Scranton. I'd like to begin

1 tonight by addressing the fire over in West
2 Side on Monday. I'd just like to express my
3 thoughts and prayers to the victims of this
4 unfortunate occurrence.

5 You know, thankfully we didn't have
6 any lives taken from us, however, this
7 incident once again takes us back to the
8 issue of whether or not this city is
9 adequately protected in which, as I have
10 stated many times before, it's my opinion
11 that we are not. The response time at this
12 particular fire scene was pretty dismal. To
13 hear stories that it took ten minutes for an
14 engine from South Side to come over that was
15 supplying the water really truly infuriated
16 me.

17 And then when you have a mayor go on
18 TV and spew nothing but arrogance, it really
19 makes my sick to my stomach how this man is
20 yet again jeopardizing the health, safety
21 and well-being of the residents of this city
22 and now all of sudden he is fire expert. He
23 has a degree in fire protection or he wants
24 to make statements that we are not talking
25 about hypotheticals, we did our job. Yeah,

1 you did your job, but it took too long and
2 maybe we could have saved this home. Maybe
3 these people wouldn't have lost everything
4 that they own and now tonight we have 12
5 homeless people and we got reports today
6 that unfortunately the home next door may
7 have to come down.

8 You know, this man has never been
9 sympathetic. He has since day one never
10 took our public safety serious and now we
11 are in the situation we are in today and we
12 have people who want to blame council for
13 this and other people and the mayor has
14 blamed everybody but himself, okay? The
15 blame game is over. It's time to look in
16 the mirror, as I have said, take
17 responsibility. You caused this. You have
18 been running the city reckless for ten
19 years. It's not this council. In fact, if
20 we paid attention to facts we would see that
21 council restored 13 firemen.

22 But the question I have tonight is,
23 you know, we looked into a \$600,000 retiree
24 grant, have we applied for that yet? I
25 mean, these are funds that we had available

1 for years and the mayor just turned a blind
2 eye to it. Do we have an update on that?

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm sorry, which one
4 was that?

5 MR. MILLER: The \$600,000 grant that
6 we --

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, that was applied
8 for. From what I understand it's like a 60
9 to 90 process on that, and also the SAFER
10 grant was applied for, but that's something
11 that won't happen until towards the end of
12 the year.

13 MR. MILLER: Okay.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: But the other one has
15 been applied for.

16 MR. MILLER: But these are things
17 that came to light because of this council
18 majority where for the past ten years with
19 rubber stamp council and other people that
20 have run the city we ignored those things
21 and we never knew about them, but thankfully
22 this council took the initiative, we applied
23 for the grants, it's going to take time, but
24 at least you did it because you showed your
25 commitment to public safety.

1 You know, Councilman Loscombe, I
2 believe you said it best on Monday, what's
3 the price of a life? You know, I appreciate
4 the fact that you take it serious because
5 you fought for the city, you put your life
6 on the line every day so you know what's
7 it's about. I would consider you an expert.
8 I think maybe you need to teach the mayor a
9 thing or two because evidently he doesn't
10 have a clue what he's talking about.

11 Remember, it was the mayor's
12 decision to cut 29 firemen, not this
13 council, and I don't think it's fair for
14 people and the paper and the media to point
15 the finger at this council because you did
16 what you had to do. You are in a tough
17 situation. It was restore 29 firemen and
18 there was no guarantee that they were being
19 restored and then at the same time the
20 taxpayers would have had to take on a 29
21 percent tax increase, so your hands were
22 tied, and I don't think it's fair that, you
23 know, you are pinned in a corner on many
24 occasions with this.

25 You know, as I have said before,

1 public safety is very -- I take it very
2 serious. I think it should be the top
3 priority of any elected official, especially
4 the mayor, that needs to be his number one
5 priority and it hasn't been and it's ashame
6 that we got to come up here as Scrantonians
7 and talk about this. We should be
8 embarrassed. We are the laughing stock of
9 the nation that we can't even protect the
10 city with a full fleet of firemen, 100
11 firemen to protect 27 square miles of the
12 city, it's pretty sad, and my frustration
13 level is completely through the roof and,
14 you know, I just don't want to say anymore.

15 You know we have had to deal with
16 fire stations closed, we have had to deal
17 with brownouts. You know, the game is done.
18 They just have to stop and it's time for
19 this mayor once and for all to take
20 responsibility, look in the mirror and call
21 it for what it is. You put us where we are
22 today. And thankfully we didn't lose
23 anybody the other day and, you know,
24 fortunately, you know, we haven't had
25 anything really serious happen, major

1 catastrophe, but I'm waiting for that day to
2 come because when it does we will pay the
3 price.

4 Moving onto the city's finances, you
5 know, we had a few speakers up here talking
6 about the city's long-term debt, over \$300
7 million, these are all things we have been
8 talking about for 10 years now. We want to
9 talk about a violent situation here, well,
10 it's quite simple, we have let a man run the
11 city reckless for ten years. It's fiscal
12 mismanagement. We let borrowing and
13 spending go out of control. We allowed
14 rubber stamp councils of the past turn a
15 blind eye. These are people that were bought
16 and sold. People like that I have
17 absolutely no respect for.

18 I don't blame the taxpayers, the
19 taxpayers work hard and they fight, but
20 unfortunately they have been placed with a
21 lot of burdens through the years between tax
22 increases and everything else they had to
23 deal with it.

24 And, finally, on the nonprofits, I'm
25 glad to see that council finally took the

1 initiative on this to see that we are going
2 to go after them, it's time to pay their
3 fair share, we've let them get a free ride
4 for far too long. They see the situation we
5 are in and it's time to go after them, the
6 university and all of the other ones who
7 don't give us a dime that those days are
8 over. Thank you.

9 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next
10 speaker is Les Spindler.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
12 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
13 homeowner and taxpayer. I, too, want to
14 talk about the fires within the city
15 recently and I have been talking with this
16 for years and years. Chris Doherty does not
17 care about the public safety in this city.
18 He doesn't care about the families of the
19 people who live here. Last Thursday there
20 was a fire, Mr. Loscombe, you spoke about it
21 and my wife witnessed that fire. She was
22 working on that block as a caregiver right
23 across the street and she said, as you said,
24 I think you said it last week, that if
25 Engine 7 wasn't there when they were the

1 next house might have gone up and possibly
2 other houses after that. And this has to
3 stop. I mean it's ridiculous. People's
4 safety is in danger.

5 Now I want to talk about the fire
6 Monday on Swetland. Probably wouldn't have
7 been as bad if we had more firefighters that
8 could have gotten there earlier and
9 responded to this fire. I want to read
10 something that was in the Doherty newsletter
11 the other day, something that Deputy Chief
12 Al Lucas said. "One year ago the same date
13 in time we would have had six apparatus to
14 respond as opposed of yesterday's four?

15 Now, there is two apparatus we could
16 have had, but because of Chris Doherty we
17 didn't and now, as Doug said, the second
18 house might have to be torn down. Families
19 are living God knows where and this is just
20 out of control now. It's a grave situation.

21 I'd like it read a quote here by the
22 mayor and Chief Davis that was in the Sunday
23 Doherty newsletter, he said, this is the
24 mayor, "If Mr. Loscombe wanted to fund the
25 fire department he should have funded it.

1 This is his budget. It had the layoffs in
2 it, Mr. Doherty said."

3 Well, Mayor, council did fund
4 \$600,000 to restore 13 jobs, but you don't
5 care about the citizens of this city and if
6 there are fatal fires it's on your
7 conscience, Mayor.

8 And then next Chief Davis adds,
9 "There is absolutely no money. We have to
10 go with what council gave us."

11 Well, again, chief, you are just a
12 puppet of the mayor and saying whatever the
13 mayor tells you to say and there was
14 \$600,000 to restore 13 firefighters, so
15 there was money to put firefighters on the
16 job. No pun intended, but, I mean, Chris
17 Doherty is playing with fire and people's
18 lives.

19 So much for fires. I want to talk
20 about another subject that's dear to my
21 heart. Last Friday a pit bull attacked a
22 woman up in the Hill Section on Colfax
23 Avenue, bit her, knocked her to the ground,
24 I think she broke a bone in her leg. This
25 is a sore spot with me. I came to this

1 council six years ago, none of you were here
2 I don't think, and my dog was attacked by
3 two pit bulls and I came to council and I
4 said, "We need dangerous dog legislation in
5 this city."

6 Attacks like this are happening too
7 often and God knows what would happen if the
8 police didn't get there and shoot this dog.
9 I don't know if it survived or not.
10 Something has to be done. We need dangerous
11 dog legislation in this city. Like I said,
12 I came here six years ago and asked for it
13 and I'm asking council again we need that
14 legislation.

15 Lastly, back to the fire situation,
16 I know there was at least two children that
17 were displaced in that fire that go to West
18 Scranton High School and my daughter also
19 attends there, she is a senior, and they are
20 taking donations, so if somebody wants to
21 send any kind of monetary donation I know
22 times are bad, but, you know, just think how
23 these families are, they have nothing. Send
24 five, \$10. Checks can be sent to West
25 Scranton High School on Luzerne Street,

1 everyone knows where that is. You know, I
2 think that would be appreciated. You know,
3 there is like 12 people I think with no
4 where to go now and, so again, send your
5 donations to West Scranton High School and
6 it will get to the right place. Thank you
7 for your time.

8 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next
9 speaker is Dave Dobrzyn.

10 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

12 MR. DOBRZYN: Dave Dobrzyn, resident
13 of Scranton and pays taxes. They are paid,
14 by the way. I gave it to them, all the
15 money I stole off the federal government
16 with the tax return money.

17 Okay, last week I mentioned about
18 Galucci's the last two weeks and it's no
19 longer names Galucci's, but I was curious on
20 the 224 Wyoming Avenue suspected KOZ and I'd
21 like to make a comment on that, any future
22 make sure small business and citizens
23 benefit. It's too late for anything down
24 there, I mean, they are already handed the
25 blank check or whatever and they have the

1 money and they are going to keep it for
2 their own benefit and profit.

3 On this fire business, I would urge
4 everybody out there in TV land try to get
5 fire insurance. I had a fire in 2000 and I
6 was at work at the time, but for \$100 a
7 month I received a \$15,000 settlement on
8 furniture that was beaten to death and they
9 really didn't argue with me too much about
10 it, and keep your fire alarms with new
11 batteries. Two for a dollar at the Dollar
12 Store and they do work. Every time I use my
13 new gas stove they go off.

14 On this recovery business, a message
15 for the people of Scranton, voters, and we
16 voted for a lot of this stuff and people
17 that didn't show up in a way voted at the
18 polls because they just didn't show up and,
19 unfortunately, I sympathize with the unions
20 but they vote sometimes in their own worst
21 interest. In several other states there is
22 governors stripping union rights and what
23 have you and cutting taxes and then cutting
24 subsidies to fire departments. A lot of
25 these subsidies that we're supposed to be

1 receiving with all of this tax free land in
2 the city and tax free institutions we are
3 not getting anymore. I mean, we are not
4 ever going to get it, so if you have to vote
5 for the other guy that's okay, but at least
6 let him know that taking everything --
7 pulling everything out is unacceptable and
8 handing the people that already have it,
9 it's just -- it's not doable anymore. I
10 can't continue to pay for somebody else's
11 kid to go to college, possibly even from
12 some foreign country as an exchange student,
13 I just can't afford it.

14 And, Marie, I read a little article
15 in the paper on sales tax and she seemed to
16 have analyzed this little 1 percent that
17 Scranton once again will probably be paying
18 more taxes and not profiting, most of the
19 outlying communities would be profiting more
20 than Scranton, so if she has any time or if
21 you would grant her extra time I would like
22 to hear more about it to get the word out.

23 And, okay, we passed our voter ID
24 bill, photo ID. Old people won't have photo
25 ID if they don't drive. Poor people that

1 don't drive have photo IDs, they might ride
2 the bus every day, you don't need a photo to
3 get on the bus, and our PA legislature and
4 Governor Corbett saw fit to legalize this,
5 and so he gets the golden parrot award and
6 blessings which will come later.

7 And Eric Holder, attorney general
8 for three years now, he could have started
9 to do something about it and he has done
10 nothing about it. Nothing. Not even in the
11 states where voters were disparaged from
12 voting by poll taxes and all kinds of other
13 odds and ends, literacy tests and what have
14 you and people, World War II veterans,
15 former members of the legislatures in these
16 states are being denied the right to vote,
17 so they get the golden parrot award. Also,
18 Mr. Holder and may the golden parrot deposit
19 his droppings right on his forehead for his
20 ridiculous actions.

21 And Keystone free trade zone -- or
22 Keystone pipeline, that is headed right
23 through a free trade zone so you will
24 receive zero dollars and zero economic
25 benefit for all of the oil that will be

1 shipped out of the country on the Keystone
2 pipeline.

3 One final thing or note, if you want
4 the un-Rush radio station it's 105.7 WFTE, I
5 helped to set it up about a year ago and
6 hopefully it will be on the air for awhile,
7 but I'm considering it the un-Rush Limbaugh
8 station.

9 And books, don't forget David K.
10 Johnson, "Free Lunch" down at the library.
11 There is two hits just languishing on the
12 shelf before I picked it up and read it,
13 it's a great book. It's a great book.
14 Millions and billions of dollars, you know,
15 they buy something for 100 million -- or
16 \$100 billion and sell it for \$250 billion I
17 year later, like, an HMO or what have you.

18 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

19 MR. DOBRZYN: I couldn't even get
20 the book an extension on it, so thank you
21 and have a good night and don't forget,
22 bawk, bawk.

23 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next
24 speaker is Lee Morgan.

