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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, October 18, 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  
(Not present.)

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan. Mr.

7 Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX  
15 ASSESSOR'S REPORTS, HEARING DATES SEPTEMBER  
16 12TH, 26TH, AND 27TH OF 2012.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AUDIT STATUS FROM  
20 ROBERT ROSSI & CO. RECEIVED OCTOBER 9TH  
21 2012.

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

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

1 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 28TH,  
2 AND OCTOBER 2ND OF 2012.

3 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
4 If not, received and filed. Do we have any  
5 clerk's notes, Ms. Krake, tonight?

6 MS. KRAKE: No.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any  
8 council members have announcements at this  
9 time? Councilman Rogan is unable to attend  
10 tonight's meeting.

11 The Little Sisters of the Poor will  
12 hold a roast beef dinner this Sunday,  
13 October 21 12 to 4 p.m. at Holy Family  
14 Residence, 2500 Adams Avenue in Scranton.  
15 Catering will be provided by Stirna's  
16 restaurant. Call 343-4065 for tickets and  
17 more information.

18 The West Scranton Hyde Park  
19 Neighborhood Watch and West Scranton  
20 Business Watch Associations will sponsor the  
21 West Side Zombie Escape Route 5-K run/walk  
22 this Saturday, October 20, at Allen Park  
23 located on the corner of the North Main  
24 Avenue and Price Street. Registration  
25 begins at 7 a.m. and the run/walk takes off

1 at 9 a.m. Admission is \$20 or \$20 for those  
2 on teams of ten or more. Children seven and  
3 under can walk for free with the supervision  
4 of a parent or guardian. All proceeds  
5 benefit the neighborhood watch. And that's  
6 it.

7 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
8 PARTICIPATION.

9 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this  
10 evening is Regina Yetkowskas.

11 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Good evening,  
12 Council.

13 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

14 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

15 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Regina Yetkowskas,  
16 Scranton resident. I'd add a little to what  
17 you said about the Little Sister's upcoming  
18 event.

19 MS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MS. YETOKOWSKAS: The Little Sisters  
21 of the Poor at Holy Family residence will  
22 have their annual homemade roast beef dinner  
23 this Sunday, October 21, from 12 to 4 p.m.  
24 at Holy Family Residence, 2500 Adams Avenue  
25 which is adjacent to Marywood College. The

1 dinner will be catered courtesy of Stirna's.  
2 Take out dinners will be available all day.  
3 The tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for  
4 children ten and younger. Tickets will be  
5 available at the door and the menu, I'm sure  
6 you want to hear about that, the menu  
7 includes roast beef, mashed potatoes and  
8 gravy, carrots, apple sauce, rolls and  
9 butter, pie and assorted beverages.

10 In addition to the dinner, the  
11 Sisters will have a bake sale which will  
12 include their famous homemade scones and an  
13 assortment of other baked goods. There also  
14 will be raffles for gift baskets, gift  
15 certificates for area restaurants and  
16 businesses and a \$5,000 Mt. Airy Casino  
17 Resort weekend give away prize package. All  
18 proceeds will benefit the Little Sisters in  
19 their mission of caring for the elderly,  
20 poor with respect, dignity and love, and I  
21 thank you for allowing me to speak.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. It's so good  
23 to see you.

24 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Our next speaker is  
25 Bill Jackowitz.

1 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening, city  
2 council. Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton  
3 resident and member of the Taxpayers'  
4 Association.

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

6 MR. JACKOWITZ: You know what, this  
7 is my opinion and my opinion only. Honey  
8 Boo-Boo would be able to run the City of  
9 Scranton better than the mayor and the  
10 administration is running it. The city  
11 seems to continue to fall and fall and fall.  
12 You know, being a Scranton resident and  
13 being a Scranton taxpayer, I think I would  
14 rather be me being a waterboard in Gizmo  
15 Penitentiary Prison than being a resident in  
16 this city. It is one embarrassment after  
17 another.

18 Now I understand that the gas has  
19 been turned off in the South Scranton Fire  
20 Station, but I also understand that the  
21 check is in the mail. Well, you know what,  
22 that's not good enough. The check in the  
23 mail is not good enough. That's the oldest  
24 line in the world, the check is in the mail.

25 MS. EVANS: Mr. Jackowitz, if I

1                   could, I can just comment on that quickly?

2                   MR. JACKOWITZ: Sure. Go right  
3 ahead as long as it's on your time.

4                   MS. EVANS: The heat was turned back  
5 on this afternoon. It turned out that UGI  
6 was mistaken and at fault and they have  
7 apologized to the city.

8                   MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay. Well, that's  
9 good news. Was the bill paid on time?

10                  MS. EVANS: The bill was paid  
11 apparently, yes.

12                  MR. JACKOWITZ: It was paid on time?

13                  MS. EVANS: I don't know that it's  
14 paid on time.

15                  MR. JACKOWITZ: Well, that doesn't  
16 really matter, the main portion of the thing  
17 is that the gas was turned back on.

18                  MS. EVANS: Yes.

19                  MR. JACKOWITZ: But still it should  
20 never have happened. Never should have  
21 happened. You know, if we can't afford --  
22 if we can't afford to pay our bills then you  
23 know what, we have had this discussion a  
24 million times and we need to go bankrupt.  
25 It's as simple as that, and I know there is

1 people that are going to disagree with that.

2 Now, as far as these loans, I read  
3 in the paper that there is five banks  
4 willing to give us loans, what is the status  
5 on that?

6 MR. JOYCE: Right now as far as I  
7 know there hasn't been a lender that has  
8 been selected for the TAN, however, I will  
9 check with Ryan McGowan and see if he --

10 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yeah, because we  
11 were told that the loan will be coming  
12 through this week and it's Thursday now.  
13 You know, UGI turned off the gas, whether it  
14 was their mistake or not, you know, it was  
15 turned off. You know, West Side fire  
16 stations are browned out. The people in  
17 West Side are very upset. I guess there was  
18 a meeting last night at Keyser Valley.  
19 That's the main purpose of government is to  
20 provide for the safety of the people and  
21 guess what, fire protection is very  
22 important. We got fire stations closed and  
23 so on and so forth. Unacceptable. Why do  
24 we pay taxes?

25 You know, taxes continue to get

1 raised. The county raised taxes. School  
2 district raised taxes. The city council and  
3 the mayor raises taxes. The state raises  
4 taxes. The federal government raises taxes.  
5 Everybody is raising taxes. When is  
6 somebody going to do something for the  
7 citizens? When does somebody do something  
8 for the taxpayers?

9 We live in a city that is  
10 distressed. You know what, and it's been  
11 distressed for 250 months. Does that  
12 register with you people? 250 months we  
13 have been distressed. We have been  
14 distressed for 7,587 days. Does that mean  
15 anything to you people? Does that mean  
16 anything to our elected officials? It means  
17 a lot to me.

18 How much longer are the citizens of  
19 Scranton going to be embarrassed? Do you  
20 know that they are talking -- my nephew  
21 lives in Australia, he is the principal of a  
22 high school in Australia. Do you know on  
23 Australian news they are talking about  
24 Scranton, Pennsylvania. A coal worker was  
25 in Brazil, do you know on the Brazilian news

1           they were taking about Scranton,  
2           Pennsylvania, about how inept and how  
3           unqualified the leaders of this city are?  
4           Do you think that he is nice? You think  
5           that's something to be proud of? When is it  
6           going to stop? When is it going to stop?

7                         We are going to borrow more money  
8           and we have two more loans pending, we are  
9           going to borrow more money for what? You  
10          are going to borrow your way out of this?  
11          When is someone going to give me a definite  
12          answer of when we are no longer going to be  
13          distressed. That's what I want to know.  
14          What day will this city no longer be a  
15          distressed city after 250 months. You know,  
16          how much longer. Headline after headline  
17          about how screwed up, pardon my language,  
18          Scranton is.

19                        Every day city in crises. It's not  
20          a city in crises, it's really not. The  
21          crises was two, three years ago. I mean, it  
22          has got to stop. It's as simple as that. I  
23          mean, the commuter tax. The commuter tax  
24          was -- is the commuter tax going to be the  
25          answer? Is that going to pay all of our

1 bills? Is that going to put us out of  
2 distressed city status or is that just going  
3 to alienate us from the other communities in  
4 this are? What's it going to do? It's not  
5 going to help us because it's not going to  
6 pay the bills. It might pay a little bit of  
7 the bills.

8 And, Mr. McGoff, I've got a question  
9 for you, since you support the University of  
10 the Scranton let me ask you a question, if  
11 you would give every neighborhood ten years  
12 tax exemptions from paying Scranton taxes,  
13 tax exempt, do you think the neighbors can  
14 beautify the neighborhoods and make your  
15 neighbors -- neighborhoods look as good at  
16 University of Scranton has?

17 MR. MCGOFF: Do I think the  
18 neighbors could?

19 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yeah, if they didn't  
20 have to pay taxes for ten years?

21 MR. MCGOFF: No.

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: You don't think so?

23 MR. MCGOFF: No.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: Then you don't have  
25 very much confidence in your fellow

1 neighbors, do you?

2 MR. MCGOFF: No.

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: Because if they  
4 didn't have to pay taxes I guarantee you  
5 that they could pave the roads.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Do you want me to  
7 answer you?

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Pardon me?

9 MR. MCGOFF: Do you want me to  
10 answer you or are you just --

11 MR. JACKOWITZ: You just did, you  
12 said, no, but go right ahead.

13 MR. MCGOFF: You need somebody to  
14 arrange the capital to bring the capital to  
15 make the improvements. That's what  
16 capitalism is all about. Secondly --

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: You don't think the  
18 neighbors can do that?

19 MR. MCGOFF: No.

20 MR. JACKOWITZ: There is no one  
21 smart enough in the City of Scranton --

22 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me, I never said  
23 smart enough.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: Well, you said they  
25 had to be able to arrange it. Go ahead,

1 finish?

2 MR. MCGOFF: I never said smart  
3 enough, I said that --

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: No, those were my  
5 words. Go ahead.

6 MR. MCGOFF: No, I'm finished.  
7 Thank you.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: No, because you  
9 don't have the answers.

10 MR. MCGOFF: I tried to give you an  
11 answer.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: So defend the  
13 University of Scranton all you want.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Jackowitz.

16 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Before I  
18 call on the next speaker I just wanted to  
19 clarify something that was stated by  
20 Mr. Jackowitz and Councilman Joyce a few  
21 moments ago, the money to which  
22 Mr. Jackowitz was inferring, financing  
23 specifically, was for a 2013 TAN. The five  
24 banks that are interested attended a prebid  
25 conference where they can ask questions and

1 receive information and so the bids  
2 themselves I believe are not even due yet,  
3 and so until that happens and the  
4 administration reviews it and decides which  
5 bidder is selected we really don't know  
6 anything more than that. But, as I said,  
7 that is for a 2013 tax anticipation note.

8 And the next speaker is Ron Ellman.

9 MR. ELLMAN: Yeah, thank you.

10 Counsel. I have to say that I entered these  
11 chambers in a fowl mood to start with. I  
12 buttoned my shirt wrong, Miss Rosie made so  
13 much fun of me she said even the dog was  
14 laughing at me, so I told her I was just  
15 going to wear it like that, but I relented.

16 Well, all isn't good in Mudville  
17 tonight. I was reading poor Austin Burke is  
18 so concerned about the city's plight he  
19 believes we need to advocate some reforms.  
20 I think he needs to advocate paying for his  
21 building permits like the rest of us have  
22 to.

23 United Way is so concerned about not  
24 making its goals. As I have said before, if  
25 they quit supporting ARC, which has a nice

1 bank account of its own, maybe people would  
2 give to him. I personally won't give  
3 nothing to United Way.

4 Year after year we have been hearing  
5 that it's coming from the Goodwill. I went  
6 by there today, I was at the stop light,  
7 there is nothing being done at that school  
8 and I was told by a man that lives across  
9 from the school that the city cuts the grass  
10 there. I don't know if that's true. That's  
11 what he told me at a car wash over there one  
12 day during the summer. I can't understand  
13 if it is why the city has to cut the grass,  
14 but maybe it wouldn't get cut.

15 You know, there is \$2 1/2 million  
16 unaccounted for that's all tax money and  
17 nobody seems concerned about it, you know,  
18 the state ought to be jumping up and down.  
19 Then our very own version of the three  
20 stooges said yesterday they are going to let  
21 20 people go, but this isn't the same 20  
22 people and the same friends that they just  
23 hired, so there will be a problem going on  
24 with that.

