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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, August 16, 2012

LOCATION:

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff. Mr.
5 Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Here.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.

15 CHECK RECEIVED FROM COMCAST IN THE AMOUNT OF
16 \$207,547.02 ON JULY 31, 2012.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
20 REPORT, FINAL RESULTS FROM APPEAL HEARING ON
21 JULY 25, 2012.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. LACKAWANNA COUNTY
25 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND

1 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATIONS RECEIVED AUGUST 10,
2 2012.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S
6 REPORT, HEARING DATE AUGUST 29, 2012.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. AMOUNT TRANSFERRED
10 TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON FROM NORTHEAST
11 REVENUE SERVICES, LLC IN THE AMOUNT
12 OF \$49,420.68.

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

16 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any
18 council members have announcements at this
19 time? Councilman McGoff is unable to attend
20 tonight's meeting because he is out of town.

21 I'd like to welcome Ryan Astelford
22 from Troop 16 Hickory Street church to our
23 council meeting. Ryan is working toward his
24 citizenship and community merit badge and
25 perhaps some day after he completes his

1 education and becomes a taxpayer he will sit
2 in one of these seats as a Scranton city
3 councilman.

4 The Scranton Lackawanna County
5 Taxpayers' Association will meet on Tuesday,
6 August 21, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in Scranton
7 City Council chambers, and that's it.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Evans, does
9 Mr. Astelford has to speak for five minutes?
10 I'm only teasing you.

11 MS. EVANS: That was a joke.

12 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZEN'
13 PARTICIPATION.

14 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this
15 evening is Elan Xanthus.

16 MS. XANTHUS: Good evening, city
17 council.

18 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

19 MS. XANTHUS: Elan Xanthus, I live
20 on Dickson Avenue. The reason I'm here I
21 want to publically thank the Scranton Fire
22 Department for saving my brother today from
23 a fire at his home. He had smoke inhalation
24 and he lost everything, total loss, but
25 that's just things. I just want to thank

1 them and the police department, the EMTs and
2 the American Red Cross. Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much,
4 Mrs. Xanthus. Our next speaker is Bill
5 Jackowitz.

6 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
7 South Scranton resident and member of the
8 Taxpayers' association, founder of the
9 Legion of Doom. Believe it or not, I
10 belonged to the same troop when I was a
11 young kid. I don't think the people believe
12 that I was a boy scout at one time, but I
13 really was.

14 Let's take a trip down memory lane.
15 Remember when we used to take trips down
16 memory lane years ago. Okay, Andy, Andy
17 Sbaraglia. What happened when he -- how did
18 he make out when he was appointed to
19 Scranton Parking Authority? Not too good.
20 Nonprofits paying in lieu of taxes, how do
21 the taxpayers make out? Not too good. We
22 are still trying to get money. One day I
23 hope we do. No money until the mayor
24 attends council meetings. How did the
25 taxpayers make out? Not too good.

1 But again, the mayor did come
2 tonight, hopefully this will be a start of
3 things to come because without the mayor's
4 cooperation it's going to be not too good.

5 The Parking Authority no money until
6 they produce a budget, how did the taxpayers
7 make out? Not too good. You still don't
8 have a budget for the Parking Authority and
9 the last one was what, three paragraphs long
10 or whatever it was. We are not doing too
11 good on that one either, are we, people?
12 City council voting no for authorities
13 appointments and having the appointments
14 seated anyway. How are we doing on that
15 one, people? Not too good. We are -- city
16 council is being ignored and that needs to
17 be changed. We need to start working
18 together. Again, hopefully the mayor being
19 here today will be the start of that.

20 Okay, the annual city audits, I
21 understand the audit for 2010 came out, I
22 was looking at it a little bit earlier,
23 again, it's due in the end of May, we got it
24 in August, how are the taxpayers doing on
25 that? Again, not too good. Responses to

1 city council letters by cabinet members and
2 people who are in charge of the department
3 heads, how are we doing on that one? Again,
4 not too good. So we need to really start
5 working on some of these areas because these
6 are important areas. They need to be
7 resolved, and again, I was so happy to see
8 the mayor today, I hope he comes back again.
9 I hope city council continues to work
10 together with the mayor, but I would like to
11 see it a little bit more open than in
12 private. I like what happened tonight. I
13 really do and we need to push that. Push
14 it, push it, push it. Even if you got to
15 sit on the mayor's front porch. Push it.
16 He needs to be here. Nobody yelled at him,
17 nobody screamed at him. Well, maybe I did a
18 little bit, but anyway, we need more of
19 this, we really do.

20 This is what cooperation is. I'm
21 sorry Mr. McGoff is not here tonight because
22 this is what cooperation is and we might be
23 able to get out this mess. Like I said,
24 people, I don't know if this number really
25 means anything to city council or to the

1 mayor, but I find 7,524 days being
2 distressed as being deplorable. I cannot
3 accept that. Maybe other people in the
4 audience or watching this on TV maybe they
5 can accept it, maybe the mayor can accept
6 it, maybe Ryan McGowan. I, Bill Jackowitz,
7 cannot accept 7,524 days of being distressed
8 for a total of 248 months. We have been
9 distressed as long as Doug Miller has been
10 alive for God's sake. I'm serious. And Pat
11 Rogan. Pat Rogan is not only about three
12 years, four years older, now he is a
13 councilman. I mean, this is -- you know,
14 I'm being repetitive, 7,524 days. Let's do
15 something about it. That should be
16 tomorrow's headline, Jim Lockwood, 7,524
17 days of being distressed. I would love to
18 see that in big black -- no, big red letters
19 in tomorrow's paper. Maybe that will get
20 somebody's attention and somebody will
21 really start paying attention to saying,
22 wow. I didn't realize it has been that
23 long.

24 You know, so again, I mean, the
25 Doherty debt is good debt. How do we deal

1 with that one, taxpayers? Not too good.

2 Mr. Washo's appointment to the
3 Parking Authority \$100 an hour.

4 Mr. Spindler has been coming here for months
5 saying he had to get a second job just to
6 make ends meet. Obviously, he doesn't know
7 the same people Mr. Washo knows because
8 Mr. Washo got a \$100 an hour entry level
9 position. Entry level position as the
10 receiver for the Scranton Parking Authority.
11 \$100 an hour entry level position. Who is
12 paying the salary? WNEP reported yesterday
13 it would be Wells Fargo Bank, the Scranton
14 Times reported today it would be the Parking
15 Authority. Please answer that during
16 motions if you know the answer.

17 And Chris Kelly's outlook for the
18 city, not too good. And finally, the
19 doomers outlook for the city I'm looking for
20 truthfulness, I'm looking for cooperation,
21 I'm looking if we need to raise taxes 129
22 percent then darn it we raise taxes 129
23 percent. I don't want to have taxes raised
24 two or three times a year or every year, and
25 I don't want to hear anymore of that we

1 can't make payroll we can't do this, we
2 can't do that. Unacceptable. And I hope
3 somebody will work on it.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Andy
5 Sbaraglia.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
7 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
8 if the government would allow us to print
9 money we wouldn't be in this problem, but
10 unfortunately, they don't. Your I guess
11 it's 7-D, yeah, 7-D, do you believe we have
12 enough police vehicles because, obviously,
13 you are taking money from buying the police
14 vehicles and putting it to use -- these curb
15 cuts that God knows how many people are
16 going to use, and I don't think they are
17 going to be as used as much as the police
18 vehicle would have been.

19 Being everybody is talking about the
20 Parking Authority, you are right, I don't
21 believe that they or the Connell building
22 are worth \$2 million to the taxpayers of
23 Scranton, but that's what we have to pay for
24 them two buildings. Is it worth it? No.
25 Is Mr. Washo going to be worth \$100 an hour

1 and since the Parking Authority is broke and
2 you are going to have pay off the bonds you
3 in turn are paying his salary, not the
4 Parking Authority.

5 As far as that piece the lawyer put
6 in the newspaper that's ludicrous. He is
7 paid to say what he is paid to say. You
8 think that's an legitimate argument? No.
9 You think anything about the Parking
10 Authority is good for the city, no. Is this
11 receivership going to be good for the city?
12 Probably not either.

13 There was a definition of insanity,
14 one was doing the same thing over and over
15 again and expecting different results, so we
16 are going to try to correct one problem that
17 a politician put with another politician.
18 It's not going to work. It definitely not
19 going to work, and I don't know what's wrong
20 with Wells-Fargo. There must be a very good
21 reason why they didn't take money of their
22 own employees and put them in the
23 receivership to run that garage since it
24 affects the bond holders, I would expect
25 they would want somebody of the manager

1 skill beyond running the county. They
2 probably use that as one of the requisites
3 of the job that he was in charge of the
4 county.

5 Well, right, make they have a little
6 county experience but we are not talking
7 about a county anymore, we are talking about
8 bilking the taxpayers of Scranton \$2 million
9 a year for the next what 20 years or
10 something like that? We can't do it. There
11 is no way we can do it, and you are going to
12 be stuck. I'm sorry you don't really
13 consider putting in for some type of a
14 bankruptcy. I really do. I'm at the point
15 now where you can see what's happening, this
16 city isn't going to stay afloat, it's going
17 to sink, sink and sink. Who is going to --
18 our bond rating is dropping, according to
19 your auditor and your audit the bond rating
20 dropped again, which we knew it was.
21 Scranton is junk bond, so anybody wants to
22 give us money would have to do with that
23 idea in mind and charge high enough interest
24 to cover this junk status. That is because
25 at any time this city can go under.

1 If you had a revolt from the
2 taxpayers in this city, this city would
3 collapse and you might get that. I remember
4 mean when you passed these high tax rates
5 people are going to remember what
6 Shakespeare said when they stabbed Julius
7 Caesar, Et tu, Brute, and that's what is
8 going to be tagged on these people. The
9 people who stuck a knife in the city.

10 You got to look at something to get
11 from the nonprofits, a residence tax, an
12 occupation people in the city tax. They
13 talk about the outsiders, these students are
14 here for four years, two years, whatever,
15 they are using more services than anybody
16 that lives outside of the city. Actually
17 most of the people don't even use the
18 service of the city they just ride through
19 the city and the state is paying for their
20 own tax. You got to look way, way outside
21 of the box, otherwise, you are going to be
22 the most hated people in all of Lackawanna
23 County, and I can understand their hate for
24 you because you are taking money out of
25 their children's mouths and that's the way

1 you have to look at it. Them people got to
2 eat just as well as anyone else and instead
3 of oppressing them we should be inviting
4 them -- you want them to come in and spend
5 money in this city and yet you are driving
6 them away because of things like this.

7 I know a few -- of course, I live in
8 the city, but if Dickson City all of a
9 sudden give me a 1 percent tax I don't think
10 I would ever go to the mall in Dickson City.
11 Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Les
13 Spindler.

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

17 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

18 MR. SPINDLER: I wasn't here last
19 week, but I was very sad to hear about the
20 passing of Helen Cook. I knew Helen well.
21 I worked a lot of campaigns with her. She
22 was a great woman, she is going to be sorely
23 missed and condolences to her family.

24 I didn't see the Recovery Plan, but
25 I hear we are going to be paying a higher

1 garbage fee. I'm really disappointed with
2 that.

