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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, January 17, 2013

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
(Not present)

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE
(Not present)

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe. Mr.
9 Joyce. Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with the
11 reading of the minutes, please.

12 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A ZONING
13 HEARING BOARD AGENDA FOR MEETING HELD ON
14 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2013.

15 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
16 If not, received and filed.

17 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. RECEIVED FROM
18 ROBERT ROSSI & COMPANY A TIMETABLE TO ADHERE
19 TO IN ORDER TO ISSUE THE DECEMBER 31, 2012
20 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS BY MAY 31,
21 2013.

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

24 Are there clerk's notes, Mrs. Krake?

25 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any
2 council members have announcements at this
3 time or council member?

4 MR. ROGAN: I'll just announce the
5 one item that we all have at the top of our
6 mail today. As everyone saw, there was an
7 article in the paper regarding trees being
8 planted in the neighborhoods and Mr. Santoli
9 did call Council's Office today to respond
10 to homeowners that do not wish to have trees
11 planted on the property, volunteers will
12 approach them and homeowners have to give
13 there approval first, and he also said the
14 volunteers are given orders not to plant
15 trees where they are not wanted so some
16 people did have some concerns about that. I
17 just wanted to announce that. Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you, and I thank
19 Mr. Santoli for his prompt response to my
20 letter.

21 Councilman Loscombe is unable to
22 attend tonight's meeting due to illness.
23 And we thank Mr. Tom Welby for taking over
24 the cameras tonight for ECTV so that this
25 meeting can be broadcast live.

1 On Monday, January 21, our nation
2 will celebrate Martin Luther King Day, Jr --
3 or Martin Luther King, Jr., Day in honor of
4 a civil rights leader of great wisdom,
5 courage and compassion. Numerous local
6 events will commemorate the life and lessons
7 of Dr. King, but it's equally important that
8 we practice his teachings of equality,
9 humanity, dignity, respect, and compassion
10 in our daily lives, and that's is.

11 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
12 PARTICIPATION.

13 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
14 tonight is Ron Ellman.

15 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you, Council. I
16 saw in the paper the house foreclosures the
17 other day and Arthur Alt, A-L-T, this poor
18 guy is losing a piece of property for \$6,400
19 in school taxes. At the end of the list was
20 a Joseph Crowka, C-R-O-W-K-A. He is losing
21 his house on Phyllo Street. In-between that
22 A and Z there is over 3,000 people, families
23 that have lost property around here in the
24 past few years that's been in the paper. I
25 imagine most of them have left town. 3,000

1 people have lost the most cherished thing
2 that you can own is your home.

3 You know, we have had 20 years of
4 PEL and not one positive suggestion just
5 year after year the useless contemptible
6 stupidity, just raise taxes and borrow.
7 That's all they suggest. When are you going
8 to stop it and do something for the city? I
9 had a suggestion to have Ms. Nancy write all
10 of the bankers and ask them to reply with
11 what they think could be done. You might
12 get a good suggestion out of one of the
13 banks. You just can't keep going to these
14 people and raising taxes. Where are we
15 going to be in 10 or 20 years from now?
16 Your children will be in the same place we
17 right now. The city will still owe tens of
18 millions of dollars, the University will
19 still be giving a minute amount of what they
20 have taken off the tax rolls and brag about
21 it.

22 Lackawanna College, they are not
23 going to give you nothing, they told you
24 guys could go to hell one time when you
25 asked them for money. They're spending

1 their budget on advertising and TV ads so
2 they can get more students and steal more
3 property off the tax rolls and grow their 40
4 percent. It's just -- you know, if someone
5 wants to do something positive there is no
6 help.

7 There was a fellow who wanted to buy
8 a house in the 1700 block of Capouse, a big
9 six-unit house. He said everybody was
10 against him, he got turned down and tried to
11 buy a house to put on the tax rolls. Then
12 there was that company that wanted to take
13 the building on the 700 block for a Woman's
14 Center. It would have been put on the tax
15 rolls. I don't know why. Council have
16 stood behind them. Instead, JC Nichols he
17 has a lawyer go fight it for some reason.

18 It's just -- it's just like
19 everybody keeps attacking the few taxpayers
20 that are left, and the other day about the
21 recovery plan the newspaper said there is a
22 shortage because of economic condition in
23 the licensing. The reason it is there is
24 because theses developers deliberately cheat
25 on what they put down. Jefferson says he

1 spent \$32 billion or something on the
2 Cornell building and he paid \$3,000 building
3 permits. They should have been two or three
4 times that. I mean, I know everything isn't
5 like labor and so on, but these people are
6 cheating the city out of millions of dollars
7 and not one thing is done about it.

8 Nothing.

9 It's just like developers get
10 everything. If somebody wants to put up a
11 fence you got to pay more of a percentage
12 for a 2000 foot fence than someone building
13 a building. It's just backwards. It's like
14 I have been saying for three weeks, you
15 people find it easier to attack the taxpayer
16 than fight for them.

17 You know, I got 30 something empty
18 apartments in one block this way and one
19 block that way around my house. My house
20 looks like -- it's just the neighborhood is
21 going down so fast. That zone has attracted
22 all kinds of real bad people from other
23 parts of the city that get chased out and
24 they are over in my neighborhood. We have
25 caught two people in my garage. It's the

1 same thing everywhere and there is just no
2 help. It's not a police matter, it's just
3 that there is just no help for the taxpayers
4 here. You need to do something about PEL
5 and trying to get the Plan B if you ask me.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

7 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Joseph Burke.

9 MR. BURKE: Good evening.

10 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

11 MR. BURKE: I promise to be brief
12 and I'm going to stay right here in front of
13 the microphone. I wanted to thank the
14 council for their continued efforts to
15 enforce the traffic ordinance banning the
16 truck traffic on Lake Scranton Road. I'd
17 also like to present some more indisputable
18 facts to those council members that still
19 support the notion that the ordinance should
20 be enforced, but the largest, most
21 disruptive and dangerous trucks going to and
22 from DeNaple's junk yard should be awarded
23 an exemptions to that ordinance. I'm still
24 scratching my head trying to figure out when
25 public safety is a matter of compromise. I

1 can't understand what criteria would apply
2 where public safety would be compromise.

3 This information I'm going to give
4 is readily available on the County Tax
5 Assessor's website. There is 16 homes on
6 Lake Scranton Road. The lowest tax
7 assessment is \$17,500 and the highest tax
8 assessment is \$35,000. Doing the math, the
9 average tax assessment for one of those 16
10 homes is \$23,000. I personally paid \$4,100
11 in property taxes last year. What I got for
12 it was a road that wasn't paved for 20
13 years, a road I won't even drive on anymore.
14 I leave my house, take a left and go down
15 Elmhurst Boulevard because that's in better
16 shape than Lake Scranton Road.

