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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, October 4, 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
(Not present.)

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe. Mr.
9 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 APPLICATIONS ALONG WITH DECISIONS RENDERED
16 BY THE ZONING HEARING BOARD ON WEDNESDAY,
17 SEPTEMBER 19, 2012.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. DISTRIBUTED FUNDS
21 COMPARISON FROM THE SINGLE TAX OFFICE FOR
22 2011 AND 2012.

23 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I'll elaborate more
25 on this during motions.

1 MS. EVANS: Anyone else? Document
2 is received and filed.

3 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. SUBDIVISION AND
4 LAND DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION FROM THE
5 LACKAWANNA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
6 RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 18, 2012.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
10 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST
11 22, 2012.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE CITY
15 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING TO BE HELD
16 SEPTEMBER 26, 2012.

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

19 Are there any clerk's notes this
20 evening, Mrs. Krake?

21 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any
23 council members have announcements at this
24 time?

25 MR. MCGOFF: Judge one. Just a

1 reminder that this coming Sunday is the
2 Steamtown Marathon. It starts at 8:00 in
3 Forest City. The first runners should be
4 arriving in downtown Scranton somewhere
5 around 10:00 and following up until probably
6 about 2:00, but the winner should be coming
7 across at about 10:20, 10:30, so if you
8 would like and come and see the end of the
9 race, please, come to downtown Scranton and
10 see a great event.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MR. ROGAN: I would just like to
13 comments on an article that was in the
14 newspaper. Several Scranton cops honored
15 for heroism at fire scenes, and I would just
16 like to honor them by name during the
17 meeting. It says, "Honored at the seventh
18 annual Valley Preferred Spirit of Courage
19 award, a celebration at Lehigh Valley
20 Hospital in Bethlehem and Corporals Robert
21 Staneck and Thomas McDonald and Patrolman
22 William O'Brien, Francis McLane, Chris
23 Kaushas, Joseph Kearny and Daniel
24 Schaufler."

25 So we thank them for all that they

1 have done for the community and if you read
2 either in the newspaper and I believe it was
3 on WNEP as well, the stories running into
4 burning buildings without any apparatus, any
5 safety at all, you know, just as if one of
6 us ran in right now they didn't have any
7 protective gear on as well, and they
8 certainly deserve to be honored for their
9 heroism.

10 Secondly, as Mrs. Evans mentioned
11 during the prayer, I was deeply saddened
12 with the passing of Jim Williams. He was a
13 close friend of mine. He will be missed in
14 the community. He was a great person and a
15 mentor and always stood up for what he
16 believed in and it would be a great loss to
17 the community. With that being said, with a
18 vacancy on the zoning board I urge any
19 residents who are interested to contact
20 either myself or the City Clerk's Office and
21 I will report back to my colleagues on
22 filling the remainder of Mr. Williams' term.
23 And that is all. Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Mr. Joyce?

25 MR. JOYCE: No.

1 MS. EVANS: Councilman Loscombe is
2 unable to attend tonight's meeting due to
3 illness. Solicitor is unable to attend
4 because he is recuperating from eye surgery.

5 As my colleagues stated,
6 Mr. Williams served as a dedicated member
7 and president of the Scranton Zoning Board
8 and due to his passing there is a vacancy on
9 the board that Scranton City Council must
10 appoint to complete his term. Therefore, I
11 would say we will accept letters of interest
12 to fill the position in the Office of City
13 Clerk, City Council, from Friday, October 5
14 through Monday, October 15, 2012, at 4 p.m.

15 The Scranton/Lackawanna County
16 Taxpayers' Association will meet on Tuesday,
17 October 9, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in Scranton
18 City Council chambers. Loren Cummings,
19 Republican candidate for Congress will
20 address the group. The meeting will be
21 broadcast live on Channel 19 by ECTV.

22 The Out of Darkness community walk
23 for suicide prevention will be held on
24 Saturday, October 13, at courthouse square
25 in downtown Scranton. Registration is from

1 8 to 9 a.m. and the walk program begins at 9
2 a.m. You may also register at
3 Outofthedarkness.org.

4 Saints Peter and Paul Fall Festival
5 and Bazaar will conducted on Sunday, October
6 14, from noon to 5:00 p.m. in the church
7 hall located at 1309 West Locust Street in
8 Scranton. Delicious homemade pierogi,
9 halushki, kielbasa, potato pancakes, clam
10 chowder, roast beef sandwiches and hot dogs
11 will be served and takeouts are available
12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

13 In addition, the festival features a
14 \$1,000 raffle, specialty baskets, Portuguese
15 delicacies, wheel of fortune, try your luck
16 gift certificate stand, children's corner,
17 backed good stand, and a warm welcoming
18 autumn atmosphere. Everyone is invited to
19 attend this fun-filled event, and that's it.

20 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
21 PARTICIPATION.

22 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this
23 evening is Dennis Burke.

24 MR. BURKE: Good evening, Council.

25 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

1 MR. BURKE: I have some material
2 here, if anyone is not aware of the
3 situation that I am dealing with on Lake
4 Scranton Road. If you would like to see the
5 photos I would be happy to share it with
6 you.

7 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

8 MR. BURKE: May I approach?

9 MS. EVANS: Absolutely.

10 MR. BURKE: This first photo will
11 show you the path along Lake Scranton Road,
12 and this is the road that has been created
13 and you see on the road in that photo and
14 the truck continues down. This one I would
15 say is -- (inaudible.) But these are the
16 sample photos taken from my driveway on my
17 front porch, number one, and there is a few
18 more. They were all taken on the same day.
19 Thank you. May I address counsel?

20 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

21 MS. EVANS: Yes, please.

22 MR. BURKE: I'd like to begin with a
23 somewhat twisted version of one of
24 Shakespeare's more famous lines, "I have
25 come tonight to praise Caesar, not to bury

1 him."

2 Last month after my wife and I had
3 finally reached the end of our patience and
4 tolerance we decided to publically protest
5 the overwhelming amount of truck traffic on
6 Lake Scranton road. We feared would
7 encounter all types of the bureaucratic road
8 blocks along the process. We could not have
9 been more incorrect. I am here to say thank
10 you, not to the owners of the businesses
11 that have chosen to send their trucks across
12 Lake Scranton Road for the past two years,
13 violating basic rules of common sense and
14 common decency to your neighbors, but to the
15 following city departments and their staff.

16 First, thank you to the Scranton
17 Police Department, especially Patrolman
18 Thomas Lee, Corporal Richard Bachman, and
19 acting chief Captain Graziano. Officer Lee
20 and Corporal Bachman responded on September
21 20 after I was threatened by one truck
22 driver and harassed by another. I was
23 taking pictures for my tax assessment appeal
24 in my driveway.

25 They witnessed truck after truck

1 past by as they handled my situation and
2 included their observations in their
3 reports. Their concentrated efforts at the
4 directing of acting Chief Graziano have
5 resulted in some relief of the truck
6 traffic.

7 Thank you to the city, especially
8 Mrs. Evans and Mr. McGoff and their clerical
9 staff, Nancy Krake, Kathy Carrera and Jamie
10 Marciano.

11 In 2010, city council had become
12 aware of the trucks traffic problem and did
13 everything in their power to rectify this
14 situation. The problem was not resolved at
15 that time, but it was not because of lack of
16 effort on the part of city council. Council
17 staff supplied me with all of the
18 information I needed to present my
19 complaints clearly with a paper trail of
20 council's efforts in 2010 to Mayor Doherty.

21 Mrs. Evans sent me an e-mail
22 expressing her concern and Mr. McGoff, who
23 was well aware of the situation and the
24 condition of Lake Scranton Road, listened to
25 my complaints and assured me he would speak

1 with the other council members.

2 Thank you to Stephanie in the
3 mayor's office. She assured me that the
4 mayor would review my complaints and contact
5 me as soon as possible, which he did.

6 Last, but not least, thank you Mayor
7 Doherty. You took the time to call me and
8 explain what needed to be done by your
9 department heads to post Lake Scranton road
10 with traffic signs restricting truck
11 traffic.

12 As of today, my wife and I and other
13 residents of Lake Scranton Road have to, and
14 I must take another play line, rely on the
15 kindness of strangers for our peace and
16 quiet. These strangers are the business
17 owners Mayor Doherty recently contacted and
18 requested to minimize the truck traffic on
19 Lake Scranton Road until the road signs are
20 installed. These same business owners
21 reside at Elmhurst Boulevard or in and
22 around Mt. Margaret. I see them travel Lake
23 Scranton Road, the road their trucks have
24 destroyed, almost every day on their way to
25 and from their places of business,

1 apparently unconcerned about the
2 inconveniences and stress their trucks
3 create.

4 Ironically, at 12:10 this afternoon,
5 when I sat down at my computer to compose my
6 thoughts for this evening's meeting, I was
7 interrupted by the all too familiar roar of
8 a diesel tractor and the incredible noise
9 that a triaxial truck makes as it bounces
10 down the city street riddled with potholes
11 and temporary patches. 20 minutes later, I
12 heard the same litany of noises as the same
13 truck made it's way back to Moosic Street.
14 Today the strangers not to be so kind.

15 I look forward to the council
16 meeting I will attend to announce that the
17 traffic signs were installed and that our
18 problem has finally been resolved. A final
19 thank you to everyone concerned. If I can
20 answer any questions from the council I
21 would be happy to.

22 MR. MCGOFF: May I just comment to
23 Mr. Burke what he said?

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MR. MCGOFF: A lot of people

1 probably are not aware of the situation on
2 Lake Scranton Road, probably many people not
3 even aware of -- maybe even aware of where
4 it is, but from personal experience I do
5 know that the residents of that area have
6 been disturbed by the frequency of the
7 traffic on that road and hopefully we can do
8 something to alleviate that.

9 Second thing that, Lake Scranton
10 Road all of the properties along there have
11 no sidewalks and yet it does get a lot of
12 pedestrian traffic for people walking out to
13 the bus stop or out to the lake. Personally
14 we run that road on a pretty frequent basis
15 and it is dangerous with the amount of truck
16 traffic that is on there to pedestrians as
17 well.