25 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

1 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

2 MR. MORGAN: A few weeks ago I was
3 reading the newspaper and there is an
4 investigation going on involving a Scranton
5 patrolman, where are we in this
6 investigation? Nobody knows anything at
7 this point?

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: It's been top secret.

9 MR. MORGAN: What's that now?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Top secret as far as
11 I know.

12 MR. ROGAN: It's a personnel matter.
13 Council, you know, we are not advised.

14 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Well, I think
15 the people should have some knowledge of
16 what's going on in the police department.

17 Is a project underway at the former
18 zoo at Nay Aug Park?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Not that I know of,
20 but it's ironic you brought that up because
21 I did hear a rumor last evening.

22 MR. MORGAN: Okay, because, you
23 know, all the steel from the cages is gone,
24 the bars are gone, all of the metal is gone
25 and my question is why. Because I would be

1 under the opinion that somebody had to get
2 authorization to start removing anything
3 from that property. So, I mean, I think we
4 need to find out what's going on there.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: I agree with you. I
6 didn't realize that they even started. I
7 just heard something last night.

8 MR. MORGAN: Okay. I'm just really
9 troubled because with the way that property
10 was deeded to the city and I don't think if
11 anybody has a right to go in and just start
12 removing things and I think it's a detriment
13 to the residents of this city to start
14 disbanding that property without the
15 knowledge and, I don't know, consent of the
16 residents of the city. I mean, that's an
17 asset that belongs to the community as far
18 as I'm concerned.

19 And then in regards to the dog
20 ordinance, this dangerous dog ordinance, I
21 mean, Mrs. Evans isn't there today, she was
22 on council at the time and Mr. DiBileo and I
23 can't remember everybody that was there, but
24 I brought them in pictures of a dog that was
25 tore to shreds actually killed by a dog in

1 his own yard, in that their own yard, I
2 mean, they were pretty graphic, but, look
3 it, I'm not knocking this council, but we
4 have been in this city waiting a long time
5 for the council to really start doing
6 something and I really in my opinion think
7 that the council has failed to protect the
8 residents of this city for 40 or 50 years,
9 that's my opinion, and some people may not
10 agree, and I just can't understand why
11 nothing was done with a dog ordinance long
12 before this.

13 I was here when Mr. Spindler brought
14 that issue forward and other people have
15 come forward and children have been attacked
16 and there is just in my opinion no excuse
17 why something hasn't been done.

18 In regard to the city's financial
19 condition, I'm really happy to see that
20 Mr. Quinn uttered the word bankruptcy. That
21 was the only solution to this city a long
22 time ago in my opinion and, you know, the
23 mayor, I'm not going to say the mayor hasn't
24 made some mistakes in running this city
25 because nobody is perfect, but I think we

1 have to realize that at the end of the
2 Connors' administration is when American
3 Anglican deal went through and we privatized
4 the Scranton Sewer Authority and at that
5 time the city was under sanctions because of
6 the poor fiscal condition of this city, and
7 this city has been dying for a very long
8 time, in my opinion, because we have had a
9 lack of leadership on council, and I'm not
10 here to berate the council members, but
11 nothing has happened here in my opinion
12 without consent of council.

13 A lot of this legislation was
14 brought to council. You, know, I'm really
15 tired of hearing people talk about rubber
16 stamp councils because when you talk about a
17 rubber stamp council that's just a council
18 that doesn't agree with you, okay, that's
19 the way I see it, but, you know, if they
20 agree with you then they are not rubber
21 stampers. In my opinion I think every bit
22 of legislation that comes before a council
23 has to be looked at and see what the
24 benefits to the residents.

25 Once again we are talking about more

1 apartment units in the city, I mean, and for
2 the life of me I can't understand it because
3 we are tearing so many of them down and we
4 are condemning so many properties that are
5 rental units, so why are we investing
6 millions and millions of dollars of public
7 funds to create more apartment units when we
8 can't even rent the ones that are in the
9 neighborhoods? And why isn't grant money
10 going into these neighborhoods to save these
11 properties.

12 Like I said here once before, we
13 keep losing more and more wage tax forcing
14 more and more people out of the city, and if
15 we allow corporate America to come here and
16 develop rental units, look it, I'm all for
17 people making money, but who is subsidizing
18 their rent and are these people working and,
19 look it, everybody needs a safe, affordable
20 place to live and I'm not against
21 subsidizing somebody's rent, but, I mean we
22 have to really take a good, hard look at the
23 people we are forcing out of this city.

24 And I have talked to a lot of them
25 walking through these neighborhoods, and to

1 be very honest with you when you are
2 knocking on somebody's door to talk to them
3 during election time and they tell you they
4 are leaving to go to Moosic, Taylor or
5 wherever, I think we got a real problem we
6 need to start addressing, gentlemen. Thank
7 you.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

9 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Does anyone
10 else wish to address council?

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
12 Council. Marie Schumacher, and a distressed
13 taxpayer.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: First of all, a few
16 comments. I do agree with Mr. Morgan on the
17 police officer's situation. That has been
18 going on for some time. I don't think we
19 have to know who it is, but I definitely
20 would like to know what the crime was or
21 what the alleged crime was and if this
22 person is still out among us. I mean,
23 people have children and, you know,
24 daughters, if it was something of a nature
25 where somebody's a --a police officer -- I

1 don't know. I don't even want to speculate
2 because I know nothing about it, but I would
3 like to know what the nature of the alleged
4 crime is and whether that officer is well
5 outside of the -- on suspension right now.
6 I don't care about the name.

7 MR. ROGAN: I would just --

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: I do care about the
9 actions.

10 MR. ROGAN: I would just reply
11 officially we haven't received anything.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: I've got a lot.
13 Well, I'm just saying, I think you should,
14 and I don't think that's -- it's not a
15 personnel matter if it's not specific to a
16 person in my eyes.

17 Then on 7-G tonight, to me a fee is
18 meant to cover the expenses that are
19 required to execute the program for which
20 the fee is being paid. I don't believe we
21 have enough inspectors to perform the
22 inspections. That means, once again, the
23 taxpayers are going to be subsidizing these
24 and what I would like to know is do we have
25 adequate inspectors? If we don't, how long

1 is going to take to get all of these rental
2 properties inspected with what we have and
3 in what manner will the properties being
4 inspected? I just still feel very
5 uncomfortable that this is ripe for abuse of
6 whose property gets inspected first, and so
7 I would like the answers to that question
8 before you vote this into law.

9 You know, it's interesting because
10 just within the last couple of weeks I
11 filled out a questionnaire for my college
12 for an upcoming interview and one of the
13 questions they asked was what did you take
14 away from your undergraduate experience into
15 your life? And the first thing that popped
16 in my mind was a building I worked in and
17 studied in, and it was a science building,
18 and over the -- inscribed over the doorway
19 was a Michael Faraday quote that said, "But
20 still try for who knows what is possible."

21 And I live my life that way, and
22 tonight for the first time I think maybe I
23 have been a fool because the state of this
24 city and what I have heard here tonight is
25 just totally depressing to me. I don't know

1 that there is any need to even continue on
2 trying to help this city.

3 Mr. Joyce, I'd like to know if you
4 will be giving the key points of the revised
5 Recovery Plan tonight?

6 MR. JOYCE: I could discuss it
7 during motions.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: That would be
9 wonderful.

10 MR. ROGAN: I will be discussing it
11 as well.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, and I noticed
13 there was an article in the paper also about
14 a police station damaged where a person who
15 was in holding flipped the bird to the
16 surveillance camera, I think climbed on top
17 of a sink and ripped the sprinkler head out
18 of the ceiling causing the area to flood for
19 about I have written down 90 minutes, but I
20 believe it was 30, what's the purpose of
21 surveillance cameras if not to get up off
22 your duff and go stop something like that
23 when somebody is climbing up on the sink? I
24 mean, give me a break. Does anybody watch
25 the surveillance cameras or do they just

1 tape it so they have a record of what
2 already happened? I just would like some
3 answers from Mr. Duffy on I that. I think
4 that is an unnecessary waste of our property
5 damage.

6 And then with regard to the dogs,
7 don't we -- I know there is some controversy
8 about the laws we have, but I'm sure we have
9 a leash law and certainly that dog that
10 attacked was not on the leash, and I don't
11 know what the consequences are for not
12 having your dog on a leash, but I certainly
13 that's certainly one there.

14 With respect to the Cedar 500
15 legislation, I still believe that the
16 changes, any alterations, should have to
17 come before council, and I still believe
18 that the price is too high, but then again,
19 when you are spending somebody else's money
20 I guess there is no price that's too high.

21 And last week the debt numbers that
22 were given, I think everybody has a right to
23 know if they haven't already gone to the
24 audit to find out, that those are not all of
25 the municipal -- the city's municipal debt,

1 buddy.

2 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Good luck this
3 season, thank you.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Hey, Chris, approach
5 the podium.

6 MR. SLEDENZSKI: What did I do now?

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Your St. Patrick's
8 shirt. I stopped by your home the other day
9 and you weren't home.

10 MR. JOYCE: Anyone else like to
11 address council?

12 MR. UNGVARSKY: Hello, city council.

13 MR. JOYCE: Hello.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

15 MR. UNGVARSKY: I'm Tom Ungvarsky
16 and I'm also a member of the
17 Scranton/Lackawanna County Taxpayers and I'd
18 like to say a word about LERTA. Several
19 weeks ago a council member made the
20 statement that it's not about tax money. I
21 got to disagree. Everything this city
22 council has talked about since December has
23 been about money.

24 You are looking to charge rental
25 properties \$15 plus 50 for inspections, you

1 are looking to charge nonprofits or get
2 something from nonprofits. You are turning
3 every rock over looking to find some money
4 somewhere.

5 Now, tonight we heard three
6 proposals for apartments in this city. I'm
7 glad to hear people are willing to come here
8 and invest, but why aren't they doing it on
9 their own dime? It seems nobody wants to do
10 anything in this city unless they get a
11 grant or free taxes.

12 They want to charge \$800 an
13 apartment, how many senior citizens do you
14 think can afford to pay an \$800 rental fee?
15 There is not a whole lot of retired people
16 in this city getting that kind of a social
17 security check, and along with all of their
18 other expenses I don't see how they can
19 swing it. You have had proposals, I think
20 three years ago I counted up 330 proposals
21 to build apartments in this city, I look at
22 Linden Street, look at St. Peter's Square,
23 the lot on the opposite side of the street.
24 You have got the Scranton Lace Company
25 looking to build. Where are we getting all

1 of these people to fill these, and don't
2 forget, when somebody fills an apartment
3 they are emptying out a house.

4 I hope you people -- I can see by
5 the statements tonight that you are already
6 sold on it. I hope you will take the time
7 to really look into this, it's nice they are
8 coming in from Buffalo, but here again I
9 don't think it's going to work out. I guess
10 that's it. Thank you.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

12 MR. JOYCE: Would anyone else like
13 to address council?

14 MR. MANHOLTZ: My name is Mike
15 Manholtz of Occupy Scranton. First I would
16 like to address the fires in the West Side
17 of Scranton that took about 15 minutes for
18 the fire trucks to get there. I know that
19 it's not the city council's faults, but I
20 would like to stress that you continue to
21 try to get Mayor Doherty to rehire the
22 firemen and open the closed firehouses.

23 On a different issue, on a previous
24 day I spoke here about asking city council
25 to move their money from the big Wall Street

1 banks, which to me represent greed, fraud,
2 and amoral behavior and to move that money
3 to a local community bank.

4 Some background on the banks, the
5 big banks took over \$500 billion in TARP
6 money and \$7.7 trillion and near zero
7 percent loans from the federal reserve.
8 They have continued to foreclose on
9 homeowners, even when they did not get the
10 legal paperwork, and you see that in the
11 recent robo signing settlement. They have
12 spent millions in lobbying with our tax
13 dollars to cut reforms to prevent another
14 crisis.

15 While doing all of this, CEOs made
16 millions, for example, Bank of America CEO
17 got paid \$950 million -- or \$950,000 salary
18 and \$9.05 million in stock. So I just would
19 like city council to vote with their dollars
20 and move their money away from the bigger
21 banks to a credit union. I have applied for
22 a Freedom of Information to know exactly
23 what banking accounts are in, but they -- I
24 got like a 30 day waiting, which is almost
25 up, so pretty soon I'll know what accounts

1 exactly the city has and Occupy Scranton is
2 committed to continuing to pressure for
3 this.

4 MR. ROGAN: I'm going to say the
5 same thing I said last time you were here,
6 we have to go to the bank that gives the
7 city the best rate for the taxpayers,
8 whether it's a local bank, whether it's a
9 big bank, we have to look out for the
10 taxpayers, and I understand, I mean, I was
11 against the bank bailouts as well, I don't
12 think it's the governments job to get
13 involved, but our job as elected officials
14 in the city is to look out for the residents
15 of Scranton. We don't get involved with,
16 you know, whether this bank accepted a
17 bailout or this bank didn't. What bank has
18 the best deal for the residents of Scranton
19 that's the bank we are to go with.

20 MR. MANHOLTZ: I would reply to that
21 you should look for the bank that's best for
22 the citizens of Scranton, one that can
23 continue to invest in the community. With
24 the credit union you can have that money
25 reinvested in the community, you know it

1 won't be shipped out overseas wherever the
2 banks decide to move that money from the
3 city, and it's not always about money.

4 MR. ROGAN: Well, when we are the
5 ones that are in charge of making the budget
6 and setting the taxes for the residents it
7 is about the money because if we raise the
8 taxes and we are not being responsible with
9 the people's money they come here, like you
10 saw tonight, frustrated.

11 MR. MANHOLTZ: Again, with the money
12 being reinvested in the community it would
13 be paid back in dividends when you have
14 loans lent out to citizens of Scranton
15 through the unions.