17 Another thing I got for my \$4,100
18 was a mayor who turned his back on the
19 property owners and taxpayers on Lake
20 Scranton Road. Until 2010 my wife and I
21 gladly paid the relatively high property
22 taxes having enjoyed the safety, peace and
23 tranquility that our neighborhood once
24 afforded. We appealed our property taxes
25 last year arguing that the market value of

1 our property was being negatively effected
2 by the truck traffic going to and from
3 DeNaples junk yard and their newly
4 established dumping grounds.

5 We were successful in having our tax
6 assessments slightly lowered, but we intend
7 to appeal it again this year because it has
8 been declared the access road to DeNaples
9 junk yard and the city will not defend the
10 taxpayers and residents of Lake Scranton
11 Road.

12 The mayor and his solicitor have
13 virtually seeded our neighborhood to the
14 DeNaples with no attempt to present any type
15 of defense to Attorney Belardi's specious
16 arguments. Presently because of their
17 inaction, there is no restriction on what
18 can be transported over our once peaceful
19 and isolated road. I would expect other
20 property owners on Lake Scranton Road will
21 follow suit and appeal their property taxes
22 resulting in loss revenue for the city.

23 If my wife and I intended to
24 purchase a home in Scranton where the diesel
25 tractors roared, we probably would have

1 selected a home in an area where heavy duty
2 traffic was the norm, and we would have
3 expected our property and taxes to be
4 assessed that reflected that location.
5 However, we chose Lake Scranton Road because
6 of the tranquility, the nature of the
7 neighborhood, and gladly paid the high
8 property taxes never expecting our
9 neighborhood would be transformed into an
10 access road to a junk yard and a dumping
11 ground in Dunmore.

12 Under the current conditions, the
13 market value of our home has been decimated
14 and so has the market value of our
15 neighbors' home.

16 Now, in September of 2012, Mayor
17 Doherty called me at my house and he told me
18 he intended to remedy the truck traffic
19 problem on Lake Scranton Road as soon as
20 possible. He admitted his administration
21 dropped the ball in 2010 when the city
22 engineer failed to conduct the traffic study
23 at Lake Scranton Road that was a
24 prerequisite to banning the truck traffic.
25 My opinion of any man is he is only as good

1 as word, and the mayor's word is not good.

2 The council members who propose
3 granting exemptions to the DeNaples should
4 remember that talk is always cheap, words
5 without conviction and actions are merely
6 hollow promises. Once again, I thank the
7 council for their efforts. I'd also request
8 that the council request the mayor request
9 Mr. DeNaples, if we could have permission,
10 to put some soft patch in the larger holes
11 on Lake Scranton Road, if it wouldn't
12 interfere with his commerce. Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
14 Mr. Burke, as you may know, the testing of
15 the dirt is underway. I had requested that
16 at a previous meeting. I had also requested
17 that a study be done by the city engineer
18 and today I received a response that I'd
19 like to read to you now regarding that
20 study, and this is from Paul Kelly, Esquire
21 city solicitor:

22 "I have been asked to opine as to
23 whether CECO Associates in its capacity as
24 city engineer and its past and current
25 relationship with DeNaples Auto Parts

1 constitutes a conflict of interest regarding
2 the threatened litigation. It is my
3 considered opinion that CECO does have a
4 conflict and council should forward any
5 future requests to the law department and
6 alternate engineer Civil Crossroads
7 Consulting Engineers, LLC."

8 And so, Mrs. Krake, I would like the
9 request for the traffic study to be
10 forwarded to Civil Crossroads Consulting
11 Engineers and, you know, you can advise
12 Solicitor Kelly that council will be
13 pursuing that.

14 And in addition, at Mr. Burke's
15 request, if we can send a letter to the
16 mayor requesting that DeNaples would fill
17 the holes in Lake Scranton Road with soft
18 patch.

19 MR. BURKE: Or if he would grant the
20 mayor permission to have our Department of
21 Works do it. It seems that nothing can be
22 done without Mr. DeNaples permission, so
23 whichever way it could be done I would
24 appreciate somebody filling the holes.

25 MS. EVANS: Yes, we'll pursue that

1 for you.

2 MR. BURKE: Thank you very much.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MR. BURKE: And once again, I
5 appreciate everything you are doing.

6 MS. EVANS: You are very welcome.

7 MR. BURKE: Because as it is
8 well-known the mayor and the solicitor just
9 don't have the fight in them. Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bob Bolus.

11 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
12 Bob Bolus.

13 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

14 MR. BOLUS: Back for another fun
15 evening. On 6-A Boyd is here so he knows I
16 won't talk behind his back, I totally
17 disagree with any additional money being
18 paid outside of the contracts. I mean, this
19 is basic contract law that we are looking
20 at. It's nothing to the extent that Boyd
21 had to do in the past and I just disagree
22 with any additional money being paid out and
23 if it is I'd like to see a fee agreement and
24 everything else that's going to be paid to
25 him.

1 Paul Kelly, as I have said more than
2 once -- but I thank council, Nancy called me
3 today to try and give me a response to my
4 request and I appreciate that, however, as
5 usual and for the last year Paul Kelly again
6 failed to respond.

7 So what I did in the past we have
8 already put the City of Scranton, which is
9 required, on notice by a letter of our
10 intent to sue. Well, now we are going to
11 file the action and Paul Kelly will now
12 become accountable because there is \$50,000
13 that this city should be getting and if some
14 underhanded deal or something went on we are
15 going to get to the bottom of it.

16 We could ask the University of
17 Scranton do an internship that consists of
18 council, Boyd or Paul Kelly as it relates to
19 6-A. Get something back. They need to come
20 in, these guys are going for masters, MBAs
21 and a lot of stuff, so they have the
22 experience to do what we need to do. This
23 isn't overly complicated. Dotting "I" or
24 crossing a "T" or reading a contract. It's
25 basic contract law and that's my issue of

1 landfill -- or not the landfill, I'm sorry,
2 but the junk yard you now see again along
3 81, the largest junk yard in the world
4 along-- or in the country and we were known
5 for it, not for what the prosperity of the
6 city was and the people and the growth in
7 the area, but because we were happy to be a
8 junk yard. We grew cars there.