18 And the last thing the road itself
19 is very narrow and pretty much has been
20 destroyed over the years by the traffic that
21 is on it, you are right. It's hazardous
22 just driving a car along it at time with the
23 potholes and the shoulders being destroyed,
24 so hopefully we can take care of those
25 problems and, you know, rectify this

1 situation for you.

2 MS. EVANS: And I just wanted to add
3 that I know that you are aware, Mr. Burke,
4 but I had spoken with the mayor about this
5 situation and we agreed that legislation
6 should be drafted and passed by council that
7 would stop truck traffic of this nature on
8 Lake Scranton Road entirely and at this time
9 I am awaiting the legislation to be
10 submitted to city council from our city
11 legal department and I think we can say
12 safely say that council members will pass
13 that legislation.

14 MR. BURKE: I could not be more
15 appreciative because it's been a long two
16 years.

17 MS. EVANS: Oh, I know and I
18 remember -- I remember the situation all too
19 well from 2010 and it really was ashame that
20 somehow the ball was dropped and for some
21 reason the proper procedures were not
22 applied at that time, but we certainly
23 intend that it's taken care of now.

24 MR. BURKE: Thank you. I realize
25 all your efforts back in 2010 and I

1 appreciate your current efforts, too.

2 MS. EVANS: You are very welcome.

3 It's our job.

4 MR. BURKE: Anything else I could
5 provide for you? I will take my materials
6 and leave the podium to somebody else.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MR. BURKE: Thank you very much.

9 MS. EVANS: Ron Ellman.

10 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Glad
11 to see everybody feeling better. Maybe you
12 will feel better if I apologize for saying
13 that you never hear me when I talk, and
14 everybody eats their words once in awhile.

15 Last week there was a viscous attack
16 on council in the editorial page by a
17 Dr. Albert Belardi, Jr. Now, I'm going to
18 take this step by step. He lives in Moosic.
19 He just badmouths the city from end to end,
20 this is where his patients come from. He is
21 an office on the 1,800 block of Mulberry.
22 You following me?

23 MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

24 MR. ELLMAN: Now, there is an Albert
25 Belardi, Sr., that's a doctor that's got an

1 office at Mercy at 745 or whatever it is,
2 Jefferson. There is another doctor there
3 with him, Dr. Brandton or something in the
4 same office. Now, guess what these people
5 using the hospitals have in common sense?
6 Three doctors under the nonprofit list, the
7 office is in the hospital is listed as a
8 nonprofit. Now, who allowed this? This
9 is -- this is just senseless. That's why
10 you can't make payroll.

11 I know you must have looked under
12 the nonprofits of Scranton on the computers.
13 I go to the New Penny Lounge, it's listed as
14 a nonprofit. It's not a private club, you
15 walk in and out of there. How can a bar be
16 a nonprofit? There is bunches of them.
17 That's what's wrong with this, who allowed
18 all of this to happen? A hundred nonprofits
19 that are just nothing but pure phonies.

20 You know, Sister Adrian, like I've
21 said, that's a nonprofit. She doesn't do
22 nothing but help people and the Progressive
23 Center, and I like the McDonald House where
24 you can go. They are nonprofits. 99
25 percent of these nonprofits are just hiding

1 behind the -- well, here I go again. They
2 are just not nonprofits. They have not
3 fulfilled the five obligations that under
4 the Pure Nonprofit Charity Act. I'd like to
5 see how those doctors offices can fulfill
6 that. I don't know. I know you heard that
7 from me, you know.

8 I think it was Wednesday's paper or
9 Friday's paper or something, there were
10 three articles from -- in the letters to the
11 editors attacking the people and for the
12 University. The first one the guy said he
13 has had enough, you know, I don't know where
14 he has been. He didn't -- he doesn't know
15 what goes on at these meetings. The second
16 one was some lady up in Olyphant, she says
17 all of the good that the University has done
18 up in the Hill Section and cleaned it up.
19 She doesn't know what she is talking about.
20 They were the biggest at one time and they
21 still might be slumlord, they own half the
22 slum houses up in there that are rented to
23 students. They still might be the biggest
24 slum lord.

25 And the other one, this Francis that

1 writes every week, he wrote such a
2 ridiculous letter about council it's not
3 worth anything. The achilles heel, again,
4 of the University is bad publicity. They
5 have recruiters going to parents' houses
6 talking, trying to get future students.
7 They do not want to have any adversities.
8 That is where you get them. That is their
9 weak spot. They need to be bombarded with
10 the truth what they have done.

11 If anybody had talked to some of
12 these people that have lost their homes, you
13 know, that's everybody's dream is having a
14 home and I have talked to several of them
15 over the years, probably 15 people, 20
16 people that have lost their houses and it's
17 a heartbreak. There is probably 3,000 or
18 more houses and people that haven't paid for
19 their houses lost because of the tax base.

20 And if then we go to the school
21 board. I talked to Mr. King on the phone
22 the other day for a couple of minutes, he
23 very kindly phoned me back about a matter.
24 That school board is hurting because this
25 University has deprived them of millions and

1 millions and millions of dollars and I think
2 everybody in the city is so sick and tired
3 of hearing about their good they do they are
4 nothing but a phony business hiding behind a
5 guise of nonprofit.

6 You know, I'm glad you finally drew
7 the line in the sand about this because it
8 was about to come sooner or later, somebody
9 had to go against them.

10 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you,
11 Mr. Ellman.

12 MR. ELLMAN: I mean, you know, it's
13 coming, and it's just so irritating to me to
14 have the biased letters in the newspaper. I
15 have written them, they don't print my
16 letters. He told me, Pat McKenna told me
17 not to, but when he won't print a letter of
18 mine because it's opposite his beliefs then
19 he is censoring me and censoring is one of
20 the worst things a newspaper can do and
21 that's what Pat McKenna done to me.

22 You know, I'm not supposed to be
23 censored because he doesn't agree with me.
24 He won't print a single letter I have. If I
25 wrote a letter saying how good he was he

1 wouldn't print it.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. ELLMAN: Please, I hope that
4 people out there would give you guys some
5 more support. I mean, you are going to need
6 it because you are going to have a battle on
7 your hands. I hear things from the -- tough
8 road ahead, isn't it?

9 MS. EVANS: Yeah. Well, we have to
10 move on.

11 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bob Bolus.

13 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
14 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

15 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

16 MR. BOLUS: One thing I'd like to
17 ask on the agenda on 7-A, where is Mountain
18 Lake Estates, is that up on East Mountain?
19 I mean, I'm just curious where it's at.

20 MS. EVANS: I don't have the backup
21 in front of me, we can get it though.

22 MS. KRAKE: You want it, Mrs. Evans?

23 MS. EVANS: Yes. It says it is the
24 desire of the Council of the City of
25 Scranton that Kimberly Drive, Tracy Lane and

1 a portion of Mountain Lake Road along two
2 open space parcels on Mountain Lake and a
3 storm water detention pond serving the
4 Mountain Lake Estates subdivision be
5 accepted as a public improvement to be
6 maintained as such and subdivision plans are
7 recorded in the Lackawanna County Recorder
8 of Deeds Records and Map Book 6 a.m. at
9 pages 4508 and 7052.

10 MR. BOLUS: All right, well, that is
11 the portion, Mrs. Evans, on East Mountain,
12 the top of East Mountain then. Okay, one of
13 the issues that, you know, the city took
14 over streets there years ago, they plow them
15 and everything else, but when people,
16 especially the elderly, used to park there
17 and walk down to Lake Scranton it got all
18 posted. They put up rocks up there and they
19 stopped everybody from using it, but if we
20 are taking it over and it's a private
21 development really up there, it's almost
22 like a gated community, people should a
23 right to park there, not have "No Parking"
24 signs all up and down the roads where people
25 have to about park in the firehouse. In

1 inclement weather they're walking out there,
2 it's slippery and everything else. I mean,
3 if we are going to take it and our tax
4 dollars are going to take over and maintain
5 their facility then the people should have a
6 right to use it. Park up there, and walk
7 down to the lake or whatever it may be.

8 But they basically, even though it
9 was okayed, they made it a private community
10 and we are paying for it, so it's something
11 I think council sudden look at before they
12 pass this ordinance that if we are paying
13 for it we should have a right to park up
14 there and walk down, especially our elderly.

15 Getting on to what I need here is on
16 East Mountain a couple of weeks ago I asked
17 if anybody would contact Paul Kelly and get
18 a response from him regarding the 16 1/2
19 foot deeded waterway up there that we put a
20 \$50,000 offer on and I haven't heard
21 anything on that. Has council heard
22 anything from Paul Kelly as to the real
23 ownership of this property or if something
24 has been done under the table with the deed
25 to it because I have submitted the deeds and

1 everything that show that the city owned it?

2 MS. EVANS: I know we haven't heard
3 anything.

4 MR. BOLUS: Okay, well, I think it's
5 time to get Paul Kelly to be held
6 accountable.

7 You know, we have to look at if you
8 increase the tax base you decrease the tax
9 rate. You know, we are becoming the
10 laughing stock literally in the country, and
11 the nonprofits, the city here, and the
12 papers saying that Scranton Council
13 shouldn't review the zoning board or
14 variances? I think it's ludicrous for
15 anybody out there to think that we have a
16 council that should bury their head in the
17 sand and let rubber stamping go on as it did
18 traditionally in this city, and especially
19 with the University. As we know, it's a
20 bully with money. They have a tremendous
21 influence. They buy and they control
22 whoever they want. They have been
23 controlling the people in this city.

24 They put sidewalks in. How times
25 have any of us walked on the sidewalk up

1 there? Very likely none of us, but it is
2 for their students and their own personal
3 investment that they put there. Millions of
4 dollars in a new center, it's empty, but
5 they are going to fill it and they do that
6 because they are a business, yet they want
7 us to continue to pay for restaurants that
8 they make a profit on, they pay sales tax,
9 I'm sure, on the products that they sell.
10 So I think council because you are standing
11 up is getting a bad wrap from newspapers,
12 from organizations outside of the Scranton.