3 MS. EVANS: No.

4 MR. SPINDLER: You're not? That's
5 what I was told.

6 MR. JOYCE: The garbage fee raise
7 has been eliminated.

8 MR. SPINDLER: It was eliminated?

9 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

10 MR. SPINDLER: So it's still going
11 to be \$178?

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MR. SPINDLER: I sorry, I was
14 misinformed. Moving on, the Parking
15 Authority, I'm going to borrow a line from
16 Mr. Jackowitz tonight, how did council's
17 plan to have a receiver appointed to run the
18 Authority? Not too good. Mike Washo
19 appointed. They might as well have
20 appointed Chris Doherty as the receiver
21 because Mike Washo is a Chris Doherty
22 supporter. When Chris Doherty ran for mayor
23 last election the two county commissioners,
24 including Mike Washo, supported Chris
25 Doherty, even though he wasn't the endorsed

1 Democratic candidate, so I think Bob
2 Scopelliti can rest easy, he is going to
3 have a job for as long as he wants it, I
4 guess, because Mike Washo is not going to do
5 anything. It's going to be status quo for
6 the Parking Authority and who is going to
7 take the hit, the taxpayers. It's really
8 sad and I don't know how this happened.
9 It's a darn shame.

10 And \$100 an hour, Mike Washo is
11 going to make more in a day than I make in
12 two weeks. I'm just in shock over this.
13 It's just everything we have said here for
14 the past weeks and weeks and weeks just gone
15 down the drain because it's going be the
16 same Parking Authority for God knows how
17 long. It's a darn shame.

18 In the Doherty newsletter last week
19 about Attorney O'Brien said that if the
20 September bond payment isn't met the city
21 could be on the hook for \$54 million
22 immediately. Attorney Hughes, is that true?

23 MR. HUGHES: On October 17 I
24 requested all of the bonds and trust
25 redemptions from Mr. Scopelliti, I have

1 never received them so I haven't received
2 them. I doubt if there is a -- there could
3 be an acceleration clause, but I doubt it.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Well, if we are
5 responsible for \$54 million then we are
6 going to have to go bankrupt.

7 Nonprofits, Mrs. Evans, I don't
8 remember who it was but you recently said
9 that some city took a nonprofit to Court and
10 won, would that be a possibility for this
11 council to do that for the nonprofits here
12 if they don't come up with more PILOTS?

13 MS. EVANS: I think before we would
14 do that we are certainly going to try
15 several different approaches and, you know,
16 one of which that can be under consideration
17 is what has been mentioned by council
18 speakers and that would perhaps some type of
19 tax or a fee as I believe I mentioned and
20 someone may have tonight as well. Mayor
21 Luck Ravenstahl of Pittsburgh is trying to
22 -- or had tried a tuition tax, but now I
23 believe he is calling the contributions a
24 privilege of -- I don't recall, if it's a
25 privilege to live in Pittsburgh or privilege

1 to go to school in Pittsburgh fee, so I
2 think there are quite a number of things we
3 can do if the nonprofits are not agreeable
4 to voluntarily make fair share
5 contributions.

6 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. Lastly,
7 for quite a few weeks now some speaker has
8 been coming up here criticizing council for
9 not having open meetings, meetings behind
10 closed doors. I don't agree with that and I
11 have an example here. I was in a union for
12 quite a few years, when there were
13 negotiations we elected people to negotiate
14 for us. We didn't all go to the meetings.
15 The representatives would negotiate, then
16 they would go to the union for a vote. We
17 entrusted you when we put you up there to
18 work for us and I think that this citizen
19 should put the trust behind you. I know I
20 do, I know you are working hard. That's all
21 I have to say tonight. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Doug Miller.

25 MR. MILLER: Good evening, council.

1 Doug Miller, Scranton. Sitting back here
2 listening to Mr. Jackowitz, you know, it's
3 pretty amazing to think 7,524 days the city
4 has been in distressed status. You know, as
5 he stated as long as I have been alive, I'm
6 really hopeful that it won't be for another
7 22 years.

8 You know, I was pleased tonight to
9 see the mayor here along with Administrator
10 McGowan in attendance here to discuss the
11 issues facing the city. Obviously it's been
12 a tough hall, a long hall, and it was nice
13 for a change to see everybody in the same
14 room. As we have been saying for a long
15 time, there was no reason why this couldn't
16 have happened a long time ago. Nothing went
17 on here, there was there screaming and no
18 yelling, carrying on. We all got along and
19 we discussed the issues and that needs to
20 continue. We need to continue the dialogue
21 and I'm hopeful that we will continue to --
22 I should say adhere to a pledge that he made
23 12 years ago to be the sixth councilman.
24 You know, it only took him ten plus years to
25 do so, but I hope it continues.

1 But most of all I think it's a
2 credit to this council and we need to sit
3 back and take a look at the fact that you
4 were persistent for months and months in
5 encouraging the mayor to come forward in a
6 public setting and this is a major
7 accomplishment for you tonight that we had a
8 mayor come in here and discuss -- he wasn't
9 here looking for money, he wasn't here to
10 increase his rubber stamp council, we had a
11 supermajority of people's council bring the
12 mayor in here and I really want to commend
13 you for that and I think the public should
14 applaud you for him coming here tonight
15 because you had a lot to do with this.

16 You know, the Recovery Plan, as we
17 have said, it's not a perfect plan but we
18 never claimed that any plan is perfect think
19 the bottom line here is that he we had a
20 council and an administration come together
21 in the interest of the citizens of this city
22 and their commitment to come up with a plan
23 that you find to be in the best interest
24 moving forward is something that I applaud
25 you for.

1 Obviously, you faced many criticisms
2 along the way and it truly infuriated me,
3 last week I was very frustrated that through
4 all this process the critics who claim to
5 have the answers telling us how we should
6 run the city and how we should put our
7 recovery plan together never came forward
8 with a plan of their own and they still
9 haven't. You know, I heard more of the
10 same. I didn't hear new suggestions, mostly
11 I'm against this and I'm against that, and
12 you are entitled to your opinion and I
13 respect everyone's opinion, but I also feel
14 strongly that if you are going to be
15 objective you better have something yourself
16 and, unfortunately, we haven't had that. I
17 haven't heard anything better and I'm still
18 waiting and will be waiting for a long time.

19 You know, the media, the Scranton
20 Times, Chris Kelly has been brought up
21 already tonight, I guess his statement
22 tonight was the outlook for the city is no
23 good. Well, we are still waiting for his
24 plan. As I said, he is good with his little
25 Sunday columns every week, still waiting to

1 see how Chris Kelly feels we should move the
2 city forward. You know, he is so brilliant.
3 I'm hopeful maybe this Sunday he will have a
4 nice little recovery plan for us.

5 You know, on the Parking Authority
6 motion I really do appreciate the fact that
7 council fought to get a receiver in to take
8 over, the only issue I do have with this is,
9 you know, we see Mike Washo was appointed at
10 \$100 an hour to run the day-to-day
11 operations of the Authority. You know, the
12 only issues I do have with this is a little
13 uncomfortable with the fact, it's nothing
14 personal with Mr. Washo, I have a lot of
15 respect for him, he was county commissioner,
16 whether you support his decisions or not
17 that's a totally different matter, but the
18 fact that, you know, I was hopeful that we
19 would move in a direction where we would
20 sort of bring in some outsider who doesn't
21 have close political ties, and this isn't
22 anything that council had any doings on,
23 this was done by Wells Fargo, but, you know,
24 to think Mr. Washo to see him as individual
25 who has already had a bite out of the apple

1 so to speak, you know, we all know we need
2 more transparency and accountability in that
3 Authority, they have run it reckless.

4 Certainly it's been quite the cause of most
5 of our financial issues in the city and I'm
6 hopeful that moving forward we can move in a
7 direction that's not political. We can turn
8 this Authority around and make the decisions
9 that need to be made. I do believe council
10 needs to have more of an input than you did
11 in the past and I do believe this is step
12 forward in that direction that a lot of
13 council had before, but as I stated I just
14 hope that this doesn't continue to stay the
15 course of the old political ways that it has
16 been. Hopefully we can move forward.

17 Moving onto the fire department, you
18 know, a speaker was up earlier tonight truly
19 unfortunate the fire happened in after non
20 over on Dickson Avenue in lower Greenridge,
21 but it also once again brings up the point
22 that public safety has taken a back seat
23 with this administration. They haven't
24 taken it serious since day one, their
25 actions have proven it times and time again.

1 You know, more people need to come forward
2 and protest the fire stations that have been
3 closed or browned out, the layoffs and
4 everything that's gone on. People have sat
5 back and they haven't objected to it.
6 People should be appalled that this
7 administration has consistently jeopardized
8 the health, safety and well-being of the
9 residents of this city.

10 Engine 7 in West Side, and I'll be
11 real brief here, my neighborhood, my closest
12 engine company, has been closed for months.
13 I believe Council Loscombe stated somewhere
14 I believe it was 33 out of 36 days it was
15 browned out. You know, jeopardizing the
16 health, safety of not only my family, but
17 the fellow Westsiders around me and others
18 within the city because that's an engine
19 that does respond to the scene, but people
20 need to come forward and demand that Chris
21 Doherty takes our public safety seriously.

22 SAFER grant giving \$3 million of it
23 back knowing full well that it would have
24 restored a full compliment of fire and would
25 have kept our stations open and what does he

1 do? Gives it back. It makes no sense at
2 all. Like I said, it's like winning the
3 power ball and saying, "I don't want all of
4 it, take some of it back."

5 Consistently time and time again
6 hasn't taken our safety seriously and he
7 needs be held accountable and more people
8 need to come forward and demand that their
9 stations be opened and that a full
10 compliment of firemen be restored. Thank
11 you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Fay Franus.

13 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

15 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

16 MS. FRANUS: First I'd like to thank
17 you, Mrs. Evans, for having the mayor come
18 today. I'm sure it wasn't easy getting that
19 done, but we all appreciate it, and it
20 looked like it's a good think to work well.
21 I think it's a beginning of a new start here
22 with council and Attorney Hughes and the
23 mayor and it was great to see that.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

25 MS. FRANUS: For you to get together

1 like that and it was very sincere and I'm
2 really tired of this negativity coming from
3 this podium, not so good, not so good. I
4 wish one day you would take the time, all of
5 you, would take the time each time, maybe in
6 motions tonight and explain to these people
7 and the people in this city what you do
8 every day and how much work you do.
9 Everyone that takes you for granted and
10 thinks you just come here on Thursday and
11 that's it. They have no clue. I wouldn't
12 want your life for all of the tea in China I
13 can't even comprehend because people don't
14 know. I think you should take the time to
15 tell them. I really do because they don't
16 believe it.

17 And for everybody to come here and
18 say, "Well, I want 129 percent."

19 Well, Mr. Jackowitz, maybe you can
20 pay my taxes because I can't, I certainly
21 can't afford it and I do not want 129
22 percent tax increase and thank you for
23 fighting for that to get it as low as you
24 can for us. That's why you are there. You
25 could just let PEL give us that tax increase

1 and you are not.

2 On another matter, I want to say
3 this quickly, I want to say that Annette
4 Solfanelli and the Lackawanna Heritage
5 Valley Association they are doing a
6 wonderful job. I go there every day with my
7 boy and I see the work that they do. They
8 had like 100 kids down there the other day
9 putting mulch around and paving in that --
10 and getting the road all straightened and
11 picking up garbage. They don't miss a
12 trick. They are down there all the time.
13 There was a tree down, I called them, gone
14 the next day. I mean, they are just
15 phenomenal and they really are good and they
16 are doing a good job.

17 Now, Boyd, I'd like to ask you this,
18 I don't know if you want to answer this, but
19 I'd sort of like your opinion, just, like,
20 make out like we are talking me and you, we
21 are not, but we are, what do you think about
22 Mike Washo as far as do you think he will
23 get rid of Bob Scopelliti? I mean, that was
24 the plan here to get rid of these people not
25 keep them. It scared me when Mike Washo

1 said he doesn't want to do that yet. What
2 do you think?