9 When DeNaples took over on Mill
10 Street, the old iron works and everything
11 else that was there, the agreement, and I
12 sat in on it, was that for them to give them
13 the variance for the Mill Street property
14 that it was his warehouse and car parts
15 yard, he had to vacate everything that was
16 on that mountain. That was the stipulation.
17 It was in black and white. There are people
18 today that were on that council that made
19 that decision for him to do it and he abided
20 by it. People remember that, the whole
21 mountain was cleaned right off, and then
22 gradually he just started putting stuff
23 back. Tractor trailers were going across
24 the bridge. You have no reason -- you don't
25 have to gross as much weight on that bridge

1 going under the Interstate. You could run
2 less weight, take it over to those yard and
3 transfer loads to make heavier loads going
4 out there if that's what he needs to do.
5 They used it for years and years and years.

6 I think the encroachment on the
7 people on East Mountain and Lake Scranton
8 Road has to come to a halt. These people
9 built their homes there. This is an abuse
10 of the privacy of the people that live on
11 there. There is trucks coming down Moosic
12 Street on a daily basis that are running in
13 and out of landfill hauling Marcellus shale
14 cuttings. Whether they are empty or they're
15 loaded they are going up and down there for
16 repairs, as we all know they have a facility
17 past Lake Scranton.

18 But to have tractor trailers and
19 trucks going up and down that road on a
20 daily basis I would recommend to the city,
21 to council tonight, we have a DOT unit here
22 in the City of Scranton, start weighing them
23 as they come up that road, which we have
24 every legal right to do. So enforce a
25 weight limit. Put a weight limit on that

1 road, which we can do.

2 But the people do not deserve to be
3 bullied in this community. We have taken
4 enough, we have to smell the stench of the
5 garbage and so on and so on forth, and I'm
6 not stopping anybody from making money or
7 what you are doing, but these people, and I
8 have lived there, do not have to have their
9 rights taken away because of politics and
10 the threat of a lawsuit when this city has
11 bent over backwards for the DeNaples
12 landfill and yet to this day has failed to
13 implement a leachate feed on there that can
14 generate millions and millions of dollars
15 into this community. Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And our next
17 speaker is --

18 MR. MCGOFF: Before Mr. Burke
19 leaves, Mr. Burke? I just had a question
20 for Mr. Bolus, if you wanted mind? The
21 access road that we are talking about is
22 that in the City of Scranton or is that
23 Dunmore? Do you know?

24 MR. BURKE: I can't answer with
25 certainty.

1 MR. MCGOFF: The border is somewhere
2 there, and I'm not sure whether that road is
3 Dunmore or Scranton?

4 MR. BOLUS: I believe part of it,
5 Bob, when you came down -- when you make a
6 right-hand turn that becomes more the
7 Elmhurst Boulevard.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yeah.

9 MR. BOLUS: That crosses into
10 Dunmore. Part of that road where it goes
11 from over, from what I understand, you know,
12 30, 40 years ago it was still part of the
13 City of Scranton and then it changes as it
14 gets further down with the lines. That's
15 why I think a survey should be done maybe to
16 find out.

17 MR. MCGOFF: I wasn't sure and I
18 just --

19 MR. BURKE: All I can say with
20 certainty is I moved there in 2003 and the
21 road was closed until 2010.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Right. I was just -- I
23 thought maybe you had an answer, you know,
24 that somebody knew whether that was Dunmore
25 or Scranton. Thank you.

1 MR. BURKE: Had the mayor had the
2 engineer do the survey, the traffic study in
3 2010 we would all have the answers to those
4 questions.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

6 MR. BURKE: Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Well, it appears at
8 least from Mr. DeNaples point of view that
9 it was in Scranton or he wouldn't be
10 threatening litigation against the City of
11 Scranton.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Well it's not Lake
13 Scranton Road, the access road is on the
14 other side of Elmhurst Boulevard and it's
15 somewhere along there Dunmore -- the border
16 between Dunmore and Scranton exists, so I
17 guess I'm not sure. We're up there -- I'm
18 up there all the time and I'm just not sure
19 whether that's Scranton or Dunmore.

20 MS. EVANS: Well, maybe that's
21 something else that can be determined by the
22 engineer.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Right. And I thought
24 maybe they would know.

25 MS. EVANS: If you would talk to

1 Mrs. Krake and add that --

2 MR. MCGOFF: We'll do.

3 MS. EVANS: -- to the request,
4 please. Our next speaker is Doug Miller.

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

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8 MR. MILLER: I'd like to begin
9 tonight by briefly discussing the 2011 audit
10 that we did finally receive. I did get a
11 copy of it. I haven't had a chance to fully
12 look it over. I intend on doing that.
13 However, I do have to say I'm a little
14 disappointed in the amount of time it did
15 take to receive it as this has been an issue
16 we have dealt with on many occasions. My
17 only hope is that moving forward we receive
18 audits in a more timely fashion so that we
19 can use these as vital tools when we put
20 budgets together and other financial
21 documents to give us an understanding where
22 we are financially.

23 And it leads me to once again
24 bringing up the forensic audit and I know we
25 have discussed that on many occasions and

1 we've discussed the cost of doing that and
2 how it is quite costly, and certainly with
3 the city's financial situation it would seem
4 unrealistic at this time that we would have
5 the ability to put forth a forensic audit,
6 but I truly believe that that's the only way
7 we will get a firm understanding of where we
8 sit financially where we account for
9 everything going back for the last 12 years
10 of this administration. Certainly knowing
11 the headaches and the management that they
12 have caused we need that to really
13 understand where we are so that we can
14 answer the many questions that we have.

15 Moving onto the agenda tonight, 6-A,
16 I did address this last week, I guess I have
17 a different opinion from some of the
18 speakers tonight. I see it a lot
19 differently, I don't see this as double
20 dipping by Attorney Hughes or Attorney Kelly
21 or anyone else involved. You know, when we
22 take a look at -- and as I have said before,
23 I sound like a broken record and repetitive
24 at this point, when we take a look at all of
25 these issues that these individuals have

1 dealt with, particularly Attorney Hughes,
2 who has gone above and beyond, and I can't
3 stress that enough, with the recovery plan,
4 the Parking Authority, the budget and many
5 other things that he has done behind the
6 scenes that we don't even know about. He
7 certainly taken on tasks that many council
8 solicitors in the past wouldn't go near, and
9 it's not to get an extra paycheck, it's not
10 to get the notoriety, it's to help the city,
11 but most importantly, to help the taxpayers
12 who he knows are struggling and he knows the
13 city is struggling and that we have
14 difficult decisions to make.