16 MR. ROGAN: If there was a local
17 bank and they had the same rate as the
18 national bank I think we would all want to
19 go with the local bank.

20 MR. MANHOLTZ: Have you looked into
21 anything like that?

22 MR. ROGAN: That would fall with the
23 administration when they applied for TANS
24 and a lot of banks wouldn't even loan to the
25 city because we are in such bad shape right

1 now, so we have to take the best deal that's
2 given to us. You know, if we are offered,
3 you know, the administration is looking to
4 borrow more money now, if we are offered a
5 rate of 7 percent from Bank of America and
6 we are offered 11 percent from a local bank
7 we have to take the lower rate because
8 ultimately it's not the five of us here and
9 the mayor that pay the interest, it's the
10 residents.

11 MR. MANHOLTZ: Yeah, I'm talking
12 more not loans, but where you deposit your
13 money.

14 MR. ROGAN: What was that?

15 MR. MANHOLTZ: Where you actually
16 deposit the money, your banking accounts,
17 not where you get loans from.

18 MR. ROGAN: Well, Mr. Joyce, is
19 Fidelity Bank and Deposit we use for some of
20 our deposits?

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes, it is.

22 MR. MANHOLTZ: Thank you.

23 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.
24 Would anyone else like to address city
25 council.

1 (Whereupon Mrs. Evans takes the dais
2 and joins the meeting.)

3 MS. CARRERA: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
4 MOTIONS.

5 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do
6 you have any comments or motions at this
7 time?

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Welcome to the
9 meeting.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: A couple of things,
12 perhaps I should wait on the meeting from
13 PEL and what was submitted to us in form of
14 a letter, but just a brief comment since I
15 was at the meeting, when this was presented
16 to us representatives from PEL sent or gave
17 to council and to me and the people that
18 were at the meeting that day what is
19 referred to as a summary of the updated Act
20 47 Recovery Plan. What it basically states,
21 and I'm sure Mr. Joyce will probably have
22 more to say about it, what basically they
23 are looking at they are projecting that we
24 will be looking at somewhere at around a \$16
25 million deficit over the three-year period,

1 and their projection is that in order to --
2 that's not 16 -- that's a total of \$16
3 million, not \$16 million per year. Their
4 projection is that if all we do is attempt
5 to raise real estate taxes it would require
6 us raising it 125 percent.

7 Now, they are not -- their
8 recommendation wasn't to do that, what they
9 were saying was that if all we do is look at
10 real estate taxes, that is what we are
11 looking at in order to take care of the
12 expected deficit. It then states that there
13 is a need to find alternative solutions, and
14 they do list a number of possibilities, and
15 in the end it's basically asking the council
16 and the mayor to what alternatives are we
17 looking at that can be included in a
18 Recovery Plan.

19 And I will say that the newspaper
20 article that was in the other day where it
21 was stated that, you know, Mrs. Evans and
22 Mr. Doherty have been meeting and discussing
23 various issues, I'm sure that dealing with
24 Recovery Plan has been one of the priorities
25 that they are looking at and I'm hoping

1 that, you know, over the next couple of
2 weeks we start to see some alternatives that
3 are possible and hopefully have a Recovery
4 Plan within the specified time, at least as
5 specified by the lenders that were requiring
6 it by April 30 or something of that nature,
7 but hopefully we are making progress and
8 that progress will be fruitful.

9 The second thing that, you know,
10 there has been a lot said about and talk
11 about fire and fire safety especially in
12 light of the fire in the past week, I think
13 there are a couple of things that also need
14 to be mentioned that are occurring here.
15 The simplest thing is that adding more
16 firemen requires a pretty big expenditure.
17 I think everyone would want more firemen on
18 the job. The question becomes how do you
19 pay for it? The very simple thing, how do
20 you pay for it, and hopefully in the future
21 whether it's with the SAFER grant or some
22 other type of thing that we can hire back a
23 number of firemen.

24 Right now I think we are looking at
25 some questions that need to be discussed

1 other than a refusal to hire back firemen.
2 I think one of the questions I had was why
3 were there only 19 firemen available for the
4 Wetland Avenue fire? I know that there were
5 more assigned per shift. Why was it that
6 there were only 19? Is that a problem of
7 staffing or, you know, was there something
8 else involved and in that number?

9 The second thing, and I know it's
10 been answered by the members of the union,
11 there is \$100,000 in the budget for
12 overtime. It was budgeted January 1, there
13 is still \$100,000 in this budget. If there
14 is such a great concern over safety why
15 weren't -- why are we not using that
16 overtime? That is a decision -- that is
17 decision not of the administration, that's a
18 decision of the union to not go in for
19 overtime, and while they may have some valid
20 reasons for doing it, I think the safety of
21 the city may override those concerns that
22 they have.

23 If it's a concern -- if it's a
24 concern for the men that were laid off why
25 don't we -- why don't we create a list of

1 substitute firemen made up of the men that
2 were laid off and call them in on a per diem
3 basis in order to keep more firehouses open?

4 Again, that's an issue I'm pretty
5 sure that the union would say it's not
6 contractual, they won't do it, but yet there
7 are a number of people out there that
8 perhaps could serve, as I have experienced
9 it, like a substitute teacher only this case
10 a substitute fireman. Somebody that's
11 qualified, that somebody could come in and
12 fill a position and it's not overtime and
13 perhaps these people that have been laid off
14 would be willing to do that in order to
15 receive some income, do it on a per diem
16 basis. Yes, you know, you are losing
17 benefits and some things, but we are
18 providing an increased number of people to
19 man the firehouses and the apparatus that
20 are available.

21 And the last thing, and I know again
22 it's a contractual issue, there are now I
23 believe maybe, Mr. Loscombe, I may be wrong,
24 but I think by contract now that there are
25 four firemen per apparatus whereas in the

1 past it was two. I'm not saying, and I know
2 that there may be some issue of safety with
3 only two men on an apparatus, but I don't
4 think it requires more than two to get the
5 truck -- to get the apparatus to the fire.
6 There will be other firemen coming, why
7 can't we go back to three or two firemen on
8 an apparatus in order to keep more
9 firehouses open. And again, I'm sure that,
10 you know, the answer would be that it's a
11 contractual issue and we don't want to do
12 it.

13 But I think there are some
14 alternatives that are available to keeping
15 more firehouses open and I don't know if
16 these are things that can be negotiated, I
17 don't know that, you know, who is willing to
18 do these things, but I think there are some
19 answers and I think we need to explore them
20 if we are truly concerned with safety. If
21 all we are concerned with is salaries and,
22 you know, money issues then we are never
23 going to solve these because there is simply
24 in this budget there is not enough money to
25 fund more firemen, and I know that \$600,000

1 was brought up that was placed in the
2 budget, but it was also \$600,000 that was
3 diverted to other things when it was said
4 that, well, the mayor is not going to
5 reinstate them anyhow so we'll spend it
6 elsewhere, so that money is not there to be
7 replace firemen.

8 But I agree, I agree with everyone
9 that fire safety, police safety is an
10 important issue. I think we should look to
11 some alternative means to take care of the
12 problem and not just try and place blame if
13 we are truly concerned to find a solution.

14 And lastly for tonight, the rental
15 registration. I truly believe that this is
16 something that we need to do. Each week we
17 seem to be confronted with more concerns,
18 and some of them very legitimate concerns, I
19 don't want to belittle what, you know, has
20 been presented to us. I think that, you
21 know, the things that have been brought to
22 us are important from the realtors, from
23 concerned citizens, I know I have been
24 confronted by a number of I'll say property
25 owners who are concerned with being closed

1 down, as was mentioned, by an inspector
2 going in and saying, you know, "Now you have
3 to bring everything up to present code," and
4 then being unable to open. You know, they
5 were at code when it was created s a rental
6 property, but, you know, and there are --
7 those are -- and also concerns from members
8 of council.

9 At this point in time, again, we
10 need to act on this, and I know that we have
11 been discussing here the possibility of
12 tabling it again, if we are going to do that
13 then we, as a council, need to meet between
14 now and next Thursday and put all of these
15 ideas into, you know, what is it that we
16 want, get to some agreement as to what this
17 is going to be, and not just wait until next
18 week to do it here. I think we really do
19 need to meet and discuss what is it that we
20 want in this ordinance and put it on -- you
21 know, make the amendments that are
22 necessary, put it on the agenda again and
23 vote on it. If you don't like it, vote
24 against it. You know, if it's something
25 that doesn't meet our needs vote against it,

1 but it needs to be there and it needs to get
2 done and now.

3 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, if I might,
4 I don't know, obviously, what occurred
5 earlier, but I might suggest that rather
6 than continuing onto next that it be voted
7 on tonight with the amendments that we
8 currently have in place and then thereafter
9 any issues can be addressed through further
10 amendments. But I agree with you, I feel
11 that this has been boiling on the burner for
12 far too long this year and we need to move
13 on it.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I don't know how
15 anybody else -- I guess when we get to the
16 actual legislation we can discuss that.
17 Again, I said a couple of weeks ago and it
18 was asked why it was being tabled my answer
19 was, "I want to get it right," and still
20 think that that's the -- I want to see this
21 thing done right so that it works and that
22 we can begin to implement it as soon as
23 possible.

24 Voting on it now and then trying to
25 amend it as we go along I don't know how

1 anybody else -- I guess I might be somewhat
2 eye opposed to at this point in time. I
3 would rather sit down and discuss it and
4 what we actually want as a group and what we
5 feel is best and implement some of the ideas
6 that have been presented this evening and,
7 you know, others and then move forward with
8 it. It would another chance to meet another
9 week and I think that we might be better
10 served by doing that, but again, we can
11 discuss that when it comes up for a vote.

12 And the last thing about that and
13 the inspections, I know that someone brought
14 up concern about inspections, ideally I
15 would like to see every property, every
16 rental property in the city inspected, you
17 know, in the coming year. Now, is that
18 possible? Probably not. But I would -- I
19 think getting ten of them inspected is
20 better than having none of them. You know,
21 25, 100, whatever it is that we can get done
22 in this year is better than what we are
23 doing now, and how would we go about doing
24 and it and what order? I would say that we
25 do it in the order in which the rental

1 applicant or registration applications are
2 received. As soon as we receive one, go out
3 and make the inspection. You know, if we
4 find that there are places that are not
5 applying that are not, you know, kind of
6 following the rules, you know, the
7 ordinance, then we go to those and deal with
8 them as we need to.

9 You know, I don't know that there
10 needs to be some type of priority list or
11 anything else. I think we just need to get
12 to it and deal with them, you know, as we
13 meet the need and hopefully by the end of
14 the year that we reach a reasonable number
15 of rental properties and then in the next
16 year even more, increase that number as we
17 need.

18 I just think that the inspections,
19 as you said, I think they are important.
20 It's an important part of the process and
21 the more we do and the quicker we get to
22 them the better it's going to be, and that's
23 all I have. Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan, do you
25 have any comments?

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you I'll hold
2 my thoughts on the rental registration until
3 we get to vote because I have quite a bit to
4 say tonight.

5 First I will start off about the
6 response to the fire on Swetland Street and,
7 Councilman Loscombe, feel free to correct me
8 at any time if any of this information is
9 wrong, you are the expert on truck companies
10 versus engine companies and the terminology.
11 This is from the Scranton Times, March 13.
12 "Fire Chief and Union Leader Sharply
13 Disagree on Fire Response."

14 It says, here, "Chief Davis said the
15 fire was reported at 9:03 a.m. and Engine 8
16 arrived at 9:08. Engine 8 is the only
17 station on West Market Street and it was
18 transferred to North Main."

19 So by reading that statement you
20 would think, well, instead of coming from
21 North Scranton, it's coming from West
22 Scranton. Engine 8 doesn't carry water; is
23 that correct, Councilman Loscombe?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, they do carry
25 water.

1 MR. ROGAN: Engine 8 does. Now,
2 Engine 7, does that also carry water?

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

4 MR. ROGAN: It does.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: All engine companies
6 will carry water, approximately 750 gallons.

7 MR. ROGAN: It would be the truck
8 company --

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Truck company which
10 would be based on Union Avenue, which is
11 closed, the next was from this side of town.

12 MR. ROGAN: Does not.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: That has the ladders
14 and the aerial.

15 MR. ROGAN: So going on it goes to
16 explain that even the terminology is, you
17 know, it's confusing for people, truck
18 company versus -- you know, it says here,
19 "Pumper trucks which carry water on board,
20 but which could also pump from a hydrant
21 referred to as an engine company."

22 So ladder trucks which have the
23 tall, white aerial ladders are referred to
24 as truck companies. "Chief Davis and
25 Mr. Judge confirmed that city fire followed

1 procedures as the first pumper truck arrived
2 quickly and drained its on-board water,
3 enough to last about five minutes at a
4 fire," which makes sense. The first guys
5 get there, have the water, get it on the
6 house to at least slow the spread of the
7 fire.

8 In this fire, Engine 7 at 1917
9 Luzerne Street would have normally acted as
10 a water supply truck. Chief Davis said
11 Engine 7 is about 1.1 miles away from the
12 fire. 1.1 miles away from the fire though
13 slightly farther away than North Main
14 firehouse, but Engine 7 was temporarily
15 closed because of a lack of staff which
16 meant that the water supply truck became
17 Engine 2 stationed at Gibbons Street on
18 Pittston Avenue in South Scranton. Engine 2
19 was about three miles from the fire or more
20 than two and a half times farther than
21 Engine 7.

22 So when Mayor Doherty goes on the
23 news and says the response time was the
24 same, it may have been for the first people
25 to arrive, the first fire company to arrive,

1 but after that it dropped off.