3 MR. HUGHES: Well, he has only been
4 there one day.

5 MS. FRANUS: I know, but that was
6 the purpose of getting a receiver.

7 MR. HUGHES: There were many people
8 interviewed. There is a misconception that
9 Judge Mazzone just picked Mike Washo and he
10 selected him. The process and the reason it
11 takes time in order to get a receiver is
12 that there were several people that the
13 insurers and the new bond trustee
14 interviewed for the position and they
15 selected Mr. Washo. It was a consent order
16 entered into between -- and the city was a
17 defendant, between the city and the Parking
18 Authority and Wells Fargo appointing
19 Mr. Washo.

20 In addition to that it says in the
21 order, the consent order, it runs three or
22 four pages, I have read it, that he has full
23 authority. He has no obligation to continue
24 the existing employees of the Authority,
25 that he has full authority to hire a manager

1 of the Parking Authority. I can tell you
2 that the insurers have interviewed and
3 brought people in to look at the operations
4 of the Authority that are professional
5 Parking Authority managers. They are very
6 serious about this. They know the situation
7 and if council did not vote the way that
8 they did and they could not make that bond
9 payment that's what woke the insurers up and
10 started this whole process, and I think it's
11 much too early to tell.

12 When I was special counsel to the
13 city I worked for very closely with
14 Mr. Washo on the mall project, spent lots
15 and lots of time with Mr. Washo on the mall
16 project and it became reality against a lot
17 of odds. I know him, you know, from that
18 standpoint, so he just can't come in on day
19 one, he is there in order to marshal all of
20 the monies and see that all of the monies
21 are reported. He has to have some staff
22 right now, but I believe that from my
23 information is that in time, and you just
24 can't do this overnight, that there will be
25 a professional management that will take

1 over the operation of the Authority.

2 MS. FRANUS: Thank for answering
3 that.

4 MR. BOYD: Maybe I've said too much,
5 but that's --

6 MS. FRANUS: No, no, I'm glad you
7 did.

8 MR. HUGHES: But that has been the
9 goal from day one contrary to lot of
10 reports, I think that had not the insurers
11 realized that this Authority was ineptly run
12 and mismanaged, that wouldn't have taken the
13 actions that they did in number one
14 replacing the trustee, and number two,
15 coming in and getting a receiver appointed;
16 and number three taking the steps to bring
17 people, professional parking managers in
18 from outside of the area to look at the
19 garage, all of the garages with the view, I
20 think, to have competent people run it.

21 And I know that there -- that they
22 do want to do everything they can to raise
23 the revenues to reduce the liability to the
24 city.

25 MS. FRANUS: Well, and it all

1 started with you, Attorney Hughes.

2 MR. HUGHES: Well, I was directed by
3 council to do it.

4 MS. FRANUS: Well, council, yeah,
5 absolutely but you worked together on that.

6 MR. HUGHES: I was just the hired
7 gun.

8 MS. FRANUS: No, but when you
9 explained everything all the time you really
10 made it -- what was going on and --

11 MR. HUGHES: Thank you, I appreciate
12 that.

13 MS. FRANUS: Well, the people
14 appreciate it, believe me, because if you
15 didn't do this council wouldn't have been --
16 that wouldn't have been a default and none
17 of this would have happened.

18 MS. EVANS: And I might add, I don't
19 think there are too many attorneys who would
20 have done this.

21 MS. FRANUS: No.

22 MS. EVANS: That would have taken
23 this on so we are very grateful to Attorney
24 Hughes.

25 MS. FRANUS: That's the truth

1 because we wouldn't be here today with Mike
2 Washo there. I mean, I know Mike Washo, he
3 is a nice guy, and I hope he does -- I don't
4 think -- well, I like Mike Washo and I hope
5 he does a good job and we have to have faith
6 in him. Just like you said, Mr. Hughes,
7 these people don't put him in there just to
8 go and do -- do what they want to do, he is
9 there for a reason or none of this would
10 have happened; right?

11 MR. HUGHES: They know there is
12 substantial problems that have to be
13 corrected.

14 MS. FRANUS: Right.

15 MR. HUGHES: And I don't who is
16 interviewed, I know that there were several
17 people interviewed, they made the decision
18 that he was the one to hire to get this ship
19 corrected.

20 MS. FRANUS: I'm just hoping that
21 Bob Scopelliti is gone. Not even now, even
22 if it's six months, but whenever the time
23 comes that they need to did it, that's what
24 I'm hoping and thank you very much for
25 everything.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Our next
2 speaker is a Gerard Hetman.

3 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, council.
4 Gerard Hetman from the Lackawanna County
5 Department of Community Relations. We are
6 here to talk to you this evening about a
7 specific special event that's coming up next
8 month. This an event that's currently at
9 the moment in the planning stages so this
10 announcement is sort of a save the date,
11 mark your calendar type of announcement and
12 we will have more details and more
13 information upcoming as the event develops
14 over the next several weeks, but the event
15 that we're proud to announce is the
16 Department of Lackawanna County Department
17 of Community Relations in cooperation with
18 the Lackawanna County Commissioners will be
19 hosting -- will be the first annual
20 Lackawanna County senior health fair. This
21 is an event that's obviously geared toward
22 our senior citizens and senior residents of
23 Lackawanna County and it's going to take
24 place on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, from
25 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lackawanna County

1 Trolley Museum, 300 Cliff Street in Scranton
2 on the grounds of the Steamtown National
3 Historic Site. The event will feature free
4 flu shots for seniors that attend the fair,
5 seniors will be able to learn the importance
6 of flu shots and protecting themselves from
7 the flu and colds and communicable diseases.
8 Light refreshments will be served. Free
9 tours of the trolley museum will be offered
10 and there will be prizes and giveaways for a
11 number of different attendees. I don't want
12 to say vendors, but a number of different
13 agencies will be there to provide
14 information and giveaways, displays,
15 etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.

16 The following agencies at the moment
17 are scheduled to attend, which include the
18 Pennsylvania Department of Health,
19 Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging and
20 the National Council of Aging. This event
21 is also being put on in cooperation with the
22 traditional home health and hospice. This
23 is something that our department is working
24 on. The idea came up several weeks ago and
25 we are moving actively now to plan and

1 execute and develop the event. We have got
2 a little bit less than a month, but it's
3 going to come together and we are looking
4 forward to being a great opportunity for our
5 senior residents of Lackawanna County as
6 both the City of Scranton come together and
7 be able to have an event to come to where
8 they can learn new information, learn about
9 new services and offerings and things like
10 that.

11 I have got several flyers here, we
12 have one for every council member and also
13 some extras I will leave with Ms. Marciano.
14 We also have some that I can give to anybody
15 in attendance who would like some
16 information. And again, we haven't
17 clarified everything yet, we are still
18 working to develop it with the partner
19 agencies, other agencies in the community
20 that serve our seniors. We want to work
21 together with council and with anyone else
22 who wishes to work with us on this to spread
23 the word. We are going to be going out to
24 senior centers, senior residences, homes,
25 and other places that serve seniors

1 throughout the county to make them aware of
2 this and we are going to be developing it up
3 to the day of the event to make it as easy
4 to attend and as fun and engaging to attend
5 as we can fore senior citizens, but over the
6 next few weeks I'll give even more
7 announcements about it and keep you informed
8 as the event develops as to what we have,
9 and again, I look forward to working with
10 and I ask everyone here in attendance who is
11 watching please spread the word to anyone,
12 neighbors, friends, coworkers, anyone you
13 know is a senior resident of the county and,
14 of course, the city. Please let them know
15 and they will all be welcome to attend the
16 event.

17 So we will be giving more
18 announcements as the event develops over the
19 next few weeks and we look forward to
20 keeping you informed of it and we hope to
21 have a great turnout for events on the 11th.

22 That's all I have for this evening.
23 Anything else? Thank you.

24 MR. ROGAN: Would you be able to
25 e-mail me the information regarding the

1 senior event?

2 MR. HETMAN: Absolutely.

3 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

4 MR. HETMAN: Thank you, ladies and
5 gentlemen.

6 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is Ron
7 Ellman.

8 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

9 Everybody kept telling me this week that I
10 have been negative on anything and
11 everything. I am not negative, I'm just
12 stating facts and that are out there for
13 everybody to see and a bunch of the people
14 just don't see them, you know, that's why I
15 get away with it every week with my big
16 mouth because I got facts not a bunch of
17 distortions like the newspaper prints day in
18 and day out. I guess that's why nobody ever
19 confronts me up here. I'm waiting for
20 someone to come up, you know, year after
21 year.

22 I got two attack ads, I learned that
23 Mr. Obama's stuff in the paper. First is
24 Mr. Zigmont, boo-hoo. He is just a blatant
25 liar for the school and that's it. There is

1 just no other way to put it. It's just full
2 of propaganda and he doesn't have facts. I
3 think it was two weeks ago he said the
4 University follows and qualifies as a
5 nonprofit. In every way whatsoever, they
6 don't. Those five rules I gave that they
7 don't fit and that's from the state
8 something should have been done years ago
9 about them being like obstacles taking over
10 the city. You know, to me they are a
11 business first and institution of learning
12 secondly. That's my opinion I guess.

13 And this irresponsible nonsense that
14 Mr. Zigmont spews forth, in their defense
15 last week he had something about they pay a
16 couple of hundred thousand dollars
17 temporarily on 11 pieces of the property,
18 but there wasn't a mention one of the 150
19 houses they have taken off the payroll that
20 have cost the taxpayers of this city
21 millions forever. Millions and millions of
22 dollars so far, you know? That's what I'm
23 saying, he is just -- they just blatant lies
24 what they give us. A couple of years ago,
25 last year I think, it was -- first they said

1 that 5,000 students spend a \$100 a week in
2 the city and we ought to be grateful. Then
3 a couple of months later from \$100 a week,
4 which is what, five -- you know, they went
5 up to \$400 million dollars a year for the
6 students which would be like 80, 85 thousand
7 dollars a piece a year. Nobody says
8 anything when they have such distortions.

9 I just don't -- I support this
10 University. They are not doing nothing
11 positive for me or the people in this city,
12 you know. Of course I have read about some
13 benefits that they have, you know, but they
14 are a liability to the people in this city.
15 When you go to Beaver -- to the football
16 games the school supports the city. It's
17 completely opposite with us.

18 My second attack is Mr. Tunis today,
19 just his gross incompetence and saying that
20 they are doing good management in there that
21 there is nothing wrong. I know everybody
22 had to read this ridiculous article. I
23 didn't agree that, to the SPA money, I have
24 to talk to anybody out there in the streets
25 that agreed to it. It was Mr. Doherty and

1 the council before this when, excluding Ms.
2 Janet, who spoke against it, all of a sudden
3 we are responsible for millions and millions
4 of dollars. You know, you got a bunch of
5 guys over there Donald Trump wouldn't even
6 hire them, plus he would have to fire them
7 fools because they would do a terrible job,
8 they have been doing a terrible job, that's
9 why there is millions of dollars down the
10 drain. It's not worth spending another
11 penny on them. It's got to end someplace.
12 A city can't make payroll sure can't support
13 them for the next year after year.

14 I'd like to say something real quick
15 before I go, this is from Abe Lincoln who
16 was a good man even if he was a Yankee, and
17 for all of those college students at the
18 University and the high school students that
19 don't know who Abe Lincoln I think he was
20 the 16th president way before Obama, but he
21 said something this ship is sinking faster
22 than the Titanic and he speaks of the ship
23 is safe. To save the good ship of the union
24 on this voyage nobody will have a chance to
25 call at her on the next voyage of we don't

1 start right now immediately planning the
2 future of this country, and this is in
3 reference we need to do it now, the future
4 of this city needs to start now. I have
5 talked to two or three high school or
6 college students a week and they are
7 concerned about staying here. Those are who
8 we should be concerned about and those are
9 the people you can't give them the loans
10 like the SPA and let the University keep on
11 being a magnet on the people of this city.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.
14 Does anyone else care to address council?