15 So we know that this is about
16 compensation to individuals that have gone
17 above and beyond and dealing with any future
18 financial negotiations that we may have to
19 undertake moving forward. So again, I do
20 see it little differently, I don't see it as
21 double dipping and that's my opinion on
22 that. I don't want to continue to harp on
23 that issue.

24 And finally tonight in regards to
25 the Lake Scranton Road issue, we heard from

1 Mr. Burke tonight and I had mentioned in the
2 past, and I do feel it's unfortunate that
3 these residents have had to deal with this
4 ongoing frustration. It's my only hope that
5 we can come to a resolution once and for
6 all, avoid litigation, avoid all of the
7 costly fees and everything that are involved
8 with it so that we can satisfy these
9 residents. They shouldn't have to live with
10 this inconvenience every day. You know,
11 certainly I do believe that the city should
12 fill these holes that have been caused. I
13 understand the vehicles that do commute back
14 and forth on this road. It's just not fair
15 to them. They pay taxes and they certainly
16 should not have to be inconvenienced by
17 noise and heavy vehicles that travel each
18 and every day causing a disturbance for
19 them.

20 And with that, that's pretty much it
21 tonight, pretty brief, and I'll be back next
22 week. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mrs. Krake,
24 before I forget, it triggered my memory
25 because of the discussion on Lake Scranton

1 Road, if you could also contact acting Chief
2 Graziano tomorrow and ask him if we may
3 please have his recommendations for
4 amendments to the ordinance that pertains to
5 the Bellevue cave-in area truck traffic as
6 soon as possible so that we could get to
7 work on amending that as well. Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

9 MR. EVANS: Good evening. Gregory
10 Evans, Scranton resident, Scranton's
11 Wellness Center. I just want to follow-up
12 on two questions I had last week regarding
13 Mr. Hughes, if I may?

14 MS. EVANS: Sure.

15 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Hughes,
16 I don't if you watched the last council
17 meeting, I just wanted to follow-up on Item
18 6-A and I don't know if you heard what I
19 said last time, but no one doubts that you
20 are doing a great job for the city, and the
21 couple of questions I had asked though is
22 because, you know, you are going above and
23 beyond your typical duties, but whose job
24 are you going and above performing for? Who
25 would typically do this job that you are

1 going above and beyond to do?

2 MR. HUGHES: I don't know if I
3 understand the question. I don't think any
4 of this was ever done by any solicitor, the
5 things that we have been doing.

6 MR. EVANS: Okay, but is it the
7 solicitor's job like within the
8 administration end or is it typically
9 somebody in this role would be hired by an
10 outside entity?

11 MR. HUGHES: I don't know if on any
12 of these issues -- the city ever had any of
13 these issues before?

14 MR. EVANS: The other question I
15 have, I'm not disputing whether or not you
16 deserve for the compensation, but is there a
17 general estimate of what the city can expect
18 to spend, whether it's hourly or monetarily,
19 due to the additional costs?

20 MR. HUGHES: If the city does
21 nothing it would be zero. I have no idea
22 depending on what work is involved. I have
23 no idea, you know, what's going to be
24 involved or what is going to happen with any
25 type of financing. It's involved in

1 prospectuses, reading prospectuses, revising
2 prospectuses, giving legal opinions. I have
3 no idea what's going to be done. Nothing
4 might be done --

5 MR. EVANS: Okay.

6 MR. HUGHES: -- for the benefit of
7 the city. I hope there is no more
8 financing, that everything is in place.

9 MR. EVANS: I agree. And last thing
10 is, and I mentioned about this is actually
11 not for Mr. Hughes, but for the council, we
12 talked about last time about assets and if
13 the city sells an asset and if you are able
14 to vote on the sale again, if council
15 whether it's an executive decision or a
16 legislative decision, but to give the
17 citizens the opportunity to, you know, have
18 a caucus or a hearing of some sort, is there
19 like a master list available of the assets
20 or the authorities in the city that you will
21 be working with that you could share with
22 us?

23 MS. EVANS: I would think that the
24 assets of the city could be contained to the
25 audit, so if you were to take a look at the

1 audit, you know, I think you will find much
2 of that, but I can tell you if and when the
3 decision is made by the mayor regarding the
4 sale of any asset it's my belief that the
5 legislation would have to come before city
6 council and city council would make sure
7 that the people of the city are given
8 multiple opportunities to weigh in.

9 MR. EVANS: Good to hear. Thank you
10 for your time. Thank you, Mr. Hughes, too.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
13 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton. Last
14 week I didn't realize what was at stake
15 there and I have to say that I'm against
16 overtaxing the land, raw land. I have a lot
17 that I bought years back adjacent to my
18 house, it's being taken care of now, it was
19 by the neighbors voluntarily and sometimes
20 DPW would come in and clear out brush and so
21 forth, and since I purchased this lot it's
22 gone up 20 or 30 percent. Every seven years
23 I actually pay for the lot once again over
24 thanks to all of these tax increases and I
25 have to state that I feel that council did

1 things right last week. It's one thing to
2 jack my taxes up 22 percent. Everybody that
3 I talk to says, "Dave, why don't you pack it
4 on the lot and let it go back to the city
5 and it can go for another 40 years without a
6 dime of taxes coming in."

7 So if that's what the mayor and
8 whoever else, Mr. McGoff wants, I see he
9 scurried out of here, then so be it I guess
10 some day.

11 And on the commuter tax, which was
12 banned or turned down by the Courts, the
13 difference, I don't think I seen it
14 mentioned anywhere in the paper, and this is
15 the states doing, that it would be five
16 months before you had a right to demand 10
17 cents of the commuter tax had it been
18 collected. So by law the tax runs they have
19 three months to collect it and then they
20 have another month to turn it over and then
21 the Berkheimer has another month to turn it
22 over, so even if we had a commuter tax
23 enacted it would be five months before you
24 saw a dime of that commuter tax and had
25 somebody been sticking it in their pocket

1 instead or absconded with the money then the
2 taxpayers are on the hook for even more,
3 which is really ashame. That's one type of
4 tax reform we really need.

5 And I'm a little concerned, I do
6 some walking through South Side and I see a
7 lot of condemnations that were formerly
8 rental units and I hope it's not due to this
9 rental registration and if it is I would
10 hope that the city would lighten up a little
11 bit and realize that if somebody winds up
12 sleeping under the Mulberry Street bridge
13 it's a lot more dangerous than a situation
14 than living in a house with a faulty
15 receptacle that could be disconnected or
16 something and somebody call back in an hour
17 or two and see that was fixed or whatever.