25 And the SPA back in the news today

1 the way they are glued to the city we will  
2 be hearing about them forever thanks to the  
3 Doherty and the last council. I don't know  
4 why Doherty just doesn't pack up all of a  
5 gang of high school buddies and ship them  
6 down to Maryland or wherever he built that  
7 new plant so he wouldn't have to pay taxes  
8 here and the county taxes and city taxes.  
9 You know, if he paid them \$5 an hour that  
10 gang could be overpaid after what they have  
11 done to this city.

12 And again, there is pages and pages  
13 of nonprofits. It's unheard of. Gas  
14 stations and restaurants and bars and  
15 doctors, they are not nonprofits. They are  
16 just hiding behind the guise. That's where  
17 we are losing our tax money that the rest of  
18 us have to make up. These parasites just  
19 need to be terminated immediately. You  
20 know, it's not good in Mudville tonight, is  
21 it, Jack?

22 This bribe taking obscenity of a  
23 school board, they are talking about another  
24 \$17 million school, the first school  
25 shouldn't have been closed because of mold.

1 Mold is one thing, no maintenance. Nothing  
2 else in the world, it's not good  
3 maintenance, it's a leak, a pipe leaking for  
4 something that's -- there is over 130  
5 custodians for this school system. This  
6 shouldn't happen. I tell you every last SOB  
7 involved with those two closed schools need  
8 be fired. I don't care whose feelings get  
9 hurt. They have cost the taxpayers of this  
10 city millions of dollars, now the eventually  
11 of another school and the children being  
12 abused and without a home because of no  
13 maintenance, and that's why I said they  
14 should be fired and I know some of them. I  
15 have met a couple of them, they still should  
16 be fired. I don't care what they think of  
17 me.

18 Maybe I'm getting to strong, but we  
19 just built a \$17 million school for all of  
20 these people on Keyser Avenue that don't pay  
21 taxes and won't have to for another couple  
22 of years, now we are talking about another  
23 \$17 million school. We're in a city with no  
24 money whatsoever and the school board just  
25 doesn't want to acknowledge it.

1                   You know, this is Scranton. This is  
2                   a shameful disgrace for the people of this  
3                   city. I bet half the people aren't even  
4                   involved in this system, and I tell you, I  
5                   had a banker tell me the borrowing has just  
6                   come to an end. He said he can't think of  
7                   any more lending agencies foolish enough to  
8                   give this city any money and that come from  
9                   a banker, that's not coming from me.

10                   You people have to work with the  
11                   facts and figures you know are there. You  
12                   just can't keep going on hoping things have  
13                   changed. They are not going to, it's  
14                   getting harder and harder for the people in  
15                   this city to survive.

16                   MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17                   MR. ELLMAN: Thank you, Ms. Evans.

18                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

19                   MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is  
20                   Ozzie Quinn.

21                   MR. QUINN: Good evening. Ozzie  
22                   Quinn, Scranton.

23                   MS. EVANS: Good evening.

24                   MR. QUINN: Good evening. I want to  
25                   thank the council for standing up for what

1           you have been doing for the electorate in  
2           the City of Scranton, okay? I know it's  
3           very difficult if you live outside of the  
4           City of Scranton and you all have friends,  
5           relatives, and whatnot, okay, and I would be  
6           mad, too, there is no doubt about it, but I  
7           voted for you three and, you know, I am  
8           really happy that you were able to work that  
9           out, that you were able to find solution to  
10          part of the recovery plan and you should be  
11          commended for that, okay?

12                   And you are not the people that they  
13                   should be hollering at. No way should they  
14                   be hollering at you people. They should be  
15                   hollering at Mr. Doherty and our old friends  
16                   the Scranton Times down there downtown that  
17                   takes up more space than it needs.

18                   Actually, 2003 to 2008 Mr. Doherty  
19                   spent -- put millions out that front door,  
20                   literally millions, you know, because as I  
21                   said last week or two weeks ago Southern  
22                   Union was going to be built, the natural gas  
23                   company, 4,500 jobs, you know, none of that  
24                   came to fruition. And, you know, the  
25                   Scranton Times didn't print that story about

1 Southern Union until after the election or  
2 Doherty might not have won the election, you  
3 know?

4 So the people out there in  
5 municipalities I feel sorry for you, I  
6 really do, but you've got to realize that if  
7 you're come into this city to work and you  
8 saw earlier we are trying like heck to keep  
9 the safety protection and police protection,  
10 fire protection and health and the roads  
11 open so you can get to work and it's going  
12 to be a tough stretch, so try to bear with  
13 the people in the city here.

14 And it's too bad the history books  
15 will show that Mayor Doherty is -- will be  
16 the worst mayor ever to be elected in the  
17 City of Scranton. If it doesn't show that  
18 way, then the Scranton Times wrote it  
19 because of the fact that what he has done  
20 for this city, and since 2003 to 2008, and I  
21 know myself coming up here and telling them  
22 about borrowing and borrowing and Mrs. Evans  
23 warning about the Doherty debt, the Doherty  
24 debt, and just kept on rolling and rolling  
25 and rolling and rolling.

1                   You know, you talk about what he did  
2                   to parks. I saw the other day a guy wrote  
3                   in letters to the editor and I saw a picture  
4                   somebody went up to the new park on  
5                   Greenridge and tried to go to play tennis  
6                   and there was a couch on the tennis courts  
7                   and they went to the other courts and there  
8                   was no nets. I mean, this guy is walking  
9                   around saying he is doing so much, but you  
10                  notice lately, lately the Scranton Times is  
11                  putting him in the background. He is fading  
12                  away, you know, and he is more -- and they  
13                  are more or less bringing you people out  
14                  and, Janet you are on the front line out  
15                  there.

16                   MS. EVANS: I know.

17                   MR. QUINN: You are on the front  
18                  line out there as you saw in their -- where  
19                  they are supposed to have their comic in the  
20                  paper this morning, you know? Actually one  
21                  of the linemen should be on one of the end  
22                  there because they are responsible for a lot  
23                  of what went on in the City of Scranton.  
24                  There is no doubt about it.

25                   You know, I speak with other people

1 and it's not just myself, other people they  
2 are starting to become aware of it. I think  
3 the audits that they showed in the last  
4 Sunday Times and the week before that they  
5 are decreasing, their circulation has  
6 decreased. They are showing that people are  
7 starting to realize, you know, that the  
8 paper is just a bunch of spin on their own  
9 feelings and they get what they want off the  
10 net for the same thing, okay?

11 So try to keep up the good work and  
12 I know it's very difficult under the  
13 circumstances and you are going to have a  
14 lot of people out there, you know, hollering  
15 and cursing and everything else, but, you  
16 know, you are to be commended and I really  
17 thank you. I voted for you so you would  
18 protect me and that's what you are doing, so  
19 thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Les Spindler.

23 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
24 Council. Les Spindler, city resident,  
25 homeowner and taxpayer.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Last week quite a few  
3 people came here talking against the  
4 commuter tax. It's been said here before we  
5 have been distressed for 20 years. I find  
6 it hard to believe that the people who live  
7 in this city would come here and criticize a  
8 revenue source that would help possibly get  
9 us out of the distressed status. As  
10 Mr. Jackowitz said, it won't get us out of  
11 distressed status, but it will help.  
12 Anything that comes into the city is a help  
13 and I can't believe someone who lives in  
14 this city would be against that. I can see  
15 if you don't live in this city, yeah, but if  
16 you are a citizen of this city anything, any  
17 amount of money coming into this city is  
18 going to help.

19 And I think this council is doing a  
20 great job and that's one step they are  
21 taking. What happened with the Parking  
22 Authority was another step, so it shows that  
23 council is doing their job and I have the  
24 opinion of a commuter. I just recently  
25 spoke to a prominent doctor, I asked him

1           what his opinion of the tax was and he said,  
2           well, if the money is mismanaged the way it  
3           has been for the last first eight years of  
4           Chris Doherty's administration then he said  
5           I'm against it. But he said if it's put to  
6           good use he said I'm all for it, he said, I  
7           don't mind paying it.

8                         And he had examples of the  
9           mismanagement, he said, we didn't need a  
10          tree house, which many of us say, we don't  
11          need the Electric City sign lit up every  
12          night. How much money that's costing us on  
13          electricity I have no idea, but this  
14          doctor said, he is a commuter, he said if  
15          it's put to good use he has no problem  
16          paying it and I have every faith in this  
17          council that it will be put to good use  
18          since you have taken Chris Doherty's  
19          checkbook away.

20                        Next thing, the railroad bridge on  
21          Main Avenue between West Side and North  
22          Scranton, I think everybody knows about  
23          that, trucks are hitting that left and  
24          right. The last two weeks, last week and  
25          this week just a few days ago trucks got

1           struck and it really causes a havoc there  
2           with traffic and whether we need more signs  
3           or bigger signs I don't know what the  
4           problem is, but it's almost a weekly  
5           occurrence anymore and so something has got  
6           to be done.

7                        I'm not an engineer, but it's my  
8           opinion when that bridge takes a hit it's  
9           got to be weakened, and I have spoken about  
10          it in the past about how the supports that  
11          are holding that bridge up are all rusting  
12          out, and I know council did send a letter to  
13          the railroad, I don't think you ever heard  
14          anything, but I drive by there every single  
15          day I go underneath that and the supports  
16          are all rusted. There is actually holes and  
17          parts missing. I don't know. I can't  
18          believe that that's safe. That's all on  
19          that.

20                      On a good note, last couple of weeks  
21          I have seen a couple new police cars driving  
22          around and they are pretty spiffy looking,  
23          so I hope they stay that way for awhile.  
24          It's nice that we have some nice cars on the  
25          road now, now we need more police officers

1 on the road and firefighters, and while I'm  
2 talking about firefighters, I was really  
3 disturbed to hear what Councilman Loscombe  
4 was talking about last week, the way our  
5 fire houses that aren't being used are  
6 deteriorating it's really disturbing what he  
7 said with rats being in there and the place  
8 is just deteriorating, there is no excuse  
9 for this and there is one man to blame and  
10 we all know who that is, the man that  
11 resides downstairs. And something has got  
12 to be done, and like I said, everybody came  
13 to this podium said you never should have  
14 returned that money from the SAFER grant  
15 and, you know, he said in two years he can't  
16 pay the unemployment. Well, we don't know  
17 what's going to happen in two years. Maybe  
18 we will be in much better shape, and I told  
19 him that, I questioned him when he was here  
20 that night and I told him, I said, "Well,  
21 you might not even be here in two years."

22 With the hope of God he won't be  
23 because if he is then we are really in deep  
24 trouble, but something has got to be done.  
25 These firehouses have to be kept up and we

1           need firemen in there to keep them up.  
2           That's all I have to say tonight. Thank you  
3           for your time.

4                     MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

5                     MS. EVANS: Thank you. Doug Miller.

6                     MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,  
7           Doug Miller, Scranton.

8                     MS. EVANS: Good evening.

9                     MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

10                    MR. MILLER: I'd like to spend  
11           tonight by addressing the meeting that was  
12           held back at Keyser Valley by the  
13           association regarding the closing of Engine  
14           7. As a West Scranton resident I did attend  
15           this meeting and participate in the question  
16           and answer segment and I think anyone that  
17           was in attendance, including Councilman  
18           Loscombe could attest to the fact that it  
19           was a pretty heated meeting, tempers did  
20           flare. There was a passionate discussion,  
21           the bottom line is people are totally  
22           disgusted that for the months of July,  
23           August and September 82 percent of the time  
24           Engine 7 has been closed.

25                    And the first question that the

1 majority of the people had for Chief Davis,  
2 who was in attendance, was why was the  
3 station closed? Who made the decision to  
4 close it? And Chief Davis stated on  
5 numerous occasions that he was the one who  
6 made the decision to close Engine 7. He was  
7 then asked what made him make that decision  
8 and he stated that they want by a study done  
9 that went back 10, 15 years that analyzed  
10 fires that took place in West Scranton and  
11 that's how they determined which stations to  
12 close.

13 I find that explanation to be  
14 totally ludicrous and absurd. We are taking  
15 a look at fires that took place in the past  
16 and using that as our reasoning to determine  
17 what stations we are going to close and as  
18 if we have some crystal ball that we can  
19 predict when fires are going to occur.

20 I believe the statistic that was  
21 stated last night was that 33 percent of our  
22 population in the City of Scranton is based  
23 out of West Scranton and Chief Davis went  
24 ahead, a West Side resident himself, and  
25 made a decision to close a station that, as

1 I stated, has been closed 82 percent of the  
2 time for July, August and September and  
3 today it's still closed.

4 He then went ahead to say that he  
5 continues to fight daily, walking into --  
6 marching into the mayor's office urging him  
7 to reopen it. I find that be to kind of  
8 quite odd. I found the chief to sort of  
9 talk in circles for most of the evening and  
10 I did question him on that, that in one  
11 sentence he is saying he made the decision  
12 to close Engine 7, and then in the next  
13 sentence he's saying he is in the mayor's  
14 office urging him to reopen it. Well, if he  
15 made the decision to close it then common  
16 sense would tell you he would have the  
17 ability to make a decision to reopen it, so  
18 his reasoning behind it is, as I stated,  
19 absurd. There is no justification for it.  
20 It's stupidity.