15 MS. WARDELL: Can we continue this
16 meeting with only two councilmen up there?

17 MR. HUGHES: Yes.

18 MS. WARDELL: But there is no
19 quorum.

20 MR. HUGHES: Once a quorum is
21 achieved it's maintained.

22 MS. WARDELL: Okay. Thank you.
23 Gentlemen, I just have a few questions, I'm
24 not going to take much of your time. Do you
25 know if there are any plans in the work for

1 the East Parker Street bridge? It's been
2 one lane for like three years now.

3 MR. ROGAN: I haven't received
4 anything that I remember reviewing. We can
5 check into it.

6 MS. WARDELL: That's a very busy
7 bridge because we have the Parker House over
8 there, you know, and you young guys probably
9 know where that is; right?

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. WARDELL: It's very
12 inconvenient. I mean, there is a light
13 there, but it's very inconvenient for so
14 long.

15 MR. JOYCE: I agree.

16 MS. WARDELL: Also, Lake Side Drive
17 and Depot Street we have had now I believe
18 three stop signs put up there and three of
19 them have been stolen. If you could check
20 on that?

21 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

22 MR. JOYCE: Yes, absolutely.

23 MS. WARDELL: And, also, I do have a
24 question about the Scranton Parking
25 Authority, Mr. Washo in his capacity as

1 receiver can he get rid of the board of the
2 Parking Authority? Can he get rid of the
3 people on the board?

4 MR. JOYCE: I'm not 100 percent
5 sure.

6 MR. HUGHES: Can he get rid of the
7 board itself?

8 MS. WARDELL: Can he get rid of the
9 people who are on the board and replace
10 them?

11 MR. HUGHES: You are into an area
12 that I'd rather not comment on. If an
13 operator is hired there would be no reason
14 for the existing employees.

15 MS. WARDELL: Okay. And does anyone
16 happen to know who the other people were
17 that were considered for this receiver and
18 how Mr. Washo's name came up by whom, who
19 brought up his name? Does anybody know
20 that?

21 MR. ROGAN: I found out from the
22 Scranton Times.

23 MR. JOYCE: I found out from the
24 Scranton Times as well.

25 MS. WARDELL: That's all I want to

1 know. Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

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

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

6 MR. DOBRZYN: Like bad news it just
7 doesn't go away. I owe you people and the
8 people of the city an apology, one thing I
9 forgot about was the audits and I would
10 appreciate if the mayor is watching that he
11 makes a concerted attempt to bring that in
12 before the people have to be confronted with
13 adopting or a Recovery Plan.

14 And I rarely disagree publically,
15 but I disagree with term limits for council.
16 I think the executive side has probably too
17 much power in most instances and it became
18 -- especially during the FDR administration,
19 which we had World War II, but the man
20 became to ill to do his job, especially in
21 the last term and that's where that came
22 from, and it was a tradition handed down
23 from George Washington who felt that he
24 might establish a dynasty or an aristocracy
25 so he bowed out and by then he probably

1 wasn't feeling too good anyway because he
2 had a pretty rough life during the French
3 and Indian War. He fell into a river in the
4 middle of winter and all kinds of stuff, he
5 is a really interesting guy.

6 And mention was made about trash
7 fees again, I'd like to point out that is
8 that not paid by all? So, in other words,
9 if I had a small nonprofit and I put trash
10 out do they pay trash fees? That's the
11 purpose of the fee so that's the idea. I
12 mean, it's chicken feed money, but it's the
13 point that you might have to raise somebody
14 else's taxes ten or 20 dollars to take up
15 for them and then they are really not paying
16 anything extra, so it's just something to
17 consider. I mean, it's not a great reason
18 to be disagreeable about.

19 And the Parking Authority, also, no
20 mention has been made and I found out doing
21 some political work that the theatre
22 downtown also validates tickets across from
23 the mall and it's free parking for them,
24 also, so that's where I feel a lot of the
25 problems came from was that we were promised

1 all of this economic development with the
2 Connell building and who knows what those
3 people are paying, we never get an answer
4 anyway when we ask for one, and the medical
5 school is given 300 and the Hilton was given
6 120 and the next thing you know everything
7 is free and the people from out of town say
8 thank you. Thank you, Scranton. Don't ask
9 for a commuter tax though or we'll rip your
10 heart out.

11 And last week mention was made about
12 a DPW or police car catching fire and
13 Nelson, my little buddy from the juvenile
14 division, complained for week after week
15 after week that he didn't even -- couldn't
16 get motor mounts done on his car, engine
17 mounts, and I often wondered if we don't
18 need a little education down there that
19 could be offered by the employer to bring
20 people up to speed. I know I did it, I did
21 it for free at the dealership when I worked
22 there and I went in on Saturdays and went on
23 and studied computer and it did help. After
24 awhile I had the people that were shipped to
25 school out of state and everything calling

1 me over to see what the problem was, and
2 that's not giving myself -- that's the
3 truth.

4 And on the sewer business, the Sewer
5 Authority, there is a local person that does
6 a lot of work the river and keeping in mind
7 he doesn't draw a wage for the city or the
8 Sewer Authority, Bernie McGurl, and if we
9 could invite him some time for a caucus and
10 possibly get to the bottom of this, some of
11 this money is being required by the federal
12 government to be spent, so we have a big
13 choice there, spend the money or get fined
14 thousand dollars a day or a couple of
15 millions dollars or whatever the heck, but
16 they haven't been very helpful with the
17 money even though we are cleaning up the
18 Chesapeake Bay and all.

19 And I might mention in Pennsylvania
20 if you vote 50 years straight you get a
21 super voter award, this is the golden
22 parrot, and these people 25 percent of them
23 now do not qualify as voters because of the
24 voter ID law, state photo ID law. Judge
25 Simpson yesterday just stated for this fall,

1 and keeping in mind that 19 counties have no
2 photo center, and ten or 11 are open one day
3 and we have about between 700 and 900,000
4 people that may be ineligible to vote and
5 shame on you, judge Simpson. I don't know
6 where he got his law degree from, maybe the
7 Doolittle Tech. Thank you and have a good
8 night.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
10 anything anyone else?

11 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

12 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

13 MR. MORGAN: Tonight I'm hoping that
14 council will not either introduce this
15 Recovery Plan or vote on it. I'm really of
16 the opinion that it should be tabled. It's
17 just not workable. You know, relying on
18 commuter taxes and just, you know, all of
19 these other things there is no legislation
20 for it, even a county tax. I think it's
21 really time for the people outside of this
22 city to call all of their legislators and
23 make sure that there is never again a
24 commuter tax implemented in the
25 Commonwealth, especially here for Scranton.

1 You know, a lot of residents may be
2 a little angry at that statement but this
3 city knew where it was for a long time.
4 This isn't a surprise. PEL and all of the
5 other political forces they had the sway,
6 they could have did something, in my opinion
7 they did nothing. At what point does a
8 government have enough of any individuals
9 income in taxation?

10 Now, the state taxation equalization
11 board says that the City of Scranton in this
12 document it's tax rates are I believe 35
13 percent too low. They should be higher, but
14 the only reason they are not is because the
15 county hasn't done an assessment. When
16 anybody with any common sense knows that the
17 property and the City of Scranton has lost
18 most of it's value and we have auctions
19 here. The former Chamber of the Commerce
20 building across the street is being
21 converted into apartments.

22 Now, we are certain, and I don't
23 want to say certain individuals who talked
24 about nonprofits, but their legislation
25 comes through here for funding all the time,

1 certain nonprofits, and they get money and
2 then in one hand we are complaining about
3 them and in the other hand we were funding
4 their expansion. There is something wrong
5 here. I think there is a very serious
6 disconnect.

7 Now, council and the Home Rule
8 Charter, as I have stated many times before,
9 had the power of subpoena and never used it,
10 okay, so when you say that somebody is
11 hiding any document from you or that you
12 don't have all of the facts in my opinion
13 it's not possible because a judge can order
14 that those facts be presented to you, and
15 what's happened now is that this city is
16 just in very, very serious trouble and I
17 just don't see how we can pass a Recovery
18 Plan relying on the legislature to pass law
19 to make it possible to collect the plan
20 necessary to make this Recovery Plan work.

21 And the other thing is that Scranton
22 had a redevelopment plan, it was called
23 SAPA. I wanted to talk about it with
24 Mr. Loscombe at the debate, I wanted to talk
25 about it with council, it was all political.

1 No, it wasn't political it was about
2 redeveloping the city. Now, we can tax
3 everybody and we can walk through the
4 neighborhoods and look at all of the "For
5 Sale" signs. They aren't diminishing, they
6 are increasing. In my opinion we have
7 passed a flawed rental registration program
8 in this city to raise revenue and do harm to
9 the tax base. Council did that.

10 You know, it reached the point when
11 you squeeze an orange to make orange juice
12 you run out of juice, and that's what
13 happened here. You know, we can vilify the
14 Parking Authority, we can vilify the Sewer
15 Authority, but the truth of the matter is
16 that the council and this administration had
17 an obligation to protect the residents'
18 interest and taxing nonentities in this
19 city, people that don't live here, that's
20 not a solution to our problem, that's just a
21 way to take somebody's money that we
22 shouldn't be taking, and we can talk all we
23 want to about the services they use when
24 they come here, well, what about the
25 services we use when we go there? You know,

1 the truth of the matter is this, the
2 residents paid for the services that they
3 received here. If there is disconnect and a
4 problem then that problem should have been
5 solved decades ago and it wasn't, but now
6 that everybody is back up against the wall.

7 You know, the truth of the matter
8 should be told that the only thing that
9 people are interested is paying the
10 bondholders. I mean, we are have got a
11 pension plan that's under water, and I don't
12 know why we haven't implemented a 401-K.
13 You know, it's pretty easy to just put
14 legislation up there and vote on it and vote
15 every property owner, it's like the one lady
16 said to the neighbor, she moved out of here
17 to get away from aggressive taxation and now
18 council wants to and the state and whoever
19 else wants to tax her some more, so how far
20 does she have to go, and I just think it's
21 time to table this because it can't work.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
23 anyone else?

24 MS. CHILIPKO: Good evening again,
25 Council.

1 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

2 MS. CHILIPKO: Marry Chilipko,
3 resident of the City of Scranton. As a
4 neighborhood leader in Pinebrook I just do
5 want to mention that we had an excellent
6 meeting on Tuesday night. We have had one
7 of the best neighborhood meetings we have
8 had in a long time. There were no egos
9 involved. Mr. Loscombe was in attendance,
10 Councilman Loscombe, Councilman Rogan if he
11 is not present he is in constant
12 communication with us.

13 And I'd like to pay a compliment to
14 the new chief, well, acting chief Captain
15 Graziano. He attended our meeting as well
16 as Lieutenant Crofton and I have to give him
17 a compliment, he was so interested and we
18 worked together on problems and trying to
19 find solutions so I think that's a bright
20 spot for the city.

21 We do need some help. As far as
22 7-D, I read the paper and almost cry anymore
23 and that's sad, but I almost cried when I
24 saw that three police vehicles were hit
25 during the drug bust down on Albright

1 Avenue. They are in such bad shape as it
2 is. I don't understand, maybe we will get
3 some more explanation on 7-B.

4 Mr. Rogan, did you ever look -- find
5 any further into our street sweeper overtime
6 issue?

7 MR. ROGAN: No. A motion was made,
8 I believe it was unanimous, asking all of
9 the department heads to report overtime I
10 believe it was for the last year or last two
11 years to council on a monthly basis itemized
12 by employee who receives the overtime and
13 once again we haven't received a response
14 from any department head.