18 And on the audit, also that relates
19 to our commuter tax problems, it's just
20 shameful how long it's taken for this audit
21 to come in and that's -- the open thing than
22 somebody had to say was that it was a month
23 earlier than last years. Come on. That's
24 bad. That's bad. It's like it's eight
25 months late. I mean, the dog ate my

1 homework last night, so I'm apologizing for
2 the show tonight.

3 And last week I realized somebody
4 behind me didn't appreciate the golden
5 parrot and while he stayed, he is not well,
6 he stayed back at the hotel, and I don't
7 know if people realize that, but when I
8 mention these things it's -- we lost \$25
9 million out of police and firemen's pension
10 and a lot of the taxes that we are paying is
11 because some clown on Wall Street lost that
12 money, misinvested it and we are on the hook
13 for it. So out there in TV land if you want
14 to thank anybody thank Wall Street for a
15 good portion of any tax increase they have
16 to pay, and it's really ashame.

17 One of the Greenburg I think or
18 Greenspine or something from AIG was trying
19 to sue the government for \$25 billion and he
20 was deposed from AIG over booking errors and
21 what have you, improprieties so that's where
22 our firemen's pension is sitting and
23 thankfully AIG in their best effort didn't
24 join the lawsuit, so you have to give them a
25 little path on the back for that even though

1 they did get a \$182 bailout, so thank you
2 and have a good night.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MR. DOBRZYN: Don't forget to bawk,
5 bawk, bawk.

6 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
8 council.

9 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: It was good to see
11 the audit report finally come out. I do
12 hope that the 2012 audit will be on time. I
13 had a series of budget questions that I'm
14 going to hold until next week because there
15 are other things. I'm going to be watching
16 carefully the outcome of Mr. Burke's
17 property appeal because my property suffers
18 a similar fate. If the trucks aren't going
19 up East Mountain Road they are coming across
20 Seymour Avenue. Last week it was dump
21 trucks at the rate of five to six an hour
22 every day of the week and it's certainly not
23 pleasant and I don't know is the restriction
24 by weight or by designation? Are there
25 separate restrictions?

1 MS. EVANS: I don't know. We would
2 have to ask the police department.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Now, to 6-A.
4 First of all, I feel that if these two
5 gentlemen deserves more money because their
6 duties have been expanded they should get a
7 salary increase and not do it this way. I
8 think it's, first of all, I think it's poor
9 contracting because the way it reads in here
10 Paul Kelly and Boyd Hughes could walk away
11 from their job 24 hours after this ordinance
12 is passed and if there was borrowing they
13 would still be entitled to be paid, so I
14 don't think it should be specific. I think
15 the language should at a minimum be changed
16 to say the city solicitor and council
17 solicitor, assuming that that's an expansion
18 of the duties, and I also think it could be
19 construed as a disincentive because if you
20 have two employees who are only making money
21 if we are borrowing the incentive is to
22 borrow and to not get things squared away
23 and so I think that perception of that
24 should be negated for that reason. It does
25 need changed, the language at a minimum.

1 And again, I would prefer a salary increase.

2 Has the vehicle storage begun at the
3 police department yet? When is that
4 scheduled to begin? Do we know?

5 MS. EVANS: No, we don't. But I --

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Who knows?

7 MS. EVANS: I think we would have to
8 contact the police department. But, as I
9 was saying, I do have some information for
10 you regarding an update on 408 Cedar.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: 408 Cedar, I
12 understand the council was provided an
13 update.

14 MS. EVANS: Just today. Did you
15 receive that?

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: I don't know. I
17 just saw that -- I just got a note that it
18 was sent to council and I didn't get any
19 further than that because my little charge
20 is ill and I was babysitting at his house
21 today instead of my house, so I wasn't able
22 to access it.

23 MS. EVANS: If you would like to see
24 it.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes, I would.

1 Thank you. I'll grab it when I finish and
2 then return it later. Thank you.

3 The management agreement with
4 Central Parking, what is the term and what
5 fee is to be paid under the current
6 agreement?

7 MS. EVANS: The agreement has not
8 been finalized, and when it is it will
9 brought before city council and then at that
10 time an explanation will be provided.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Now,
12 one for Mr. McGoff, on the rental properties
13 again, how many have been registered and
14 when the properties are registered do they
15 check automatically to ensure that
16 mercantile taxes and the trash collection
17 taxes are paid or fee is paid?

18 MR. MCGOFF: I believe -- as far as
19 the number I do not have that, but in the
20 ordinance it does state that they will, that
21 all taxes must be up-to-date and --

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: So somebody is
23 checking that?

24 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry?

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Somebody is

1 checking that in this person that's been
2 hired for that rental registration?

3 MR. MCGOFF: I did not ask that. I
4 will look into that.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: I think it would be
6 helpful if at least one once a month you
7 gave a number of properties that have been
8 registered, that would I think be helpful.

9 Now, one of the main problems with
10 the prior revised recovery plan, one of,
11 what 2002 or '3 is that it wasn't adhered to
12 and it looks as though we are heading down
13 the same path because although the taxes
14 were raised the recovery plan stated that if
15 the commuter tax was not received, the
16 approval was not received, then the city
17 would either raise taxes property taxes
18 again or cut expenses, but neither has
19 occurred, so are we going to see a revised
20 budget with reductions to cover that \$2.5
21 million?

22 MS. EVANS: City council has no
23 authority to open the budget. That would
24 have to come from the mayor and the business
25 administrator.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: But you can -- you
2 cannot make cuts to adhere to the -- excuse
3 me, you could make cuts to adhere to the
4 recovery plan?

5 MS. EVANS: No we can't. That was a
6 decision that was rendered by the Court in
7 2010.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Do we still
9 have any past due bills awaiting payment?

10 MS. EVANS: I think perhaps if you
11 waited until Mr. Joyce returns he can
12 respond to those questions.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Is he expected back
14 next week?

15 MS. EVANS: I believe so, yes.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: You're welcome.

18 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Janet.

19 MS. EVANS: Hi, Chrissy.

20 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Pat.

21 MR. ROGAN: Hey, Chris.

22 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Pat, about the
23 potholes, remember? It's bad. It's a mess
24 down there, it really is.

25 MR. ROGAN: I know, Chris.

1 MR. SLEDENZSKI: In front there.
2 There is going to be big potholes down
3 there. Thank you.

4 MR. ROGAN: You are welcome.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mrs. Krake?

6 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

7 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do
8 you have any questions or motions?