13 Let them come here and really see
14 what was going on in city this before you
15 guys took over as the majority. Things are
16 a lot different. If you knew somebody, you
17 played a game, you got something done here
18 and you got away with a heck of a lot, and
19 are continuing. A million eight, a million
20 nine for a building the other day, don't
21 tell me it's a business not making money.
22 They are throwing millions around like it's
23 going out of style and we the ones paying
24 the price. We send fire trucks there and we
25 get a token amount of money.

1 Well, it's time to go back, put
2 legislation into the mayor, let him renew it
3 or reject it. You need to start charging
4 for your police and fire department what the
5 fair rate out there is, not the token of 50
6 here or 100 there, you need to know what
7 your police department cost you, your fire
8 department cost you, look at the overtime
9 rate.

10 Just outsourcing, so to speak, our
11 police cars going out on an accident or to a
12 fire or fire truck there and what they're
13 entitled to be charged, minimum two hours.
14 You would have made more money than you
15 would know what to do with to cover the
16 overtime costs and handle and upgrade the
17 equipment that we need to do there.

18 So, you know, these are things that
19 we need to look at. You are letting this
20 leachate line go unattended. Tons and tons
21 of mud are coming into that landfill. They
22 are processing and treating. It's coming
23 through the leachate line. The Sewer
24 Authority gets the opportunity to charge
25 them. That's what they do. They are an

1 Authority they can do that, but that line
2 runs through Dunmore and Scranton, through
3 our property, not the Sewer Authorities'
4 property. You need to charge for this
5 leachate line running through here as a host
6 community. You can bring in millions of
7 dollars. 1 percent fee and you can create a
8 fee on generalized fee that covers just
9 about anything you want to throw in it and
10 pass it across to everybody in the city so
11 you are no singling out the bullies, you are
12 taking everybody on.

13 You take 1 percent and you are
14 bringing in millions of dollars, and it's
15 right in front of you us. We have been
16 talking it for eight, ten years. It's time.
17 You are the majority. You can make things
18 happen. Time to put politics to the side
19 and worry about the people in the city
20 because we are heading down the slippery
21 slope and you want to look at the "U", look
22 at the hospitals. They were nonprofits for
23 years, now they are paying. We are getting
24 something for our money. Big difference
25 when you get income brought into this city

1 and you start looking at it.

2 What makes the city broke? What
3 makes it prosperous are the people in this
4 city with the things that happen and you got
5 to create an atmosphere, you got to create
6 an environment that people want to come here
7 and do business. People don't want to build
8 here, they want to run as far from here as
9 they can with the tax base and everything
10 else. You can turn that around tomorrow and
11 make a major difference that people will
12 want to come here and build.

13 Utilize your assets. That's how you
14 make your money. Don't utilize everybody
15 else's assets and that's the taxpayers given
16 up what they are giving up ready to pay \$4 a
17 gallon for gas. Use the assets that the
18 city can control. The police, the fire, the
19 DPW, the leachate line, the gas line, the
20 nonprofits, generalize it and you are
21 bringing millions of dollars in here and you
22 are showing progress, you are showing
23 prosperity, and you are showing what it
24 takes. Put politics to the side and
25 Scranton will grow again. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Doug Miller.

2 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

3 Doug Miller, Scranton.

4 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

5 MR. MILLER: I'd like to begin with
6 a recent comments that have been made over
7 the last few weeks dealing with the
8 University of Scranton in relation to their
9 lawsuit and a few other issues that were
10 addressed at our last meeting. Obviously,
11 at this point in time we may be well aware
12 that the University filed a lawsuit over the
13 parking tax as they feel they should be
14 exempt from it as a nonprofit institution,
15 but we are well aware of the fact that they
16 are a business that generates millions of
17 dollars each year, and certainly as we have
18 talked about for quite some time now have
19 the ability to pay their fair share, and yet
20 they refuse to do so.

21 You know, the last few days, weeks I
22 should say, Attorney Hughes has come into
23 some criticism for his recommendations to
24 council at our last meeting in terms of the
25 dealing with the University related to the

1 lawsuit and other matters. His suggestion
2 with the council was to suggest to the
3 zoning board to deny any variances that they
4 may seek in the future.

5 Today in the paper we were made
6 aware of an article that the Pennsylvania
7 Association of Nonprofits had quite a few
8 objections to Attorney Hughes'
9 recommendations. In fact, they went onto
10 actually mislead and make deceptive
11 statements to the newspaper in their
12 response in which they made a statement that
13 council adopted a proposal to deny zoning
14 applications. In fact, that's totally
15 false. Attorney Hughes never recommended
16 that council adopt any sort of proposal to
17 reject variances.

18 If this Association actually paid
19 attention and took their blinders off and
20 turned their hearing aids up they would
21 actually hear that Attorney Hughes simply
22 made a recommendation to council, didn't ask
23 to put any legislation together or any sort
24 of proposals. So if we are going to make an
25 objection I think we need to have our facts

1 straight, and evidently this association has
2 a difficult time grasping the fact.

3 Council at no time ever made a
4 proposal, any adoptions, you were simply
5 asked to have Attorney Hughes come forward
6 at any future zoning meeting and object to
7 any variance.

8 As we now, the University for
9 decades now has, quite frankly, gone beyond
10 the boundaries and we have ourselves to
11 blame for that because we allowed it to
12 happen, not the council but elected
13 officials in the past, Redevelopment
14 Authorities and other who let it happen and
15 now they have become bullies. They have
16 spewed a lot of arrogance and are trying to
17 dictate what goes on in this city, and I'm
18 sure if they really wanted to, knowing the
19 millions they take in, they could probably
20 buy us if they wanted to, and that's really
21 what frustrates me is knowing the millions
22 and millions they take in each other knowing
23 full well the fiscal situation we are in
24 today that we face and they come forward
25 each year and give us a measly \$175,000 a

1 year, and I can't tell you how much that
2 bothers me, that this is a multi-million
3 dollar institution. They are not a
4 nonprofit, they are business, they are a for
5 profit, and they have gotten away with a lot
6 and it's unacceptable.

7 We saw, I believe it was yesterday's
8 paper, the purchase of the Adlin building on
9 the corner of Linden and Adams for \$2
10 million. They could spend money like it's
11 growing on trees, they have no problem doing
12 that, and they continue to suck up
13 properties left and right and continue to
14 take these properties off the tax rolls, and
15 we are consistently told by University
16 officials, we are told by the mayor, that
17 they are such an asset to city and we should
18 be so supportive.

19 Well, my question is what exactly
20 have they done for the city in all
21 actuality? Let's be realistic. What has
22 the University done for the city besides
23 take millions and millions of dollars of
24 property after the tax rolls. They are
25 buying properties that are assessed at

1 \$30,000 they are buying them for half a
2 million, so they have no problem just
3 sucking up properties left and right. I
4 mean, at some point in time that Hill
5 Section is going to be the University, and
6 it's my opinion at this point maybe they
7 should just fence themselves in and become
8 their own little village up there and let
9 them deal with their own problems.

10 You know what, let them get their
11 own fire department. They already have a
12 police department, let them get a fire
13 department, let them get an ambulance
14 service and you know what, if they have an
15 issue up there we're not going to respond to
16 it, let them deal with it. Pay your fair
17 share. Why should I or any other taxpayer
18 who works hard every day carry their load.
19 Let them pay for their own students.

20 A lot of the residents should be fed
21 up with it because they have gotten a free
22 ride and we have sat back and done nothing
23 about it.

24 Now, one of the things I have done
25 is I've looked into other nonprofits around

1 the country and we have discussed
2 Providence, Rhode Island, well, I took it a
3 step further and did research on them and I
4 found out that they did pay -- they put a
5 commission together in Rhode Island of
6 elected officials, business leaders and
7 other concerned individuals and they
8 discussed ways of how they could get
9 nonprofits to contribute to their fiscally
10 mismanaged cities, and for several months
11 they sat down and they put a team together
12 and they came up with a commission report,
13 and we could say, as we have said before,
14 that now the University in that town give
15 them \$2 million a year. There is no reason
16 why this University can't do the same thing.

17 I also feel that due to the fact the
18 University has gotten a free ride for so
19 long and they claim to do so much for the
20 city, well, perhaps at this point we can
21 look into discussions with the University
22 and having all city residents that attend
23 the University attend at a discounted rate.
24 It's been brought up before. Maybe even
25 taking it a step further and offering a full

1 scholarship as an incentive to city
2 students. We are trying to build future
3 leaders in the city and why not reach out
4 and make that a recommendation. I think
5 it's the least they can do. They have
6 gotten a free ride and we have done nothing.

7 But that's what I suggest we do, we
8 look into all avenues, but to continue to
9 allow them to bully us and just sit back and
10 do nothing isn't right, and I know we have a
11 council committee to reaching out to all
12 nonprofits, not just the University, because
13 were are constantly criticized that we
14 finger point at the University, but they are
15 the best example we can use because they
16 have taken so much from us and given little
17 in return and we need to put our foot down
18 and stop it now. Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Les
20 Spindler.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening. Les
22 Spindler, city resident, homeowner and
23 taxpayer.

24 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Doug mentioned

1 already, and was really disturbed the other
2 day to wake up and read the paper and see
3 the University bought the Adlin building. I
4 guess they ran out of buildings in the Hill
5 Section to buy, now they are moving
6 downtown. Well, what's going to be next,
7 the Farley's building across the street?
8 Are they going to move down to Mulberry
9 Street and maybe buy city hall?

10 It's ridiculous. There is going to
11 be -- the sign coming into the city saying,
12 "Welcome to Scranton" it's going to be
13 "Welcome to the University of Scranton."
14 When is this going to stop?

15 It's unbelievable, and the mayor
16 makes a comment, "I'm a big supporter of the
17 University of Scranton, Mr. Doherty said,
18 all of the investments they have made have
19 benefited the city."

20 They bought a tax paying property on
21 Mulberry and Jefferson, tore it down, now
22 it's a green space. How is that benefiting
23 the city? You know what, this man -- this
24 new election next May, this man has got to
25 go. He is raising everybody's taxes, lets

1 the University by everything, buys up all
2 the tax paying properties, this Adlin
3 building, there is businesses in there,
4 there is attorney's offices, the building
5 brings in and I don't know how much money
6 every year and they got it for \$2 million,
7 and that's a steal.