2 And Mr. Judge goes onto say at one
3 point in the article that, you know,
4 regardless of staffing the first property
5 probably would have been lost, but the
6 second one is the cause of concern, and he
7 goes onto explain that it was the
8 administration, and council took some place
9 blame which, you know, council can
10 appropriate fund for any amount of
11 firefighters that we want, we can
12 appropriate funds for 10,000 firefighters,
13 but we all know Mayor Doherty isn't putting
14 one extra firefighter in.

15 You know, it's just very disturbing,
16 it's actually the section not even three
17 blocks from my house. The article from GO
18 Lackawanna, "Update, 13 displaced by West
19 Scranton Fire." One of the residents on
20 Swetland Street is quoted, "Thanks a lot,
21 Mayor. I have lost everything and I'm on
22 social security. Look what I have got now."

23 He was one of 13 that was displaced
24 in the fire. Now, with or without the cuts
25 the fire still would have happened, but the

1 question is with more guys getting there
2 quicker what would have happened to the
3 second property that caught fire? That's
4 the question, and I don't think the mayor or
5 any of us up here outside of Councilman
6 Loscombe is qualified to give an answer on
7 it.

8 I know for sure I'm not an expert on
9 fire suppression, things of that nature, I
10 know Mr. Loscombe and Mr. Judge they are,
11 and for the mayor to go on TV and say,
12 "Everything went as planned, they were there
13 on time and everything would have been the
14 same even if we had as many men as we did
15 last year," I don't see how he can make that
16 statement with a straight face because he
17 doesn't know.

18 And they have conducted any studies
19 to determine, "Oh, well, yeah, we are
20 overstaffed we need to make cuts," if they
21 had a firm study to say, "This is what these
22 cuts are going to do to response times, to
23 the fire protection in the city," I think we
24 would have, you know, a little bit better of
25 an understanding, but for the mayor to go on

1 TV, I understand it's election year next
2 year so maybe that's why he is doing it, but
3 for him to speak on something that very few
4 people are qualified to speak, it's just
5 typical Doherty for you.

6 Moving on, I received a copy of a
7 revised Recovery Plan. I didn't read the
8 whole thing, but there are some bullet
9 points that I would like to mention. Some
10 things I support, some things I oppose.
11 PEL's projections, I'm not going to dispute
12 any of them, it's not my area of expertise,
13 Councilman Joyce would be more versed in
14 that aspect, but it's the solutions is where
15 I have a problem with all of these.

16 First item on is a \$22 increase in
17 the garbage fee. I agree, the garbage
18 collection -- the current fee doesn't cover
19 the cost of the garbage collection, it
20 doesn't even come close. Too many guys
21 working in the DPW.

22 The next one, and I have a question
23 for everyone on council, does anyone know
24 what a Market Based Marketing Opportunity
25 Program is exactly?

1 MR. MCGOFF: Yeah, it's putting ads
2 on buildings, vehicles, that type of stuff.

3 MR. ROGAN: That was the second
4 revenue idea that was put on there. I guess
5 they want to put a billboard on the side of
6 city hall, things of that nature. It is
7 what it is, take it or leave it. It's not
8 one of the biggest sticking points in here.

9 Next, increase payments in lieu of
10 taxes I don't think there is any person that
11 would oppose more money in payments in lieu
12 of taxes. They are suggesting \$25,000 a
13 year, I'll gladly accept a \$25,000 a year,
14 but in the grand scheme of things we all
15 know that's peanuts compared to what the
16 University has been contributed and other
17 nonprofits haven't been contributing.

18 The next item is a review of city
19 license and permit fees. It goes on, it's a
20 little more detailed, I don't grasp the
21 whole thing yet, but we just did that in
22 last year's budget, if I recall. The fees
23 and all that was increased so that just
24 happened last year, actually this year.

25 Next, and this is my favorite part

1 of the whole plan, I actually like this
2 part, reduce Parks and Recreation budget of
3 2013 by 50 percent. Ten years too late.
4 That's the only problem with that. It's
5 absolutely the right thing to do, but where
6 was PEL ten years ago when Mayor Doherty was
7 spending millions up at Nay Aug Park and
8 borrowing and borrowing and borrowing. I'm
9 glad it's on here, it's something that needs
10 to be done. It's the last place we should
11 be spending money around because we don't
12 have it, but why in 2012, not 2002, when PEL
13 didn't have any problem with the mayor
14 flushing millions of dollars down the
15 toilet.

16 Next, decrease salary and base
17 average wages where applicable. 10 percent
18 it seems across the board for all union
19 employees, something we could debate on. My
20 only question is it doesn't seem to includes
21 administrative positions. If we are going
22 to go 10 percent pay cut across the board,
23 include everyone. City council and the
24 mayor included. There is no reason just to
25 go after the unions when everyone else is

1 sharing --

2 MS. EVANS: Well, if I could just
3 add to that very quickly, equally important
4 those wages have been set by the Supreme
5 Court decisions and they cannot be altered
6 through 2014, so PEL is far off base here.

7 MR. ROGAN: And that was my next
8 point that I even have written, it seems
9 this is going to bring us down the same path
10 that brought us to where we are now with the
11 arbitration awards and that's absolutely
12 something that is one of the biggest issues
13 we are facing now and it's not a creation of
14 any person on this council. There is not
15 one person on here who voted to pass the
16 Recovery Plan unless they voted for it on
17 the referendum, but not one person was on
18 council when the initial Recovery Plan
19 passed.

20 MR. MCGOFF: What it says is the
21 reduction becomes effective at the
22 expiration of the current contract. It
23 doesn't ask for a reduction at this point in
24 time. It's a reduction at expiration --

25 MS. EVANS: In 2015.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Well, somewhere between
2 that --

3 MR. ROGAN: 2014 for the DPW and the
4 and 2016 for clerical, which we didn't even
5 approve the clerical contract yet.

6 MS. EVANS: No, we haven't, and I
7 know that the DPW contract will expire in
8 December of 2013, but again, as you stated,
9 if a contract is in place at this point to
10 alter wages then is an invitation to
11 litigation once again which this city cannot
12 afford to involve itself in foolishly ever
13 again.

14 MR. ROGAN: That's part of the
15 reason why we have the big problem we have
16 now. The next, employee contributions to
17 health care insurance at the conclusion of
18 the current collective bargaining agreement.
19 Obviously, the prices of health care are
20 going up and everyone is paying more out of
21 pocket. It should be the same for city
22 employees as it is for everyone else.

23 Let's see what the next point is.
24 There is so much here and so much to talk
25 about tonight. The next one the payroll

1 tax, and I know some members of the council
2 have already talked about they support it,
3 what I don't understand it says here, it
4 talks about the City of Pittsburgh
5 implementing the payroll tax, which is about
6 half a percentage point. It goes onto say,
7 "The city of Pittsburgh was required to
8 eliminate certain business taxes so the
9 revenue from the payroll tax would not
10 exceed the amount of tax revenue collected
11 by the eliminated business tax."

12 For instance, if we got rid of the
13 current mercantile business privilege tax,
14 implemented a payroll tax, the money brought
15 in by the payroll tax cannot exceed what was
16 brought in, I assume it would be the
17 previous year, in the former taxes. They go
18 onto say that the deficit reduction
19 advantage would be that the payroll tax
20 would grow at a faster rate in the future
21 than the taxes that it replaced.

22 It seems to be a lot of work to get
23 nothing at first. I'm glad to look at it
24 and my only concern about a payroll tax is
25 we need jobs in Scranton. Large

1 manufacturers, large industry, and it's not
2 something that's been coming to the city,
3 but implementing an additional tax, changing
4 the tax, I don't think there should be a
5 payroll tax or a mercantile tax. The way it
6 is right now, we are stuck with and we need
7 the money.

8 The next one, imposition of a
9 nonresident earned income tax, a commuter
10 tax. I think we all agree that this is
11 something that will help the residents of
12 this city because if you bring in money you
13 pay the bill. It's the people that live
14 outside of the city that work in the city.

15 Amusement tax. It sounds like a
16 good idea. The only problem with that is it
17 could be levied against health and fitness
18 clubs. Hopefully if we went that route we
19 wouldn't do that.

20 Next, sale or lease of city assets,
21 municipal authorities, and this is I think
22 the worst part of this whole document. The
23 sale or lease of the parking meters or
24 concession to the Scranton Parking
25 Authority. Again. For some reason the

1 administration and PEL want the city to get
2 rid of the one item that we are making money
3 off of. I said it before and I will say it
4 again, parking meters are a money making
5 machine. People go up to them and they put
6 money into them and the city collects the
7 money. They want to sell them for
8 approximately \$5.7 million for a one-time
9 revenue source. They state that the city
10 collects approximately \$1 million in annual
11 revenue and the expenses are about half a
12 million dollars, so that's half a million
13 dollars a year in profit by these numbers,
14 so that would in 11 years that's gone.

15 Now, I think if we had a program
16 like we were pushing for, the StreetSmart
17 program, we could double or triple what's
18 being brought in on parking meters. Why
19 sell another asset that's bringing in money?
20 I'm really at a loss for words that every
21 time, every time there is something facing
22 the city, a financial burden, they say, the
23 mayor has been saying for the last six
24 months, "Sell the parking meters."

25 He is trying to bail out the Parking

1 Authority. That's all it is. He doesn't
2 care about this aspect of the city revenue
3 and a lot of the money that comes in is paid
4 by noncity residents, which I like.
5 Somebody comes into town and visit they put
6 the money in the meter.

7 One of the hottest issues we have
8 had here is the issue of StreetSmart. It's
9 been brought up pretty much since day one,
10 since we took over. Passed it. Had
11 Mr. Miskel in here, gave a great
12 presentation about all of the other
13 communities across the area using
14 StreetSmart and how great it's been for that
15 community and I know Councilman Loscombe
16 worked really hard on that program. It
17 would have been a great program for this
18 City to bring in more money without raising
19 taxes and without even raising the rate on
20 those meters. They'd keep the rate the
21 same, but the mayor in his infinite wisdom
22 wants to sell the parking meters.

23 The next point, sale or lease of the
24 city's storm water conveyance system to the
25 Scranton Sewer Authority. The last one was

1 probably the worst part of this plan, the
2 next one I think is one of the best parts.
3 I have been saying it for years that we
4 should sell the Sewer Authority. Plain and
5 simple.

6 Next, lease or sale of the Scranton
7 Parking Authority and the Scranton Sewer
8 Authority. Parking Authority garages I
9 believe should be sold as well. Payoff
10 whatever debts are owed for the Parking
11 Authority, if there is still debt owed the
12 city is going to have to pay it anyways, we
13 are responsible for it at the end of the
14 day. Take it back inhouse. Bring the
15 meters back inhouse by city employees and
16 the get authorities out of it and have the
17 elected officials in charge.

18 A few more points. Privatization of
19 the city's services. I have said many times
20 I support the privatization of the DPW
21 refuse, just the refuse. Judging by the
22 mayor's past, I don't think that's going to
23 happen. You know, he is very buddy, buddy
24 with the DPW union, he is not going to make
25 cuts there.

1 Evaluate and reduce employee's
2 health care provision for services, no
3 problem with that.

4 The last point, personnel
5 reductions, and I'll read this part word for
6 word, "Recently the city has undertaken
7 personnel reductions. Several city
8 departments through reduced expenditures.
9 The city may implement further personnel
10 reduction as a means to reduce further
11 expenditures. Any future personnel
12 reductions implemented by the city can be
13 incorporated to the 2011 revised Recovery
14 Plan, according to the statutory provisions
15 of the Act 47 to include the cost impact of
16 any personnel reductions on the city's
17 financial projections."

18 Now, I am for cuts in some of the
19 departments. Take the track record of Mayor
20 Doherty since he has been mayor, does anyone
21 in this room really have any questions where
22 those cuts are going to be made? It's not
23 going to be administrative positions, it's
24 not going to be DPW, it's not going to be
25 waste, he's going to cut cops, he is going

1 to cut firemen. It's that plain and simple.
2 He has a track record of over ten years of
3 doing the same thing over and over, why
4 would we think it would change?

5 That's all I have to say on the
6 Recovery Plan. I'm not sure that --

7 MR. MCGOFF: Can I just add?

8 MR. ROGAN: Go ahead. I will say,
9 that's all I have to say on the Recovery
10 Plan. Actually, one more point before you
11 jump in. I remember this is going back a
12 few months, both Mr. Joyce and Mrs. Evans
13 contacted me saying that Gerry Cross will be
14 contacting all members of council for input
15 on the Recovery Plan. I never received a
16 call from Mr. Cross. I know, Mr. McGoff,
17 you attend the meetings.

18 MR. MCGOFF: I think we have all
19 received letters.

20 MR. ROGAN: We have received
21 letters, he was supposed to call all of us
22 and from the e-mail that was sent out, I
23 don't think I have it with me, I was under
24 the impression that he wanted to meet with
25 council as a whole to discuss this. That

1 never happened, but the document showed up.
2 Go ahead, Mr. McGoff.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Okay. First, the
4 things that you read were not mandates in
5 the Recovery Plan, they were merely
6 suggestions as alternatives to raising the
7 real estate tax, and at the meeting it was
8 explained, you know, that they weren't --
9 PEL was not looking to implement every one
10 of these, it was merely throwing out
11 suggestions that had been made to them by
12 various -- their own ideas, some from
13 council, some from other sources and that
14 they would be willing to include whatever it
15 was that we agreed to do into the Recovery
16 Plan.

17 Some of them are things that we can
18 do as a city without the help of PEL or any
19 outside organizations. Some of them are
20 things that need, for example, payroll tax
21 needs some enabling legislation. We can't
22 just implement a payroll tax without general
23 assembly passing legislation. We can't do a
24 commuter tax without approval of the Courts
25 through an acceptable Recovery Plan. So

1 they were just -- they were putting these
2 things in as things that could be included
3 in the plan should we agree to do them.