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. First of
10 all, on the Lake Scranton Road issue, just a
11 couple of clarifications I guess. In the
12 past, I know that patching on Lake Scranton
13 Road was done by DPW. The problem is that
14 right now it's more patch than it is road
15 than it's been constantly being, you know,
16 patched and it's really not adequate to take
17 care of the road itself, and I know at one
18 time in speaking with I think it was
19 Mr. Brazil and Mr. Dougher, the talk was the
20 that they were looking to actually repave
21 that I guess it's about 4/10ths of a mile of
22 Lake Scranton Road that that what's really
23 needs to be done.

24 MS. EVANS: I agree with you, but I
25 think the deterioration is largely caused by

1 the truck traffic.

2 MR. MCGOFF: No doubt. I'm just
3 saying that --

4 MS. EVANS: Right.

5 MR. MCGOFF: -- and I know they have
6 been --

7 MS. EVANS: I'm thinking that this
8 would seem to be, even though, you know, I
9 think as a safety net or fallback it can be
10 the City DPW, I think Mr. DeNaples should be
11 paying for the paving of the road that, you
12 know, his steady truck traffic has caused to
13 the road.

14 MR. MCGOFF: The other thing that,
15 and I know it's been mentioned and it was
16 mentioned tonight that we spoke about
17 exemptions for Mr. DeNaples and personally I
18 know that I never asked or questioned or
19 asked questions about any exemptions for any
20 one particular person, and I think Mr. Rogan
21 also had some questions, but I don't think
22 that they pertained to, you know,
23 Mr. DeNaples in particular, I think our
24 concerns were -- or at least my concern, I'm
25 not going to speak for you, I'm sorry, my

1 concern was that legitimate construction
2 vehicles that were into Mt. Margaret was
3 there a possibility for an exemption and
4 that's what I spoke about, but I would like
5 to make it clear that these -- while I spoke
6 about them here they were never presented to
7 the solicitor to have him question the
8 ordinance. They were just things that we
9 talked about here and I felt that if there
10 was a need to amend later on that we would
11 do that.

12 I fully support, I voted for it and
13 I still support the ordinance to limit truck
14 traffic on Lake Scranton Road, and I guess
15 I'm upset with the hesitancy that has been
16 shown by the administration. I think that
17 we should move forward with this. It is
18 something that's needed and as I have stated
19 before, I am on Lake Scranton Road, you
20 know, a couple days a week and it is a
21 situation that needs to be -- there needs to
22 be some resolution to the situation that
23 takes place there.

24 And last thing this evening traffic
25 signals. The traffic signal at River Street

1 and Meadow Avenue is at long last working.
2 For a week it was on blinker, this past
3 Monday it finally went to, you know, full
4 signal. The only problem is that I'm
5 stating that my own problem, I drive up
6 River Street and get on 81 practically every
7 day going to basketball practice and now I
8 find myself getting to the top of the hill
9 and where the stop sign used to be I stop,
10 whether it's a green light, red light. The
11 other night my wife yelled at me saying,
12 "Oh, it's a green light why you are
13 stopping?

14 Force of, you know, years of habit.
15 My big fear is that people coming the other
16 direction many up Meadow Avenue will, you
17 know, forget there is now a light and will
18 just assume that they have right-of-way like
19 they had in the past. So, please, you know,
20 people that use that intersection please be
21 aware that is now a working traffic signal
22 and please be careful.

23 The other thing I talked to
24 Mr. Welby earlier before the meeting and in
25 his capacity through Representative Flynn's

1 Office he updated me on the possibility of a
2 temporary traffic signal at Cedar Avenue,
3 Orchard Street and the I-81 entrance/exit,
4 which is now being used because of the --
5 used more because of the closing of the
6 bridge, and Mr. Welby said that there has
7 been an approval for a temporary signal. It
8 is now in a bidding process and that PennDOT
9 has fast tracked the process and that
10 hopefully within the near future there will
11 be a temporary signal at that intersection,
12 which is really desperately needed because
13 of the increase volume of traffic. And that
14 is all. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
16 Rogan, do you have any comments or motions
17 tonight?

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes, just a few brief
19 items, I'm just following up a couple of
20 issues last week. We received another
21 letter from Deputy Chief Lucas regarding the
22 engine that was loaned out to Throop. I had
23 questioned initially about the engine being
24 loaned out, they quickly replied, and then
25 we had some follow ups and then again

1 another prompt reply.

2 It states that the city has not
3 performed -- has not paid for any of the
4 maintenance on the vehicle since the time it
5 has been loaned out, which was one of the
6 big concerns. And, in addition, there is
7 also a certificate of liability insurance
8 attached to this letter made out to Throop
9 Hose Company 2, so they are paying for the
10 insurance as well. So that being said, a
11 lot of concerns that I had certainly were
12 put to rest and certainly appreciate the
13 quick response. They also note that we have
14 five reserve engines and this is one of the
15 five, so there is no lack of the covering to
16 the city because of this according to the
17 letter. We thank them for the prompt reply.

18 Next, I had a couple of residents
19 contact me following the article in the
20 paper regarding the tree planting and
21 Mr. Santoli was very, very prompt getting
22 back to us. I think I e-mailed this to
23 Nancy maybe yesterday and we already got a
24 reply. These are the planting location
25 addresses. I'm not going to read the

1 individual addresses, but just the blocks.
2 In West Scranton and Tripps Park Farr
3 Street. The 1300 block, 1400 block, 1500
4 block and 1600 block. The Cloverfield area,
5 areas between the field and the road
6 designated by the forester. The South
7 Scranton area, South Irving, the 100 and 200
8 and 600 blocks. Prospect Avenue on the 300
9 block. Orchard Street on the 500 block.
10 Cedar Avenue on the 500 block, and 700 block
11 of South Webster. The 300 block of
12 Pittston. The 600 block of the Birch and
13 Connors Park in designated areas by the
14 forester. Connell little league off Gibbons
15 Street in designated areas by the forester.
16 The Connell dog park off Gibbons Street and
17 designated areas by the forester.

18 So if anyone has any questions about
19 that feel free to contact one of the us or
20 the forester, and as I stated earlier, if a
21 resident doesn't wish to have the tree
22 placed on their property it's certainly
23 something they could opt out of. It's not a
24 forced eminent domain project. There is
25 nothing forced about it.