21 The second issues that was brought  
22 up was the SAFER grant. I believe it was  
23 initially, we only expected to receive, and  
24 I'm sure you can correct me if I'm wrong, in  
25 the neighborhood of \$600,000. Am I correct

1           on that? It was in that area, I do recall  
2           that. The federal government came in and  
3           said, here is \$8 million where you now have  
4           the ability to maintain a full compliment of  
5           firemen and keep our stations open. What do  
6           we do? We say, "You know what, we don't  
7           want all of this. Take \$3 1/2 million of it  
8           back in that area. We don't want it."

9           The chief was asked this question,  
10          "Why would you give \$3/ 12 million back?"

11          "Well, we are worried two years from  
12          now what are we going to do."

13          No, we are not worried about two  
14          years from now, two years from now we worry  
15          about that situation when with get there.  
16          We need to worry about the present, and the  
17          present right now is that you jeopardized  
18          the health, safety and well-being of the  
19          residents of this city, including myself and  
20          everyone in attendance at that meeting last  
21          night and every one of my neighbors in West  
22          Side. You have done this and then are you  
23          going to stand before us last night and tell  
24          you that you care.

25          And I stated this right to his face,

1 I told him that he doesn't care because his  
2 actions prove it. The mayor doesn't care  
3 and Chief Tom Davis doesn't care because if  
4 he cared Engine 7 would be open today, so  
5 his political rhetoric that he spewed last  
6 night is nothing more than the rhetoric he  
7 hears from the mayor every day. I'm sure he  
8 was given specific orders on what not to say  
9 and what to mislead the public on.

10 We were also made aware that  
11 initially when our stations were shut down  
12 throughout the city are firemen, who looking  
13 out for the residents of this city because  
14 that's what they do, put signs up all the  
15 stations that were closed to notify the  
16 public that your station was closed today  
17 and that you should call 911 if there is an  
18 emergency. Chief Tom Davis ordered that  
19 those signs be removed. Does this sound  
20 like an individual fire chief who cares  
21 about our safety? I don't think so. He  
22 could stand before me and say whatever he  
23 wants, he does not care.

24 There is no justification for giving  
25 back \$3 1/2 million. His answer for

1 everything was economics, and I sort of  
2 found that amusing as well, because we want  
3 to cite economics yet we are giving free  
4 money back, so his rhetoric was certainly  
5 insulting, his lack of information was  
6 insulting as a fire chief. He had an  
7 inability to answer most of the questions.  
8 He was asked what study was done, who did  
9 the study and where is it, can we see the  
10 study, didn't have an answer on that. I'd  
11 like to see that study and I know all of  
12 those in attendance would like to see that  
13 as well because 82 percent of the time that  
14 station is closed.

15 And as I believe was stated last  
16 night, I believe Councilman Loscombe stated  
17 it, he is absolutely right, the mayor and  
18 Chief Davis they must have guardian angels  
19 up above them looking after them because,  
20 I'll tell you what, they are lucky nothing  
21 major has happened catastrophic over there  
22 because when that day does happen, and I'm  
23 praying that it doesn't, but God forbid  
24 something tragic does occur over there, I  
25 will hold Chief Davis responsible, as I did

1 state to him last night, I looked him right  
2 in the eye and I said, "I will hold you  
3 accountable for your actions and Chris  
4 Doherty for your actions."

5 But the bottom line here is they  
6 don't care and they can say what they want,  
7 they can blame it on economics, the bottom  
8 line is you had \$8 million and you give 3  
9 1/2 of it back, the fact that we could staff  
10 Engine 10 on East Mountain with overtime  
11 knowing full well that Engine 7 is closed  
12 there is no excuse for it. I'm not saying  
13 East Mountain isn't entitled to service and  
14 protection, they are, but when you know full  
15 well that 82 percent of the time West Side  
16 is not protected and you go ahead and you do  
17 what you do, there is no justification for  
18 it.

19 You know, today we find out that  
20 Engine 2 the gas was shut off, and I  
21 understand it's been turned back on, but the  
22 point still is it happened and we let it  
23 happen. We have no problem paying the  
24 electric bill up at Nay Aug for those  
25 Christmas lights though or the electric city

1 sign, but when it comes to the essentials we  
2 lack, and that's because the administration  
3 does not care.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

5 MR. MILLER: And they need to be  
6 held accountable once and for all, and the  
7 people can no longer tolerate it. They need  
8 to come forward and demand that Engine 7 is  
9 open. I'm looking out for West Side and my  
10 neighbors and I won't stand for it. Thank  
11 you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Lee Morgan.

15 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

16 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

17 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

18 MR. MORGAN: I guess my opinion  
19 usually runs counter to most people's, but I  
20 really appreciate the study and the  
21 questionnaire that the Chamber of Commerce  
22 gave and the results they have received and  
23 I totally believe that the commuter tax is  
24 unjustifiable and most certainly wrong.

25 I just find it really troubling when

1           someone decides that someone who lives in  
2           another community should make up for  
3           mismanagement of government, of someone  
4           else's government. You know, people say,  
5           well, we need the money. No, what we really  
6           needed was a government that understood that  
7           people's pockets are only so deep and that  
8           the problems facing the city have been  
9           ongoing for a very long time.

10                        I would like to go in the Scranton  
11           Times' archives when the last Home Rule  
12           Charter was written because I believe when  
13           you read the charter that council had the  
14           ability from the date of inception of that  
15           charter to until today to make the tough  
16           choices and to really change the city's  
17           fiscal course and it didn't happen.

18                        Now, we can all point fingers, but I  
19           think it's time to live in a world of  
20           reality. You know, PEL hasn't done us any  
21           favors. I'm hoping that the banks refuse to  
22           loan the city any money because I'm thinking  
23           that they would be doing us a favor and they  
24           would be doing something that I think  
25           council should have done. I think council

1           should have proceeded and tried to go  
2           forward with bankruptcy. I think that when  
3           you see the people in this city living in  
4           poverty and asking them for more money,  
5           which they already do not possess, and it's  
6           already been discussed many times in this  
7           chamber the wage base in the city seriously  
8           diminished. I'd really -- I think it's time  
9           for everybody to really open their eyes.

10                         You know, I was at Gerrity's today  
11           standing next to a woman at the meat case  
12           and she just couldn't believe the price of  
13           things and how diminished her life has  
14           become and she didn't make a comment about  
15           council, she made a comment about government  
16           in general. Government is completely out of  
17           control. It's no doubt that Washington has  
18           cut funds that used to come to this city at  
19           one time. It's also a fact that federal  
20           elected officials gave all our jobs to other  
21           countries. That's a fact. We have worried  
22           about the rich and the people with access to  
23           the halls of the power.

24                         We had a discussion tonight,  
25           somebody brought up the North Scranton

1 Junior High School. I think it would be a  
2 great thing for people to go into the  
3 Scranton Times' archives and see what  
4 happened when that building left the  
5 ownership of the Scranton School district  
6 and the amount of money that Mr. McDade came  
7 forward for that project.

8 And really what's happened here is  
9 the ordinary people have lost their voice.  
10 Really, maybe, you know, Mr. McGoff talked  
11 about capitalism, but I think people need to  
12 read some history and find out what kind of  
13 nation actually have and if we do, in fact,  
14 actually function as a capitalistic society  
15 because I think the people here may be  
16 shocked. We talk one thing, but we do  
17 something else.

18 And in regards to the Scranton  
19 Parking Authority, that fiasco is still  
20 ongoing, and I think in my opinion and only  
21 my opinion that this commuter tax should  
22 never, ever, ever come to be realized. This  
23 city has to take itself out, it dug itself  
24 in. Lack of political leadership is not an  
25 excuse. Blaming the Scranton Times, well,

1           you know, you can blame them, but they print  
2           a newspaper. The people who live in this  
3           city go outside their door and they can see  
4           what's occurring here, and an informed  
5           citizen, they may not be in this council,  
6           but they should trying to find things out  
7           that are factual. Thank you.

8                       MS. EVANS: Thank you. Dave  
9           Dobrzyn.

10                      MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council,  
11           Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton.

12                      MS. EVANS: Good evening.

13                      MR. DOBRZYN: One thing I wanted to  
14           report, by the way, I missed John at one  
15           meeting last week I was busy, two weeks ago  
16           there was some kids jumping out in front of  
17           the cars on the South Scranton Expressway  
18           coming home from school and they were joking  
19           around that I stopped and I said you  
20           shouldn't do that and they said, "Well, we  
21           are trying to get some insurance money."

22                      Well, I told them I was driving  
23           without insurance, but if anything could be  
24           done with the police to watch out for stuff  
25           like that, somebody is going to get hurt.

1           Also, the poor jerk that hits him will be in  
2           a lot of trouble.

3                         First of all, I would like to start  
4           off that we have the government we voted for  
5           and for years we voted and somebody got  
6           elected as mayor and that's the way it is.  
7           No doubt that he didn't build a ballot box  
8           with personally signed receipts so people of  
9           Scranton should be willing to pay their  
10          taxes and the people that donate to small  
11          races to this town from out of town they  
12          don't have any right to complain about a  
13          commuter tax because I personally believe  
14          that all of these corporations and interest  
15          that they are going to donate \$100 million  
16          to a presidential campaign then maybe they  
17          can afford to pay more taxes, that's the way  
18          I see it.

19                         And I have been reading some of  
20          these comments on this commuter tax and in  
21          reality I would wish that these people would  
22          petition their state representatives to,  
23          one, restore the revenue sharing to this  
24          town that's been taken away; and number two,  
25          we have a state constitution here that

1 requires us to just sit by idly while one  
2 tax exempt after another moves into the city  
3 or buys property up and it's not just the  
4 "U", a lot of speeches have been -- we have  
5 Lackawanna Junior college, Johnson Technical  
6 has always had a lot of space, Johnson's  
7 College, they had, what, 60 acres or  
8 something like, they were found in the early  
9 1900's, but I would like to see PILOTS from  
10 all of them, and the Pennsylvania  
11 Association of Nonprofit Organizations has  
12 to start to relay to these people that if  
13 the city becomes unsafe it's not in their  
14 better interest at all. You could have  
15 students being preyed upon by criminals and  
16 so forth and we seen it. We have seen it.

17 I offered somebody a ride up in the  
18 Hill Section one night back when Biden was  
19 in town and I don't know why they didn't  
20 take me up on it and I picked up the paper  
21 the next day and three hours later somebody  
22 had a broken nose and had been robbed in the  
23 same neighborhood. They were parking cars  
24 up there so they didn't have to pay the  
25 exorbitant parking fees and so forth, so



1 school board, I think the next time I go to  
2 vote it's just going to for none of the  
3 above, and that's all there is to it.

4 It says, "Engineers force to train  
5 Chinese employees so the company could be  
6 outsourced, Chinese replacements, owned by  
7 Bain Capital and we all know who owns Bain  
8 Capital by now, and I guess the name is  
9 Des-Jarlais or something like that from  
10 Tennessee, he is a state senator, Pro-Life  
11 tea party doctor demanded his fourth  
12 mistress to get an abortion, it was on the  
13 news. Shame, shame, shame. I mean, he  
14 probably signed that pledge to ban hormonal  
15 contraception. Thank you and have a good  
16 night. Bawk, bawk.

17 MR. JOYCE: Is there anyone else who  
18 cares to address council?

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
20 Council. Marie Schumacher. On 7-A I have  
21 an issue with it, that is, I went on the  
22 Pennsylvania Secretary of State's  
23 Corporations website today and they have no  
24 520 Madison Avenue Associates, LLC, though  
25 they do have a 520 Madison Associates, LLC.

1           The County Assessor's website shows the 520  
2           Madison Avenue property is owned by Madison  
3           and Vine Associates. So my question then is  
4           the loan going to a corporation other than  
5           the owner of the property, perhaps a lessee  
6           for purposes of operating the bed and  
7           breakfast, and if so, what the length of the  
8           lease, is it at least as long as the loan  
9           repayment schedule? Anybody know?

10           MR. MCGOFF: From the narrative that  
11           I received from OECD, it is a property that  
12           is owned by Mr. Nasser, who was here a few  
13           months ago, I guess, you know, speaking to  
14           it and I believe that he is the owner and  
15           going to be the operator of the bed and  
16           breakfast.