15 MS. CHILIPKO: So we are still
16 working on that.

17 MR. ROGAN: Well, we are just
18 waiting. Just waiting, yeah.

19 MS. CHILIPKO: Okay. As far as the
20 Mike Washo situation, maybe I'm the only one
21 incensed. I read it in the newspaper, most
22 of the people that I know reacted -- the
23 reactions were shock, disbelief and nausea.
24 I have notes all over the place here, but
25 nothing personal, I don't know Mike Washo,

1 very intelligent man I'm sure and it seems
2 to me tonight to be smoothed over. I would
3 also like to know aren't we owed an
4 explanation as to how his name got into the
5 mix for the Parking Authority receivership?
6 I don't think Wells Fargo hired him. What
7 do people like, is there a certain people
8 that call people that don't have jobs that
9 are politicians and just say, hey, here is
10 another one apply? Why couldn't I apply?
11 Who interviewed them? How did the interview
12 process become? I think we are owed that
13 explanation. You know, we have known a long
14 time, he does good work, big deal. I don't
15 why I expected to see Joe Smo from
16 Shavertown that has some experience in
17 running parking garages and then they are
18 going bring it professionals? What do we
19 need him for?

20 I'm tired of the same names over and
21 over and over again. I don't know him, but
22 I have heard his name since I'm alive, maybe
23 not quite that long. We should be privy to
24 more information because I came here and was
25 convinced that the vote and however the

1 money went we would see changes, not to see
2 Mike Washo appointed as receivership. You
3 will never convince me that there is not
4 politics involved in that. He is only there
5 one day, I understand that. That's one day
6 too long for me.

7 And what did I hear, a comment
8 somebody made today, at least they didn't
9 appoint some political hack career
10 politician, and I think that says it all.
11 I'm so angry. That has not changed, that
12 has not -- nothing will change. A bare
13 bones operation it was described as. You
14 will see those people there and they laugh,
15 they have to laugh every day they go to work
16 if that's the way you call it.

17 Judge Mazzoni, again, I say whoever
18 else was involved in that appointment of
19 Mike Washo get a real job. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
22 again. Marie Schumacher. I guess I'll
23 start with Mr. Rogan tonight. Five years
24 ago 408 Cedar Avenue or Cedar, maybe it was
25 just Cedar, LLC, received a quarter of a

1 million dollar loan from the city for I
2 believe it was -- at least it was said
3 during the council meeting that it was at 5
4 percent interest for 25 years for the
5 acquisition and building a business and
6 business for equipment, inventory and
7 working capital to expand their bills.

8 I happened to drive by 408 Cedar and
9 it is available, so could you find out
10 perhaps whether they just moved to another
11 location or --

12 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: --if they have gone
14 and what happens with the balance of that
15 loan if they are no longer functioning as a
16 business?

17 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely. I'll get in
18 touch with Ms. Aebli tomorrow.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I did check.
20 It's still listed as an active corporation,
21 but that could be a little bit old.

22 Next, Mr. Loscombe must read minds
23 and that's why he departed because --

24 MS. EVANS: Well, actually,
25 Mr. Loscombe wasn't feeling well and he

1 spoke with me, he needed to leave.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, sorry about
3 that. Well, I'll bring it up anyway because
4 this is still three of you there, the news
5 in this past week another police bad boy.
6 Only difference -- well, the only likeness
7 is that Mr. Jarbola once again passed on
8 doing anything and instead sent it back to
9 the police department, but I don't
10 understand, I was told that you couldn't
11 give names, you couldn't tell what the
12 offense was, but that was then and now we
13 have it in the paper, the person's name,
14 three multiple shoplifting sprees, why can't
15 we get that information about the person who
16 was demoted? I don't care about the name, I
17 said that repeatedly, but I do want to know
18 what the offense was in that case. I think
19 we are owed that. If we are stopped by the
20 police we need to be feel secure that we are
21 in good hands and nothing is going to happen
22 to us.

23 On the revised recovery plan, again,
24 I still don't think there are enough cuts, I
25 think. I think we need to cut more and I

1 want to ask Mr. Joyce during motions to let
2 us know how much is in the new revised
3 recovery plan for the Scranton Parking
4 Authority debt per year for these three
5 years.

6 And also I missed, I got a little
7 bit of the property tax increases, but I
8 didn't get them all, Mr. Joyce, so if you
9 could give us the tax increases for 2013,
10 '14 and '15 that would be helpful.

11 And then I would like to know, quite
12 awhile back now I gave council some case law
13 that concluded that the property tax
14 exemption of a government owned facility did
15 not pass onto a commercial operator and
16 noted that that would make former
17 Chamberlain or maybe it's still the current
18 Chamberlain property taxable to the tune of
19 like \$500,000 a year, what did council do
20 with that? Maybe I'll bring it back again
21 next week and maybe you can try to do
22 something about that.

23 And then I'll conclude tonight with
24 taking issue with Mr. Miller's comments
25 about PEL because I read that letter that

1 was excoriated last week or I guess it was
2 two weeks ago and they only recommended that
3 the property taxes be raised until it could
4 be proven that some of those other taxes
5 could be -- were actually real and actually
6 included that they would -- the property
7 taxes should be reduced when any of those
8 other taxes came to fruition, so I don't
9 think that was all they were thinking, but I
10 do think that's certainly a more safe way to
11 go if they include certain taxes -- a
12 certainty for uncertain incomes, so I'll
13 look forward to Fifth Order. Thank you.

14 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Janet.

15 MS. EVANS: Hi, Chris.

16 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Frank, welcome
17 back, my boy.

18 MR. JOYCE: Thanks, Chris.

19 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Janet, thank you.
20 Thank you for the shirt you gave me. Thank
21 you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thanks. Is there anyone
23 else?

24 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,
25 Council. Nelson Ancherani, resident and

1 taxpayer, exercising my First Amendment
2 Rights.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. ANCHERANI: Recently council has
5 been getting beat up by the slimes because
6 the recovery plan is not in place yet. You
7 have also been getting criticized by many
8 others, PEL and DCED can't makeup their
9 minds as to what the recovery plan should
10 say. PEL and DCED now say Scranton is
11 making progress on the recovery plan, but it
12 still has holes. Their credibility is lower
13 than the snake's belly. When it comes to a
14 revised recovery plan, their original plan
15 had the sale of the storm drains for \$6
16 million plus from the city to the Sewer
17 Authority. They didn't know, or did they,
18 that the Sewer Authority owned them and
19 couldn't be sold to themselves. That had
20 holes, but yet they wanted to put it into
21 the plan.

22 The city was supposedly going to
23 sell the parking meters to the Scranton
24 Parking Authority for \$6 million. Where was
25 the SPA going to get that money when they

1 were almost in default? Oh, yeah, I forgot,
2 they could have borrowed the money and then
3 the city taxpayers could pay them, pay the
4 loans when the Scranton Parking Authority
5 could not pay back that loan. If I remember
6 correctly, there was a \$35 million loan
7 taken out by the Scranton Parking Authority
8 in 2000 I believe it was seven.

9 Mrs. Evans, did you vote for the
10 approval of that loan?

11 MS. EVANS: No, I did not.

12 MR. ANCHERANI: I didn't think so,
13 then it was the runner stamp council, the
14 one that was sitting prior to this council.
15 Now, the Scranton Parking Authority can't
16 pay it's bond of four loans. I still can't
17 understand why the Scranton Parking
18 Authority or that council would have voted
19 for the approval of a \$35 million loan with
20 a 59 million interest pay back.

21 This council is getting the blame
22 because they were going to let the Parking
23 Scranton Authority default. I don't know
24 what's worse, a default or the taxpayers now
25 going to pay \$2 million a year to keep them

1 afloat. The banks loaned the Scranton
2 Parking Authority the 35 million. They are
3 going to get 59 million in interest back.
4 Were won't they loan the money now?

5 They just -- I don't know, they did
6 it for the Scranton Parking Authority and
7 now they won't do it for us. We never had
8 to have a recovery plan in place, now we do.
9 This council did not put the city in \$400
10 million plus in long-term debt. Let's start
11 putting the blame where it belongs. The
12 administration spends into oblivion and the
13 banks loan the money, so shouldn't they take
14 some of the blame? A lot of the blame
15 maybe. They loaned the money to help put us
16 where we are right now.

17 This council did not vote for any of
18 the loans that put us where we are today
19 except one of the sitting council members.
20 We all know who that is.

21 We are getting -- so you are getting
22 the blame for the mayor and the banks
23 spending and borrowing. Don't take the
24 bait. We know where that came from. The
25 banks loaned the money prior, the

1 administration spent the money. Don't take
2 the blame.

3 As for going bankrupt, you won't
4 have to worry about raising the taxes, the
5 receiver will do that without any approval
6 from any one of you. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr.
8 Ancherani. Is there anyone else?

9 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER, 5-A.
10 MOTIONS.

11 MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan, do you
12 have any motions or comments?

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Just two questions
14 on the recovery plan, I think Mr. Joyce said
15 he would elaborate during motions. Mr.
16 Joyce, will you elaborate on what Mrs.
17 Schumacher brought about the sale of the
18 lease back?

19 MR. JOYCE: Yeah.

20 MR. ROGAN: You can do it now or
21 during motions, whatever, whatever you want
22 to do.

23 MR. JOYCE: I'll do it right now.

24 MR. ROGAN: Okay. Thank you.

25 MR. JOYCE: Basically it's -- and I

1 asked the same question and in speaking with
2 Mr. McGowan, it's borrowing against a city
3 asset. For instance, the DPW complex, that
4 would be a city asset that would be used as
5 collateral for borrowing.

6 MR. ROGAN: Do you know what
7 collateral they put on use.

8 MR. JOYCE: No, it's not parking
9 meters.

10 MR. ROGAN: That's what my concern
11 was.

12 MR. JOYCE: That's what I was
13 thinking it was at first, too, but it's not
14 parking meters. I think the DPW complex was
15 the first thing mentioned.

16 MR. ROGAN: Okay, and the second
17 question, I think I heard Mr. McGowan
18 correctly, the additional real estate tax
19 increase, the 68.56 percent that is not in
20 addition to the 35.89 percent, is it?

21 MR. JOYCE: No.

22 MR. ROGAN: So that would just be
23 the total amount if everything was to come
24 out.

25 MR. JOYCE: Correct.

1 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, and I'll hold
2 my comments on the agenda items as they come
3 up.

4 As many of you were, I was very
5 upset to read in the newspaper about the
6 appointment of former Commissioner Mike
7 Washo as the receiver for the Scranton
8 Parking authority. Now, I have met
9 Mr. Washo a few times, he has always been
10 very friendly and pleasant, he is a nice
11 guy, I don't have anything against him
12 personally, but I was hopeful that the
13 receiver that was appointed, and I think
14 everyone was hopeful of this, would be a
15 business professional, not somebody who is
16 entrenched in Lackawanna County politics for
17 longer than I have been alive.

18 And that is what's very frustrating
19 in seeing this appointment go through and
20 Mr. Washo knows probably all of the
21 employees at the Authority, and he may be
22 friends with some of them. You know, I was
23 very hopeful it was going to be somebody
24 from out of town. I don't know what the
25 bank was thinking because at the end of the

1 day they want to get their money, so they
2 want the Authority to be run professionally
3 as do the citizens and the members of the
4 council so that we don't have to pay that
5 debt, but it's the very frustrating.

6 I would hope that we could have
7 Mr. Washo and Mr. Scopelliti, other members
8 of the board in here for a caucus as soon as
9 possible to discuss what his plans are for
10 the Authority, and with the agreement of my
11 colleagues I would ask that we send a letter
12 requesting him to come to a meeting when it
13 can be scheduled.