4 And as far as the contacts, and I
5 know that while we may not have -- you may
6 not have received a personal call since
7 November -- and I'm not looking to defend
8 PEL, I'm just, you know, from going to the
9 meetings these are things that are said.
10 Since November we have been receiving
11 e-mails or letters stating that they were
12 looking for input and we could have --
13 anyone could have provided that input. I
14 know Mr. Joyce has been meeting with members
15 of PEL, I have attended some of the
16 meetings, I don't know if others on council
17 have talked with Mr. Cross or members of
18 PEL.

19 MR. ROGAN: From the e-mail that was
20 sent out I believe it was I think some time
21 last week that said -- it was from Gerry
22 Cross saying that he would like to sit down
23 with all members of council to discuss the
24 revised Recovery Plan. I was under the
25 assumption that --

1 MR. MCGOFF: They wanted to come to
2 a caucus.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, or if they didn't
4 want it to be public -- -

5 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know if that
6 was -- they offered that, I don't know if
7 that was scheduled.

8 MR. ROGAN: Well, I was hoping and I
9 was under the assumption that that was going
10 to happen, I actually thought it was going
11 to be this week. I even sent Nancy a reply
12 saying, "Yeah, whatever Thursday before the
13 meeting is fine with me."

14 It didn't happen. But as far as the
15 Recovery Plan goes, and you said they were
16 just suggestions, on the cover letter it
17 says, "I'm enclosing a revised updated Act
18 47 Recovery Plan summary for your review."

19 Now, were it's subject to change,
20 whether this is the final document, it
21 doesn't say. It says, "We look forward to
22 meeting with the city elected leadership."

23 I hope that happens. I hope changes
24 could be made. Some things it's better than
25 the past plans, but it's still not anywhere

1 near where it should be, and my concern is
2 say council passes this plan and is saying
3 that there is the good and the bad and the
4 good outweighs the bad, my concern would be
5 the administration is going to do what they
6 want to do and ignore the rest of the plan
7 that they have always done in the past. I
8 guess that's -- I'm sure we will be talking
9 more about this over the next few weeks.

10 So moving onto another issue, let me
11 find my notes. I guess I'll do it off the
12 cuff. Mrs. Evans, are you going to give us
13 an update on the status of the progress of
14 your meetings with the mayor?

15 MS. EVANS: I can tell you at this
16 time that the mayor and I are going to be
17 meeting next week. I believe Mr. Joyce
18 hopefully will be in attendance with Ryan
19 McGowan because we are sitting down working
20 on the Recovery Plan.

21 Both the mayor and I exchanged some
22 thoughts regarding what has been submitted
23 to us thus far as and Councilman McGoff
24 said, many of those suggestions were, in
25 fact, the precise suggestions offered many

1 months ago by this city council and some by
2 the administration, but I would say that at
3 this point what we both agree upon that
4 there is much contained within the plan from
5 November to 2011 and the updates that we
6 have received with which we are not in
7 agreement, and so it is our intention,
8 because after all, the Pennsylvania Economy
9 League does not control this city. The
10 Pennsylvania Economy League is not the
11 elected leadership of this city. The people
12 elected a mayor and a city council. We are
13 responsible for the direction and the
14 leadership in this city, not the
15 Pennsylvania Economy League.

16 And so it is our intention to design
17 a plan, at least this has been my thought on
18 it and I have expressed this to the mayor
19 and to the banks, that rather than having a
20 plan that has been slapped together
21 basically in a very short amount of time, if
22 you recall after these three Court decisions
23 were handed down the Pennsylvania Economy
24 League stated that they would have to rework
25 their plan and they had no idea when we

1 would receive it, possibly into the next
2 year. Within a matter of days, however,
3 they submitted a book to city council.

4 Now, rather than having that type of
5 plan once again, which is not in the best
6 interest of this city, which is not in the
7 best interest of the taxpayers most
8 certainly, and is in many ways not workable
9 because, as you mentioned, it could very
10 well in some instances lead us back into the
11 courtroom, we would like a plan this time
12 that is generally good for the City of
13 Scranton and good for the taxpayers and will
14 assure that the city survives and returns to
15 sound financial footing in the future.

16 And with that goal in mind, it's my
17 intention, and I'm sure everyone on council
18 will be working on this and agree, that's
19 the type of plan we want. Not a haphazard
20 plan that is amassed in a rush to meet the
21 terms of a bank agreement. I'm sure the
22 banks know that we are working on this and
23 this time we would like, as I said, to
24 produce a good, a feasible, a workable plan,
25 and that doesn't happen overnight.

1 And short of that, I'm sure, you
2 know, if we -- I think if any one of us were
3 asked to adopt the plan that was presented
4 us in November 2011, in addition to what we
5 have received recently, I don't very much,
6 and I'm taking a leap of faith in speaking
7 for my colleagues, but I doubt very much
8 there is anyone on this city council that
9 would have approved that Recovery Plan and
10 that, of course, would lead to measures
11 eventually similar to what has occurred in
12 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

13 So if the city truly intends, and I
14 believe that is the mayor's intention and I
15 can tell you it's mine as well, to avoid
16 bankruptcy and to solve these problems in an
17 appropriate way we wanted to develop a plan
18 that is acceptable to this council, that the
19 administration will agree to abide by
20 because it's acceptable to them as well, and
21 it's going to be a plan that perhaps for the
22 first time since 1992 when PEL stepped into
23 this city we can hopefully have a plan
24 that's going to work and lead this city out
25 of it's 20-year distressed status.

1 But I think if we were to adopt the
2 plan that was handed to us originally in
3 November all we are agreeing to is very
4 likely another 20 years of distressed
5 status, and that's of course beneficial to
6 PEL and keeps them working, keeps their jobs
7 which are state tax dollars paid for, but
8 that is not their purpose. Their purpose
9 was to lead us into sound financial status.
10 We are worse off today than we were 20 years
11 ago, than we were ten years ago.

12 And so I think it really, the
13 responsibility this time has to lie with
14 this council and this mayor to develop a
15 plan and follow this plan to secure the
16 future of this city and to be fair to every
17 resident of this city. And short of that,
18 I'm sure no Recovery Plan would be accepted.
19 So we are working jointly, this is why, to
20 produce that type of document and when --
21 I'm sure when that has been finalized I
22 would like that presented to the public, not
23 just to PEL, but to the public to hear what
24 your input is on the plan and we can tweak
25 it even further, maybe additional additions

1 and deletions, etcetera, because we are all
2 the stakeholders in this city and it has got
3 to be done right this time.

4 MR. ROGAN: I agree with much of
5 what you are saying and hopefully when
6 something is firm, firmly drafted, that the
7 mayor will come to council and present it.

8 Secondly, you know, just going back
9 from what I said last week, and I still have
10 a feeling the mayor is still trying to pull
11 this, is that he is going to come out and
12 talk to the newspapers again and say if
13 council doesn't pass this plan then we are
14 going to have payless paydays the next pay
15 period and he is going to try to ram it down
16 our throat. I have a sneaky feeling that's
17 what the mayor is going to try to do. I
18 hope I'm wrong, but I have a strong feeling
19 that's what he is going to try to do and try
20 to force his will on council.

21 MS. EVANS: Well, I think -- if I
22 can just -- I see what you are saying,
23 please believe me, but I think my opinion on
24 this currently would be that more than the
25 administration, the Pennsylvania Economy

1 League and DCED was trying to inflict its
2 will on the City of Scranton.

3 MR. ROGAN: I agree completely, but
4 the mayor -- we all know the mayor and DCED
5 have been buddy, buddy the last ten years.

6 MS. EVANS: And we know where that
7 lead to.

8 MR. ROGAN: To where we are now.

9 MS. EVANS: Financial disaster at
10 the hands of a Supreme Court decision, so
11 I'm sure that the city is not going to
12 allow, you know, these outside agencies to
13 lead it down the path to financial disaster
14 any longer.

15 MR. ROGAN: I agree with you and I
16 hope whatever Recovery Plan, hopefully there
17 is one that will pass council, I hope
18 whatever plan is the final plan and if it
19 passes then it is put up for a referendum
20 and the voters have the final say, just like
21 last time. I don't agree with the outcome
22 of the vote last time, but you can't dispute
23 that the voters went out and voted, which
24 ultimately on something this important I do
25 think should happen.

1 And one final point before I stop
2 talking, and noticed that we received \$2.8
3 million from Tax Collector Courtright's
4 Office, have we received anything form
5 Burkheimer as of yet?

6 MS. EVANS: No.

7 MR. JOYCE: No. From my interaction
8 with Business Administrator McGowan, we
9 won't be receiving any revenue from
10 Burkheimer until late this month or early
11 April from them.

12 MS. EVANS: Most likely April, and
13 it appears that they will not turn over the
14 revenue to the city unless it's on -- I
15 shouldn't put it that way. They will turn
16 over to the revenue to the city but on a
17 quarterly basis. It will not be bi-weekly
18 or monthly as originally thought, and
19 according to the new tax law Burkheimer is
20 within its rights to turn over the EIT
21 income quarterly.

22 MR. ROGAN: That's unfortunate
23 because we all know what they are doing with
24 the money. They are making interest --

25 MS. EVANS: Making money on our

1 money.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes, that was only
3 question I have. I'll save my comments on
4 the rental registration to voting time.
5 Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
7 Loscombe, do you have any comments or
8 motions?

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you. The
10 first issue I would like to discuss, and
11 hopefully I have the approval of my
12 colleagues, is to ask our solicitor to look
13 into the possibility of repealing the
14 legislation on the parking down by
15 Chamberlain. I believe they have already
16 violated half of that ordinance by removing
17 the meters, but right now they have signs
18 there stating "No Parking". At least give
19 the employees there the ability to park and
20 in light of the project on Cedar Avenue free
21 those parking spots up in those
22 neighborhoods for these projects and people
23 that live there to let the employees of
24 Chamberlain resume parking. I mean, it's
25 ludicrous to have all of that area and there

1 is no parking. If that's something you
2 could look into.

3 MS. EVANS: I agree.

4 MR. JOYCE: I agree as well.

5 MR. ROGAN: Agree.

6 MR. MCGOFF: That's fine.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: And secondly, we have
8 heard a lot about it tonight but I would
9 like to give my take on the fire on Monday,
10 and I'm in a good position here because I
11 don't have sugarcoat what I say. I don't
12 have to go through the chain of command and
13 worry about it and I don't have to worry
14 about losing my appointment. I was elected
15 to represent the taxpayers here and, you
16 know, we have mentioned it numerous times, I
17 believe I mentioned it last week, that we
18 are playing Russian roulette. Fortunately,
19 the worst situation didn't happen. Had this
20 fire come in during the evening, God knows
21 what would have happened. Had this fire
22 come in the preceding day, Engine 8 wouldn't
23 have been there. There were no engine
24 companies on the west side of the river at
25 all. It would have taken a lot longer.

1 The firefighting, and again, I think
2 Mr. Rogan said, you know, the mayor is
3 making comments and, you know, he doesn't
4 know the job and stuff like that, I'm not an
5 expert by any means. I spent many years on
6 the job, I know how it operates and anyone
7 can tell you, but, you know, to do what has
8 happened to the firefighters now is like
9 sending our boys to war and taking half
10 their bullets and their Humvees off of them.
11 You are used to a certain pattern.

12 Yeah, we may have had a piece of
13 equipment on scene in five minutes, that's
14 unacceptable. We used to have three minute
15 responses. Four minutes is required by NFPA
16 1710. Five minutes is unacceptable. But
17 that's one company getting there in five
18 minutes.

19 Engine 7 on Luzerne Street would
20 have come in at the same time as Engine 9,
21 which would have been on Main avenue where
22 Engine 8 responded from. They do a tandem
23 setup, and I think Mr. Rogan, explained
24 that. The first engine pulls right in front
25 of the house, they pull the hose lines off

1 and start to dump the water that they have
2 in their fire trucks. 750 gallons. It
3 gives them a couple of minutes to start the
4 attack and at least keep it at bay while the
5 next engine that's right behind them is
6 taking the hydrant and running the water
7 into this so that water flow will continue.
8 That's how it always was.

9 The truck company with the ladders
10 they would get up and ventilate and get
11 upstairs and cut holes, do whatever they
12 have to do, and the rescue guys if there was
13 someone trapped there they would go in
14 there, but there is other uses. These extra
15 men on the ground would have been able to
16 take a hose line and setup a water curtain
17 between the house that was scorched, and it
18 was a lot more than scorched, because I went
19 through it, that should never have happened
20 because the fire started on the left side of
21 the double, spread to the middle, to the
22 house and the right. Thank God there was
23 nothing on the other side. Could it have
24 happened if we had that manpower? That
25 house, that double house, it was a tender

1 box. It could have gone just like it did,
2 trust me. I don't know if there was any
3 time wasted inside trying to put the fire
4 out for whatever, but, you know, in all my
5 years in my practice the damage that was
6 done to the home on the right side that was
7 beyond what should have been.

8 You know, it's tough on the
9 firefighters because they feel defeated.
10 They don't have the adequate manpower or
11 equipment. Say Rescue 1 responded from two
12 blocks away and got there. That's no good,
13 they don't have the water. The truck
14 company could have been the first one. It's
15 easy to state on TV or the newspaper, "We
16 were there in five minutes."

17 Who was there? One company was
18 there in five minutes and what they had to
19 encounter being the single company knowing
20 it was going to be minutes for another
21 company to get there was to do the whole
22 detail themselves. They had to stop at a
23 hydrant, the man had to get off -- pull the
24 hydrant hose off and let the truck go down
25 to the scene, wait for the officer to tell

1 him to charge the line and then go back to
2 the truck and then start pulling the hose
3 lines. There is valuable time wasted there.