17           MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay.

18           MR. MCGOFF: That is my  
19           understanding.

20           MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, it just seems  
21           strange to me that the Secretary of State --  
22           that we are doing a business with an LLC  
23           that's not listed in the Secretary of State  
24           as a valid corporation so --

25           MR. MCGOFF: I don't know.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: For what it's  
2 worth, you know. Also, I notice a large  
3 increase in the number of the properties  
4 owned by limited liability corporations.  
5 Does this limited liability impede such  
6 things as enforcing blight legislation for  
7 property or collecting unpaid balances on  
8 CDBG loans if the endeavor goes belly up  
9 before the loan is satisfied? No answer.

10 Okay, speaking of CDBG loans, I do  
11 hope we'll have that list tonight,  
12 Mrs. Evans will speak to it when she  
13 returns.

14 Also, adding insult to injury of the  
15 commuter tax being rammed through all three  
16 readings last week, I opened Monday's  
17 Times-Tribune to find almost five inches of  
18 legal notice announcing the city would be  
19 voting on a commuter tax on October 25 even  
20 though it was rammed through last week.  
21 Legal notices are not inexpensive. When you  
22 have half a million dollar cash on-hand,  
23 almost seven times that amount in  
24 outstanding bills, we shouldn't be wasting  
25 the expensive advertising dollars on dead

1 issues.

2 Now for a couple of follow-ups,  
3 Mr. McGoff, do you have the current number  
4 of rental properties in the database?

5 MR. MCGOFF: I do not. I have not  
6 checked that.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, maybe you  
8 could do that for next week, but, you know,  
9 I'm really astounded that probably the  
10 largest percentage of likely rental  
11 properties could readily be obtained by  
12 asking the County IT Department to provide a  
13 list of property owners with improvements  
14 whose billing address does not match the  
15 property address. Can you please tell me  
16 why this has not been done? Someone?

17 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, I was  
18 looking through the Madison Avenue --

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: No. Why, as I say,  
20 most of the properties that are owned by  
21 out-of-state are rental properties, the bill  
22 goes to a different address than the  
23 property and I know that the county has been  
24 willing to provide that list to the city and  
25 why haven't we asked for that? That's

1                   probably over 80 percent of the properties?

2                   MR. MCGOFF: I don't know that we  
3 haven't, I don't know that we have.

4                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Could you find out  
5 for next week?

6                   MR. MCGOFF: I will ask.

7                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

8                   Mr. Joyce, back to you, budget time must be  
9 coming. Two weeks ago you offered to obtain  
10 the information I requested on how close we  
11 are to our ceilings under the Unit Debt Act,  
12 do you have that information for me this  
13 evening?

14                   MR. JOYCE: Yes. I was looking into  
15 this and I also spoke with our business  
16 administrator about it via e-mail and  
17 conversation and he said the general  
18 obligation debt that we can borrow is  
19 roughly \$35 million, and general obligation  
20 debt that the city could borrow with leasing  
21 or subleasing is roughly \$90 million. I'm  
22 going to actually go back to him and ask him  
23 for some more clarification on that.

24                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, yeah, I mean,  
25 I know that's about what I had estimated on

1 the 35, at the 35 on what our billing amount  
2 is, but I'm just wondering where we are  
3 going to be when we get all these loans for  
4 this year combined with the loans for last  
5 year and, of course, we would have that if  
6 we had an audit, but since we don't seem to  
7 able to produce an audit it goes by the  
8 wayside I guess, but maybe you could get  
9 where we are now and what our general  
10 obligation principal amount is currently and  
11 what it will be after we obtain this year's  
12 funding and not next year's.

13 On March 29 of this year I provided  
14 the case law regarding commercial operators  
15 of government-owned facilities and their  
16 obligation to pay property taxes. Three  
17 weeks ago I inquired how far along you are  
18 in investigating this issue, which you said  
19 you were, which could increase annual  
20 property tax revenue by half a million  
21 dollars and I'd like to know where does your  
22 investigation stand of this evening?

23 MR. JOYCE: I'm still working on  
24 that, I apologize.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Do you plan to have

1 it before the budget this year?

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I'm hoping to.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Now,  
4 reading from the October 4 council meeting,  
5 in regard to the real estate tax collections  
6 so far this year the tax office has  
7 collected and distributed roughly \$11.9 --

8 MR. JOYCE: That's accurate.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- in current real  
10 estate taxes, however, the last time I  
11 checked August preceded October, so I'd like  
12 to know why the controller's report for the  
13 month of August records \$13.7 million in  
14 real estate income. Could you please  
15 explain and when you compare the 2012 to the  
16 2011, do you -- last week or two weeks ago I  
17 think you noted that it was like 8.4  
18 percent, this year's collections are 8.4  
19 percent, does that include the millage  
20 increase for this year or is it an apples to  
21 apples, 2011 to 2012.

22 MR. JOYCE: Well, that is with  
23 millage increase.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, okay.

25 MR. JOYCE: So it's really not

1 comparing apples to apples, the millage was  
2 increased by 4.8 -- or 4.9 percent, so you  
3 would expect a 4.9 percent increase in  
4 collections, but the increase in collections  
5 was I believe it was 8.7 off the top of my  
6 head. It was something like that.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, that was back  
8 on the 4th of October that it was 8.4, so  
9 yeah, I'll save the rest for next week.  
10 Thank you.

11 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

12 MR. MCGOFF: May I just -- Ms.  
13 Schumacher, I did find the note that we got  
14 from OECD. It says, "520 Madison Avenue  
15 Associates, LLC, is a new four-unit bed and  
16 breakfast located at 520 Madison Avenue,  
17 which is owned and operated by William  
18 Nasser, JR., CPA, so that is what I'm  
19 basing --

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Would you repeat  
21 that, that's the same -- what was the name  
22 of the corporation?

23 MR. MCGOFF: 520 Madison Avenue  
24 Associates.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, but as I say,

1 the only thing the Secretary of State's  
2 website says 520 -- they have no 520 Madison  
3 Avenue, but they do have a 520 Madison  
4 Associates, LLC, and before we execute a  
5 loan agreement I think we should check to  
6 make sure we have the correct name of the  
7 corporation and that it is a valid  
8 corporation in the Commonwealth. Thank you.

9 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie, you  
10 handsome devil you.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

12 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Janet.

13 MS. EVANS: Hi, Chrissy.

14 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Well, tomorrow  
15 night, Jack. We are going to get whooped  
16 tomorrow, you know that. I want to say one  
17 thing on the air, jack. Good luck tomorrow.  
18 Hey, Frankie, we aren't going to win it this  
19 year, but we're not going to win it this,  
20 maybe next year, Frank, but not this year we  
21 won't. Next year. Thank you.

22 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who  
24 cares to address council?

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,

1 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: As you know we plan  
5 to pass this commuter tax, if the Court  
6 okays it, it will go into effect. Who is  
7 exempt from paying this tax? Federal  
8 judges? County judges? People who work in  
9 the courthouse? People who work in the  
10 federal building? I want to know who is  
11 exempt from this tax, not who has to pay.  
12 I'm more concerned with that cleaning woman  
13 that's going to get hit with this no matter  
14 what, but I want to see it implemented  
15 fairly across the board to everybody that  
16 works in Scranton.

17 If you consider the federal judges  
18 federal employees, not working in Scranton  
19 but in the federal building, then they would  
20 be exempt. And that's the important thing  
21 about this whole commuter tax that it be  
22 imposed if it is imposed fairly. On  
23 principle, I can't find favor in it, but the  
24 principle isn't really going to make much  
25 matter if the Courts approve it, but the

1 exemptions are, and I believe that should be  
2 spelled out. Somewhere along the line the  
3 exemptions from this commuter tax be spelled  
4 out so the people across the area that's  
5 going to be effected by it will have the  
6 chance to either say something one way or  
7 the other or at least know it.

8 I hate to see that poor cleaning  
9 woman get hit with all of this tax and the  
10 federal judge walk away or a county judge  
11 walk away or the commissioners walk away and  
12 say, "We don't have to pay it, that's only  
13 for the peons, not the elected officials."

14 This is the important things about  
15 any tax. It has to be fair. And the thing  
16 you got, the tax report from the assessor's  
17 office down there and a lot of properties  
18 were reduced and if this is, you know, two  
19 weeks reduction of about 35,000 how many  
20 properties were reduced within the last four  
21 years or five years? That's your tax base.  
22 Not only do you blame the University, okay,  
23 they are eating up properties, the  
24 nonprofits are eating up properties, but  
25 people going to the Tax Assessor's Office

1           and getting their tax lowered are eating  
2           into our base.

3                        At one time they were going to send  
4           somebody down there and actually represent  
5           the city any time somebody came up for a  
6           reduction. I don't know what happened to  
7           the plan, that was quite awhile ago, Judy  
8           Gatelli was there at that time, I guess it  
9           never really got that far, but at least you  
10          do get the report. But, like I say, when  
11          you get the report it's already a done deal,  
12          there is nothing you can do about it, and  
13          the worst part about it is if you went back  
14          to those people that reduced them taxes and  
15          say, "Where is the backup? Where is the  
16          information they gave you to reduce the  
17          taxes," it's nonexistent. I went down there  
18          one time and tried to find out some of that  
19          information and they said it don't exist.  
20          They don't keep records other than what they  
21          gave you of the backup and the reason why it  
22          was done.

23                        And that's important, too. That's  
24          what is wrong with what's happening. That's  
25          why you consider Scranton to be corrupt, and

1 I can understand that. Fairness in taxes is  
2 the cornerstone of the Democratic Republic  
3 and if you have no fairness in taxation we  
4 might as well just go to a dictatorship or  
5 back to the old surf system because we are  
6 headed that way as it is, I'm sorry to say.

7 I always said this along time ago I  
8 was more afraid of Washington than I was  
9 afraid of Moscow, and that was at the height  
10 of the cold war because Washington can do a  
11 lot more damage to you than Moscow could  
12 have ever done, because anyone with common  
13 sense knows an atomic war was going to get  
14 us anyway, and they always said that.

15 The government is your enemy, your  
16 weapon is your vote. You got to utilize  
17 that vote to the maximum. If you don't we  
18 are in for a decline, and as you can see, we  
19 are declining. I know people have their  
20 reasons. When you vote don't vote on a  
21 name, don't vote on a party, vote on the  
22 individual and everything you find out about  
23 that individual, and usually by talking to a  
24 neighbor, a friend, even an enemy, you will  
25 find something about that individual and

1           then when you cast the vote you cast a more  
2           intelligent vote. Where we are now, as you  
3           can see, we haven't been very smart in our  
4           voting. Thank you.

5                   MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6                   MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

7                   MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

8                   MS. EVANS: Good evening.

9                   MS. FRANUS: I hope Pat Rogan is  
10           feeling better. I just wanted to give a  
11           different approach here, I respect Ms.  
12           Schumacher and Lee Morgan, but I have to  
13           disagree completely with what their views  
14           are on and this commuter tax. They seem to  
15           think that bankruptcy is the idea. Well, I  
16           don't think these commuters would have to  
17           worry if the city went bankrupt, they  
18           wouldn't have a job to go to. Some places  
19           would probably close up. But, also, if you  
20           live in this city you should hope that our  
21           city council and our government is doing  
22           everything you can to keep our taxes down.

23                   Now, without this commuter tax our  
24           taxes would probably raise and we simply  
25           can't afford it, so I can't comprehend

1 people in the city not wanting this. How  
2 about entertainment? The people out of town  
3 what do they do? They go to the parks, Nay  
4 Aug Park, they go to the parks in Scranton,  
5 they go to the Cultural Center, they go to  
6 the museum, that's in Scranton. They come  
7 here all the time. Nay Aug Park at  
8 Christmas time they go to the hospitals,  
9 they go to the doctors in Scranton. Not  
10 only that, the DPW plows the street in  
11 Scranton that these people come to work on  
12 so they can get to work.

13 So, I mean, all of these services  
14 that they seem to take for granted they  
15 don't realize. Same with the fire and  
16 police, 24-hour protection. Sure, maybe  
17 someone isn't in a fire, thank God they  
18 weren't, but if they were the police and  
19 firemen would be there to help them on our  
20 dime, so I don't think it's asking that  
21 much. I myself go to different towns and  
22 stuff for lunch and stuff like that. Other  
23 people, we have our mall that they come to,  
24 we go to their towns, they come to our  
25 towns, that's the way it should be. It

1           should be one helping each other out, and  
2           I'm sure we can do that for them if we  
3           could, so I just think that there should be  
4           a different approach and that people should  
5           try to see why this commuter tax is very  
6           important. I mean, you are doing your best  
7           to try to keep the taxes down as low as  
8           possible and I appreciate it.