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes, I agree.

16 MR. ROGAN: And another thing, and
17 I'll mention these questions when hopefully
18 he comes, I think he will, the \$100 per hour
19 salary in addition to Mr. Scopelliti's
20 salary and the other financial person's
21 salary, Mr. Renda's wife, all of the people
22 that have been put into this Authority, you
23 know, assuming Mr. Washo works a 40 hour
24 week being in charge of this Authority, he
25 is going to be making more money in a week

1 than many people make in a month or two
2 months. I think anyone out there would love
3 to make \$4,000 a week. It doesn't happen
4 and especially shouldn't happen in an
5 Authority or a business that is basically
6 bankrupt, because that's what the Authority
7 is. They are bankrupt. That's why they
8 came begging to city council looking for
9 money.

10 Also, the comments that were made in
11 the Scranton Times to the effect of, you
12 know, we have a lean operation and things
13 are being run effectively. If that was the
14 case there wouldn't have been a receiver
15 appointed in the first place. I hope that
16 they really don't believe that the residents
17 of Scranton are stupid because they are not.
18 Every single person I talked to since that
19 article ran has brought this up. How can
20 they believe, how can they expect us to
21 believe this, that this authority is being
22 run properly. It's obviously not. If it
23 was we wouldn't be discussing it right now.

24 Another thing, I firmly believe that
25 not other penny of taxpayer dollars should

1 be given to the Scranton Parking Authority
2 until Scopelliti is fired, the finance
3 people are fired, but at the same time I
4 would hope that Mr. Washo wouldn't take out
5 the problems of the Authority on the
6 employees. Employees at the Authority by
7 and large do a good job. I haven't had one
8 complaint about a Parking Authority
9 employee, other than you get a ticket, but
10 that's their job. The employees do great
11 work and they are actually understaffed.
12 It's the management that's the problem at
13 this authority and changes need to be
14 mailed.

15 So hopefully things will move in the
16 right direction, but I, for one, and I know
17 all of you are very upset about this
18 appointment. It's another political
19 appointment. It wasn't made by the mayor
20 this time, it was made by the Courts, but
21 it's just another Lackawanna County person
22 when it should have been someone from
23 Philadelphia, New York with an MBA, you
24 know, business background, somebody who ran
25 a parking garage before privately, not a

1 former county commissioner.

2 Next, I have heard from numerous
3 residents as well as residents of the
4 Pinebrook just today at the meeting that our
5 new police chief, Chief Graziano, is doing a
6 great job. I am very glad to hear this.
7 Chief Duffy has done a lot of good for the
8 city fighting blights and crime in the
9 neighborhoods, I hope Chief Graziano would
10 do the same. I heard from some police
11 officers that morale has picked up in the
12 department so that is very good to hear and
13 I definitely look forward to meeting with
14 him, and Mr. Loscombe is not here, but I
15 know Mr. Loscombe will be working closely
16 with him as well and definitely wish him the
17 best.

18 Next, going onto another department
19 head that isn't doing a good job, again the
20 DPW. I hate to harp on it every week, but I
21 have to. Many months ago, I think it was
22 actually the beginning of spring, I
23 mentioned -- and they are not even potholes,
24 they are divots are pulling up right off on
25 Fawnwood in West Scranton, somebody put dirt

1 to fill them in, whether that was the DPW,
2 and I don't think it was, I think a private
3 resident, you know, just filled in the holes
4 on their own and residents up there are
5 telling me that when you are driving up and
6 another car is driving down they both try to
7 avoid the pothole, and it's not a pothole
8 it's a sink hole, and when both cars try to
9 avoid it, it almost causes an accident every
10 time.

11 Now, the residents up in Fawnwood
12 have very nice homes, they pay very high
13 property taxes, and this is six months that
14 the DPW director couldn't get somebody up
15 there to fix a hole.

16 Next, again with the DPW last week,
17 I believe it was last week or two weeks ago
18 I mentioned potholes on Division Street.
19 Schools are going to be back in soon.
20 School buses run on this street. There are
21 very large holes. A resident called at
22 least eight times to the DPW before he even
23 contacted city council and they can't get
24 any results, so I was very encouraged two
25 weeks when Mr. McGoff -- or, actually,

1 Mrs. Krake read off a list of responses we
2 received back from the DPW, I was very happy
3 thinking, well, maybe they are finally going
4 to get this stack of work when we need, but
5 as much as I would like to and as much as we
6 all would like to, we can't drive down to
7 the DPW and take a truck and fill the
8 potholes, although, it would make our jobs
9 much easier at times.

10 I'm hopeful these will be fixed,
11 especially, you know, six months to get a
12 hole fixed is completely unacceptable and
13 also, you know, school buses will be running
14 again soon so they absolutely need to be
15 fixed.

16 Two other requests that were
17 mentioned, Mrs. Krake, and I'll e-mail all
18 of these to you tomorrow, the East Market
19 Street bridge, I haven't heard anything on
20 that and maybe the DPW director has, and
21 also the stealing of the stop sign on the
22 corner of Depot Street and Wayside Drive,
23 whether it's kids or not, but hopefully the
24 DPW can be made aware of it and the police
25 department as well so they can take a closer

1 look with that.

2 So that is all I have for tonight.
3 Actually, one more thing. Item 7-D that was
4 formerly tabled regarding the transferring
5 of the funds from police -- account for
6 police vehicles to neighborhood police
7 patrol to curb cuts and road paving, the
8 reason this money is being transferred is
9 because the city is ineligible to be used
10 this year. When the mayor cut police
11 staffing, when it's cut below a certain
12 level you can't use federal funds to
13 increase it, we can only use federal funds
14 to increase the current compliment of police
15 officers, so at least the money will be used
16 and put to good use cleaning up the streets
17 and the neighborhoods, and that is all I
18 have for now and I'll comment on agenda
19 items as they come up. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
21 Councilman Joyce, do you have any comments
22 motions?

23 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I do. To begin
24 tonight I'm going to address the recovery
25 plan. I have received several questions

1 regarding the plan over the past two weeks
2 and hopefully this will help the public in
3 understanding the recovery plan a little bit
4 more or what it's about or some of the
5 repercussions of not having a plan at all.

6 One of the questions was why does
7 the city need a tax increase in the first
8 place especially since the city is not
9 increasing the services? There are several
10 reasons why a tax increase is need to cover
11 expenses.

12 To begin, first we have a \$17
13 million Supreme Court award to pay to the
14 firefighters and police officers which was
15 caused by Mayor Doherty taking the advice of
16 DCED and fighting against the police and
17 fire unions for years. The debt service
18 that this will cost is outstanding. To
19 note, if it we are not for the efforts of
20 some city council members and the
21 administration to negotiate with the unions
22 recently, this award could have been in the
23 range of 30 to 35 million dollars
24 respectively.

25 Secondly, in addition to that, the

1 MMO, minimum municipal obligation, that the
2 city must towards police, fire and
3 non-uniform pension plans for the city
4 employees will be increasing by \$5.1 million
5 per year in renege 2013, 2014 and 2015 as
6 per a study conducted by Thomas Anderson.

7 This \$5.1 million per year increase
8 is a large hit to the city. If you could
9 look at what this would cost the city alone
10 as far as the tax increase, for very 1
11 percent in tax increase it's equivalent to
12 \$139,000, so you could only imagine what a
13 \$5.1 million extra expense will due to the
14 city. It's very, very -- it's a very large
15 hit.

16 Third, salaries are rising. As one
17 knows, prior to Court decisions the fire and
18 police force in Scranton did not receive a
19 raise in ten years. After Court decisions,
20 the fire and police force in Scranton were
21 awarded raises which were retroactive,
22 therefore, the costs of the fire and police
23 force is higher than in years past and will
24 continue to rise in 2013, '14 and '15.

25 Other unionized workers such as DPW

1 and clerical unions will also receive raises
2 in 2013, '14 and '15 and these are all
3 contractually negotiated. There is nothing
4 we can do it about that.

5 Fourth, health insurance costs are
6 rising. Though fire and police unions will
7 be contributing to their health insurance as
8 well as the DPW and clerical unions along
9 with management, as they have been, the cost
10 of health care is rising at a rate of
11 somewhere in the realm of 9 percent per
12 year, as per PEL's data.

13 Fifth, the Scranton Parking
14 Authority, according to the operating
15 agreement, will continue to need funding
16 assistance of the city per their operating
17 agreement in which the city guarantees their
18 full faith and credit by their taxing powers
19 to cover the Scranton Parking Authority
20 debt.

21 Because of reckless borrowing by the
22 Scranton Parking Authority that has caused
23 the Authority to borrow more money than they
24 can pay, the city is on the hook for
25 approximately \$2 million per year.

1 Sixth, beginning in mid-2014, the
2 city will be required to pay the salaries of
3 firefighters being paid by the SAFER grant
4 at the current time. This is expected to
5 cost the city \$700,000 in 2014, and \$1.5
6 million in 2015 to keep our fire department
7 staffed at the same level it's currently
8 staffed at now, and that's just to keep it
9 where it is.

10 Another question that I received
11 over the past two weeks pertained to whether
12 or not it would just be better for the city
13 to go bankrupt. I have received a few
14 e-mails and they have said, well, at this
15 point the city is so far gone why isn't the
16 city just going bankrupt? The short answer
17 to is it better for the city to go bankrupt
18 is, no. Those some have discussed that the
19 city going bankrupt is the only way out, it
20 is really not. If the city were to go
21 bankrupt, a receiver would be appointed. At
22 that point, the decision making powers of
23 the administration and the Scranton City
24 Council will be a moot point.

25 Basically, the administration and

1 Scranton City Council would lose it's say in
2 what happened with the city. An appointed
3 receiver would be given the discretion to
4 dictate the future of the city, which means
5 that a receiver could simply increase your
6 taxes at will. A municipal bankruptcy is
7 not the answer to getting rid of the
8 municipal debt that's Scranton has.

9 Unlike a personal bankruptcy, the
10 debt does simply not go away. In fact,
11 after researching further into municipal
12 bankruptcies, there has not been one case
13 where a municipal bankruptcy has been
14 forgiven on its debt. So I'm generally
15 saying that if a municipality were to go
16 bankrupt, it doesn't mean that the bonds or
17 the loans that the municipality has just
18 simply go away, they are still required to
19 be paid.

20 In addition to this, a municipal
21 bankruptcy would destroy the city's credit
22 rating and jeopardize the city's borrowing
23 power in the future for unnecessary tax
24 anticipation notes, which are used on a
25 year-by-year basis to keep the city afloat

1 until tax revenues are realized in the
2 beginning of the year for each year.

3 A third question that was asked of
4 me over the past week was why we simply
5 can't privatize refuse collection and
6 eliminate a garbage fee which is \$178 per
7 year. The first reason that we can't do
8 this immediately is due to the fact that the
9 DPW contract does not expire until the end
10 of 2013, meaning that we cannot privatize
11 until 2014.

12 In addition to this, I have
13 researched other surrounding communities.
14 In other communities where refuse collection
15 is privatized, fees to pick up garbage is
16 much higher on an annual basis and in some
17 communities the cost to pick up garbage is
18 about \$3 per bag. Therefore, if one were to
19 take the average family who has two bags of
20 garbage on average the cost to pick up
21 garbage would be \$6 per week. \$6 per week
22 multiplied by 52 weeks in a year equates to
23 \$312.

24 With this being said, in this
25 scenario the average family would end up

1 paying more than the garbage fee every year
2 even if they only had two bags of garbage
3 per week. If a family had three bags of
4 garbage per week at an average of \$3 per,
5 bag this would equate to \$9 per week. When
6 multiplying this by 52 weeks it would equate
7 to \$468 per year.