4 I'll tell you, I can't understand
5 it. I have mentioned it several times.
6 These cuts and these station closures have
7 been done with the absence of any type of
8 plan, any type of study. It's just a
9 dartboard method. You know, what
10 neighborhood should I keep closed, which
11 one? They have been very fortunate so far,
12 and I hope it stays that way until this is
13 resolved.

14 I mean, we went to Court two years
15 ago over budget cuts for the administration
16 and cutting administrative salaries and some
17 administrators, and you know what we lost
18 that case on? That it affected the health,
19 safety, and welfare of the people of
20 Scranton if we reduced the administrative
21 salary or those positions. That's Judge
22 Mazzoni's ruling.

23 Now, I don't know what compels --
24 what health, safety and welfare is
25 compromised by administrative cuts, yet,

1 there is nothing about the actual health,
2 safety and welfare of people and police and
3 firefighters.

4 It is tough and to sit here and, you
5 know, read that it was my budget, man, I was
6 impressed. It was my budget, I could have
7 put them in. Well, you know what? We did
8 put them in and guess what, they were laid
9 off. And for the firefighters to think city
10 council dropped the ball or hasn't done
11 anything for them is a very a disappointing
12 commentary. We have done everything we
13 possibly could, not specifically for them,
14 for your safety. We put legislation in last
15 year for the manpower and then the mayor
16 made cuts. That legislation is in
17 litigation right now and the only way they
18 were able to put it in litigation was
19 because of our legislation we had in there
20 or they wouldn't have anything to stand on.

21 Our city council filed an amicus
22 brief to join that suit. We put in --
23 because that suit is pending we put money in
24 and asked the mayor to put 13 firefighters
25 in this year with the money that we were

1 provided. He was quoted in the newspaper
2 and on TV as saying he is not going to use
3 that money to put firefighters in, so for
4 them to stand back and say it's council's
5 fault, it's council's budget, council cut,
6 that's a fallacy.

7 And I know the majority of people
8 realize it because, trust me, when I arrived
9 at the scene of that fire those poor people
10 who were burned out of their homes were
11 furious, and you know what, they weren't
12 furious at council, they know the whole
13 story. I met with them personally and I met
14 again this morning with some of the
15 occupants personally. I went through the
16 property. My heart breaks. I mean, nobody
17 knows how devastating a fire can be. The
18 sad thing is the majority of people think it
19 will never happen to me, but when it does
20 it's too late. It happens in a flash.

21 That fire was through the windows in
22 minutes, but that still doesn't take away
23 the fact that comments are being made, we
24 had adequate manpower, we had adequate this,
25 we could do more with less. I mean, if that

1 were the case then baseball would be a
2 different ball game now. They could do away
3 with the center field and maybe short stop,
4 and stuff like that they would be saving
5 some money. They haven't changed. Why do
6 we have to change the fire department
7 responses? Why bring something -- why break
8 something that didn't -- why fix something
9 that didn't need to be -- that wasn't
10 broken, excuse me.

11 But, you know, it pains me and I
12 know it pains my colleagues to see us blamed
13 for any of this stuff, and I'm going to tell
14 you, you know, from what I see if things
15 don't change rapidly a good attorney is
16 going to latch onto one of these victims and
17 prove negligence by this city because they
18 did not have a plan, they do not have a plan
19 today and they're playing with lives every
20 day and it's a matter of the time and God
21 bless us. I just hope it doesn't happen
22 before someone comes to their senses.

23 I mean, when you read comments from
24 the mayor, like I said, he said he wasn't
25 going to use the \$600,000 for men he made

1 comments after the lawsuits was brought,
2 "Well, they are going to work harder, they
3 are to work with less," and all of that,
4 it's not about them, it's about the public
5 that they serve. It's about you, your tax
6 dollars are paying for the full service.
7 There were ways that this council would have
8 had to provide funding to the last couple of
9 years that was not looked at and we are
10 looking at a plan again from PEL with all of
11 this stuff, but we had ideas. We had plans,
12 they were neglected.

13 I mean, one of the most audacious
14 comments I have ever seen was in the
15 newspaper on the article in the Scranton
16 Times "Running on Empty. Scranton Searches
17 for Answers to Fiscal Crisis," this is Mayor
18 Doherty's comments: "Those towns made a
19 choice, Mr. Doherty said. They made a
20 decision this is the type of service that we
21 want and we accept responsibilities that
22 come with that, he said. For instance, we
23 have fires in Dickson City or Noxen where
24 people died. You don't hear them rallying
25 in the streets saying, "Look, you caused a

1 burden." No, the people of that community
2 said, "This is what we can afford."

3 I cannot believe he could make a
4 comment like that about other
5 municipalities. Scranton is horse of a
6 different color from Dickson City and Noxen.

7 And then, you know, I'm upset, I
8 hope I misread you, Mr. McGoff, but it
9 sounded like you were almost putting a price
10 on lives here, too, saying we don't have
11 money. We did have the ability. We did
12 have money there, it's been neglected. We
13 were told that there is -- you know, the
14 unions don't want to take overtime. Well, I
15 don't understand that because if they have
16 three men and it's a four-man piece of
17 equipment rather than call one man in
18 overtime they put those three men in the
19 chief's car and respond to the fire. Now,
20 I'm sure any one of those three guys would
21 push for overtime to have somebody there.
22 It's not being offered that way.

23 MR. MCGOFF: They are. They are
24 being called and they are not going in.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's not -- they'll

1 go into fill a company.

2 MR. MCGOFF: No.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Now, what I had heard
4 Engine 9 closed on Main avenue, closed for
5 months, Engine 15, Petersburg, closed for
6 months, not one person called in to fill any
7 of those for overtime. Engine 10 closes,
8 the people up in Engine 10 got up in arms,
9 they rallied around it, that's when overtime
10 was offered for one company, why not
11 everyone? Who designated call Engine 10 but
12 leave these closed. That may be part of the
13 reasoning behind it, but I know there is
14 days when there is three men on that chief's
15 car, all they have to do is call one in and
16 they will fill a company. They will open
17 Engine 7 or whatever.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Then why did Mr. Judge
19 come here and say that they will not take
20 overtime.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: They can't -- the
22 shift that's on 24 hours cannot immediately
23 come into overtime. There is only one shift
24 that's available for overtime.

25 MR. MCGOFF: He has stated

1 repeatedly and said it personally to me that
2 they will not accept overtime. That is why
3 there is still \$100,000 in the budget.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Really? Geez, they
5 called overtime in at that fire the other
6 day and they responded. They have called
7 overtime in to a fire a couple of weeks ago
8 and they responded. These statements are
9 inaccurate and the union --

10 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Judge? Mr. Judge's
11 statements are inaccurate?

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, the fact that you
13 are saying that they will not come in for
14 overtime.

15 MR. MCGOFF: That was said by
16 Mr. Judge.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: And I just explained
18 to you some of the reasons why, but when
19 there is -- why won't they bring in overtime
20 and open Engine 7, but they bring it in and
21 open Engine 10? Not that I'm against any
22 section of the city, but I think West Side
23 encompasses a pretty large area with no
24 water and this weekend had no companies on
25 the West Side.

1 Something has to be done and we can
2 listen to the mayor, we can listen to the
3 chief, they are beholdng to different
4 people, I'm beholdng to you. I'm telling
5 you what I saw, what the people on that
6 street in those houses and those neighbors
7 told to me, and if you saw the news, the
8 news media, you saw the outrage. 28 and 16.
9 That gentlemen was outraged. Not only him,
10 but the other families, and I don't blame
11 them. I don't blame them at all.

12 And if you want to say Mr. Judge
13 said something, well, then Mr. Judge also
14 said that he has been willing to negotiate
15 with the mayor all this time and there is
16 nothing moving. Why doesn't the mayor
17 approach Mr. Judge and say, "Let's talk?"

18 Now is the time. We have a heavy
19 bill to pay. Mr. Judge has stated in the
20 paper any time, anywhere he is available.
21 It was in today's newspaper and I know these
22 gentlemen for the police and firefighters
23 are dedicated men and women and they are
24 willing, they live in the city, they are
25 taxpayers, they know what we are up against,

1 they have always been willing. We wouldn't
2 have been in this boat we are in. It would
3 have cost us half if negotiations were
4 completed a long time ago, and I know that
5 they were negotiations with handshakes and
6 when they walked out of there the mayor
7 nixed them.

8 But, trust me, I don't want to see a
9 fatality. The mayor has to get together
10 with the unions and negotiate something.
11 That's the only way there is going to be
12 movement. Talk to each other. The mayor,
13 and Mrs. Evans has been discussing things
14 with the mayor, I hope she can edge him a
15 little bit to talk to the firefighters and,
16 you know, continue this path that we are
17 going on of cooperation.

18 But I'm incensed. I'm in an area
19 where there is no water and I am West Side
20 with no coverage, no water, God forbid, I
21 have an elderly neighbor across the street.
22 There is no way. She lives in an old home,
23 God bless her if she ever has a fire. There
24 is no reason for that for the amount of
25 taxes that are paid. This city council has

1 worked hard. This majority has worked hard
2 the past two years to make sure that there
3 was adequate public safety in place and for
4 the mayor, for the chief and for the
5 firefighters or anybody to say otherwise
6 they are wrong, and I would debate them on
7 that any time, any day.

8 But I'm saying right now the mayor
9 before there is catastrophe, before there is
10 a fatality, put your hand out, sit at a
11 table and discuss this situation. Don't
12 hold a grudge that you have been holding.
13 Discuss this situation if you as interested
14 as a stated in the paper of protecting the
15 70,000 in this city as you are you will
16 reach out to the unions and resolve this
17 issue adequately for everyone, and I guess
18 that's all I have to say.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.
20 And, Councilman Joyce, do you have any
21 comments or motions?

22 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Joyce, sorry to
23 interrupt.

24 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry, you did ask.

25 MR. ROGAN: Two things that I forget

1 that were just citizens' request that I
2 didn't mention. I know we had Mr. Galdieri
3 a few weeks ago regarding Pike Street, and I
4 went up there again. After council sent a
5 letter to DPW Director Dougher no follow-up,
6 which is typical for DPW. Nancy called the
7 DPW director and he said that the holes have
8 been filled for a temporary fix, which is
9 better than nothing. So I met with
10 Mr. Guardian to talk about the other issues
11 in the area the blight, the drainage
12 problems, there wasn't one pothole that was
13 filled.

14 I have right here correspondence to
15 the city dating back to 2004 from
16 Mr. Galdieri. "Dear Mr. Parker."

17 "Dear Mayor Doherty."

18 "Dear Mr. Brazil."

19 And lastly, "Dear Mr. Dougher."

20 So we are on our third DPW director
21 and nothing has been done on this road.

22 Furthermore, the head of the DPW
23 lied to the city clerk saying that it was
24 filled. Nothing was filled. I was up
25 there, I have pictures on my phone, I am

1 going to send all of this to Mrs. Krake to
2 send to the DPW.

3 And finally, Dickson Avenue. I
4 received pictures walking in today about the
5 condition of Dickson Avenue. Many holes,
6 cracks, and this is the road where the
7 proposed project would be going in that we
8 discussed earlier today. So I will be
9 sending these as well. I will e-mail all of
10 this to Nancy as well, and that's all.
11 Thank you, Mr. Joyce. Sorry for
12 interrupting.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: And I'm sorry,
14 Mr. Rogan, I missed that last part, you said
15 that you went up there and the potholes
16 weren't taken care of?

17 MR. ROGAN: No.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Because I received
19 the same information.

20 MR. ROGAN: Nothing was taken care
21 of. I went up there, I was there with
22 Mr. Galdieri for a half hour and you could
23 tell when a hole has been filled recently.
24 You could see the patchwork that's been done
25 on that road over the years. It's gray,

1 it's faded. When you go up there, and even
2 it's cold patching for now, it has that
3 black tar look to it. You can tell what new
4 black top looks like versus old blacktop.
5 He blatantly lied to us, which is typical of
6 this administration and the blame lies -- I
7 don't want to cast judgment on Mr. Dougher
8 yet, but the blame lies with Mayor Doherty.
9 He let's the DPW do whatever they want.
10 They don't fix the things that we need
11 fixed. It's just very frustrating and, you
12 know, many people here are frustrated, we
13 are here, too.

14 I walked in here in January of 2010
15 thinking we are going to get all of these
16 great things done, and there has been some
17 progress, but when you have to deal with
18 inept directors and an incompetent mayor,
19 it's very difficult to get anything done,
20 but that's all. Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Mr. Joyce?

22 MR. JOYCE: Yes. To briefly mention
23 Item 3-A tonight, it was reported that the
24 Scranton Single Tax Office made a deposit in
25 the amount of \$2,818.320.73 to Fidelity Bank

1 for the TAN debt.

2 Just to educate, as one may or may
3 not know, this year there is a special
4 agreement with the tax anticipation note,
5 commonly referred to as the TAN. This year
6 all real estate tax revenue is required by
7 our TAN lender to be placed in a lockbox for
8 final repayment by June 30, 2012, or until
9 all of the balance is paid, whichever comes
10 first.

11 Also, last week it was requested by
12 Scranton City Council that our city
13 controller, Ms. Novembrino, submit monthly
14 vouchers for any and all payments made from
15 the UDAG repayment checking account commonly
16 referred to as the RE-RE account. As a
17 result, Mrs. Novembrino has promptly replied
18 to council stating that no payments have
19 been made from the RE-RE account.

20 With this in mind, I am personally
21 wondering why what the balance of the RE-RE
22 account is and what's available? With this
23 in mind, Ms Carrera, can you please contact
24 Ms. Aebli and Mrs. Novembrino and inquire
25 how much money is available in the RE-RE

1 account.