9                        So I hope it goes throughout and I  
10           hope people remember all of the services and  
11           not just a few, there is many, many more.  
12           Their children go the University of  
13           Scranton, Lackawanna College, Johnson  
14           School, that's in Scranton. How about that?  
15           They are here all day long, so think about  
16           it twice before you say they don't get  
17           anything from Scranton. They get far more  
18           from Scranton than we get in other little  
19           towns. Thank you.

20                      MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21                      MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini,  
22           recently returned to Scranton and registered  
23           voter.

24                      MS. EVANS: Welcome back.

25                      MR. TALIMINI: I've been here on

1 many occasions and I have seen you people  
2 get hammered left and right and I have done  
3 it myself on occasion, of course, I had much  
4 more fun with the previous fun council, but  
5 the only thing you haven't been blamed so  
6 far is what happened in Libya and why the  
7 gas prices are so high and you ought to be  
8 accountable for that, too, but we'll save  
9 that for another day.

10 Personally, I think the biggest  
11 problem with this town is something that is  
12 obvious to everybody and nobody wants to  
13 admit it and that's this town is still run  
14 by the good ole' boy network and by this  
15 ridiculous Home Rule Charter where you  
16 people don't have any power. The power goes  
17 to the mayor and he has dictatorial powers  
18 and I'm glad to see that the past year you  
19 have at least gotten someplace with it, you  
20 forced his hand. But, you know, quite  
21 frankly, I have seen him on two occasions in  
22 public. The other times he is at the  
23 Chamber of Commerce, and those people don't  
24 vote for him, I'm sure they gave him money,  
25 but I don't know what he does.

1                   I just came back from the south, I  
2                   spent 14 months down there and I attended 16  
3                   different city council meetings and they all  
4                   have a mayor and council form of government,  
5                   they all have a pay as you go plan, and  
6                   these are the people who are supposed to be  
7                   so backward. My God, they are light years  
8                   ahead of us for the simple reason that every  
9                   agency in the city is accountable to the  
10                  public and they attend council meetings.  
11                  There is not an agency in this city that  
12                  should be exempt.

13                   And it's nice that, you know,  
14                   finance people go to Mr. Joyce, but  
15                   Mr. Joyce also works full-time and Mr. Joyce  
16                   doesn't have the option to sit there and  
17                   understand these things. I think everybody  
18                   that gets any money from the city should be  
19                   here to account for to the public, every  
20                   agency, and that includes the fire  
21                   department, the police department and the  
22                   city clerk, everybody. Everybody who deals  
23                   with public funds should be accountable to  
24                   the public and should be required to attend  
25                   the meeting. You are not going to do this

1           until you get a mayor and council form of  
2           government where you have equal authority.

3                       Now as it is right now you are  
4           technically a legislative branch, but how  
5           far can you push legislation? Only so far,  
6           we all know that. Your hands are tied. You  
7           have to play games, and again, we go back to  
8           the good ole' boy network, and I just  
9           recently noticed that one of the schools  
10          they signed off on one of the schools and  
11          the gentleman in charge, who has several  
12          previous jobs within the city, I don't know  
13          what his qualifications are for the present  
14          job, didn't even know which school he signed  
15          off on. That's ridiculous. Come on. You  
16          are paying the guy 50, 60 grand a year and  
17          he didn't know who the hell he is signing  
18          off on. These kids are going to that  
19          school. Fortunately, I understand that they  
20          started moving the kids.

21                       But this is the thing, somebody has  
22          got to held accountable. As it is right  
23          now, the mayor is accountable. The mayor  
24          does not appear at these meetings, nobody  
25          from any of the agencies appears at these

1 meetings, you have no idea what's going on.  
2 You saw the fiasco with the Scranton Parking  
3 Authority. The Sewage Authority is in the  
4 same situation. Every agency in this  
5 community and who is accountable? Who tells  
6 the public what's going on? Nobody. I can  
7 come up here and ask any one of you  
8 questions, you have to get answers because  
9 you don't have any, and that's not right.  
10 That is not what government is about.

11 It's about time and I am proposing  
12 right now that the citizens of this  
13 community get together to repeal the Home  
14 Rule Charter and enact a mayor and council  
15 form of government because that's only way  
16 you are going to solve this problem. You  
17 need accountability, you need transparency.  
18 Right now you don't have it.

19 So, as I said, I apologize that you  
20 don't have the answers on Libya or the high  
21 gas prices, but I'm sure one of you can come  
22 up with it for next week.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

1 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do  
2 you have any comments or motions this  
3 evening?

4 MR. MCGOFF: Very quickly tonight.  
5 Just one item from the meeting with the  
6 Pennsylvania Economy League on Monday, it  
7 was talking about, you know, the  
8 implementing various parts of the recovery  
9 plan and one of the things that did come up  
10 was the fact that there were three things in  
11 the recovery plan for which council had  
12 basic responsibility for or some  
13 responsibility, the amusement tax, real  
14 estate transfer tax, and I am missing the  
15 third one, Mrs. Krake? There were three at  
16 the top of the page and I forgot to bring  
17 the -- to implement it, but anyhow.

18 MS. KRAKE: I don't remember.

19 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know. There  
20 were three and I mentioned before but one of  
21 the things that was mentioned was that  
22 passage of these three prior to appearance  
23 in Court for the commuter tax would probably  
24 be a good thing to do since one of the  
25 things that the judges will look at is

1           whether we have exhausted other revenue  
2           streams, so it was just a comment that was  
3           made and I know Mr. McGowan mentioned that  
4           the legal office was working on some of  
5           this, but, you know, perhaps we should move  
6           it along, try and move it along a little bit  
7           so you can get this done, you know, prior t  
8           appearing in Court.

9                       MS. EVANS: I'll just respond that I  
10           did talk to the mayor about these issues  
11           throughout the last week and at the top of  
12           my list was the amusement tax and I  
13           requested that the city solicitor would  
14           draft the legislation and send it to us as  
15           soon as possible because I had mentioned to  
16           the mayor we need to keep to a timeline and  
17           I think it's something also that must be  
18           included in the budget and he agreed and he  
19           does have Mr. Kelly at work on it, so I'm  
20           hoping that we should receive that for  
21           either next week's meeting or the following  
22           week.

23                      MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, and that was  
24           all I have. Thank you.

25                      MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,

1 Councilman Loscombe, do you have any  
2 comments or motions?

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah, just briefly, I  
4 just wanted to touch on what I believe  
5 Mr. Miller mentioned it at the podium this  
6 evening that there was a meeting in Keyser  
7 Valley last night concerning the lack of  
8 fire protection on the west side, more  
9 importantly, Luzerne Street station being  
10 closed the majority of the time and the  
11 conditions of the buildings because of the  
12 closures.

13 It was a pretty interesting meeting  
14 last night. There was some slight  
15 contentiousness, but a lot of facts were  
16 laid out, the public got to ask questions.  
17 I do appreciate the fire chief for attending  
18 the meeting and answering the questions and  
19 our deputy chief was there with, you know, a  
20 lot of facts and figures and, of course,  
21 there were members of the fire department  
22 residents of the West Side, particularly the  
23 West Mountain, too, where there is no water  
24 for fire protection and now that we are  
25 getting into the heating season it's getting

1 even more, you know, important that we have  
2 protection over there, and I don't think the  
3 people in Keyser Valley were looking to one  
4 step any other part of town, they were  
5 just -- they are just wondering why they are  
6 closed. I believe the figures were 88  
7 percent. 12 percent they were open, 88  
8 percent of the time that station was closed  
9 and no other stations are closed that amount  
10 of time.

11 You know, if it's going to be fair  
12 it's going to be roving brownouts then every  
13 station there should be a rotational  
14 pattern, you know, we are rolling the dice  
15 as it is. We are rolling the dice with the  
16 closings up to this point. West side is a  
17 massive area. The whole city should -- the  
18 protection that we had previous with all of  
19 the stations open worked adequately for  
20 years and years. It changed that, and  
21 again, there is no actual study that they  
22 used, they used the dartboard method, which  
23 I stated before.

24 You know, it's a situation where we  
25 are playing with people's lives. Sometimes

1           it's a matter of calling on one person for  
2           overtime and they could open that station,  
3           but they refuse to do that. They are  
4           calling in people to work overtime to man  
5           the East Mountain station, but I just don't  
6           know. Last night the chief admitted it was  
7           him that decides which stations close or  
8           which, you know, when they are open and when  
9           they are closed, however, I don't know on  
10          what basis they utilize that, but it's a  
11          disaster waiting to happen and we are trying  
12          to nip it in the bud before it happens.

13                 But I did state the fire stations on  
14          the West Side are in pretty deplorable  
15          condition because of the vacancies. You  
16          could imagine leaving your home at this time  
17          of the year to go somewhere for three or  
18          four weeks at a time, you know, the  
19          creatures are coming in, in from the cold,  
20          and that's what's happening.

21                 Now, last night the chief said they  
22          were going to have professional cleaners  
23          come in this week and, you know, I will be  
24          following up on that. I'll be following up  
25          on the station reopenings, he said he was

1 going go to reopen it again. There was some  
2 confusion on if he has the determination to  
3 do it or does he have to go through the  
4 mayor.

5 But we even had a gentleman there  
6 who lives on Dewey Avenue that experienced a  
7 fire in his elderly mother's home and he was  
8 expecting the fire truck from Luzerne Street  
9 to be right there and he waited and waited  
10 until they came from downtown. You know,  
11 seconds count in an emergency. It's  
12 fortunate that there were no lives lost in  
13 that.

14 But how many times, how many times  
15 are we going to spin the wheel and continue  
16 to hope that it doesn't happen because it's  
17 going to happen. We have been very  
18 fortunate. It will be too late when  
19 something drastic does happen, and I know I  
20 have preached this many times. I lived it.  
21 I have seen it. I worked the job. I live  
22 in West Side. I live in an area where there  
23 is no water, no hydrants. I have an elderly  
24 woman that lives across the street from me,  
25 85 years old and she lives alone, God forbid

1 if her house is on fire there is nothing  
2 they can do. There is no hydrants. By the  
3 time they climb that mountain and get around  
4 that house it's a tender box. It was built  
5 in the 20's and even earlier than that.  
6 This is what we are facing.

7 You know, the population of the city  
8 may have gone down, but the city's borders  
9 have expanded. We have got construction  
10 farther and farther on the west mountain, on  
11 the east mountain, Montage mountain, farther  
12 areas for our equipment to run and we just,  
13 you know, again, we are rolling the dice. I  
14 don't know how long this can go in our  
15 favor, but we're rolling the dice on your  
16 lives, we are rolling the lives on the lives  
17 of the firefighters, and the chief said it's  
18 economics. You know, I don't know if that  
19 means we put a price on a life or what. I  
20 don't want to read it that way, but if it's  
21 economics -- but they had the economics.  
22 They had that \$3 1/2 million to man every  
23 station that was required. You would have  
24 the full protection that you deserve. We  
25 had two years to determine how we are going

1 to offset it. We can reapply in two years,  
2 a number of firefighters would be retiring  
3 within that time so we wouldn't have to  
4 worry about unemployment, there are many  
5 things to look at in that two years, but to  
6 gamble with lives in those two years really  
7 has me upset and I was a little upset at the  
8 meeting last night because I know the  
9 reality and the consequences of what can and  
10 may happen and who is going to take the  
11 blame? Who is responsible?

12 You know, I was told that, well,  
13 city council didn't put any overtime in for  
14 the fire department. Well, we did put  
15 overtime in, they haven't even utilized all  
16 of the overtime at this point. We put  
17 overtime in for the police department, they  
18 have utilized probably three times what we  
19 put in so why is it any different? Why  
20 can't they still use overtime? You know, we  
21 have other funds -- or discuss it with  
22 council, discuss it with the us, the Finance  
23 Chair, the Director -- or the Public Safety  
24 Chairman to find ways to protect you.  
25 That's what we are here for, too, but when

1 things are done unilaterally, like, turning  
2 back \$3 1/2 million without our knowledge  
3 until after the fact that's a disgrace.  
4 That's one man making the decisions with  
5 your lives and this is what's been going on  
6 here in this city.

7 We are all supposed to be part of a  
8 team. Yes, we batted back and forth, we  
9 don't always agree with the mayor, but we do  
10 agree to work together for your sake and you  
11 have seen that happen with the recovery  
12 plan. Mrs. Evans, Mr. Joyce, worked real  
13 hard on that along with our solicitor to  
14 make a recovery plan that was going to be in  
15 the best interest of everyone. Were there  
16 some hard decisions in that recovery plan?  
17 Certainly. I have friends, again, I have  
18 family, I have relatives, I have elected  
19 officials in many of the surrounding area  
20 that are good friends of mine that aren't  
21 too happy about the commuter tax.