8 And with all due respect to city
9 council, I don't agree with that idea to
10 plan to fight all of the zoning variances
11 because what if a new council is up there
12 and they don't go along with that. I said a
13 few weeks ago that you should draw up an
14 ordinance where if a nonprofit buys a tax
15 paying property that they have to keep
16 paying the taxes on that property. That way
17 whoever is sitting up there has to go by
18 that ordinance. I think that's a better
19 idea, but that's just my opinion.

20 Two weeks ago, Councilman Loscombe
21 read a letter from Charlie Newcomb, Jr.
22 about his flooding problem getting fixed,
23 well, I have been coming here maybe longer
24 than Charlie complaining about my property
25 getting flooded, and about two years ago it

1 was fixed, but I did come here and say that
2 winter it was all washed away, it wasn't
3 done properly. And I had come here time
4 after time and Mr. Loscombe was supposed to
5 look into it and I don't know what happened,
6 but I wish I could get that thing there
7 because every time it rains I can't go out
8 my front door and I can't walk in front the
9 house, it's just inches of the water, and I
10 think I did ask council awhile back to send
11 a letter to Mr. Dougher, I don't know if you
12 did or not, but maybe you can send another
13 one see if something could be done because
14 pretty soon the bad weather is going to come
15 in and that will be his excuse that he can't
16 do anything now.

17 MS. EVANS: Is this -- because I
18 remember when we had this taken care of,
19 this is a catch basin?

20 MR. SPINDLER: No, there is no catch
21 basin there.

22 MR. ROGAN: It's a curbing.

23 MR. SPINDLER: They put the handicap
24 sidewalks in at and the corner the water
25 comes in right off the street and they did

1 fix it. They left the handicap ramp there
2 so it was still handicap accessible, but the
3 little curb they put in washed right away
4 and Representative Murphy he looked into
5 that and it seemed like when he looked into
6 it that's when it got done, so I'd
7 appreciate any help from council again.
8 Thank you for your time.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Gerard
10 Hetman.

11 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.

12 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

13 MR. HETMAN: Gerard Hetman from the
14 Lackawanna County Department of Community
15 Relations. I would like to begin this
16 evening by reminding council, as well as
17 members of the general public, that the
18 Lackawanna County audit for 2011 has been
19 completed not just on time, but ahead of
20 schedule this year, which is a first for
21 many years in the past where the audit has
22 been behind it's scheduled date.

23 For residents and council members
24 who may wish to access a PDF copy of the
25 audit, they can visit our home page at

1 LackawannaCounty.org and scroll down
2 two-thirds down the page and under the news
3 and events section there is a link to an
4 electronic PDF copy of the completed audit
5 document or any council member or taxpayer
6 who make wish to review the documents and
7 figures for themselves.

8 Second, at their last regular
9 scheduled public meeting, the county
10 commissioners announced the launch of the
11 new Lackawanna County carrier grade wireless
12 network. This is an initiative that has
13 been on the commissioner's list of
14 objectives and they are very excited about
15 the launch of this service. There will be
16 further announcements as the wireless
17 network gets launched, how it can benefit
18 visits, emergency service providers and also
19 municipal governments in Lackawanna County.

20 We have a list of the ways, the four
21 stages that the service will be implemented
22 in, but it will be implemented using
23 existing infrastructure, county
24 communication towers and the Lackawanna
25 County 911 center. It's been in the budget

1 in a neutral fashion which will eliminate
2 payments for services currently offered
3 through the -- currently provided through
4 those networks and it will also utilize
5 grants and other means of financing so it we
6 will not be an increase to county budget.

7 And again, we will deliver more
8 details on this as the service is
9 implemented and made available to the
10 various constituents in Lackawanna County
11 and we will be happy to take any questions
12 on that, we will relay them to our IT
13 Department and provide answers to anyone
14 that may wish to know about the service as
15 it continues to develop over the course of
16 this year and next year.

17 Third, relating to some of the
18 community events and announcements that we
19 talk about to you to pass along to the
20 general public. The Lackawanna County of
21 Department of Community Relation in
22 conjunction with Lackawanna County IT
23 Department has launched a community calendar
24 section on the Lackawanna County home page
25 at LackawannaCounty.org. You can just

1 scroll down on the right of the home page as
2 online now, you will see a community
3 calendar icon, click on that, we have the
4 calendar is broken down according to
5 different parts of the county, Tri-borough,
6 Upper Valley, and we have one for Scranton
7 and Dunmore in the same calendar, so any
8 announcements, such as the items you
9 mentioned, Mrs. Evans, by the way, continue
10 to mention them and we will be happy to put
11 those onto the community calendar section
12 under the appropriate area of where they are
13 located in the county and, of course, I'll
14 take notes on those at these meetings and if
15 you have any particular thing that you'd
16 like to let us know about before the
17 meetings or that you would like to provide
18 some additional details on, please feel free
19 to contact me or speak to me before or after
20 the meeting, we will make sure those items
21 are added, and can put them for on wherever
22 they may be around the county and get all of
23 these things you talk about, picnics,
24 benefits for residents that maybe need some
25 assistance due to a medical condition or an

1 unfortunate circumstance, anyone having a
2 neighborhood block party, anything of that
3 nature we will be happy to put it on there
4 and members of the public can access it and
5 learn about it as it comes up.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

7 MR. HETMAN: And then two
8 announcements this evening, the Scranton
9 Wilkes-Barre Yankees are offering a chance
10 to be a part of history in the renovation
11 and reconstruction of PNC Field. Fans are
12 offered the opportunity to sign the final
13 steel beam, steel eye beam or channel that
14 will be installed at the newly renovated PNC
15 Field. The event is taking place this
16 coming Tuesday, October 9, from 3 p.m. to
17 7:00 p.m. at PNC Field in Moosic. It will
18 take place at the open space in the parking
19 lot near the trolley and restoration, shop
20 that's right down at the third base lane on
21 the field and enter via the previous media
22 gate, which is the first turn off of Montage
23 Mountain Road, so they will actually have
24 the Sharpies there and can come and leave
25 your autograph on the steel beam for the

1 duration of the stadium's existence in the
2 future, so many, many years, many seasons
3 hopefully, everyone who would like to come
4 and sign the item in question.

5 And then last, but not least, the
6 Lackawanna County branch of the Penn State
7 extension is offering their master gardener
8 training for any county residents who may be
9 interested in learning more about
10 horticulture and gardening and have an
11 active interest in gardening. The training
12 starts Monday and Thursday nights beginning
13 October 22, from 6 to 9 p.m. Information is
14 available by calling 570-963-6842 or e-mail
15 Lackawannamg@PSU.EDU. Again, the phone
16 number is 570-963-6842.

17 And I don't have a green thumb,
18 despite my mother's best efforts over the
19 years, but I know the master gardener
20 program is something that many of our local
21 residents take a great interest in and those
22 people do a great work of work and training
23 that's provided in that program and
24 beautifying our communities, neighborhood
25 gardens and individual properties as well.

1 And last, but not least, we wish
2 everyone the best who is participating and
3 observing the Steamtown Marathon. I don't
4 know, Mr. McGoff, will we see you out there
5 this year?

6 MR. MCGOFF: Not this yea.

7 MR. HETMAN: Ever since the second
8 year it's come right by house and we enjoy
9 it throughout the county. It connects many
10 of our communities, brings out the best in
11 our local residents and also visitors from
12 other areas around the area and around the
13 world. Thank you and have a great week.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

16 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

17 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

18 MR. MORGAN: Tonight I'd just like
19 to make a couple of comments, if I could.
20 You know, everyone has their opinions on
21 nonprofits, but that's what I'd just like to
22 say a lot of nonprofits have had money
23 willed to them in trusts from people who
24 have passed away, and a lot of times they
25 are the only people with any money left

1 because the taxing bodies have decimated
2 their own tax basis to the point where
3 nonprofits were the only ones that were
4 sheltered, and I don't disagree that some
5 nonprofits should pay, but I think our
6 country has reached a point where it's so
7 financially strapped for money that whoever
8 has the money they are coming for it.

9 And wealthy people, if you read the
10 paper they are renouncing their citizenship
11 and they are taking their money out of the
12 country or they are putting it in trust for
13 their children outside of the ability of the
14 country to reach it and former President
15 Clinton talked about that about two years
16 ago and asked people to bring some of their
17 money back home because it was outside of
18 the reach of the US government.

19 But tonight I have done two
20 Right-to-Knows and I think they are
21 important. I have asked a Right-to-Know on
22 how many investigations has city council
23 done under Section 312 of the Home Rule
24 Charter for any reason, all right, and I
25 asked if any subpoenas were ever issued, not

1 just by this council, but by any council.

2 And I have also done a request on
3 under Section 313, and I have asked how many
4 and when were any special audits done or
5 frequent audits done by city council under
6 Section 313 of the Home Rule Charter because
7 I think that we are talking become commuter
8 taxes and sales tax increases and this city
9 has been in trouble since the early 70's and
10 I just think that after all of these decades
11 something should have been done a long time
12 ago and, you know, when you talk to as many
13 people as I have talked to in this city who
14 have reverse mortgaged their homes to pay
15 more taxes they just -- they question the
16 whole process and I really have to say that
17 throwing money at the city isn't the answer
18 because how does a city assume this much
19 debt?

20 And, you know, we are all going to
21 throw shots at Mr. Doherty and, you know,
22 well, politics is politics, but the
23 privatization of the Scranton Sewer
24 Authority didn't take place under his watch
25 and the city wasn't sanctioned under his

1 watch, okay, that was a previous
2 administration.

3 And, you know, when you really start
4 taking a look at where the city it's like a
5 freight train without an engineer because --
6 someone should have stepped in and found out
7 where all of the city's money was going long
8 ago. Now, there has been a lot of special
9 interest here. You know, people talk about
10 people outside of the city giving money and
11 campaigns and that does happen because they
12 have a vested interest and for a long time
13 the city's work force were used as tools in
14 my opinion by political people to get
15 elected and, you know things were going
16 fairly well because everybody was getting
17 what they wanted except the people who lived
18 in the city.