2 In other business, as one may or may
3 not know, it was approved in Court that the
4 City of Scranton be allowed borrow up \$9.85
5 million to cover unpaid bills and
6 obligations commonly referred to as unfunded
7 debt. Anyhow, after the Court approved
8 permission the next step is to find a lender
9 to loan the City of Scranton the money. To
10 inform everyone, the city is currently in
11 the process of seeking a lender to loan the
12 city the money for the unfunded debt. From
13 what I have been informed by Business
14 Administrator Ryan McGowan, the city is
15 moving closer with the bank that will
16 provide the city with this funding, but
17 there is no deal that's been closed at this
18 point in time.

19 Just as the City is searching for a
20 lender for the unfunded debt, the city is
21 also searching for a lender to refinance
22 current debt. With this being said, I have
23 been informed by Business Administrator Ryan
24 McGowan that he is currently discussing the
25 refinancing of debt with the city's various

1 lenders. Once a lender for the refinancing
2 of debt has been identified, legislation
3 will be sent to city council.

4 I have some citizens' requests, but
5 for the sake of time I will forward them to
6 our office tomorrow.

7 And, in addition, in regard to the
8 Recovery Plan, I know pretty much all of the
9 points that I was going to talk about
10 Mr. Rogan and Mr. McGoff did cover, but one
11 thing that we do have to work at is finding
12 alternative sources of revenue for the city
13 because at this point the residents in the
14 city can't afford a 125 percent tax
15 increase, so we have to look at things such
16 as commuter taxes, for instance. And I know
17 one of the justifications for a commuter tax
18 is if the city has exhausted many of its
19 other taxing forms, such as real estate,
20 such as wage, such as realty transfer tax,
21 all of those are already high, higher than
22 any other area around us, so this is
23 something that I can see us possibly
24 qualifying for. And that's all I have to
25 say for tonight.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good evening.
2 First, I wish to apologize for my absence
3 from the public caucuses and my tardiness to
4 this meeting. I was notified today that my
5 aunt, Theresa Tomko, had passed away and her
6 viewing, which I attended, was held this
7 evening in Hanover.

8 Next, I'd like to address statements
9 made in the Scranton times by an IAFF
10 spokesman following Monday's Swetland street
11 fire. Mr. Judge said the firefighters could
12 have contained the fire to one building if
13 more help were available. "This is a direct
14 result of the administration and the city
15 council failing to fund and appropriate and
16 safe number of firefighters to protect this
17 city."

18 Public record proves that the
19 mayor's proposed budget cut 29 firefighters
20 and increased taxes 29 percent. It also
21 documents that city council did, in fact,
22 fund 13 firefighters in its 2012 budget
23 amendments by including \$600,000 from a
24 prescription health care savings grants.
25 However, we could not reinstate the

1 positions because council could not violate
2 the judge's decision of August 2011 which
3 maintained that the mayor has the authority
4 to order public safety layoffs without the
5 consent of council.

6 At this time, I would like to defer
7 to Council Solicitor Boyd Hughes for his
8 comments.

9 MR. HUGHES: Yes. Thank you, Madam
10 Chairman. When the mayor submitted his
11 budget to council for 2011 he had reduced
12 the fire department by 16 positions. What
13 council did, I believe, they also had a tax
14 cut that year in council's budget.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes.

16 MR. HUGHES: What we did was
17 reinstate the 16 positions, and so that they
18 could not be cut we passed a manning
19 ordinance for the police to maintain the
20 police department at 151 police officers and
21 the fire department at 137 firemen. That
22 remained to -- the police and the firemen
23 remained until August when the mayor said
24 there was budgetary constraints and laid off
25 the police and the firemen. As a result,

1 the firemen went to Court, filed an action
2 in mandamus against the mayor, a county
3 judge ruled that the mayor was correct that
4 he could layoff the firemen. It was the
5 union's position, it was also our position
6 that the mayor could not unilaterally layoff
7 within a department in accordance with the
8 Home Rule Charter and the Administrative
9 Code. That case was taken on appeal to the
10 Commonwealth Court. As a result of that,
11 council authorized me to find an amicus
12 curia brief with the Commonwealth Court. I
13 set forth council's positions. An amicus
14 brief is a Friend of the Court brief,
15 stating that the mayor while he has the
16 right, hire, fire, discipline the employees,
17 when it comes to layoffs he does not have
18 that unilateral ability in accordance with
19 the Home Rule Charter, but that has to come
20 back to council and council has to authorize
21 the layoffs. There is a whole procedure
22 that was not followed by the administration
23 before proceeded with laying off the
24 firemen.

25 That case was argued today in the

1 Commonwealth Court down in State College.
2 The Commonwealth Court instead of having
3 their argument in Harrisburg they have been
4 moving around the state, it was argued at
5 the Dickinson School of Law, University
6 Park, I believe it was number one on the
7 case this morning.

8 This year council knew that if
9 they -- we passed another manning ordinance
10 the mayor would just ignore it, because he
11 had legal precedent right now from Judge
12 Thomson's order that he could do what he
13 wanted, whatever he wanted to do in laying
14 off. He did not need council's
15 authorization. So as a result of that, what
16 council did, instead of passing the manning
17 ordinance which we knew would be
18 ineffective, the mayor could ignore it, what
19 we did is that we put \$600,000, I say "we",
20 I mean council did, put \$600,000 in the
21 contingency fund in anticipation that if the
22 Commonwealth Court reversed Judge Thomson's
23 decision there is money in the budget that
24 council could transfer from the contingency
25 fund to various line items for firemen to

1 restore those positions.

2 It would not be automatic. Council
3 could not put those positions back, we
4 already have them in there, it would be up
5 to the fire union to go and sue the mayor
6 under mandamus pursuant to a Commonwealth
7 Court order that the mayor did not have the
8 ability to unilaterally layoff the firemen
9 last year. So council has done everything
10 legally that it can in order to -- in
11 anticipation that the Commonwealth Court
12 will overrule Judge Thomson, that the mayor
13 does not have the unilateral ability at his
14 whim to determine who is going to layoff and
15 that if layoffs are necessary that he has to
16 come to council and council has to approve
17 those layoffs, especially with his manning
18 ordinance.

19 So that based on my experience with
20 the Commonwealth Court I would say that they
21 are very quick in their decisions for an
22 Appellate Court. By quick I mean I would
23 expect a decision on this case within two or
24 three months, which would mean that there
25 should be a decision by the end of June

1 either affirming or reversing. Based on the
2 briefs that were submitted, I'm hopeful that
3 the Commonwealth Court will reverse. At
4 that point there is no automatic right of
5 appeal to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania,
6 so, that are the Supreme Court would have to
7 accept if a petition were filed they would
8 could deny the acceptance of the appeal or
9 the they could accept it, so that's where we
10 are. That the money would be available to
11 restore 16 positions, it is in the
12 contingency fund. That money cannot be
13 spent unless council authorizes an ordinance
14 to move money from the contingency fund to
15 various line items in the budget.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.
17 And so it is quite obviously clear that no
18 city council has worked harder to keep
19 police on the street streets, firemen in
20 their jobs and firehouses open in order to
21 preserve the people's public safety than
22 this council has done since 2010.

23 In addition to waiting the result of
24 the appeal as was described by our
25 solicitor, the city also applied for funding

1 for 50 firefighters from the Federal SAFER
2 grant last month. As provided by the
3 Scranton Council and the mayor would like to
4 see as many firefighters as possible
5 reinstated.

6 And I, too, have a number of
7 citizens' requests for the week, but for the
8 sake of the time I will just submit those
9 following the meeting to Ms. Carrera. And
10 that's it.

11 MS. CARRERA: 5-B. REPEALING FILE
12 OF COUNCIL NO. 05, 2007 (AS AMENDED)
13 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A
14 REGISTRATION
15 PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES;
16 REQUIRING ALL OWNERS OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL
17 PROPERTIES TO DESIGNATE AN AGENT FOR SERVICE
18 OF PROCESS; AND PRESCRIBING DUTIES OF
19 OWNERS, AGENTS AND OCCUPANTS; DIRECTING THE
20 DESIGNATION OF AGENTS; ESTABLISHING FEES FOR
21 THE COST ASSOCIATED WITH THE REGISTRATION OF
22 RENTAL PROPERTY; AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES
23 FOR VIOLATIONS.

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

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

13 MS. CARRERA: 5-C. CREATING AND
14 ESTABLISHING A NEW ACCOUNT FOR THE
15 CITY OF SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND
16 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ("OECD") TITLED
17 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
18 ACCOUNT NO. 17A0101 FOR THE RECEIPT AND
19 DISBURSEMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
20 BLOCK GRANT-COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING
21 LOAN FUND (CDBG C/I RFL FUNDS) RECEIVED FROM
22 THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN
23 DEVELOPMENT ("HUD").

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

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

13 MS. CARRERA: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
14 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 24,
15 2012 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING AND
16 ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR THE DISPOSAL OF
17 CITY-OWNED POLICE VEHICLES.

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

20 MR. JOYCE: I move that Item 6-A
21 pass reading by title.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question?

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes, would you like me
25 to talk, Councilman Loscombe, or would you

1 about the e-mail from chief?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah, I didn't have a
3 chance to --

4 MR. ROGAN: I saw your name and
5 that's why. The chief, as you recall last
6 week I requested whether the best procedure
7 to sell these vehicles would be accepting
8 bids from three, I believe it was three
9 scrap yards, or auctioning them. And I'll
10 read a summation of the chief's response.

11 He states it's his opinion that
12 scraping the vehicles for junk metal is in
13 our best financial interest at this time.
14 He is not familiar with the auction process
15 and he believes giving our current financial
16 situation coupled with his concern for
17 getting the police fleet in order we need to
18 act now. He said the price of metal is on
19 the rise and the old method of junking
20 vehicles for their parts or trying to sell
21 them off may not be the answer at this
22 point. "If there is another way to make us
23 more money, I am all for this as long as it
24 can be done with a high degree of certainty
25 and swiftness to maximize our effectiveness

1 as an agency."

2 And just two points on that. First
3 one I might be nitpicking a little bit, the
4 actually the price of metal is down quite a
5 bit recently.

6 And secondly, and this letter really
7 arose my suspicion when I saw it is these
8 vehicles might be sold already. We received
9 a memo from the Department of Public Works.
10 It says, "This is to inform you that we
11 awarded the bid to DeNaple's Auto Parts.
12 The bid is for a lot of 20 vehicles and
13 miscellaneous parts. DeNaple's Auto Parts
14 was the highest and most responsible
15 bidder."

16 Now, my question is this, were other
17 vehicles being sold to scrap yards or did
18 the administration do what they have done
19 before and acted on the legislation before
20 it was even passed? Because we had this
21 same situation regarding the "No Parking"
22 down near the prison. It doesn't say -- it
23 doesn't specify what vehicles were sold, so
24 I would definitely like some clarification
25 on that.

1 Ms. Carrera, I have my notes right
2 here, I'll hand this to you.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: And again, I'm sure
4 I'll get some clarification, too, but what I
5 understand was the original lot of vehicles
6 that were in the parking lot were the ones
7 that were bid out like this, and there is
8 vehicles that are basically just scrap on
9 the far side of the building is what they
10 are looking at selling the scrap metal, it's
11 like two different scenarios.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yeah. My question is
13 just on the memo --

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: But I'll clarify it.

15 MR. ROGAN: -- if the vehicles on the
16 legislation we are voting on if these were
17 already sold, and if is it just --

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: I think this one here
19 I think it was the 13 vehicles on the lot.
20 We had come prior, and I saw the bid stuff
21 come through previously on those. What I
22 think about this metal stuff is it hasn't
23 been bid out yet. It hasn't been --

24 MR. ROGAN: That's what I hope.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah.

1 MR. ROGAN: But as has happened
2 before --

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure, I understand
4 your --

5 MR. ROGAN: When the items
6 are presented in legislation before have
7 already been completed. The legislation
8 doesn't state, you know, it doesn't specify
9 a number of vehicles. It's just
10 establishing procedures.

11 Secondly, I still believe that
12 auctioning them off is a better way of going
13 about it than simply selling it for the
14 scrap metal. So with that being said, this
15 week I will be voting "no" and just even
16 though I'm going to oppose it anyway based
17 on merit, I have to say this is very
18 curious.

19 MS. EVANS: The only thing I can add
20 to it is that we did receive on March 9 a
21 notification that bids were opened on
22 Friday, March 19, in council chambers for
23 the sale of the one lot of 28 city vehicles
24 plus miscellaneous vehicle parts. The three
25 companies that bid were DeNaples, Keyser

1 Valley Auto, Anthracite Auto Exchange and it
2 is asking Mr. Dougher to review the bids and
3 then inform the law office of his decision.

4 And then we received in our mail
5 March 3 a memo dated March 12 from
6 Mr. Dougher to Mr. Kelly informing him that
7 Mr. Dougher's decision was to award the bid
8 to DeNaple's because they were the highest
9 most responsible bidder.

10 Now, today is the 15th I believe, so
11 I think, yes, we can find out if between
12 March 12 or 13th or the 15th this has
13 actually occurred, but it does appear that
14 they followed the process and --

15 MR. ROGAN: I'm not disputing the
16 bidding.

17 MS. EVANS: And I would agree
18 thought that they should await final passage
19 and adoption of the ordinance before moving
20 on it.

21 MR. ROGAN: If these are for the
22 police cars, and again, it doesn't say what
23 it could have been other DPW vehicles for
24 all we know. I have a sneaky feeling it was
25 for the police vehicles. If was, indeed,

1 for the police cars how could they go --
2 what's the point of legislation if they are
3 going to do it before the legislation
4 passes? For all they know it could be shot
5 down 5-0, but just based on the merit, I
6 think auctioning is a better deal for the
7 taxpayer.