22 All we are asking is for a little  
23 bit of help for a couple of years. I know  
24 there has been a battle over this city for  
25 years, the black hole is talked about, I

1 think the majority of people in this city  
2 have seen a change. There is more  
3 accountability. We haven't been able to do  
4 it overnight, we have been working hard for  
5 the last almost three years to turn  
6 something over that's been going away for  
7 ten years, and we can't do it overnight and  
8 it's still going to take time, but I think  
9 you are starting to see some of the fruits  
10 of our work. Those that pay attention, not  
11 those that read, but those that pay  
12 attention to the meetings and speak to  
13 people on the street, they are ones that the  
14 see the reality of what we are doing here.

15 But we are concerned with your  
16 pockets. Somebody mentioned how deep can  
17 you go in our taxpayers' pockets. That's  
18 why we looked at this recovery plan with  
19 many different facets, different revenue  
20 sources. It would have been easy to just  
21 say, yes, let's just throw that 89 percent  
22 tax increase out there we will be set. We  
23 have to get innovative. And if that  
24 requires asking our neighbors for some help  
25 at this time, and we are not the only ones

1 in the state that do that. Reading,  
2 Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, they all do it.

3 Our situation is a little different,  
4 different in the fact that, you know, we  
5 have to apply each year for that and we only  
6 have it in our recovery plan for three  
7 years, so with the right fiscal juris  
8 prudence here watching over the money that's  
9 coming in from that and designating it to  
10 where it should go, not to the black hole  
11 like it used to, I think we are able to turn  
12 this around and it's going to be a benefit  
13 to not only our residents, but those people  
14 out of the city who will benefit from a  
15 greater and stronger Scranton area. And by  
16 us being stronger we will be able to help  
17 those areas at times, too.

18 That's what it's about. There are  
19 family. All the areas around here are part  
20 of Scranton family. We happen to be the  
21 county seat and we happen to have a majority  
22 of nontaxable profits -- or nontaxable  
23 properties, and again, that's not something  
24 we can resolve overnight, but we are working  
25 on legislation and avenues to get money from

1 the PILOTS. We are not alone in this and  
2 there has been other areas in the state  
3 where they are tried different things and  
4 rather than us reinvent the wheel we are  
5 working with these other areas to see what  
6 will work for everybody.

7 But, you know, we have lot of  
8 issues. We have been confronted with a lot  
9 of issues. A lot of issues financially, and  
10 the issues about public safety and someone  
11 mentioned the police cars before. I believe  
12 I had mentioned a couple of years ago when  
13 we had found out that there was money coming  
14 from the landfill for equipment and it was  
15 going to the DPW every year and when we read  
16 the legislation it said for public safety or  
17 whatever, and I believe I suggested at that  
18 time we can use that for police or fire  
19 vehicles and I'm glad to see those 40 police  
20 cars were purchased through that fund. So,  
21 someone was listening to us.

22 You know, you don't see us in photo  
23 opportunities in the newspaper ever day, you  
24 know? First of all, you don't see many  
25 favorable comments about us in the

1 newspaper, that's a given, but we sit here  
2 week after week, day after day and do our  
3 jobs and do in our hearts what we feel is in  
4 the best interest of everyone here yet we  
5 see cartoons bashing us. We see editorials  
6 bashing us and that's fine. You know, I  
7 don't like to call us politicians. We are  
8 you. We are one of you. We are here  
9 working for you. I've said it before, not  
10 one of us on this panel can give anybody  
11 jobs. We can't give out contracts. We are  
12 not like the other political entities around  
13 here where we can hire people, build  
14 buildings, set up contracts and all of that.  
15 You come to one of our rallies you won't see  
16 many contractors there or employees or  
17 anything like that because we don't have  
18 anything to give them, we are here working  
19 for the taxpayer, and I think this is one of  
20 the few elected bodies in this area that  
21 works specifically for the taxpayers.

22 We are providing you with your  
23 public safety, your police, your fire, you  
24 are garbage pick up, your interconnection  
25 when you come to city hall through our

1           clerical workers in are offices here, but  
2           you we're always finding ways to help the  
3           taxpayers, reduce the tax burden even though  
4           we had to increase the taxes, but it's been  
5           a runaway for years. That's been a hard  
6           decision. Very hard decision. We are here  
7           to make the hard decisions and, you know, we  
8           are going to continue and we are going to  
9           continue to fight for you. We are not going  
10          to give up. We don't need the glory of our  
11          picture in the every day, we don't need the  
12          glory of headlines or anything like that.  
13          Our glory is going to be a few years down  
14          the road when we can see this city turn  
15          around because we demanded accountability.  
16          We demanded transparency, and we are and  
17          will continue to work our butts off for you.

18                        And you can lash out at us all you  
19          want, you can talk about different ways of  
20          resolving problems in this city, but I think  
21          between the five of us here we put our  
22          collective heads together and we have worked  
23          out these issues to the best of our ability  
24          and, you know, we have to go with that I  
25          would hope that you elected us with that

1 believe that we can lead this city out of  
2 the problems we've had, and I personally  
3 feel we have, even though you won't read  
4 about it every day, but I could go to sleep  
5 at night knowing that the decisions that we  
6 made here, and it's not "I", we are a team  
7 and we may not agree on every issue here. I  
8 have stated this before, you know, I'm  
9 married 33 years. I don't know if me and my  
10 wife agree on half the things, but we have  
11 been together 33 years and we made it work  
12 and that's what we are doing here.

13 We may have different ideas but once  
14 you put your heads to the and come up with a  
15 consensus that that's going to be the best  
16 way to do it, that's what happens. It's  
17 easy to second guess us, it's easy to blast  
18 us for raising taxes, it's easy to blast us  
19 for commuter taxes, but had some of our  
20 ideas been put into place three years ago  
21 when we first suggested them we would be in  
22 a much better position now.

23 Perhaps, if those employers that  
24 employ the majority of the out-of-town  
25 people and/or nonprofits would have

1            contributed more over the years perhaps we  
2            wouldn't have to go after the commuters.  
3            It's a tough decision. We had a mixed bag.  
4            We had to work it out with the recovery plan  
5            and I believe all in all with everything  
6            that we have put together in the next couple  
7            of years we are going to be able to sit back  
8            and say the tide has turned, the city has  
9            changed. There is accountability, there are  
10           watchdogs here.

11                        It hasn't been easy for the last two  
12                        and a half years and it's not going to be  
13                        easy for the next four years, but we didn't  
14                        get up here to be easy. We didn't get up  
15                        here for an easy job, we came up here  
16                        because our hearts are in this city. I have  
17                        children and grandchildren, and hopefully  
18                        great-grandchildren that I want to see live  
19                        in this city. I have been here all my life  
20                        and I plan to be here the rest of my life.

21                        So I sleep good at night knowing  
22                        that the decisions I made are in the best  
23                        interest of everyone overall. We will get  
24                        flack, we are use to that, but I just wanted  
25                        to explain where we are coming from. Your

1 tax dollars are here to pay for your public  
2 safety, your police protection, your fire  
3 protection, your garbage, your clerical  
4 workers, and hopefully good government, and  
5 I don't want to be tainted by any problems  
6 that we have had prior in government or  
7 anything like that. I wasn't part of it. I  
8 want to be part of the new government, the  
9 government that we have tried to change  
10 here.

11 If we didn't bring up the issues  
12 with the Parking Authority yet, again, as  
13 you see they are rolled that over and tried  
14 to blame us for the positions the employees,  
15 some of the employees are in now, they are  
16 going to play this game for a little bit  
17 more, but yet you will see some of those  
18 employees, and maybe one of the executives,  
19 will end up on his feet somewhere else with  
20 another position in another government body  
21 within the city with no loss whatever.

22 They have hundred dollar people  
23 running the administration now and \$10 an  
24 hour people are told they have to sue to get  
25 their back pay. It's a disgrace. This is

1 the good ole' boy network and, believe me, I  
2 have said before we have no jobs to give out  
3 or anything. I have lost more myself and  
4 family members by being in this position  
5 than anyone has ever gained. I have been --  
6 there has been retribution to myself and my  
7 family members from other political good  
8 ole' boys, I may as well say, that will some  
9 day -- some day be cleared up.

10 But, you know, I believe in God and  
11 I believe what I'm doing is right and I  
12 believe that should be the end of my sermon  
13 tonight and God bless you all and we are  
14 here for you. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you, and if I  
16 might just suggest though just as we all  
17 came together to mitigate the Supreme Court  
18 award and to address contracts and provide  
19 security for the citizens of Scranton for  
20 the coming years, wouldn't it be possible  
21 say for yourself, maybe some members of the  
22 fire department, the fire chief, the mayor,  
23 to work together with what we have right  
24 now, the number of the men we have, the  
25 equipment that we currently possess, you

1 know, can we be utilizing it in a manner in  
2 which it will provide more equitable  
3 coverage and, you know, rather than I think  
4 what often happens is we all know what's  
5 wrong and we talk about and talk about it,  
6 but nothing much changes.

7 And I think maybe the best route to  
8 take here is to see if there is a way where  
9 these two sides would come together and say,  
10 "This is how we can maybe use the manpower  
11 more effectively or by maybe moving around  
12 this equipment we can use it more  
13 efficiently and effectively."

14 So if maybe you could try to bring  
15 those parties together.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure, and I agree.  
17 This is something that was touched on by one  
18 of the commentators last evening, and as you  
19 said, I mean, working with the  
20 administration we would be able to resolve  
21 some of the issues and I do believe that  
22 with the chief being there last night, the  
23 deputy chief, our union officials, myself  
24 and the mayor I believe we can sit down  
25 because in those negotiations over the

1 Supreme Court issues there was a pretty good  
2 consensuses between the union and the  
3 administration that we would try to resolve  
4 these issues before they really went into  
5 arbitrations or upper level grievance  
6 procedures and all of that, and I think, you  
7 know, that the tide has turned on that and  
8 we have been working on that.

9 There is a cooperation going on and  
10 that will definitely be my goal. I will  
11 stop down city hall tomorrow and try to get  
12 in touch with the mayor and the chief and  
13 our leaders of the unions, police and fire  
14 and see what we can do. Definitely. It  
15 will be a benefit to everyone.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

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

21 MR. JOYCE: I do. Some time ago on  
22 August 15 a five-year capital budget was  
23 sent down to council for years 2013 to 2017.  
24 The original capital budget that was sent to  
25 us by the administration included four

1 sections being the fire stations and  
2 equipment, bridges, roads, curbs and  
3 sidewalks, building improvements and the  
4 park system.

5 The original capital budget sent  
6 down by the administration in the capital  
7 budget projected costs for fire stations and  
8 equipment of \$2.5 million, projected cost  
9 for bridges, roads, curbs and sidewalks was  
10 \$3 million. Projected costs for building  
11 improvements was 1.5 million and the  
12 projected cost for the parks system was \$7  
13 million. This is a grand total of \$14  
14 million.

15 The funding for projects in the  
16 capital budget that was sent down by the  
17 administration was to come from grants and  
18 contributions, one-time revenue sources, and  
19 operating transfers from other funds. None  
20 of the funding for the projects in the  
21 capital budget was to be funded from  
22 long-term debt.

23 The capital budget that was sent  
24 down by the administration went through the  
25 first two readings and was later tabled.

1 This legislation was tabled to obtain  
2 suggestions for amendment by council members  
3 and also to obtain suggestions for creating  
4 a priority order of the projects. I have  
5 received some suggestions from council  
6 members, however, not all council members  
7 offered suggestions.

8 Tonight I am going to make a motion  
9 in Seventh Order to take the capital budget  
10 off the table. Out of the council members  
11 that offered suggestions for the capital  
12 budget, the top priority was bridges, roads,  
13 curbs and sidewalks as improvements are need  
14 within the City of Scranton's  
15 infrastructure, projects related to bridges,  
16 roads, curbs and sidewalks may include, but  
17 are not limited to, street resurfacing,  
18 bridge reconstruction and sidewalks,  
19 obviously.

20 The second priority for the capital  
21 budget was tied between building  
22 improvements and fire stations and equipment  
23 making them dually important. As one may or  
24 may not know, there are eight fire stations  
25 in the City of Scranton. Fire stations are

1 in need of renovations and repair. In  
2 addition, certain major equipment and  
3 apparatus will need to be replaced.  
4 Renovations and repairs need to take place.