19 And when you look at the amount of
20 taxation coming I think it's really time to
21 ask the Commonwealth how when we entered
22 into a recovery plan that nobody made sure
23 we were recovering. And now, you know, when
24 you sit there and you watch TV and you watch
25 everybody talk about what they are going to

1 do for us and well, come get a reverse
2 mortgage and stay in your house, my question
3 is when all of the residents in this city
4 went to work every day and sacrificed
5 throughout their working life to pay their
6 mortgage and meet their obligations, and now
7 they are seniors, some of them are lucky,
8 they get into the high rises, some of them
9 can't escape from their property and they
10 can't sell it because people won't come near
11 it, and I think that we have limited the
12 scope of our discussion here to nonprofits
13 and I really what I think we need to do is
14 take a good hard look at city government
15 over an extended period of time, find out
16 where the mistakes were made and who made
17 them.

18 And I find it very interesting, you
19 know, to read the Scranton Times newspaper,
20 and we talk about who our next field of
21 candidates are. You know, I'd like to see a
22 little old man or a little old lady living
23 on a fixed income in city run for a public
24 office. Well, and maybe it would be -- Mr.
25 McGoff, but I remember going to a school

1 board meeting over 25 years ago when there
2 was a lady with her stockings rolled over
3 her tennis shoes saying she couldn't pay
4 anymore and was crying there, and I just
5 think maybe we need to really investigate
6 our government and find out where we done
7 short. Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Elizabeth Davis.

9 MS. DAVIS: Good evening.

10 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

11 MS. DAVIS: My name is Elizabeth
12 Davis and I'm here on behalf of Scranton
13 Reads. Scranton Reads is a community
14 reading organization -- reading event,
15 organized by the City of Scranton and the
16 Albright Memorial Library. Each year during
17 the month of the October citizens of
18 Scranton get together to read a great book
19 of literature. They participate in book
20 discussions and special events related to
21 the chosen book.

22 Scranton Reads has two main goals.
23 The first goal is to encourage reading among
24 people of all ages, and the second goal is
25 to bring the community together through a

1 sharing of the common experiences.

2 Scranton Reads, one city, one book
3 enhances, a the feeling of the community by
4 bringing people from all different
5 backgrounds and uniting them through
6 literacy, art and culture and this year we
7 have selected Rudolfo Anaya's "Bless Me
8 Ultima." It's a coming of age story of a
9 young boy in New Mexico of Mexican heritage
10 and his realization of what he is to be
11 become when he becomes older.

12 We hope everyone can join in to help
13 celebrate our fifth year by participating in
14 this year's activities. You can find more
15 information about our book discussions and
16 different events at our website at
17 ScrantonReads.org, and this year we are
18 going to culminate all of the activities in
19 an immigration panel discussion at the
20 Everhart on October 24 at 7:00 p.m.

21 And, if I may, I have copies for
22 everyone on council.

23 MS. EVANS: Please.

24 MR. JOYCE: Oh, thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who

1 cares to address council?

2 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
3 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton.

4 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

5 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

6 MR. DOBRZYN: Last meeting, and I
7 understand Mr. Williams passed away, but
8 there was a mention of -- he was probably
9 very sick before he did, the mention of
10 attendance and with the tasks we have in
11 front of us with the zoning hopefully we can
12 find somebody that will stand their ground,
13 and I felt that Attorney Hughes' idea was a
14 pretty good one.

15 I think at this time, just like
16 Mr. Spindler, that it's time to just say
17 we've have enough nonprofits in the area and
18 that's the way it is. We can't support
19 anymore and we can't keep surrendering these
20 taxable buildings over to nonprofits,
21 irregardless of what the mayor is working
22 on, some is better than others, and I'll
23 speak a little bit more on that.

24 But now we have in the Times, of
25 course, council gets abused and bullied

1 constantly here, stop abusing assets and, of
2 course, this person here is from Dickson
3 City and he is ashamed of the comments of
4 council and council should give the
5 University any blighted properties on
6 Mulberry Street corridor and in the entire
7 historic Hill Section, but, now, wait a
8 minute, he is from Dickson City and I would
9 like to know what the tax rates are for
10 standard working class housing in Dickson
11 City and Archbald, and especially Mayfield
12 where the mayor is raving about our
13 concerns and our commuter tax. It would be
14 just lovely, I would doubt that it's over
15 \$500 a year like everyone stated up in
16 Clarks Summit and maybe at Fawnwood or
17 somewhere like that where it's reasonably
18 new housing and it kind of fell through the
19 cracks with the prices.

20 And on zoning, I'd love to see some
21 day, Mr. Morgan has a huge house there, and
22 as far as I know two people live in it
23 because somebody from the zoning forbade him
24 from renting it out, although, it was an
25 extended family-type thing where there was

1 three and a lot of times maybe that's the
2 source of hostility, too, so I would love to
3 see where eventually when we have one old
4 person living in a four-bedroom house where
5 we could expand that and maybe let them open
6 up a small rental, \$750 a month for one-room
7 apartment with these developers and so
8 forth, that's pouring money into their
9 pockets.

10 Now, I'd also like to remind the
11 Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit
12 Organizations, they mentioned today that
13 they are supposed to be nonpartisan. Well,
14 I would suggest they stay there because if
15 you follow national politics many of these
16 church organizations and so forth are up to
17 their eyeballs in politics. They want to
18 tell you how to plan your family, they want
19 to tell you what you should drink, they want
20 to tell you what you should watch on
21 television, they want to tell you what kind
22 of books to read and they know everything
23 there is about love and God and war
24 politically, but then they want nonprofit
25 status, and that is not a nonprofit.

1 I am a strict secularist as far as
2 government is concerned. If you oppose the
3 death penalty where somebody kills their
4 wife or their husband or something like that
5 in a furious situation that's one thing, but
6 don't stand there and tell me how many kids
7 I have to have or whether or not I can have
8 a drink or we had the prohibition years
9 back, well, the mafia finally got routed
10 from New York City in 1995 from 1920. They
11 took over the organized crime and, you know,
12 they never got them out of there and the
13 criminal organizations and so forth.

14 So this is the Achille's heel of the
15 nonprofits is I expect secular performance
16 and nondiscrimination and I'm not interested
17 in the fact that their religion doesn't
18 believe in a blood transfusion so,
19 therefore, my boss should be able to refuse
20 me a blood transfusion because he doesn't
21 believe in that.

22 The golden parrot quick, if anybody
23 watched the debates last night they go to
24 Obama advisors because, I mean, it was
25 really shameful how much he let Governor

1 Romney get away with or get away with saying
2 and just they didn't want him to look like
3 an angry black man.

4 And the Strategic Allied Consultants
5 they have been signing people up hired by a
6 certain party, I won't get into that, in
7 various states to sign people up to vote,
8 they were actually shredding some, which is
9 blatantly illegal.

10 And our Scranton School Board, when
11 are you going to get it through your heads
12 that we need peaked roofs in this area.
13 Please, peaked roof on all of the schools.
14 South Scranton Intermediate looks like a
15 swimming pool from my porch whenever it
16 rains. That water lays there and we no have
17 peaks on the roofs and every new school they
18 design is a black roof. I think somebody,
19 whoever did this in designing the schools
20 must have a flat head. Thank you and have a
21 good night. Bawk, bawk.

22 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Is there
23 anyone else who cares to address council?

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes, I do. Good
25 evening, Council. Marie Schumacher, citizen

1 and taxpayer.

2 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: I am still working
4 off my question list, I did have something
5 else tonight, but I inadvertently left it on
6 the kitchen table, so next week.

7 The proposals for the 60-day trial
8 period for different parking meter system
9 were received six weeks ago, when will the
10 winner's trial commence.

11 MR. JOYCE: I am not sure of the
12 exact date, but I will get that information
13 for you.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: And before I go any
15 further I would also like, although, it
16 wasn't noted by the chair tonight, Bill
17 Hinkleman, who I think for something like 30
18 years was president of the board of the
19 Albright Memorial Library and he has been
20 very active civically and I think his
21 passing will certainly be missed by the
22 community and in many -- the many charities
23 and cultural things that he and his wife
24 supported.

25 And then on 7-A, I believe when Mr.

1 Bolus was talking about the private road and
2 taking over this property he was talking of
3 Lake Scranton Estate. Lake Scranton Estates
4 that retention pond has been taken over
5 years ago and the road was made private
6 years ago and, personally, I do believe that
7 they should have to pay for their own -- if
8 they want to have a private road they
9 shouldn't have to pay for their own snow
10 removal, too, but that's not what's at issue
11 here tonight.

12 This is a separate development that
13 is right across -- well, it's between the
14 Birch Street end of Mountain Lake and
15 Robinson Park up on the hill and, as a
16 matter of fact, as things stand right now
17 the city doesn't even own that road, so once
18 this is passed tonight, and I certainly
19 encourage it, that the road will be belong
20 to the city, otherwise, there is a gap in it
21 and it will allow a better usage of the lake
22 and development.

23 There was a Times-Tribune on article
24 on September 23 that described a computer
25 software program that provides emergency

1 responders were a visual floor plan of a
2 building even before they arrive at the
3 scene. Does our public safety department
4 have this capability?

5 MR. JOYCE: I'm not sure if they
6 have this capability at the present time,
7 but I will relate that our public safety
8 chair.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Do we any idea when
10 Mr. Loscombe is going to return? I have a
11 couple of other public safety things that I
12 have been holding, but --

13 MR. JOYCE: I haven't spoke to him,
14 but it would be my intention that he would
15 return as soon as he is doing well.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. The audit,
17 when are we going to see this audit that we
18 are going to have the meeting on in early
19 June?