8 MS. EVANS: And, Ms. Carrera, if you
9 could request that response prior to next
10 week's meeting and the final reading and
11 vote of this legislation. Thank you.
12 Anyone else on the question? All those in
13 favor signify by saying aye.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

18 MR. ROGAN: No.

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

21 MS. CARRERA: 6-B. READING BY TITLE
22 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 25, 2012 - AN
23 ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A NEW
24 ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF
25 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ("OECD")

1 TITLED ENTERPRISE ZONE ("EZ") PROGRAM
2 ACCOUNT NO. 18A0101 FOR THE RECEIPT AND
3 DISBURSEMENT OF ENTERPRISE ZONE ("EZ")
4 PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE
5 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
6 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("DCED").

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

9 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
10 pass reading by title.

11 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

20 MS. CARRERA: 6-C. READING BY TITLE
21 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 12, 2012 - AN
22 ORDINANCE (PREVIOUSLY TABLED)- AMENDING FILE
23 OF COUNCIL NO. 52, 2010, AN ORDINANCE
24 ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2011
25 " BY TRANSFERRING \$10,317.99 FROM ACCOUNT

1 NO. 01.401.13090.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL
2 OPERATING EXPENSES - CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT
3 NO. 01.040.00040.4190 (BUSINESS
4 ADMINISTRATION UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE) TO
5 PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE 4TH QUARTER 2011
6 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Before we --

8 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

9 MR. MCGOFF: -- I think we need to
10 remove this from the table.

11 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to take
12 File of Council No. 12, 2012, from the table
13 and place it into Sixth Order.

14 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

20 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

21 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
22 have it and so moved. You've heard reading
23 by title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?

24 MR. ROGAN: I move that item 6-C
25 pass reading by title.

1 MR. JOYCE: Second.

2 MS. EVANS: On the question?

3 MR. ROGAN: Very briefly. I'm not
4 going to object to it, the city needs the
5 money to transfer, but just for the record
6 the administration never did provide us a
7 response.

8 MS. EVANS: Actually, yes, I spoke
9 with Mrs. Krake about this yesterday and
10 Ryan McGowan did respond that they were
11 going to be using money that they had on
12 hand. They had been contacted by the
13 government about the unemployment insurance
14 once in the past and again yesterday and so
15 we needed to move the legislation on as
16 quickly as possible.

17 MR. ROGAN: I don't have a problem
18 with it, we need to transfer the money, but
19 the question was what other funds are out
20 there.

21 MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

22 MR. ROGAN: Ryan McGowan probably
23 doesn't even know so --

24 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the
25 question? All those in favor signify by

1 saying aye.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

5 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

8 MS. CARRERA: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
9 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF
11 COUNCIL NO. 21, 2012 - AMENDING FILE OF
12 COUNCIL NO. 40, 2010, ENTITLED, "AN
13 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
14 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
15 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
16 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
17 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
18 TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
19 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
20 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
21 SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM, BY TRANSFERRING
22 \$39,800.00 FROM PROJECT NUMBER 08-120
23 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO PROJECT NUMBER
24 11-229.1 UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF
25 NORTHEASTERN PA - CONDEMNATION PROGRAM.

1 MS. EVANS: What is the
2 recommendation of the Chair for the
3 Committee on Community Development?

4 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
5 Committee on Community Development, I
6 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

7 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

21 MS. CARRERA: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION-
23 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 22, 2012 - AUTHORIZING
24 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY
25 OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE FUNDS FROM

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

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

7 MR. JOYCE: As Chair 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 MS. CARRERA: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
25 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION-

1 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 23, 2012 - CREATING AND
2 ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.
3 02.229604 ENTITLED "2011 COPS HIRING
4 PROGRAM" FOR THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF
5 GRANT FUNDS BY THE SCRANTON POLICE
6 DEPARTMENT FOR PAYMENT OF SERVICES FOR A
7 POLICE OFFICER.

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

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

14 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

3 MS. CARRERA: 7-D. FOR
4 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
5 DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 12,
6 2012 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
7 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
8 ENTER INTO AN INSPECTION SERVICES CONTRACT
9 WITH SHOENER ENVIRONMENTAL TO PROVIDE
10 INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
11 WORK FOR THE PROJECT ENTITLED: "PAVING OF
12 CITY STREETS TO INCLUDE HANDICAPPED CURB
13 CUTS".

14 MS. EVANS: What is the
15 recommendation of the Chair for the
16 Committee on Community Development?

17 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
18 Committee on Community Development, I
19 recommend final passage of Item 7-D.

20 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

7 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare

8 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

9 MS. CARRERA: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION
10 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-
11 RESOLUTION NO. 13, 2012 - APPOINTMENT
12 OF MICHAEL MULLER, 906 NORTH IRVING AVENUE,
13 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, AS A MEMBER
14 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD.
15 MR. MULLER WILL BE REPLACING MICHELE DEMPSEY
16 WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON OCTOBER 11, 2011. MR.
17 MULLER'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 11,
18 2016.

19 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the
20 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
21 passage of Item 7-E.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question?

24 MR. ROGAN: And we thank Mr. Muller
25 for sending in his resume and a very nice

1 cover letter.

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I agree.

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare

14 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

15 MS. CARRERA: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION

16 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-

17 RESOLUTION NO. 14, 2012 - APPOINTMENT OF

18 ELLA RAYBURN, 934 NORTH WEBSTER AVENUE,

19 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, AS A MEMBER

20 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD

21 FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM. MS.

22 RAYBURN'S CURRENT TERM EXPIRED ON OCTOBER

23 11, 2011 AND HER NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON

24 OCTOBER 11, 2016.

25 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the

1 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
2 passage of Item 7-F.

3 MR. ROGAN: Second.

4 MS. EVANS: On the question?

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes. As always,
6 unfortunately when we don't receive resumes
7 it's hard to take a leap of the judgment
8 based on the name, so I'll be voting "no".

9 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the
10 question? Roll call, please.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: No.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

18 MR. JOYCE: No.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

20 MS. EVANS: No. I hereby declare
21 Item 7-F is not legally and lawfully
22 adopted.

23 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to take
24 File of Council No.17, 2012, from the table
25 and place it into Seventh Order for final

1 consideration.

2 MS. EVANS: There is a motion on the
3 table, do we have a second? Motion dies for
4 lack of a second so the legislation remains
5 tabled.

6 MR. ROGAN: I would make a motion to
7 take Resolution No. 11, 2012, and place it
8 into Seventh Order for final consideration.

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. CARRERA: 7-H. FOR
19 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
20 DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 11,
21 2012 (PREVIOUSLY TABLED)- RATIFYING AND
22 APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
23 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
24 SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD
25 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (UNCDC),

1 TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ("THE
2 COMMONWEALTH") ACTING THROUGH THE
3 COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY (THE
4 "GRANTOR") FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT,
5 PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT
6 AND GAMING ACT, FOR A PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AT
7 "CEDAR 500" LOCATED IN SCRANTON PA, AND
8 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
9 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
10 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT
11 GRANT CONTRACT #C000052035 AND COMMITMENT
12 LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
13 PENNSYLVANIA' COMMONWEALTH FINANCING TO
14 ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE
15 AMOUNT OF \$435,200.00 AWARDED BY THE
16 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH
17 THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR
18 SUCH PROJECT.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
23 Committee on Community Development, I
24 recommend final passage of Item 7-H.

25 MR. JOYCE: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: On the question?
2 Because I was absent from tonight's caucus I
3 ask my colleagues if the questions posed by
4 the council speaker had been responded to
5 adequately and if you had any concerns
6 regarding the caucus or if you felt that you
7 were satisfied with the project and the
8 responses given?

9 MR. ROGAN: I was satisfied by the
10 answers and the big question that I had, and
11 I'm sure many others, was the proximity to
12 the proposed library a few years back. We
13 were assured that no funds would be used for
14 such a project.

15 MS. EVANS: Very good. Anyone else?

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: No. I think a lot of
17 the questions were good and they were are
18 all answered to our satisfaction and we were
19 satisfied.

20 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I think all
21 questions were answered.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Roll call,
23 please.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

6 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
9 Item 7-H legally and lawfully adopted.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Before we adjourn, the
11 rental registration, I would ask that we put
12 that on the table at the next meeting and
13 with the assurance that one way or another
14 it will be voted upon.

15 MR. ROGAN: I know you want to vote
16 on it next week, and if everybody agreed to
17 possibly scheduling a caucus next week then
18 having the final version for the week.
19 Invite the realtors, we could invite anyone
20 else that would like to come and--

21 MR. MCGOFF: I will be more than
22 happy to.

23 MS. EVANS: And then you are looking
24 for a final vote that evening? I don't know
25 that, you know, that's going to happen --

1 MR. ROGAN: The next meeting.

2 MS. EVANS: -- or if that's possible,
3 you know, based on if you have a caucus the
4 same evening and you want to place it back
5 on the table to vote.

6 MR. ROGAN: They would push the vote
7 back about a week.

8 MS. EVANS: For two more weeks.

9 MR. ROGAN: I think personally, I
10 don't know how everyone else feels,
11 something this important needs to be done
12 right and the one big point that was brought
13 up today was there is no exemption in the
14 law for active duty military. There is
15 basics, I think that exemption should be in
16 the law. There is a few other points that
17 were brought up tonight, and I know it's
18 something that's been going on for years,
19 but I think two weeks to get it right is
20 better than passing a flawed piece of the
21 legislation.

22 MS. EVANS: I know though, however,
23 that we also have a caucus already scheduled
24 for next week and that is regarding a
25 commercial industrial loan through OECD to

1 the Madison 500 LLC project.

2 MR. ROGAN: We had two tonight, I
3 know it was a long meeting.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Why can't we have a
5 caucus and vote?

6 MS. EVANS: Well, because if you are
7 amending the legislation based upon what you
8 hear during the caucus then you don't have
9 the amendments prepared in writing and --

10 MR. MCGOFF: My thought was we could
11 meet prior to next week's meeting, do those
12 amendments, what we want, and then put it on
13 the agenda for next Thursday.

14 MR. ROGAN: I would be open to that
15 but because of the Sunshine Law we couldn't
16 all meet together.

17 MR. MCGOFF: We just have to meet
18 publically.

19 MR. ROGAN: Does it need to be
20 advertised?

21 MR. MCGOFF: Or two of us can get
22 together or whatever you want to do. I just
23 think that we need to get this done.

24 MR. ROGAN: I agree.

25 MS. EVANS: I do as well, and the

1 city is experiencing severe financial
2 difficulties at this time. In addition to
3 that, the neighborhoods have been
4 languishing at the hands of absentee
5 landlords and blighted properties for many,
6 many years now and I would like to see this
7 move along, so I think I would ask that
8 council members, interested council members,
9 would get together during the week, commit
10 to writing your amendments, I know we had
11 amendments ready to go this evening, any
12 additional amendments and, you know, present
13 those to our office and they can be
14 discussed and attached to the legislation,
15 but I think I agree in this case with
16 Mr. McGoff that I really would like to see
17 this move.

18 MR. MCGOFF: And let me just add one
19 other thing, I think that we have heard
20 from -- we have been discussing this for
21 long enough, I think that we have heard from
22 all of the interested parties. Having a
23 caucus to do that again I don't believe is a
24 necessity. I think what we need to do, and
25 again, as I said to you, Mr. Rogan, before

1 we just need to meet, decide what we want to
2 do and what we feel is and make those
3 amendments, put them in writing and have
4 them ready for next week.

5 MR. ROGAN: I certainly would be
6 willing to meet with you during the week.

7 MR. MCGOFF: And I will make it a
8 point to contact every member of council
9 early next week and have this prepared by --
10 hopefully I would like to have the
11 amendments prepared by at least Wednesday.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes, so they are running
13 through our office and they are going to be
14 attached and to the legislation for Thursday
15 evening.

16 MR. MCGOFF: I will definitely do
17 that.

18 MS. EVANS: I do agree with the
19 statement you made about the amendments that
20 you wish to see. That's certainly something
21 I'm sure that all of council would agree to.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I just may add,
23 not to belabor this, but I agree that we
24 have -- we have some presented this evening,
25 I think we got all our amendments pretty

1 much ready to go right now, my biggest
2 concern is how it's going to be operated.
3 You know, if they take an inspector off the
4 job now to handle this then who is going to
5 do the regular inspections?

6 MR. MCGOFF: There is already a
7 position.

8 MS. EVANS: Yeah, the position has
9 been there --

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: From what I
11 understand --

12 MS. EVANS: -- in the budget for
13 several years.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: -- from what I heard
15 we are going to be taking an inspector
16 that's on the position and not fill that
17 position. That's something I don't want to
18 happen.

19 MS. EVANS: Because I think the
20 person who had previously filled the
21 position resigned from employment and they
22 did not hire anyone new, so I think they are
23 just moving an inspector, but it's our
24 intention if we can get this up and running
25 and we meet with some degree of success here

1 we can use some of those funds and hire
2 additional people to run the program and
3 inspectors for the LIPS Department and that
4 will make the program run that much more
5 efficiently and successfully in each
6 successive year.

7 I think, too, the last thing I'll
8 say on this is if anyone past next Thursday
9 night in the Seventh Order reading and vote
10 would have any additional concerns or, you
11 know, situations arise in the future that we
12 certainly would like to consider we always
13 have the ability to go back and amend the
14 ordinance to correct any type of situation
15 that could come up.

16 And I'd like to wish all of you a
17 very happy St. Patrick's Day. If there is
18 no further motions, I'll entertain a motion
19 to adjourn.

20 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

21 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
22 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