5 Along with this, improvements are  
6 needed for buildings owned by the City of  
7 Scranton. This includes city hall, the DPW  
8 complex and police headquarters. Building  
9 improvement projects may include, but are  
10 not limited to city hall improvements, such  
11 as general maintenance to the exterior of  
12 city hall, new electrical wiring and the  
13 replacement of the elevator located inside  
14 of city hall, which we all know, especially  
15 those sitting in the audience, is in  
16 definite need of repair.

17 The third and final priority for the  
18 capital budget was the parks system. Within  
19 the park system the first priority viewed by  
20 council members who responded to me was the  
21 construction of replacement fields and  
22 facilities for the South Side complex. The  
23 second priority was the Capouse Avenue pool.  
24 The third priority was the Novembrino pool  
25 complex. The fourth priority was Weston

1 Field, the fifth priority was Weston Park,  
2 and finally, the sixth priority was Nay Aug  
3 Park.

4 Out of all the council members that  
5 responded to me, there were certain projects  
6 within the park system that were not a  
7 priority and were not wanted. For instance,  
8 the installation of the splash parks was not  
9 a project that was wanted. This was  
10 originally in the capital budget for the  
11 Capouse Avenue pool and the Novembrino pool.

12 Instead of installing splash parks,  
13 it was the suggestion of council members  
14 that responded to repair the pools in these  
15 parks instead.

16 Also, in addition, it was suggested  
17 by city council members to not install  
18 security cameras since the security cameras  
19 that are currently in place in some city  
20 parks are not being monitored at all.

21 Along with this it was suggested by  
22 council members that lighting be removed  
23 from Weston Park and Weston Field and  
24 instead just to maintain the lighting  
25 systems that are currently in place.

1                   Also, it was suggested by council  
2                   members that the garages not be installed  
3                   and instead the garages that are in place be  
4                   maintained at Weston Field and Nay Aug Park.

5                   All in all with the cuts being made  
6                   to the capital budget for the parks system  
7                   it was suggested that the amount of money be  
8                   spent in grants and contributions are to be  
9                   received be reduced from \$7 million to \$5  
10                  million.

11                  With this in mind, it was suggested  
12                  by council members that revenue from  
13                  one-time revenue sources be eliminated in  
14                  the capital budget as it was the thought of  
15                  the council members that responded to me  
16                  that if a one-time revenue sources realized  
17                  in the upcoming years they should be spent  
18                  on general city operating expenses or to  
19                  create a surplus or even pay down debt.  
20                  This amounts to a total of \$1.5 million.

21                  Moving onto the 2013 budget, with  
22                  the budget season fast approaching I have  
23                  been informed that our business  
24                  administrator, Ryan McGowan, has sent out  
25                  worksheets to each of the respective

1 department heads. Mr. McGowan has asked  
2 that each of the department heads to reduce  
3 their spending in order that the -- in their  
4 respective departments by at least 10  
5 percent at their discretion and,  
6 furthermore, that if their spending is not  
7 reduced that the Business Administrator's  
8 Office would make the cuts.

9 The reduction of departmental  
10 expenditures is necessary for the  
11 implementation of the revised recovery plan  
12 as departmental expense reductions have been  
13 included as part of the plan.

14 Finally, there has been some  
15 reported opposition to the commuter tax by  
16 council speakers, and especially by the  
17 newspaper it has been documented recently.  
18 To remind, the commuter tax is an integral  
19 part of the recovery plan. If Scranton is  
20 not granted a commuter tax, it will have a  
21 negative effect on the real estate tax  
22 increase in the City of Scranton. In the  
23 City of Scranton, the commuter tax is  
24 proposed to generate \$2.5 million in revenue  
25 if and when it is implemented for next year.

1           If we did not obtain this \$2.5 million in  
2           revenue, it would have to be made up in the  
3           operating budget.

4                     To provide a brief background, a  
5           \$139,000 increase in real estate tax revenue  
6           results in a 1 percent real estate tax  
7           increase for Scranton residents. If one  
8           does the math, \$2.5 million divided by  
9           \$139,000 results in a tax increase of 18  
10          percent next year on top of the Court  
11          ordered 12 percent tax increase associated  
12          with the unfunded debt.

13                    Therefore, if the commuter tax is  
14          not granted and if you oppose the commuter  
15          tax essentially you may be in favor likely  
16          of increasing real estate taxes for Scranton  
17          residents by 30 percent rather than 12  
18          percent, and that's all I have for tonight.

19                    MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Evans, I'm  
20          sorry, I forgot one thing.

21                    MS. EVANS: Sure.

22                    MR. LOSCOMBE: I happened to see in  
23          our mail today a request for proposals,  
24          professional architectural services, this is  
25          for Engine 9 fire station on North Main

1 Avenue. It says, "Architectural services to  
2 develop plans, specifications and contract  
3 documents for renovations of the new  
4 overhead doors, man doors and new windows  
5 for the City of Scranton's Fire Department,  
6 Engine 9 buildings located at 1047 North  
7 Main Avenue. Provide general project  
8 management by attending meetings, approve  
9 shop drawings, answer questions during  
10 construction, inspection of final  
11 construction work, approve all requests for  
12 payments by contractor."

13 This is it all well and good, this  
14 is something that's definitely needed and I  
15 know the chief had mentioned they were going  
16 to do something like this, but when I went  
17 around to the stations last week with the  
18 situation that we have had with the mice and  
19 stuff like it, Engine 9 especially stood  
20 out. I believe that we need more than  
21 windows and doors there. I believe there is  
22 some structural deficits and there should be  
23 an engineer to check that out first.

24 The rear door does not open -- or  
25 close at all because there is settlement in

1 the building, there is large cracks. The  
2 front facade is pulling away. The lock at  
3 the top on the driveway side of the building  
4 is caving in. The glass in the back is  
5 cracked from settling, so I don't believe it  
6 would be prudent to put in new windows and  
7 have them crack two weeks later because  
8 there is still more settlement. It's like  
9 spend bad money after -- or good money after  
10 bad.

11 My suggestion is that they have a  
12 structural engineer look at this building  
13 before they issue these contracts for the  
14 windows and doors because there may have to  
15 be some other work done on those buildings.  
16 I know all of the buildings need some work,  
17 but Engine 9 more specifically has  
18 definitely structural deficits that have to  
19 be addressed before cosmetic work is  
20 completed.

21 And it's the same thing I happen to  
22 see many times and I know what would happen.  
23 Let's get it straightened out now before  
24 it costs us three times as much. How many  
25 times we have homes on our demolition list

1           and there is bids put out then we get the  
2           revisions, it's time after time and I don't  
3           know why they don't do it, but time after  
4           time you get revisions where the person that  
5           received the contract gets an increase of  
6           four or \$5,000 here, \$2,000 there because  
7           there was asbestos in the property they were  
8           tearing down. I think that should be  
9           investigated before those structures are put  
10          out to bid.

11                        I mean, that's my opinion, but it's  
12          simple to do and have somebody, I mean, we  
13          have an inspectors in the city they can go  
14          in and tell you it's asbestos and it has to  
15          abated before it comes down, but time after  
16          time after time I think just about every  
17          demolition group that we have had so far  
18          there has been revisions to pay extra to  
19          have asbestos abated. Let's know up front  
20          what it's going to be. Maybe another one of  
21          those other bidders would have been cheaper  
22          including the asbestos removal. That's my  
23          opinion on that, but I could see that  
24          happening with the Engine 9, put all of  
25          those windows in and then they start popping

1           again and the doors won't close. It could  
2           end up being a lot more costly, but it's,  
3           you know, a little more prudent to do a  
4           little more investigating before we jump  
5           into something like this and not that it's  
6           not sorely needed, but let's spend the money  
7           wisely.

8                         So I would suggest we send a letter  
9           to OECD requesting that they have an  
10          engineer check this building before any of  
11          this work is approved.

12                        MS. KRAKE: Mr. Loscombe, may I  
13          suggest we send them to the city engineer?

14                        MR. LOSCOMBE: Certainly. I'm  
15          sorry, that's all.

16                        MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good  
17          evening. Following the publication of the  
18          fees included in previous 2012 debt  
19          financing, I requested similar information  
20          for all bond issues, TANS, letters of  
21          credit, lease backs and borrowing that  
22          occurred from 2002 through 2011. In  
23          response, Mr. Henry Seliski, managing  
24          director of RBC Capital Markets, LLC,  
25          provided a complete list of fees and

1 expenses charged by various companies  
2 relating to Bond Series A, B, C and D of  
3 2003, all of which were paid from the  
4 proceeds of the bonds. Among the numerous  
5 fees included in the correspondence are the  
6 following:

7 Financial advisor's fee of  
8 \$106,666.63. Bond counsel fees of \$100,000,  
9 and underwriter's counsel fee of \$50,000.  
10 The total of 2003 fees and expenses is  
11 \$2,176,503.94.

12 Also, in response to counsel's  
13 request, Mr. William Rhodes of Ballard Spahr  
14 provided a chart that includes the billed  
15 fees related to city debt financing that  
16 were paid to Ballard Spahr for a total of  
17 \$224,150 for the years 2003, 2004 and 2008.

18 In addition, Mr. Brain P.  
19 Koscelansky of Stevens & Lee submitted  
20 closing statements from the four City of  
21 Scranton's financings for which Stevens &  
22 Lee served as bond counsel, and I am not  
23 going to read all of that, but just I'll  
24 highlight some of each year from December  
25 22, 2004, we have Stevens and Lee, special

1           counsel fee and expenses \$45,000. RBC Dain  
2           Rauscher, financial advisor, fee of \$25,000.  
3           Jeffery J. Belardi, Esquire, authority  
4           co-solicitor fee \$4,000. William B. Peters,  
5           Esquire, co-solicitor fee \$4,000.

6                     Pepper Hamilton, LLP, Authority  
7           special counsel fee 1,500. Ballard Spahr,  
8           bank and counsel fee and expenses \$5,500,  
9           and there are there is more, but the total  
10          for December 22, 2004, is \$93,000.

11                    In 2005 we have, again, Stevens and  
12          Lee, \$30,000. RBC Dain Rauscher, \$15,000.  
13          Jeff Belardi, co-solicitor \$4,000. James  
14          Mulligan, Esquire, authority co-solicitor  
15          \$4,000. Ballard Spahr \$3,500, and a few  
16          more for a total of \$67,500.

17                    In 2006, we have Stevens & Lee, bond  
18          counsel fees and expenses for a total of  
19          \$60,362.50. Cummings Law Firm, \$6,000.  
20          McGrath Law Firm, 6,000. Carl Greco,  
21          \$5,000, and there are more, and that's a  
22          total of \$92,064.50; and then finally in  
23          2008 we have Stevens & Lee, bond counsel  
24          fees and expenses for \$58,000. Ballard  
25          Spahr \$20,000. Koziell and O'Connor,

1 special counsel to the city, \$27,500. Carl  
2 Greco, \$7,000. The Redevelopment Authority  
3 of the City of Scranton \$10,000 for an  
4 authority fee and that grand total, because  
5 there are many more, it comes to  
6 \$202,936.90.

7 So the total of billed fees paid for  
8 these four financings in 2004, '5, '6 and '8  
9 is \$455,501.40. To date these are the firms  
10 who responded. All fees with the exception  
11 of the \$31,000 paid by the city post-closing  
12 in renege 2003 for post-issuance escrow  
13 restructurings appear to have been paid from  
14 the proceeds of their respective financing.

15 Because all of these billed fees and  
16 expenses may not have been made public by  
17 the local newspaper and the administration  
18 from 2003 through 2008, it is important to  
19 provide the information to the taxpayers  
20 regarding all city financings, not only  
21 those that occurred this year. Financing  
22 requires the work of multiple firms and  
23 their counsels, all of whom are compensated  
24 for their time and effort.

25 Next, I believe we received copies

1 of the city's noise ordinance this week and  
2 I ask that all council members, and  
3 particularly Mr. Loscombe, Public Safety  
4 Chair, would review it as I will and propose  
5 any amendments that may be needed to stop  
6 boom cars from blasting music on a city  
7 streets 24/7.

8 I'll also forward to you,  
9 Mr. Loscombe, a website that contains  
10 valuable information and procedures  
11 implemented in other cities to address this  
12 type of constant nuisance.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: You're welcome. I spoke  
15 with the mayor earlier today, as I noted  
16 during citizens' participation, and he  
17 stated that the heat has been turned back on  
18 at Engine 2 fire station. UGI said it was  
19 their mistake and they apologized for the  
20 inconvenience.

21 Also, I am pleased to report that  
22 the streetlight installation request at  
23 Lafayette Street and Boyland Avenue was  
24 approved by the city engineer this week. He  
25 directs Mr. Dougher, DPW director, to

1 coordinate its installation with the  
2 appropriate parties.

3 In addition, the administration  
4 hopes to submit legislation to halt truck  
5 traffic on Lake Scranton Road to city  
6 council for placement on next week's agenda.

7 And finally, I have but one  
8 citizen's request for the week, residents of  
9 Cedar Avenue request the posting of a speed  
10 limit sign in the 300 or 400 block of Cedar  
11 Avenue. They report daily speeding on this  
12 road. And that's it.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Prior to going to Sixth  
14 Order could I have one last thing, personal,  
15 just a congratulations to my niece, Mary  
16 Clare Hopkins, recently honored for 20 years  
17 of working with United Neighborhood Centers  
18 and Project Hope and Head Start Program, but  
19 I do want to mention that. Thank you.

20 MR. JOYCE: Congratulations.

21 MS. EVANS: Yes, congratulations  
22 from all of council. Mrs. Krake?

23 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. APPROVING THE  
24 TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE  
25 CURRENTLY OWNED BY CALANNI'S INC. T/A

1 LITTLE NIKKI'S PASTA HOUSE, 77 FALLBROOK  
2 STREET, CARBONDALE, PA 18407, LICENSE NO.  
3 R-14028 TO PASS RUSH LLC FOR USE AT BIG  
4 HOUSE TOBACCO OUTLET LOCATED AT 200 GREEN  
5 RIDGE STREET, SCRANTON, PA, 18509, AS  
6 REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR  
7 CONTROL BOARD.

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

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

12 MR. JOYCE: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: On the question?

14 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not familiar with  
15 Big House Tobacco Outlet and why they would  
16 need an -- oh, it's for -- is it for the  
17 Tobacco Outlet or is it for the pasta house?  
18 No, it's transferred. Why would they need a  
19 liquor license?

20 MR. HUGHES: I would think that this  
21 is a -- probably it's a delicatessen license  
22 where they could sell up to two six pack of  
23 beer up to four quarters of beer at a time.  
24 I don't know if that's what it is, but it  
25 seems that if it's coming from Little

1 Nicki's Pasta House that would be a  
2 restaurant license.

3 MR. MCGOFF: It says transfer  
4 restaurant liquor license.

5 MR. HUGHES: If it's a restaurant  
6 liquor license they are going to have to  
7 have so many tables in there in order to  
8 meet the requirements of the control board,  
9 and it would seem they would have to run a  
10 restaurant there. I mean, that's the rules  
11 of the Liquor Control Board. But it could  
12 be looked into. I haven't seen the  
13 legislation to support it, but, you know,  
14 what the write up is, but whoever the  
15 lawyers are it could be a letter written to  
16 them and also would be on the PLCB  
17 application. I don't know what the  
18 supporting documentation is on this.

19 MR. MCGOFF: This is just for  
20 introduction so --

21 MS. EVANS: Right. We can do the  
22 investigation in the mean time.

23 MR. MCGOFF: We can produce it, but  
24 I think we should find out what the purpose  
25 is.

1 MS. EVANS: I agree. All those in  
2 favor --

3 MR. HUGHES: Since it's coming from  
4 Carbondale into Scranton we have to approve  
5 it, you know, to transfer from that  
6 municipality to this municipality.

7 MS. EVANS: Um-hum. All those in  
8 favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

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

15 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 63,  
16 2012 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE  
17 COUNCIL NO. 46, 2012, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED  
18 "AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 33, 2012  
19 ENTITLED "ESTABLISHING A NO PARKING ZONE IN  
20 THE 900 BLOCK OF NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE  
21 (S.R. 3023) ON THE WESTERN MOST SIDE OF SAID  
22 STREET PURSUANT TO THE HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY  
23 PERMIT APPLICATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
24 MEDICAL COLLEGE FROM SR 3023 SEGMENT 0090  
25 OFFSET 1000 TO SR 3023 SEGMENT 0090 OFFSET

1 1219 FOR A DISTANCE OF TWO HUNDRED NINETEEN  
2 (219) FEET" TO CORRECT THE INCORRECTLY  
3 IDENTIFIED SEGMENT NUMBERS OF SR 3023" TO  
4 CORRECT THE INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED OFFSET  
5 NUMBERS FOR THE NO PARKING ZONE.

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

8 MR. JOYCE: I move that Item 6-A  
9 pass reading by title.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER.

19 MR. JOYCE: Before we begin Seventh  
20 Order, I would like to make a motion to  
21 appoint Jack Loscombe as temporary  
22 chairperson for community development?

23 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the  
24 floor, do we have a second?

25 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
2 signify by saying aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

5 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION  
9 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
10 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 44, 2012 -  
11 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
12 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
13 ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN  
14 FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
15 PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.35 IN AN AMOUNT NOT  
16 TO EXCEED \$150,000.00 TO 520 MADISON AVENUE  
17 ASSOCIATES, LLC TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE  
18 PROJECT.

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

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

25 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: On the question?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just on the question  
3 since Mrs. Schumacher brought it out, if we  
4 can just make sure that this loan is made  
5 out to the proper entity if our solicitor  
6 can check on that.

7 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

8 MR. HUGHES: I would think that, I  
9 mean, this is OECD, I'll look into it, but  
10 if you pass it tonight it's passed and the  
11 only thing you could do is table it until  
12 next week to see -- and have OECD -- you  
13 know, I'll look into it, but you can't pass  
14 it and then look into it and then -- I mean,  
15 the only thing you can do is table it and  
16 take a look at it next week.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well --

18 MR. HUGHES: It's up for final  
19 adoption tonight.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: It's on the table  
21 now. Based on that question, just so we do  
22 have an accurate entity, I am going to vote  
23 -- or make a motion to table this until we  
24 can check that out with OECD next week.

25 MS. EVANS: We have a motion to

1 table Item 7-A, do we have a second?

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

3 MS. EVANS: On the question?

4 MR. MCGOFF: I guess I don't  
5 understand -- maybe I just don't see what  
6 the problem is, and we have all of the  
7 backup and, you know, the names are  
8 consistent. I would just -- it's putting  
9 off the inevitable.

10 MR. HUGHES: I think what the  
11 problem is what Mrs. Schumacher stated is  
12 that, you know, I don't know how accurate it  
13 is, but what she checked there is no such  
14 entity on the corporate bureau as 520  
15 Madison Associates, LLC. Now, I don't know  
16 if it's going to be formed, I don't know if  
17 she did the search right, but if there is no  
18 such entity how could the city make a loan.  
19 I think that's what her question was, and  
20 certainly that this is who the loan is being  
21 made to and it doesn't exist, you know, one  
22 week isn't going to matter to find out who  
23 it is. I don't even know who the attorneys  
24 are or anything like this.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Understood.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just for legal  
2 clarification.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Understood.

4 MR. HUGHES: I would think that OECD  
5 should have checked all of that to make sure  
6 that it is a -- it is a LLC that is  
7 registered and it is, you know, an LLC  
8 that's registered in Pennsylvania.

9 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of  
10 tabling Item 7-A signify by saying aye.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
15 have it and so moved. Item 7-A is tabled.

16 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT-  
18 FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 45, 2012  
19 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
20 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF  
21 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND  
22 MAKE A LOAN FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
23 BLOCK GRANT LOAN PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.34  
24 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00 TO  
25 FRECKLES AND FRILLS, INC. TO ASSIST AN

1 ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

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

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

8 MR. JOYCE: Second.

9 MS. EVANS: On the question? As I  
10 noted last week, the taxes, the delinquent  
11 taxes, were paid for the 420 Madison Avenue  
12 Associates, LLC. We also received, however,  
13 during the week notifications from OECD that  
14 taxes for Freckles and Frills are also  
15 up-to-date and we did receive copies of the  
16 receipts for payment and I thank OECD. I  
17 know last week I believe I mentioned that we  
18 would like that to be looked into for each  
19 one of the loans and we would like council  
20 to be notified prior to placing the loans on  
21 the agenda, and we required proof of  
22 payment. Is there anyone else on the  
23 question? Roll call, please?

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

4 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

8 MR. JOYCE: I would like to make a  
9 motion to take File of Council No. 54-2012  
10 from the table.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION -  
20 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FILE OF  
21 COUNCIL NO. 54, 2012 - PREVIOUSLY TABLED -  
22 APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
23 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2013 PURSUANT TO  
24 SECTION 904 OF THE CITY'S HOME RULE CHARTER.

25 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to amend

1 Item 7-C as per the following changes:

2 2013 capital budget, number one,  
3 insert on page two under park system:

4 (1). South Side Complex  
5 construction of replacement field and  
6 facilities.

7 (2). Under Weston Field delete "New  
8 garage, new show mobile, new lighting."

9 (3). Under Weston Park delete  
10 "Security cameras and new lighting."

11 (4). Delete Connell Park "Security  
12 cameras."

13 (5). Under Capouse Avenue Pool,  
14 after demolished delete "pool and" delete  
15 "install splash park" and insert "repair  
16 pool."

17 Under Novembrino Pool after  
18 "demolish" delete "pool and" delete "install  
19 slash park" and insert "repair pool."

20 Under Nay Aug Park delete "new  
21 garage, security cameras, new filtration  
22 system building."

23 After projected costs delete "seven"  
24 and insert "five."

25 After total delete "\$14 million" and

1 insert "\$12 million."

2 On page four, capital fund  
3 improvement plan budget spreadsheet, in Row  
4 4, Column C, delete "\$1.5 million."

5 In Row 4, Column F, delete "\$1  
6 million."

7 And Row 4, Column G, delete  
8 "\$500,000."

9 In Row 7, Column C, delete "\$2  
10 million" and insert "\$1.5 million."

11 In Row 7, Column D, delete  
12 "\$500,000."

13 In Row 13, Column C, delete "\$14  
14 million," and insert "\$12 million."

15 In Row 13, Column E, delete "\$2.5  
16 million," and insert "\$2 million."

17 In Row 13, Column F, delete "\$2.5  
18 million" and insert "\$1.5 million."

19 In Row 13, Column G, delete, "\$5  
20 million" and insert "\$4.5 million."

21 On page five, capital fund  
22 improvement plan budget spreadsheet, in Row  
23 12, Column C, delete "\$7 million" and insert  
24 "\$5 million."

25 And in Row 12, Column G, delete

1 "\$3.5 million" and insert "1.5 million."

2 In Row 13, Column C, delete "\$7  
3 million" and insert "\$5 million."

4 In Row 13, Column G, delete "\$13.5  
5 million and insert "\$1.5 million."

6 In Row 16, Column C, delete "\$14  
7 million" and insert "\$12 million."

8 In Row 16, Column G, delete "\$5  
9 million and insert "\$3 million."

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

11 MS. EVANS: On the question?

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I noticed  
13 Mr. Joyce mentioned the deleting of the  
14 security cameras. I think in the capital  
15 budget security cameras are just a way of  
16 protecting the investment that you are  
17 making and for what I would consider  
18 probably be a small cost in each of these  
19 areas to install cameras that I think that  
20 they should be -- that should be reinstated  
21 for the various parks.

22 Since vandalism at those places is  
23 one of the major problems, I think security  
24 cameras in the capital budget would be a  
25 good idea.

1 MS. EVANS: The only thing in the  
2 way of response I could make, is that as we  
3 are all aware the city has had security  
4 cameras and that program was very  
5 unsuccessful and a waste of taxpayers'  
6 money. I don't know who would be watching  
7 these cameras because, as I said, the  
8 cameras that were installed throughout the  
9 downtown previously that was another project  
10 that went belly up. So as much as, you  
11 know, I do appreciate what you are saying I  
12 think the city is in such dire financial  
13 circumstances that it really has to try to  
14 manage what can be done and in what stages  
15 it can be done and when all is said and done  
16 this capital budget, quite frankly, is  
17 nothing more than a wish list.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Which is why I thought  
19 that taking them out was unnecessary. That  
20 since we are not voting to spend money to do  
21 it at this point in time, I just believe the  
22 security cameras are a good idea and should  
23 be considered in the future when we do make  
24 the capital amendments. That's all.

25 MS. EVANS: And you know hopefully--

1 MR. MCGOFF: It can be added at the  
2 time.

3 MS. EVANS: I hope that it can be  
4 done and I hope we will have people or have  
5 the money to do so and have the manpower  
6 assigned to actually monitoring it.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Understood.

8 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the  
9 question? All those in favor of the motion  
10 to amend Item 7-C signify by saying aye.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

16 What is the recommendation of the  
17 Chairperson for the Committee on Finance?

18 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the  
19 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
20 passage of Item 7-C, as amended.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

4 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
7 Item 7-C, as amended, legally and lawfully  
8 adopted.

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

11 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

12 MS. EVANS: This meeting is  
13 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.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
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