20 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Originally,
21 according to the business administrator's
22 reports it was supposed to be done in early
23 June, all of the information was supposed to
24 be gathered. There is some information that
25 is still outstanding. In fact, Rossi &

1 Rossi just sent us correspondence regarding
2 that, so I will contact our business
3 administrator and see if he could get a
4 concrete date on the new correspondence that
5 we just received today.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah. I mean,
7 where do we stand? We are borrowing all
8 this money, where do we stand on the Unit
9 Debt Act? How close are we to our ceiling?

10 MR. JOYCE: At this point I'm not
11 sure of the exact figures, how away from the
12 ceiling we are, but I could get that
13 information for you.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I would like
15 that because I don't know what happens when
16 we hit the ceiling? Do we just go into
17 bankruptcy then or what option do we have
18 once we have reached our ceiling? I think
19 that audit that's -- it's just -- I mean, he
20 know people have been busy on other things,
21 but this is not the first year, but I hope
22 it's certainly the last.

23 How many years are left in Rossi &
24 Rossi's contract?

25 MR. ROGAN: Too many.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: One?

2 MR. JOYCE: I believe they still
3 have two more years left in their contract.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Two more. That's
5 too bad. And then I would also like to add,
6 first of all, I wish Mr. Burke wasn't the
7 first speaker tonight, I wish him luck with
8 signs because there is signs on Seymour
9 Avenue saying "Truck Traffic for Delivery
10 Only" and it doesn't stop any of those same
11 trucks were coming down Seymour Avenue.

12 East Mountain Road was redone what, maybe
13 five years ago? And it's rapidly breaking
14 up. This week there was yet another 53-foot
15 tractor trailer came up East Mountain Road.

16 It's crazy and there is no parking
17 at the base of East Mountain Road, but I'm
18 assuming that that applies to the truck
19 traffic that is prohibited for -- except for
20 deliveries, applies to the entire mountain
21 because otherwise if you come in Seymour
22 Avenue you sort of have no place else to go,
23 but maybe you could find that out, and if
24 they have any luck I would love to know what
25 it is because the truck traffic is crazy. I

1 mean, we have big heavy trucks ruining what
2 was our new roads. So, as I say, I wish him
3 luck.

4 And I will give one more, I just
5 have to do this one since everybody spoke
6 over tonight, the Community Medical Center,
7 our wonderful regional. It's regional when
8 it comes to spending the money they
9 received, but it's not so much when the
10 taxes have to be -- that they are not paying
11 have to be borne by Scranton taxpayers. You
12 may have noticed this ad in the paper that
13 shows their gala fundraiser is being held
14 down at the Woodlands in Wilkes-Barre. I
15 certainly would think one of our local
16 hotels and conference centers would have
17 been far more appropriate and they could do
18 something to support our city. Thank you.

19 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

20 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hey, what's up,
21 Pat?

22 MR. ROGAN: Hey, Chrissy.

23 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Janet.

24 MR. EVANS: Hey, Chris.

25 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Well, Janet, it's

1 tomorrow, what do you think? West all the
2 way? Pat, what do you think tomorrow? What
3 did you think?

4 MS. EVANS: West all the way?

5 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Think we're going
6 to win, Frankie?

7 MR. JOYCE: I think it will a close
8 game.

9 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hey, Janet, Tippy
10 is in the hospital. Tippy is.

11 MS. EVANS: Oh.

12 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Yeah. Janet, say a
13 prayer for him. Everybody say a prayer for
14 Tippy, all of us. I'm serious. All right?
15 Thanks, Janet, I appreciate it.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
17 anyone else?

18 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.

19 MOTIONS.

20 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do
21 you have any questions -- comments or
22 motions?

23 MR. MCGOFF: And questions.

24 Actually, I'll start with a question, I know
25 you brought up the issue on the zoning

1 board, my question was does one of the
2 alternates move into that position and then
3 we fill the alternate spot or, you know, do
4 we appoint someone to fulfill the term of
5 Mr. Williams?

6 MS. EVANS: I think it's a matter
7 appointing someone new. I don't know that
8 the alternates have moved into a permanent
9 position unless one of the council members
10 wanted to make an alternate --

11 MR. MCGOFF: I see. I was just
12 wondering.

13 MS. EVANS: -- a permanent member.

14 MR. MCGOFF: I was just wondering.
15 I don't know what the process is.

16 MR. ROGAN: I believe it was Frank
17 appointed Mr. Bartnicki as an alternate and
18 the second time around the spot came open he
19 appointed him as the full-time, but this one
20 it seems to me it would be the remainder of
21 the term.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Okay. It was just a
23 matter of the procedure, I just wasn't sure
24 how we went about it.

25 And the other only thing I did want

1 to comment, all of the things going on about
2 the University of Scranton and the comments
3 being made, I guess perhaps I have a little
4 bit different perspective with the
5 University of Scranton. I do see it as a
6 very positive thing for the City of
7 Scranton. I know that we could argue about
8 the economic impact that it has had on the
9 city pointing to properties taken off the
10 tax rolls, taxes that they do pay, don't
11 pay, real estate transfer taxes that have
12 paid on the properties, permits and fees,
13 all of those things are I guess a matter of
14 the perspective, you know, depending how you
15 look at it and you how you value what's
16 being done.

17 I see them as, you know, they are --
18 I believe if they are not the largest
19 nongovernmental employer in the city, I
20 think they are the second largest, and I
21 believe that's an important thing. They
22 are -- yes, they are a successful business.
23 They employ a large number of people and I
24 think that's of great benefit to the city,
25 but I think that the biggest thing that the

1 University of Scranton has done for this
2 city is in neighborhood improvement, and I
3 know somebody -- one of the speakers said,
4 "Well, what they have done?"

5 I remember what that Mulberry Street
6 corridor looked like from Scott's Market up
7 to Turkey Hill 25 years ago, that it was --
8 it was prostitution, drugs, crime of all
9 sorts. At one point in time the city even
10 put a police substation there because there
11 was such an incident of crime. Over the
12 past 25 years that has been cleaned up,
13 sidewalks, lights, new buildings, it's now a
14 corridor into the city and out of the city,
15 so I think that that's an important aspect
16 of what the University of Scranton does for
17 the community.

18 I think they have helped, I think
19 they have bettered the community, and that's
20 not for argument's sake, I'm not looking to
21 create an argument, I just -- like I said, I
22 think I have a different -- maybe a
23 different perspective than some people.

24 As far as their challenging the
25 parking tax, I think that's something that

1 we should have expected and, in fact, when I
2 saw that they were doing it, it was almost,
3 like, thank you. I think we should welcome
4 the opportunity to see what the Courts are
5 going to say about our ability to set fees
6 for tax exempt institutions. I think that
7 by taking something like this to the Court
8 we start to define some of the parameters
9 for I'll say taxing these institutions and
10 as we -- I think throughout the state this
11 has been happening and I think perhaps it
12 just brings it -- it brings the issue to the
13 forefront and at least allows us to see
14 where we can go and where we can't go.

15 As far as the purchase of the is it
16 the Adlin building?

17 MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

18 MR. MCGOFF: All right, one of the
19 things I'd like to find out, and we talked
20 about this on numerous occasions, is what
21 portion of that now that has been purchased
22 will be used for educational purposes. If
23 it's not being used for educational
24 purposes, if they are renting out space to
25 lawyers or accountants or, you know,

1 whatever else is in there now then I believe
2 that should be, you know, taxable property.
3 That not all of that building necessarily
4 goes off the tax rolls. And if, again, we
5 talked about this on numerous occasions, I
6 think we really need to do a little bit more
7 work on trying to determine exactly what is
8 taxable within these tax exempt
9 institutions. Is the cafeteria taxable
10 since they do provide food for nonstudents
11 and nonworkers? You and I can, you know,
12 anybody can walk in there and buy lunch,
13 actually it's a great lunch for the price if
14 anyone is interested I guess.

15 But, does Aramark, who provides the
16 food service, do they pay taxes on that?
17 Does the Starbucks pay taxes? And again,
18 this isn't anything new, but I think these
19 are the things that we really have to
20 investigate and determine exactly what is,
21 you know, taxable within these places and
22 what is not.

23 And the last thing, obviously, t the
24 payments in lieu of taxes, we attack the
25 University of Scranton over it, and perhaps

1 maybe we should negotiate with them for what
2 many people see as a more equitable amount
3 of payment in lieu of taxes, but the fact
4 still remains that they are one of the few
5 institutions that pay anything in lieu of
6 taxes. I think that we should start moving
7 towards some of these other tax exempt
8 institutions and maybe a little more
9 aggressive negotiation with them as well as
10 the University of Scranton.

11 We were going to -- part of the
12 recovery plan is a reliance on an increase
13 in PILOTS and I guess I'm not sure that
14 going to war with them is the way in which
15 to get that increase done and I'm hoping
16 that perhaps we can reach a more equitable
17 settlement in a more equitable way and
18 that's all. Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
20 Councilman Rogan?

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. I'll be
22 very brief tonight. I'd first like to
23 apologize in advance, next week I will not
24 be able to attend the meeting. I am
25 undergoing a medical procedure, I should

1 only be out one week hopefully as long as
2 everything goes well.

3 And just some comments, I received a
4 letter and I spoke to various members of the
5 zoning board following some of the comments
6 that were made by residents and by
7 Mr. McGoff and I'd like to read the letter
8 that I received and speak about it a little
9 bit.

10 It says, and this is from Carrie
11 Newcomb, a member of the zoning board. It
12 says, "Dear Honorable City Council: I am
13 writing you this letter in regards to
14 comments by Mr. McGoff at a previous council
15 meeting and in the Scranton Times on
16 September 25, 2012, "and this is the quote
17 from Mr. McGoff and the newspaper. It said,
18 "Very often some of these votes are being
19 made based simply on the influence of the
20 outside, being the neighbors or other
21 businesses, in opposition to what the zoning
22 codes are Mr. McGoff said, rather than
23 making that difficult decision and saying to
24 neighbors, what are being proposed is within
25 the law or codes and, therefore, we are

1 going to approve it. They are really voting
2 in opposition to what is legal and what
3 should be done. I think that perhaps we
4 should really take a look at the nature of
5 the zoning board, Mr. McGoff said."