1 And next I just want to make a few
2 comments, these aren't items on the agenda,
3 but just something that's been in the local
4 news recently. We see again today that our
5 neighbors to the south in Wilkes-Barre had
6 yet again more shootings, more stabbings,
7 more killings, and it's terrible to see
8 what's going on in the surrounding
9 communities, but as Scrantonians it really
10 makes us feel lucky to have the great police
11 department we do have that is doing a great
12 job keeping Scranton so much safer compared
13 to Wilkes-Barre or Hazelton and Allentown
14 and Philadelphia, and we really are lucky to
15 have a much safer community than these do to
16 the south, and I drive through Wilkes-Barre
17 area every day on my way to work and I work
18 even further south than that, and every day
19 when I get home I'm always happy that I live
20 in Scranton and not one of these other
21 communities.

22 So I definitely would like to
23 commend the great work that our police
24 department has been doing. Also, the great
25 work of acting Chief Graziano and we hope

1 to -- hope that they will continue that
2 work, I'm sure that they will, and as the
3 long-term strategy, you know, I always talk
4 about keeping taxes low and increasing the
5 tax base, one of the biggest incentives for
6 people to move into an area is the safety of
7 the neighborhoods. Now, the mayor,
8 although, I don't give him the credit for
9 this, I end up giving the police department
10 the credit, we haven't had a murder in the
11 last year and for a city this size that's a
12 pretty good accomplishment, especially in
13 comparison to the other cities in the
14 Northeast Pennsylvania region.

15 And I know these council meetings
16 are broadcast in the Wilkes-Barre area, so I
17 would like to invite our friends into the
18 Wilkes-Barre area to come up to Scranton and
19 check out our neighborhoods, they are much
20 safer, and we would like you to come up here
21 and live the Scranton experience and become
22 part of our neighborhoods. But the main
23 point is just the police department is doing
24 a great job. I hope they keep it up and we
25 need to stay safe in Scranton.

1 So that is all I have for tonight.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Could I -- I'm sorry.
5 Mr. Welby just gave me a note, I misspoke.
6 I'm sorry, I misspoke as far as the traffic
7 signal at Cedar Avenue, it is now in the
8 design stage and the bidding stage will come
9 next.

10 MS. EVANS: Oh, okay.

11 MR. MCGOFF: That was just a
12 clarify.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Before I
14 begin, I just want to piggyback briefly on
15 what my colleague stated regarding our fine
16 police department. I think it's also
17 important to remember that we have been able
18 to keep a good staffing level of police
19 officers in this city and so they all do an
20 outstanding job, had we seen those numbers
21 diminished by a bankruptcy or failure to
22 produce a recover plan or a failure to
23 increase taxes to pay off the debt incurred
24 in 2011 that was needed to keep this city
25 operational, we would be in the same

1 position, in fact, very likely worse than
2 the City of Wilkes-Barre at this time. So I
3 think it's -- it's important that we all
4 continue to work together to keep the city
5 operating and to return it to financial
6 stability.

7 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, I apologize,
8 I forgot to mention one thing. I have to
9 apologize, I left out the neighborhood
10 leaders as well. Mary Chilipko in Pinebrook
11 she actually contacted me today and wrote a
12 letter that she wanted me to read at the
13 meeting thanking our police for the great
14 job they do, and I apologize to her, I had
15 it printed out and ready to go and I left it
16 on high desk, but I promise her that I will
17 read that next week and I just wanted to get
18 that out there that I apologize not being
19 able to read the letter, but she just wanted
20 to express her thanks as well to the police
21 department.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
23 evening. During the council meeting on
24 January 3, 2013, I asked that the auditors,
25 city business administrator, council Finance

1 Chair, city clerk, all employees of the
2 Department of Business Administration and
3 representatives of municipal authorities
4 would meet in February to map out a more
5 efficient and effective procedure to
6 complete the 2012 audit in a more timely
7 manner.

8 To date, our office has received
9 only two responses, one of which is from
10 Mr. Eugene Barrett, executive director of
11 the Scranton Sewer Authority. He states
12 that the Sewer Authority representatives are
13 available to meet any day during the first
14 week of February. However, he also says,
15 "As a reminder, the Scranton Sewer
16 Authority's fiscal year begins on April 1
17 and ends on March 31. Approximately 90 days
18 after the end of our fiscal year, work
19 begins on the prior year's audit. This
20 effort undertaken by an outside independent
21 certified professional accounting firm takes
22 another 90 days and the audit is published
23 and distributed in September to all
24 necessary parties, including city council."

25 We also received a confirmation of

1 attendance from Robert Rossi & Company.

2 But, Mrs. Krake, if you could please
3 contact all other parties to request a
4 response in order to schedule this meeting
5 and also please send follow-up reminders to
6 those you are unable to reach by phone.

7 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

8 MS. EVANS: As I previously stated
9 on January 3, if the deadline set by the
10 Home Rule Charter may have become unfeasible
11 due to the downsizing of the Department of
12 Business Administrator and the completion
13 and distribution dates of audits of
14 municipal authorities then council should
15 expect a completed 2012 independent audit of
16 the City of Scranton on or before September
17 30, 2013, in order to assist with the annual
18 budgetary process.

19 Now, this does not mean that council
20 disregards the deadline of the charter, but
21 I think it bears investigation at this point
22 if the deadline established in the 1970's is
23 still workable in this decade.

24 Further, positions in the business
25 administration department have yet to be

1 filled, although administrators have been
2 aware of these openings for at least two
3 months.

4 Mrs. Krake, please send a letter to
5 Mr. McGowan on behalf of city council
6 requesting that he contact Career Link as
7 soon as possible if qualified candidates do
8 not respond to the advertisements. It is
9 essential to a timely 2012 audit that these
10 positions are filled in January.

11 It is also imperative to train new
12 and current employees in their daily duties
13 related to the annual audit and to assign
14 individual responsibilities for all
15 information requested and required of the
16 BA's Office by the auditors.

17 If Scranton is to rebuild its credit
18 worthiness and financial stability, it must
19 be able to reduce completed audits in a
20 timely fashion which demands a fully
21 functioning Department of Business
22 Administration and the cooperation of the
23 municipal authorities.

24 On January 14, 2013, a 2012 audit
25 timetable was submitted by Sean Grassi, CPA,

1 to Ryan McGowan that enables the auditor to
2 issue 2012 audited financial statements by
3 May 31, 2013. The auditor clearly is
4 performing his job and it is now up to the
5 administration to do so as well in
6 cooperation with municipal authorities.

7 Although, I had discussed in late
8 2011 this next matter with the mayor, I
9 respectfully wish to write him with a
10 reminder. Mrs. Krake, please send him a
11 letter requesting a monthly meeting among
12 the business administrator, the Council
13 Finance Chair, the city clerk and department
14 heads and/or direct supervisors who are
15 responsible for revenue items in the 2013
16 budget in order to review monthly revenues
17 and expenditures and to address revenue
18 problems that may arise immediately. The
19 city cannot cover revenue shortfalls caused
20 by department heads or other city employees.