8 Both scenarios would equate to an
9 average family or person for that matter
10 actually paying more for garbage pick up
11 than the current city fee.

12 A fourth question that was asked to
13 me it why we can't just privatize the Sewer
14 Authority. The answer to this is very
15 complex. First of all, many requirements
16 would have to be agreed upon for this to
17 happen. For instance, the mayor would have
18 to approve to privatize the Sewer Authority
19 which we currently do not have.

20 In addition to this, the board of
21 the Scranton Sewer Authority would have to
22 agree to dissolve the Authority and sell it
23 themselves, which we currently do not have
24 since they are all the mayor's appointees.

25 Third, we would then need to get the

1 agreement of Dunmore to dissolve the
2 Authority, which would be an unknown as to
3 whether or not we would get it or not.

4 Fourth, there are many mandates that
5 need to be made under the Chesapeake Bay
6 federal mandates that the Scranton Sewer
7 Authority is currently making. The cost of
8 these mandates is extremely high which is
9 the reason that sewer rates have been on the
10 rise by the Authority. If the Sewer
11 Authority was sold, sewer rates could rise
12 by an even greater amount.

13 Fifth, the sale of the Scranton
14 Sewer Authority would not bring a windfall
15 of cash that would be needed to cover all
16 expenses. In the past when the Sewer
17 Authority was sold, the city only received
18 \$5 million in upfront money which would only
19 put a dent into the projected three year
20 deficit before mandates of over \$41 million.

21 Fifth, a question was asked to me
22 why does the city even need a Recovery Plan
23 in the first place? In response to this
24 question, the city needs a Recovery Plan
25 because lending institutions are now

1 requiring it in order to provide financing
2 to the city. In meetings that I have
3 attended with local lending institutions in
4 the past PEL has been present. In these
5 meetings PEL has stressed the importance of
6 a revised recovery plan as being met with
7 the assurances that the city could pay them
8 back. Because of PEL's persuasion, a
9 revised recovery plan is being required by
10 just about all lending institutions that the
11 city is dealing with at the current time.

12 At this point in time without a
13 revised recovery plan, the city would not be
14 able to secure budgeted financing. This
15 would mean that the city would basically
16 fall into an abyss. Employees would not be
17 paid, debt services obligations would not be
18 paid and we would default and the city most
19 likely would not be able to secure any type
20 of financing that it needs to in the future.

21 As one knows, a revised recovery
22 plan that was jointly constructed by the
23 administration and members of council was
24 constructed and voted on for introduction at
25 the August 2 Scranton City Council meeting.

1 Also as one knows, PEL had raised some
2 concerns regarding the revised recovery plan
3 and rejected the plan in its current state,
4 thus, requiring several revisions to be
5 made. There were several changes to the
6 revised recovery plan by the administration
7 over the past two weeks. These changes
8 were-- all the changes made were primarily
9 made by the administration to accommodate
10 PEL's requirements.

11 To begin, the changes made to the
12 revised recovery plan by the administration
13 are as follows:

14 Number one, first, the baseline
15 projection of operating revenue was changed
16 from \$61,226,437 to \$61,736,457 in 2013.
17 This is primarily due to the Geisinger
18 expansion project that they wish to
19 undertake as Mr. McGowan mentioned earlier.

20 Subsequently, the baseline
21 projection of operating revenue was changed
22 from \$62,226,457 to \$60,986,457 i n 2014.
23 Along with this baseline projection, the
24 operating revenue was changed from
25 \$63,226,457 to \$61,132,824 in 2016.

1 Secondly, the baseline projection of
2 all operating expenses changed from
3 \$62,738,986 to \$63,746,788 in 2013.

4 Subsequently the baseline projection
5 of operating expenses changed from
6 \$70,983,614 to \$71,983,614 in 2014. Along
7 with this, the baseline projection of
8 operating expenses changed from \$71,540,569
9 to \$72,532,596 in 2015.

10 This was primarily due to the rise
11 in operating expenses is due to the fact
12 that the revised recovery plan calls for
13 refinancing in 2013 and in 2014 with the
14 Supreme Court award and other debt service
15 requirements there would be extra expenses
16 in terms of debt service.

17 After changes to the baseline
18 projections for revenue and expenditures,
19 the current year deficit before mandates
20 changed by the administration to \$2,019,331
21 in 2013. For the same reason, the
22 administration changed the current year
23 deficit before mandates to \$10,997,157 in
24 2014; and \$11,399,7721 in 2015.

25 Overall, the total deficit before

1 mandates in cash outflows was reported as
2 \$41,577,469 by the administration.

3 Third, the current year deficit
4 changed from \$4,825,937 to \$7,725,937. The
5 reason why this changed was to due to the
6 city not being able to refinance debts soon
7 enough to maximize the full savings involved
8 in the refinancing, which was originally
9 dictated by Mayor Doherty and business
10 administrator Ryan McGowan to be \$6.4
11 million.

12 Fourth, the amount of unfunded
13 borrowing was increased for this year due to
14 the fact that the city did not refinance
15 debt in time to maximize the full \$6.4
16 million savings that could have been
17 realized by refinancing earlier in the year.

18 Fifth, the DCED grant was changed by
19 the administration of \$250,000 to \$750,000.
20 In meeting with business administrator Ryan
21 McGowan, Mayor Doherty and Councilwoman
22 Evans, Mayor Doherty expressed that he was
23 going to petition DCED to make the grant
24 that they were offering \$750,000 rather than
25 \$250,000.

1 In speaking yesterday with Ryan
2 McGowan, he expressed that the city would
3 still be receiving \$2.25 million from the
4 state except that instead of paying back \$1
5 million the city would pay back \$500,000
6 instead.

7 Sixth, the commuter tax revenue
8 projections for 2013 was decreased from \$4
9 million to \$2.5 million. It was a
10 requirement of the PEL that the projections
11 for the commuter tax be reduced for year one
12 due to the lag that can occur in the
13 collection of this new tax.

14 Seven. Projections for the
15 repayment of the unfunded borrowing from
16 2011 was changed by the administration from
17 \$2.1 million to \$1.8 million for 2013, 2014
18 and 2015. This projection was confirmed as
19 appropriate by PEL because in speaking with
20 Ryan McGowan he also stated that since we
21 wouldn't be looking to borrow from the
22 pension fund we would be looking at
23 obtaining a lower interest rate.

24 Eighth, the projection for the
25 repayment of the unfunded debt from 2012 was

1 changed from \$882,981 to \$1,050,000 for 2013
2 and 2014. This was due to the city not
3 being able to refinance debt soon enough to
4 maximize the full savings that could have
5 been realized this year.

6 Ninth, the additional firefighters'
7 line was changed by the administration to
8 \$700,000 in 2014, and \$1.5 million in 2015.
9 This figure was determined to be okay by
10 PEL. As to the costs the city will incur to
11 maintain the amount of firefighters that we
12 have now after the SAFER grant ceases.

13 Ten. The increase to the MMO was
14 changed from \$5.5 to \$5.1 million.
15 According to a study by Tom Sanderson who
16 calculates the MMO for the city employees'
17 pensions, it was determined that the MMO
18 increase would be \$5.1 million in 2013 and
19 2014. We will not know of the increase to
20 the MMO in 2015 until 2014 occurs, since
21 they only do it on a two-year period.

22 However, it was estimated by the
23 administration that the MMO increase would
24 still be \$5.1 million higher than it is now.
25 Overall after all changes were made the tax

1 increases were changed by the
2 administration. If the sale's tax is
3 realized and passed by the legislature to
4 11.91 percent in 2013, which is a
5 court-ordered tax increase associated with
6 unfunded borrowing that was approved by the
7 Court of Common Pleas in 2011, a 9.63
8 percent tax increase in 2014, and a 14.34
9 percent tax increase in 2015. And that's
10 all I have tonight.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman
12 Joyce. Good evening. Earlier this week
13 Councilman Joyce and I met with State
14 Senator John Blake to discuss the pressing
15 financial issues facing our city and its
16 people and to enlist his help.

17 Unfortunately, Senator Blake is
18 unable to assist Scranton in the short-term
19 since the Senate does not return to session
20 until September 24 and thereafter very few
21 legislative dates remain during the Fall of
22 2012.

23 In addition, Republican legislators
24 stated recently that he will entertain no
25 legislation following the forthcoming

1 November election. Rather, they prefer to
2 use those valuable weeks for what is termed
3 housekeeping duties.

4 Nevertheless, Senator Blake will
5 research the new taxes proposed by city
6 government among other revenue generators
7 and will pursue the financial relief for
8 Scranton and support from colleagues and
9 related groups that share our financial
10 burdens in the long-term.

11 We also discussed municipal
12 bankruptcy with Senator Blake. He firmly
13 believes that it is not an option for our
14 city and we should do whatever is necessary
15 to survive the current short-term financial
16 crisis.

17 Further, he stated that no city that
18 entered bankruptcy to his knowledge has ever
19 escaped full payment of bonds and that the
20 Pennsylvania Courts are quite different than
21 those of California in which three cities
22 recently declared bankruptcy.

23 Additionally, Senator Blake warned
24 against the long-term consequences of
25 bankruptcy, particularly, the resulting loss

1 of city services. Legacy costs, court
2 decisions and tax exempt properties have
3 entrapped our city in a financially confined
4 space. However, Senator Blake feels the
5 shackles could be removed with state
6 legislation. Unfortunately, this is a
7 long-term solution which doesn't address the
8 immediate problems.

9 Further, the longer a city remains
10 distressed the more power appears to be
11 given over to the state. According to
12 Senator Blake, this is a distortion of the
13 intention of the Act 47 as the state power
14 should diminish in time, yet, DCED and PEL
15 appear to exercise an ever growing grip on
16 Scranton, one that has nearly destroyed our
17 city.

18 Next, I wish to comment on the
19 latest newspaper articles concerning the
20 appointment of a receiver and the Scranton
21 Parking Authority board meeting. Scranton
22 City Council had neither input nor knowledge
23 of the appointment of Mr. Washo as a
24 receiver.

25 Rather, we had been hoping for the

1 appointment of an independent individual or
2 firm from outside Lackawanna County or even
3 the state. The announcement was a colossal
4 a surprise to council as it was to city
5 residents. Nevertheless, Mr. Washo has a
6 weighty burden on his shoulders to restore
7 public confidence in the Scranton Parking
8 Authority and we wish him well.

9 The Parking Authority has been
10 anything but a bare bones operation. It was
11 not until after the June 1, 2012, default
12 that Mr. Scopelliti's \$150 monthly car
13 expenses were cut, bloated management
14 salaries were reduced, and the former SPA's
15 solicitors clear conflict of interest
16 mandated his replacement.

17 Further, the SPA failed to cure the
18 four or five events of default by the July
19 9, 2012, deadline and thereby placing it into
20 receivership. To date, it still has no 2012
21 budget. Because the 2011 approved and
22 amended budget was violated and the 2012
23 budget presented to the city council was
24 neither approved nor adopted.

25 These budgets appear to be cursory

1 at best and an attempt to obfuscate
2 financial information at worst. If the
3 board members had serious doubts or
4 reservations concerning the ability of the
5 parking garages to meet financial
6 obligations, they could have and should have
7 voted against construction of new garages.

8 When this \$35 million borrowing was
9 brought before city council, I had the
10 financial sense to vote "no" and insist that
11 the owners of the Connell building construct
12 the adjacent garage at their own cost.

13 In addition, free parking spaces in
14 various garages should never have been doled
15 out. Therefore, I don't believe that any
16 city funds should be used to make SPA bond
17 payments while the current management team
18 remains employed. Under such circumstances,
19 the garage will need to be sold to drive
20 down debt and interest payments. The city
21 cannot afford to support this mess as it
22 currently stands. A professional operator
23 should be hired.

24 And finally, I have citizens'
25 requests for the week: The area under the

1 bridge on Luzerne Street between Meridian
2 and Railroad Avenues was not cleaned. I
3 visited the site this week and noticed
4 bottles and garbage strewn throughout the
5 area and dirt covered half the sidewalks on
6 the left side traveling down from Meridian
7 Avenue.

8 In addition, a large "No Parking"
9 sign is broken and lying in the dirt.
10 Please address as soon as possible.

11 Residents of the 500 block of
12 Schultz Court wish to know when the
13 condemned buildings in the court are
14 scheduled for demolition since they were
15 informed that the work would be performed
16 this summer. Please provide city council
17 with the date on or before August 23, 2012.
18 And that's it.

19 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I
20 could just since the Scranton Parking
21 Authority was mentioned I'd like to chirp in
22 on two things. One issue that Mr. Washo has
23 no control over is the cooperation between
24 the city and the Scranton Parking Authority
25 which is whereby they employ the meter

1 people, we reimburse the Parking Authority
2 for the payroll and the Parking Authority
3 gets 10 percent of all revenues collected.
4 That is not in the consent order because
5 that was never a contract, it was pledged to
6 the trustee on any of the bond issues.

7 I have been informed that the 10
8 percent management fee that the Scranton
9 Parking Authority has been assigned to
10 Landmark Bank to pay the note that the
11 Scranton Parking Authority has. I believe
12 that the amount of the 10 percent, I'll call
13 it the vig, that the Scranton Parking
14 Authority gets is around \$100,000 a year and
15 now that Mr. Washo would have control of all
16 of the revenues of the Parking Authority,
17 except the money that the Parking Authority
18 gets from the city, 10 percent on what's
19 collected, the Parking Authority will remain
20 in business. Of course, they could use that
21 10 percent to pay salaries and payroll of
22 Mr. Scopelliti and other people.

23 I would suggest that council review
24 the cooperation agreement. There is a
25 clause in there that you can terminate this

1 agreement within 30 days, that we look at it
2 to terminate that agreement which would mean
3 that all of the meter people would have to
4 come back on the city payroll, we are paying
5 for them anyway, and that comes out of the
6 parking revenue that -- from the meters.

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MR. HUGHES: I think that this
9 should be looked at, and I'm recommending
10 that council look at it and determine if
11 that cooperation agreement should be
12 terminated and the meter people be brought
13 back as employees of the city, where it
14 would go in the budget and how the budget
15 would be amended, that would all have to be
16 in the ordinance terminating the cooperation
17 agreement. That's my recommendation on that
18 and I think that, you know, take some time
19 to look at it and consider what to do. I'll
20 draft the legislation on that to terminate
21 that agreement and bring all of those people
22 back, all those employees back in-house.

23 MS. EVANS: Very good.

24 MR. HUGHES: The second thing, and I
25 don't have the paper so I'm going here from

1 memory, I read with interest Mr. Tunis'
2 comments that were in the paper this morning
3 regarding the Scranton Parking Authority
4 meeting last night, that the SPA relied upon
5 consultants, feasibility studies, regarding
6 the financing -- the financially solvency of
7 each of the garage projects and that they
8 had sufficient projected revenues to pay the
9 operating expenses and amortize the debt
10 services.

11 I would recommend that council
12 direct a letter be written, I don't know who
13 the chairman of the Parking Authority is, I
14 know Mr. Tunis he is an attorney, he is a
15 board member, that we write a letter to the
16 SPA to have them furnish to council all
17 feasibility studies that the SPA had and
18 relied upon for the financing of the new
19 garages in the 100 block of Adams Avenue
20 next to the Hilton Hotel and the new garage
21 at the corner of Adams and Lackawanna. I
22 don't know the names of the garage. I don't
23 know if they're the Medallion and the Casey
24 garbage, but everybody knows the garages I'm
25 talking about it, and also the new garage in

1 the 100 block of Washington Avenue next to
2 the Connell building, all of those
3 feasibility studies, and also any
4 feasibility studies that they had regarding
5 any refinancing. I don't know when these
6 bond issues, if there was refinancing of the
7 existing bonds that were rolled into the
8 financing of these new garages.

9 They say they relied on these
10 feasibility studies that they were accurate,
11 well, if they are, why is there a \$2 million
12 hole so that we could take a look at them
13 and there is -- I don't know who did them,
14 but there might be a legal liability here
15 for the city to file the lawsuit. That's
16 going to be a question whether or not --
17 it's the city is the guarantor of those
18 bonds, I believe we would have standing to
19 file a lawsuit to sue any consultant that
20 provided these studies if they are not
21 accurate.

22 This is not an easy lawsuit, but if
23 as Attorney O'Brien said that the city is on
24 the hook for \$2 million for the next 23
25 years that's \$46 million, I certainly think

1 that somebody should be taking a serious
2 look as to who did these feasibility studies
3 and how they were done, whether they are
4 accurate, and if they are not litigation
5 should be instituted.

6 MS. EVANS: And thank you, Attorney
7 Hughes. Mr. Krake, if you can confer with
8 our solicitor tomorrow and draft and send
9 that letter on behalf of Scranton City
10 Council, please.

11 MS. KRAKE: Yes. 5-B. ORDINANCE OF
12 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
13 PENNSYLVANIA APPOINTING W. BOYD HUGHES,
14 ESQUIRE AND PAUL A. KELLY, JR., ESQUIRE AS
15 SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND
16 CASECON CAPITAL, INC. AS CO-FINANCIAL
17 ADVISOR TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON ON THE
18 ISSUANCE AND PLACEMENT OF ANY BONDS, NOTES
19 OR FINANCING OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S
20 UNFUNDED DEBT OR REFINANCING OR REFUNDING OF
21 ANY OF THE CITY'S OUTSTANDING BOND ISSUES
22 AND 2012 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE B AND
23 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
24 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH
25 CASECON CAPITAL, INC.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

13 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AUTHORIZING THE
14 DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FROM SCRANTON'S OFFICE
15 OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UDAG
16 REPAYMENT CHECKING ACCOUNT NO. 56- 202174-9
17 ENTITLED URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT
18 REPAYMENT ACCOUNT, SAID FUNDS TO BE UTILIZED
19 FOR FINAL PAYMENTS DUE AND OWING WITH
20 RESPECT TO WORK PERFORMED REGARDING THE
21 CRISP AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. AUTHORIZING THE
10 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
11 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A
12 GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PENNSYLVANIA
13 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND THE SCRANTON
14 POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE FEDERAL FISCAL
15 YEAR (FFY) 2009 BUFFER ZONE PROTECTION
16 PROGRAM AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING IN THE
17 AMOUNT OF \$27,685.91.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. AUTHORIZING THE
6 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
7 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A DESIGN AND
8 CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES CONTRACT
9 WITH REILLY ASSOCIATES TO PROVIDE DESIGN AND
10 CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE
11 CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE PROJECT ENTITLED:
12 "RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CITY STREETS TO
13 INCLUDE HANDICAPPED CURB CUTS".

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

1 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
2 READING BY TITLE – FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 50,
3 2012 – AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
4 COUNCIL NO. 56, 2011, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
5 “GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2012” BY
6 TRANSFERRING \$178,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
7 01.401.13090.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL
8 OPERATING EXPENSES – CONTINGENCY) TO THE
9 ACCOUNTS LISTED BELOW TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR
10 LIFE/DISABILITY INSURANCE PAYMENTS THROUGH
11 THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2012.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
15 pass reading by title.

16 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

23 MR. JOYCE: I would like to make a
24 motion to take File of Council No. 49, 2012,
25 from the table.

1 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
9 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 49, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE
10 (PREVIOUSLY TABLED) - AMENDING THE REVISED
11 RECOVERY PLAN FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON
12 PURSUANT TO THE FINANCIALLY DISTRESSED
13 MUNICIPALITIES ACT; AND AUTHORIZING THE
14 MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ISSUE AN
15 ORDER DIRECTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
16 REVISED RECOVERY PLAN DATED AUGUST 1, 2012
17 ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A" IN ACCORDANCE
18 WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 245 OF
19 THE FINANCIALLY DISTRESSED MUNICIPALITIES
20 ACT.

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

23 MR. JOYCE: I move that Item 6-B
24 pass reading by title.

25 MS. EVANS: Second. On the

1 question?

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I think I made my
3 opinions on the plan clear two weeks ago.
4 I'll just vote on it I guess.

5 All those in favor signify by saying
6 aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

9 MR. ROGAN: No.

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

12 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
13 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
14 COMMUNITY
15 DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 35,
16 2012 - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
17 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
18 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
19 APPROPRIATENESS FOR POCONO SIGN & GRAPHIC,
20 1147 THE HIDEOUT, LAKE ARIEL, PENNSYLVANIA
21 FOR REMOVAL OF EXISTING AWNING COVER AND
22 INSTALLATION OF NEW, BLACK SYNTHETIC VINYL
23 MATERIAL AWNING WITH VINYL LETTERING, WITH
24 NO CHANGE TO THE FRAME DIMENSION, HEIGHT AND
25 LOCATION SPECIFICATIONS AT 410 SPRUCE

1 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

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

8 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
19 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
20 FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 36, 2012 -
21 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
22 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
23 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
24 APPROPRIATENESS FOR POCONO SIGN & GRAPHIC,
25 1147 THE HIDEOUT, LAKE ARIEL, PENNSYLVANIA

1 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A CUSTOM MADE,
2 DOUBLE-SIDED, SANDBLASTED AND CARVED HDU
3 SIGN PANEL, 48"H X 42"W X2", MOUNTED ON A
4 CUSTOM WROUGHT IRON BRACKET WITH BRASS END
5 CAPS AT 410 SPRUCE STREET, SCRANTON,
6 PENNSYLVANIA.

7 MS. EVANS: What is the
8 recommendation of the Chair for the
9 Committee on Community Development?

10 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
11 Committee on Community Development, I
12 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

19 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
24 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
25 FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 37, 2012 -

1 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
2 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
3 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
4 APPROPRIATENESS FOR POCONO SIGN & GRAPHIC,
5 1147 THE HIDEOUT, LAKE ARIEL, PENNSYLVANIA
6 FOR REMOVAL OF EXISTING AWNING COVER AND
7 INSTALLATION OF NEW, BLACK SYNTHETIC VINYL
8 MATERIAL AWNING, WITH LOGO IN SHADES OF
9 GREEN AND WHITE, WITH NO CHANGE TO THE FRAME
10 DIMENSION, HEIGHT AND LOCATION
11 SPECIFICATIONS AT 406 SPRUCE STREET,
12 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
17 Committee on Community Development, I
18 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

19 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

25 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make a
5 motion to take File of Council No. 48, 2012,
6 from the table.

7 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
15 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
16 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 48,
17 2012 (PREVIOUSLY TABLED) - AMENDING FILE OF
18 COUNCIL NO. 83, 2009, FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
19 40, 2010 AND FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 53, 2011
20 ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE
21 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE
22 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
23 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
24 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
25 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE

1 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
2 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)
3 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)
4 PROGRAM" BY TRANSFERRING \$480,320.84 FROM
5 THE NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE PATROL, 10-96,
6 NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE PATROL, 11-96, AND
7 NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE PATROL VEHICLES, 11-96.2
8 TO PROJECT 12-04 RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND
9 HANDICAP CURB CUTS.

10 MS. EVANS: What is the
11 recommendation of the Chair for the
12 Committee on Community Development?

13 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
14 Committee on Community Development, I
15 recommend final passage of Item 7-D.

16 MR. JOYCE: Second.

17 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
18 call, please?

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

22 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

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

MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVANS: This meeting is
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
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