6 Mrs. Newcomb goes onto say, "I was
7 appointed to the zoning board in July of
8 2011. I take offense to some of Mr.
9 McGoff's statements. I speak for myself
10 when I say that I take great pride in my
11 position and consider it to be an honor to
12 serve my community and its residence. Since
13 I have been on the board, we have had a
14 number of the applicants that have been
15 denied and the issues were never in the
16 headlines or resulted in such obnoxious and
17 inaccurate statements by a councilman.

18 I personally have no influence of
19 outside, neighbors or other business, and
20 take great offense to that statement. I
21 assure you, I take all of the testimony at
22 the hearing into consideration and visit
23 each property prior to my vote. To say that
24 I am voting against what is legal and should
25 be done is inexcusable.

1 I assure I will continue to vote the
2 same way regardless of comments by any
3 council member. There is an appeal process
4 if an applicant is denied and Mr. Lewis or
5 any other applicant that is denied has a
6 right to follow that process. Sincerely,
7 Carrie Newcomb."

8 And I did speak to many zoning board
9 members that were upset with what transpired
10 not only by what Mr. McGoff said but what
11 some of the speakers have said at meetings
12 and what's been going on at the zoning board
13 and a lot of people, you know, the zoning is
14 luckily it's broadcast live for everyone to
15 see and zoning members are appointed by city
16 council, but after that appointment is made
17 city council doesn't have any influence over
18 the decisions that are made.

19 I think most of us when we appoint
20 somebody to the zoning board you think of
21 somebody that shares your values and your
22 beliefs and you appoint them and then once
23 they are appointed they are basically, you
24 know, their own body. It's almost I would
25 say like a judge. If you watch a meeting

1 you will see people will get sworn in, they
2 will testify, the neighbors will testify,
3 the applicant will say they are seeking a
4 variance in the neighborhood, and then it's
5 up to the body to basically decide what is
6 legal.

7 And often times, and I know for a
8 fact because I'm an avid watcher of many
9 municipal government meetings, that often
10 times the board does go against the
11 neighbors. Often times they go in favor of
12 the neighbors, and even as a council member
13 there are times when people I have appointed
14 to the board have voted in a way I disagreed
15 with, but that's not the system is setup.
16 It's setup to appoint --you set somebody
17 with like ideas and then vote based on their
18 judgments of the law. So I just wanted to
19 read that because I did receive it.

20 And finally, I do have one question
21 request, I believe we all received this
22 letter from a resident of the city who owns
23 numerous properties and he is concerned
24 about the Zone Nightclub, and I haven't
25 heard of this new name, it's at the location

1 where the Castle Restaurant used to be in
2 North Scranton and that has been a problem
3 for years. Stabbings, shootings, there are
4 a lot of problems there.

5 So, Mrs. Krake, could we please --
6 I'll give you the letter, could we please
7 send this to the Chief of Police and maybe
8 forward it to the Liquor Control Board as
9 well. I think they might be interested in
10 know what's going on there. I know it is an
11 after hours club and there are different
12 rules and regulations for after hours versus
13 a traditional bar, but this has been an
14 ongoing issue for at least five years,
15 probably longer, and that is all I have for
16 tonight. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
18 Joyce, do you have any comments or motions?

19 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I'll be brief
20 tonight as well. To begin tonight, I'm
21 going to address the Scranton Single Tax
22 Office. The city has received a number of
23 checks from the Scranton Single Tax Office.
24 As one knows, the Scranton Single Tax Office
25 collects current real estate, tax,

1 delinquent real estate tax for 2011, and the
2 local service tax as well as the business
3 privilege and mercantile taxes.

4 The Scranton Single Tax Office also
5 collects earned income tax from 2011, which
6 at this point is primarily proceeds from the
7 fourth quarter of 2011.

8 The checks that the city has
9 received from the Scranton Single Tax Office
10 are as follows: A check for \$241,269.07
11 which consists of \$235,683.48 in current
12 real estate taxes collections, and \$5,484.59
13 in delinquent real estate tax collections.

14 A check for \$27,784.62 which
15 consists of collections from the Earned
16 Income Tax proceeds from the fourth quarter
17 of the 2011 that still weren't collected.

18 A check for \$163,338.53 which
19 consists of \$120,203.78 in Local Service Tax
20 revenue, and \$43,134.75 in business
21 privilege a mercantile tax revenue.

22 The summation of these checks is
23 \$432,392.22.

24 We have also received correspondence
25 from Tax Collector Bill Courtright regarding

1 the Scranton Single Tax Office's collections
2 and distributions for the period ending on
3 September 18, 2012.

4 First, in regard to real estate tax
5 collections so far for this year the tax
6 office has collected and distributed
7 \$11,852,412.28 in current real estate taxes.

8 In the same period last year, the
9 tax office collected \$10,965,343.96. With
10 this in mind, there has been an overall
11 increase in real estate tax collections of
12 \$887,068.32. This is an increase of
13 approximately 8.1 percent from the same
14 period last year.

15 Secondly, in regard to the
16 delinquent real estate tax collections for
17 this year, so far the tax office has
18 collected \$476,031.45. In the same period
19 last year, tax office collected \$550,938.74.

20 With this in mind, there has been an
21 overall decrease in delinquent real estate
22 tax collection of \$74,907.29 thus far. This
23 is a decrease in collections of
24 approximately 13.6 percent in the same
25 period last year.

1 Third, in regard to the local
2 service tax for this year, so far the tax
3 office has collected \$1,143,385.82. In the
4 same period last year, the tax office
5 collected \$1,299,619.34.

6 With this in mind, there has been an
7 overall decrease in local service tax
8 collections of \$156,233.52 thus far. This
9 is a decrease in collections of
10 approximately 12 percent from the same
11 period last year.

12 Fourth, in regard to the business
13 privilege and mercantile taxes, for this
14 year so far the tax office has collected
15 \$1,746,933.69. In the same period last
16 year, the tax office collected
17 \$1,381,051.54.

18 With this in mind, there has been an
19 overall increase of \$365,882.15 in business
20 privilege and mercantile tax collections
21 thus far.

22 This is an increase in tax
23 collection of approximately 2.65 percent in
24 the same period last year.

25 Also to report, the Scranton Single

1 Tax Office has collected \$6,134,771.71 this
2 year in earned income taxes. As far as
3 offering a comparison to the amount
4 collected last year, it wouldn't be
5 comparing apples to apples since Berkheimer
6 took over the collection of 2012 earned
7 income taxes. \$6,134,771.71 collected by
8 the Scranton Single Tax Office is primarily
9 fourth quarter earned income tax receipts
10 from 2011 that were paid this year, as I
11 stated previously.

12 With that in mind, Mrs. Krake, if we
13 could please send a request to Berkheimer to
14 find out how much earned income tax revenue
15 was distributed to the city by them this
16 year.

17 Overall, the Scranton Single Tax
18 Office in regard to the real estate tax,
19 delinquent real estate tax from 2011, local
20 service tax and business privilege and
21 mercantile taxes collections, the Scranton
22 Single Tax Office has collected a total of
23 \$15,218,763.24.

24 In the same period last year for
25 these taxes, the Scranton Single Tax Office

1 had collected \$14,196.953.58 for these
2 taxes. This is an approximate increase in
3 overall tax collections of 7.64 percent.

4 So I'd like to thank the tax office
5 for their good work over there.

6 While we are on the subject of
7 revenue, the City of Scranton has received a
8 check from the State of Pennsylvania in the
9 amount of \$2,921,681.70 in the General
10 Municipal Pension System state aid and
11 proceeds. The budgeted amount for this
12 revenue item is \$2.71 million.

13 The amount of money that the city
14 received was calculated and issued in
15 accordance with the Municipal Pension Plan
16 Funding and Recovery Act, which is Act 205
17 of 1984. State law prohibits these funds
18 for any other purpose than to defray
19 Scranton's police, fire, and non-uniformed
20 pension costs.

21 Act 205 required that this check is
22 deposited in pension plans by the Treasurer
23 of Scranton within 30 days of receipt. The
24 allocation of the state aid that we received
25 had been computed using data from actuarial

1 studies that were submitted by the city to
2 the Public Employees Retirement Commission
3 and from the pension certification forum
4 that was submitted to the State of
5 Pennsylvania.

6 To continue on the subject of
7 revenue, the city has received a payment in
8 lieu of taxes, known as a PILOT. The city
9 has received a check in the amount of \$6
10 million from Lutherwood. To provide a brief
11 background -- oh, \$6,000, sorry. Six
12 million dollars?

13 To provide a brief background,
14 Lutherwood is a senior living facility
15 located in the East Mountain area in close
16 proximity to Lake Scranton. With this in
17 mind, I'd like to express my appreciation to
18 Lutherwood for being a good neighbor and
19 contributing their fair share.

20 In addition to some of the revenue
21 items that I previously discussed, I'm going
22 to transition to an expenditure that
23 Scranton City Council has been notified of
24 that really hasn't been brought up much at
25 council meetings over this year.

1 As one may or may not know, the City
2 of Scranton is required to pay \$50 for every
3 stray animal that our animal control officer
4 brings to the Griffin Pond Animal Shelter.
5 Scranton city council has received receipts
6 for animals brought to the shelter to July
7 and August. For the month of the July 43
8 animals were brought to the shelter. This
9 resulted in a cost of \$2,150. For the month
10 of August, 39 animals were brought to the
11 shelter. This resulted in a cost of \$1,950.
12 So far this year to provide an update to
13 everyone, the total number of animals
14 brought to the Griffin Pond Animal Shelter
15 is 314. This has resulted in a cost of
16 \$15,700 to the City of Scranton, and that's
17 all I have for tonight.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
19 evening. I have only a few items of
20 business to address. First, city council
21 had requested a weekly report identifying
22 police vehicles that have been serviced, are
23 awaiting repair, the reason for such, and
24 the expected date of completion for
25 Mr. Dougher, DPW Director, on September 7.

1 To date, no reports have been submitted.

2 Mrs. Krake, please contact
3 Mr. Dougher regarding the reports and send a
4 second correspondence as a follow up and
5 record, please.