21 Next, in regard to the tree planting
22 that will occur throughout our city or
23 select areas therein, I have requested, as I
24 did several years ago, that homeowners who
25 were not interested in receiving a tree

1 would not be forced to do so. And as
2 Mr. Rogan stated earlier, I sent a letter to
3 Mr. Santoli regarding that situation and I
4 really have to thank him for responding to
5 my request and Mr. Rogan's request for the
6 placement of the trees, the geographic
7 placement of the trees, so quickly, in one
8 day.

9 Finally, I have a few citizens'
10 requests. I'm pleased to report that the
11 abandoned gray Volkswagon vehicle parked
12 across from 312 16th Avenue was moved from
13 that location according to acting Police
14 Chief Graziano. I thank him for his timely
15 action and response.

16 And elderly Hill section resident
17 reports that recyclables are not being
18 collected as scheduled which causes her a
19 financial hardship since she pays to take
20 out and return the recycling can to her
21 property. Please address this Hill section
22 problem.

23 A homeowner reports that tree limbs
24 next to her home at 1372 Penn Avenue need to
25 be cut down. She has called the DPW and

1 been told that her request would be placed
2 on the a list for tree trimming. When the
3 limbs were not cut, she contacted the DPW
4 again and was told there were no funds to
5 remove the tree limbs. I don't believe this
6 to be the case, so please we ask the DPW to
7 address this problem as soon as possible and
8 notify the Office of City Council when the
9 work is completed.

10 And finally, a letter to Mark
11 Seitzinger on behalf of the Pinebrook
12 Neighborhood Association, Scranton City
13 Council requests the date of the annual
14 rooming house inspection for two properties,
15 which I will not publically name.

16 In addition, we request current
17 rental registration records and the landlord
18 representative or agents name and phone
19 number be provided to the Pinebrook
20 Neighborhood Association or to the Office of
21 Scranton City Council on or before January
22 23, 2013. I know Mr. Seitzinger has had
23 that request made of him directly from
24 officers of the Pinebrook Neighborhood
25 Association previously and so, you know, a

1 date of January 23 is certainly not overly
2 ambitious, and that's it.

3 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AMENDING FILE OF
4 COUNCIL NO. 56, 2011, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
5 "GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET 2012" BY
6 TRANSFERRING \$692.22 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
7 01.051.00051.4201 (LICENSING, PERMITS &
8 INSPECTIONS - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) TO
9 ACCOUNT NO. 01.051.00051.4101 (LICENSING,
10 PERMITS & INSPECTIONS - MILEAGE /UNIFORM
11 ALLOWANCE) TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR MILEAGE
12 REIMBURSEMENT TO INSPECTORS.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 6-A. READING BY TITLE -

1 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 2, 2013 - AN ORDINANCE -
2 ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
3 LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA APPOINTING
4 W. BOYD HUGHES, ESQUIRE AND PAUL A. KELLY,
5 JR., ESQUIRE AS SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE CITY
6 OF SCRANTON AND CASECON CAPITAL, INC. AS
7 FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON ON
8 THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND PLACEMENT OF ANY
9 BONDS AND/OR NOTES FOR THE FINANCING OF THE
10 CITY OF SCRANTON'S UNFUNDED DEBT, ANY
11 TRANSACTION INVOLVING THE SALE LEASEBACK OF
12 CITY ASSETS, ANY TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING THE
13 SALE OR LEASE OF ANY AUTHORITY ASSETS WHICH
14 REDUCES THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S BOND
15 INDEBTEDNESS UNDER THE UNIT DEBT ACT OR
16 RESULTS IN THE PAYMENT OR LOAN OF MONEY BY
17 ANY AUTHORITY TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON, THE
18 REFINANCING OR REFUNDING OF ANY OF THE
19 CITY'S OUTSTANDING BOND ISSUES AND ANY 2013
20 TAX ANTICIPATING NOTES OTHER THAN
21 THE 2013 TAN NOTE A AND AUTHORIZING THE
22 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
23 TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH CASECON CAPITAL,
24 INC.

25 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by

1 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure.

2 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
3 pass reading by title.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

5 MS. EVANS: On the question?

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I'd just like to
7 make one quick comment. It was stated
8 before that perhaps it should be changed to
9 state the position rather than individual.
10 I think that by naming the individuals it is
11 more reasonable thing to do. I would rather
12 have people that are familiar with the past
13 process and the current process and perhaps
14 the future process of dealing with this
15 rather than if, in fact, it were to --
16 there were to be a change in solicitors,
17 rather than someone who is not familiar with
18 it, so I think that this is a reasonable
19 thing to do to appoint someone who is,
20 again, familiar with the process.

21 MS. EVANS: All those in favor
22 signify by saying aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. NO
3 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

4 MS. EVANS: Before I call for
5 adjournment, I just have two very quick
6 items. I neglected to announce under
7 motions that Councilman Joyce had called
8 that he was not feeling well and was unable
9 to attend tonight's meeting.

10 In addition, I know at last week's
11 council meeting we had a number of
12 resolutions appointing or reappointing
13 individuals to various boards or authorities
14 and I think at Mr. Rogan's request we tabled
15 them last week. Letters requesting resumes
16 were sent out on Friday, January 11, the day
17 following our council meeting. I assumed
18 that perhaps the individuals concerned would
19 not have received those letters until Monday
20 and so rather than placing those items back
21 on tonight's agenda, I thought we could wait
22 until next week in that we provided an ample
23 time in which for each of these to respond.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Could I -- and I should
25 have mentioned this before myself, one of

1 the gentlemen who was up for reappointment
2 talked to me and said that he has a resume
3 on file from a previous appointment, and I
4 talked to Mrs. Krake before, and what I
5 would like is if there are any of those
6 people that are being reappointed that do
7 have resumes on file with council's office
8 if they would please contact Mrs. Krake or
9 the Clerk's Office and let her know when
10 those resumes were sent so that, you know,
11 we can just take them out and use them.

12 MS. EVANS: Absolutely.

13 MR. MCGOFF: That's all. Thanks.

14 MS. EVANS: And finally, on behalf
15 of council and Mrs. Krake and Ms. Carrera,
16 we hope that our other staff member,
17 Ms. Marciano, is feeling better. She has
18 been suffering badly with the effects of the
19 flu and we want her to know that we are
20 keeping her in our thoughts and prayers.

21 And if there is no further business,
22 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

23 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

24 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
25 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER