

1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
2 PUBLIC HEARING

3  
4 IN RE: FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 56, 2012, AUTHORIZING  
5 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY  
6 OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT  
7 THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND  
8 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY  
9 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CDBG PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT  
10 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM, AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS  
11 GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1,  
12 2013.

13  
14 HELD:

15 Thursday, February 5, 2011

16  
17 LOCATION:

18 Council Chambers  
19 Scranton City Hall  
20 340 North Washington Avenue  
21 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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24 CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
25 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce. Mrs.  
10 Evans.

11 MS. EVANS: Here. Notice is hereby  
12 given that Scranton City Council will hold a  
13 public hearing on Thursday, September 20,  
14 2012, at 6:15 p.m. in council chambers,  
15 second floor municipal building, 340 North  
16 Washington Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania.  
17 The purpose of said public hearing is to  
18 hear testimony and discuss the following:

19 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 56, 2012,  
20 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
21 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE  
22 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE  
23 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY  
24 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE  
25 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

1 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT  
2 PARTNERSHIP, (HOME) PROGRAM, AND EMERGENCY  
3 SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD  
4 BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2013.

5 Our first speaker is Ozzie Quinn.

6 MR. QUINN: Good evening.

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Scranton  
9 Taxpayers' Association. I want to pick up  
10 where I left off last week and the first  
11 reading of the CDBG before the council in  
12 regard to the housing rehabilitation in the  
13 City of Scranton. After that I spoke to  
14 Linda and she sent me a -- Linda Aebli, the  
15 executive director, and I said, "Hi, Linda.  
16 I wish you would address the citywide  
17 housing rehab using CDBG funds only at next  
18 week's public hearing. When was the last  
19 time CDBG funds were sent aside for programs  
20 formerly operated in city hall, not HOME or  
21 ESG for emergency repairs, CDBG."

22 She said, "I looked back in our HUD  
23 financial system, and the 2000 allocation  
24 was for a single family CDBG," this is for  
25 Habitat for Humanity."

1 Well, that was Mayor Connors and I  
2 was the executive director of Habitat then,  
3 but that wasn't for rehab, it was for new  
4 housing and it was funded for single family  
5 homes. She says, "It is very misleading to  
6 indicate to the public that the City of  
7 Scranton does not have a housing rehab  
8 program. The city has a very active single  
9 family rehab program citywide along with a  
10 lead program. The only difference is --"  
11 now, get this, get this, Mr. McGoff -- "we  
12 use HOME funding."

13 This program has not changed except  
14 for funds being utilized to the HOME program  
15 and HOME funding can only be used for it,  
16 okay. Also, lead paint. "I hope this  
17 answers your question."

18 She says, "OECD did appropriate  
19 \$300,000 in 2013 for Lackawanna County  
20 Neighbors for citywide," and she said they  
21 appropriated in 2012 \$225,000 for Lackawanna  
22 Neighbors. Now, you don't have to be a  
23 rocket scientist to know why they are  
24 demolishing all these buildings because  
25 people can't afford it. They have problems,

1           their porches are falling off, they need  
2           roofing, they need heating repairs, all of  
3           these things and there is no money available  
4           and every city, as I said before, is an  
5           entitlement city throughout the United  
6           States and I would say up to 20 percent  
7           under CDBG grant each year is given towards  
8           housing rehabilitation. When I housing  
9           rehabilitation I mean contiguous, block by  
10          block by block. Not a buckshot approach,  
11          one up here and two in South Side. Do you  
12          understand what I mean?

13                   And it's really ashamed when you say,  
14           I say \$50 million, I would say that they--  
15           since Mayor Doherty took office he had used  
16           the CDBG only, okay, and none for only with  
17           the one point. I mean, the 1 percent. Last  
18           week I said to Mr. McGoff 10 percent. I  
19           correct myself, 1 percent. 1 percent. Yet  
20           10 percent or 20 percent or \$10 million was  
21           given for administration, salaries,  
22           benefits, supplies, office space down at the  
23           Scranton Life Building, okay?

24                   Now, what I'm asking for here  
25           tonight is we cannot continually see our

1 housing be demolished, okay? 61 percent,  
2 according to the census, was built prior to  
3 1939 or earlier, okay? Now, there is  
4 \$34,641 units, okay? 30,0699 occupied.  
5 17,190 family, okay, so that means that 61  
6 percent, okay?

7 What I'm asking for, Mrs. Evans and  
8 members of city council and Mr. Rogan you  
9 are with the OECD, is to put \$5,000, \$5,000  
10 set aside for next year for a housing  
11 rehabilitation, outside housing  
12 rehabilitation consultant to command and  
13 show city hall OECD how they can organize a  
14 housing rehabilitation program that is a  
15 comprehensive throughout the city before we  
16 can completely demolish all of our homes  
17 built before 1939. Thank you very much.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Marie Schumacher.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher,  
22 city resident and taxpayer. I will be brief  
23 because I only have two things tonight on  
24 this particular budget request, but the  
25 first one is I know until fairly recently I

1 always thought all of these nonprofits went  
2 out and raised money and did all kinds of  
3 good things and they helped people, but it  
4 turns out very many of them get all of the  
5 funding from the government or not -- over  
6 90 percent, so I would have a request that  
7 maybe Mr. Rogan can get with Ms. Aebli and  
8 ask her or otherwise let me know if she  
9 would prefer I do it because I can certainly  
10 look up the 990's and see, but I think that  
11 all of these people should be out raising  
12 some money on their own, otherwise, they are  
13 just quasi-government departments, so I  
14 would really like that information before  
15 the vote comes up on I believe you said it  
16 was the 25th of October, Mrs. Evans, on what  
17 the percentage of each are.

18 But the real thing I'd like to do is  
19 ask that a portion of the half a million  
20 dollars that's set aside for economic  
21 development be used to help seniors 65 and  
22 over and disabled vets with the tax  
23 increases that are going to be levied.  
24 There are 25 -- at least as of last year  
25 about this time, there were 25,813 taxable



1 properties, so 70 percent, I read in the  
2 paper, this I have not verified, but I'm  
3 taking it that the paper knows what they are  
4 talking about, that 70 percent pay less than  
5 \$500 and, therefore, the 12 percent for 2013  
6 would only be \$180,420 according to my  
7 calculation to give seniors 65 and over who  
8 live in their own home and make under a  
9 certain amount or maybe even all of them  
10 keep their taxes stable at last year's rate  
11 and use some of this economic development to  
12 suck up the raise because I think it's a  
13 true economic development issue if a lot of  
14 seniors are forced out of their homes, then  
15 again, what Mr. Quinn talked about you are  
16 going to have a lot more blight. We know  
17 properties are not selling in Scranton and a  
18 lot are going on the market and the more  
19 that go up the more blight you create and  
20 the more houses of crime and drugs that tax  
21 our public services, so I think it would be  
22 an excellent use and for economic  
23 development purposes to help the seniors  
24 that need help. Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 (While Ms. Schumacher was speaking  
2 Mr. Joyce joins the caucus.)

3 MR. QUINN: Can I hand these to  
4 Jamie?

5 THE COURT: Is there anyone else who  
6 would like to address council? This public  
7 hearing is adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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2  
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the  
5 notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the  
6 above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true  
7 and correct transcript of the same to the best of my  
8 ability.

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12 CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
13 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER  
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