6 Because there have been numerous
7 vehicles out of service for a prolonged
8 period, city council wants to remain on top
9 of this issue.

10 Second, we received a response on
11 September 24, 2012, from Mr. Jeff Furrer,
12 assistant district traffic manager for
13 PennDOT, regarding the issue with traffic
14 lights at the intersection of Spruce Street
15 and Franklin Avenue. He states that he
16 would like to get better flashers on stop
17 signs or new batteries for them. Pull the
18 stop signs off the sidewalks and put them in
19 a parking lane for better visibility, and
20 put an additional stop sign on each of the
21 remaining three mast arms.

22 Also, he suggests that if the
23 signals can be put in a red flash on the
24 approaches that still have them, it would be
25 a benefit to drivers. I hope PennDOT is

1 examining and addressing these traffic
2 hazards throughout the downtown as the
3 traffic light replacement program continues.

4 Third, on behalf of Scranton City
5 Council, I wish to thank Lutherwood Senior
6 Living for it's payment in lieu of taxes in
7 the amount of \$6,000 to the City of
8 Scranton. We hope that more Scranton
9 nonprofits will follow Lutherwood's example
10 and provide a fair share contribution to
11 their host city in light it's serious
12 financial problems.

13 On a related note, we have all read
14 this week of the most recent purchase of a
15 taxable property by the University of
16 Scranton, owner of the greatest number of
17 tax exempt properties in our city. While
18 page one of the October 3, 2012, edition of
19 the newspaper included the headline, "City
20 Police Overtime \$313,000 over budget
21 already," page two's/AES headline read,
22 "University buys Adlin building. Courthouse
23 square property purchased for \$1.95
24 million."

25 How coincidental that the city sinks

1 farther into debt while a large nonprofit
2 pays nearly \$2 million for a building in the
3 downtown commercial district, that according
4 to the newspaper article was a natural to
5 look at since it is adjacent to their
6 campus.

7 According to the University
8 vice-president for external affairs, the
9 University has needed extra space for a few
10 years now. Yet, he also states that
11 long-term plans for the building have not
12 been determined adding, "We don't have a
13 firm plan for every square foot of this
14 building."

15 While a nonprofit refuses to pay a
16 parking tax for its garages and parking lots
17 for which it charges fees, it appears to
18 have \$2 million in available funds to
19 purchase a property for which it has not
20 fully determined a use.

21 Further, it is interesting that the
22 mayor, who has committed to obtain increased
23 payments in lieu of taxes in a revised
24 recovery plan views the property purchase as
25 a positive development for our struggling

1 city.

2 Although, many Scrantonians, myself
3 included, appreciate the beauty of the
4 campus and high quality of education offered
5 by the University, they cannot help but
6 notice the universities apparent intent on
7 expanding well beyond it's institutional
8 district not only in the Hill Section of the
9 Scranton, but also the commercial downtown
10 area. They mire the institution, but fear
11 the financial burden frequent expansion
12 creates.

13 At the same time, however,
14 Scranton's largest tax exempt entities
15 appear to have questionable regard for the
16 poor people of Scranton who pay taxes for
17 not only their own properties and public
18 services, but also those of Scranton
19 nonprofits who refuse to make fair share
20 contributions for the properties they remove
21 from the tax rolls and 24/7 services they
22 receive from our city.

23 Many taxpayers are elderly,
24 unemployed or working two and three jobs to
25 make ends meet feel the status quo is

1 inequitable and want nonprofits to
2 contribute their fair share.

3 Finally, I have citizens' request
4 for the week:

5 A letter to the Sewer Authority,
6 Scranton residents request that the cleaning
7 of catch basins at the intersection of
8 Prescott Avenue and Mulberry Street and
9 Harrison Avenue between Vine Street and
10 Linden Street and two on Yesu Lane in East
11 Mountain.

12 A letter to License, Inspections and
13 Permits: A delapidated property at 4217
14 Avenue was condemned three years ago and has
15 remained vacant for many years. Although
16 numerous calls were made to city inspectors
17 by neighbors, nothing has been done. These
18 neighbors have invested in restoring their
19 property and feel they shouldn't have to
20 live next to an eyesore. They question what
21 they pay taxes for when garbage collections
22 are missed and a condemned property was
23 never further addressed by the city.

24 Provide an update to city council
25 from Mr. Seitzinger on or before October 15,

1 2012.

2 And a letter to the city engineer
3 regarding a street light at Lafayette Street
4 and Boyland Lane. Council received a
5 streetlight petition which has been properly
6 completed by city residents and we would
7 like to attach this to the letter, forward
8 it to the city engineer, and please request
9 that his recommendation would be returned to
10 city council as soon as it's available, and
11 that's it.

12 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. NO BUSINESS AT
13 THIS TIME.

14 SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. READING BY
15 TITLE- FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 61, 2012 - AN
16 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 53,
17 2011, ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
18 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF
19 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
20 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
21 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
22 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
23 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
24 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)
25 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)

1 PROGRAM". THE PURPOSE OF THIS AMENDMENT IS
2 TO ALLOCATE UNOBLIGATED FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT
3 OF TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND SEVEN
4 HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO AND NINETY-NINE CENTS
5 (281,782.99) TO THE ACTIVITY KNOWN AS THE
6 SCRANTON 108 LOAN REPAYMENT FOR THE HOTEL
7 AND CONFERENCE CENTER UNDER PROMISSORY NOTE
8 B-99-MC-42-0014.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
22 pass reading by title.

23 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

6 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to
7 suspend the rules and move Item 6-A to
8 Seventh Order for final passage pending
9 input by the audience.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

11 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
12 floor and a second. On the question? All
13 those in favor signify by saying aye.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
20 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
21 FOR
22 ADOPTION -FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 59, 2012 -
23 PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN
24 STREETS, OPEN SPACE PARCELS AND STORMWATER
25 FACILITIES IN THE MOUNTAIN LAKE ESTATES

1 SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
2 PENNSYLVANIA. ALSO AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
3 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
4 ACCEPT FOR THE SUM OF ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) AND
5 RECORD
6 IN THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS
7 OFFICIAL RECORDS A DEED FOR THE ABOVE
8 MENTIONED LANDS AND RIGHT-OF-WAYS.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: On the question? Mrs.
14 Krake, I don't know if you would know
15 anything about this or how we could find
16 out, it was mentioned tonight, and I wasn't
17 aware of this, this street that's being
18 ordained and taken over by the city is a no
19 parking area?

20 MR. MCGOFF: No.

21 MS. EVANS: No?

22 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Schumacher did
23 mention, the area that Mr. Bolus was talking
24 about is for Lake Scranton Estates not
25 Mountain Lake Estates.

1 MS. EVANS: Oh, good.

2 MR. MCGOFF: It's a different
3 development.

4 MS. EVANS: That clears it up then.
5 Thank you very much. Is there anyone else
6 on the question? Roll call, please?

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

12 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

16 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION -
18 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 60, 2012 - CREATING
19 AND ESTABLISHING A GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT
20 #01.101860 TITLED "FIRST LIBERTY BANK-ESCROW
21 ACCOUNT CITY OF SCRANTON-EARNED INCOME TAX
22 SINKING FUND" FOR THE RECEIPT AND
23 DISBURSEMENT OF 2012 EARNED INCOME TAX
24 REVENUE TO BE DRAWN DOWN BY AMALGAMATED BANK
25 ON A MONTHLY BASIS FOR PAYMENT ON THE TAN

1 SERIES B-2012.

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

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

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
21 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
22 FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 43, 2012 -
23 AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 674, 2000, AS
24 AMENDED "AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
25 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO
2 PROMISSORY NOTES B-99-MC-42-0014 SERIES
3 AND ALL OTHER NECESSARY LOAN DOCUMENTS IN
4 THE AMOUNT OF THREE MILLION DOLLARS
5 (\$3,000,000.00) WITH THE REGISTERED HOLDER
6 AFTERWATCH AND COMPANY AS SECURITY FOR AN
7 ADVANCE OF MONIES FROM THE U.S. FEDERAL
8 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
9 FOR THE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER
10 PROJECT”, THE PURPOSE OF THIS AMENDMENT IS
11 TO AUTHORIZE A DEFEASANCE OF THE CITY OF
12 SCRANTON’S REMAINING OBLIGATION UNDER A
13 PORTION OF PROMISSORY NOTE B-99-MC-42-0014;
14 AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
15 DEFEASANCE ACCOUNT WITH THE BANK OF NEW YORK
16 MELLON, AS TRUSTEE AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING
17 THE FUNDING OF THE DEFEASANCE ACCOUNT WITH
18 FUNDS FROM THE CITY OF SCRANTON CDBG ACTION
19 PLANS OF 2011 AND 2012; AND FURTHER
20 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND APPROPRIATE
21 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
22 EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY TO
23 ACCOMPLISH THE DEFEASANCE OF A PORTION OF
24 THE PRINCIPAL DUE UNDER THE ABOVE-REFERENCED
25 NOTE.

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

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

7 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

15 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

19 Is there anyone who wishes to
20 address council on Item 7-D, formerly 6-A,
21 concerning the 108 Loan for the Hotel and
22 Conference Center?

23 Mrs. Krake?

24 MS. KRAKE: 7-D, PREVIOUSLY 6-A, FOR
25 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY

1 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL
2 NO. 61, 2012 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
3 53, 2011, ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE
4 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
5 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE
6 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
7 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY
8 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE
9 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
10 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
11 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
12 SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM". THE
13 PURPOSE OF THIS AMENDMENT IS TO ALLOCATE
14 UNOBLIGATED FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO
15 HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED
16 EIGHTY TWO AND NINETY-NINE CENTS
17 (281,782.99) TO THE ACTIVITY KNOWN AS THE
18 SCRANTON 108 LOAN REPAYMENT FOR THE HOTEL
19 AND CONFERENCE CENTER UNDER PROMISSORY NOTE
20 B-99-MC-42-0014.

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

24 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
25 Committee on Community Development, I

1 recommend final passage of Item 7-D.

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

3 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
4 call, please?

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

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

16 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

17 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
18 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER