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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, January 31, 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

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, 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. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Here.

14 MS. KRAKE: 3-A. MINUTES OF THE
15 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE
16 AUTHORITY'S REGULAR MEETING HELD
17 NOVEMBER 15, 2012.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
21 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
22 DECEMBER 12, 2012.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE

1 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION MEETING HELD
2 ON DECEMBER 12, 2012.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S
6 REPORT, HEARING RESULTS HELD ON JANUARY 9,
7 2013.

8 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
9 If not, received and filed. Do we have any
10 clerk's notes tonight?

11 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.
13 Do any council members have announcements at
14 this time? I have scheduled a caucus on
15 Thursday, February 7, 2013, at 5:15 p.m.,
16 with Mr. Romey Vallera of Standard Parking,
17 Incorporation, in order to provide an
18 overview of the parking meter program and to
19 respond to questions or concerns of council
20 members.

21 The Fraternal Order of Eagles No.
22 314 in Scranton will conduct it's fifth
23 annual chili fest this Saturday, February 2,
24 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Stacy
25 Smith, who is battling cancer. All you can

1 eat tickets are only \$8.00 and it includes
2 music, prizes and fun for everyone. For
3 additional information, call the Eagles Club
4 at 570-961-5495 and, remember, as they say
5 at the Eagles Club, it's never too chilly
6 for chili. And that's it.

7 MR. MCGOFF: May I say thank you,
8 Mrs. Evans, for arranging that caucus with
9 Central Parking. I know that there was some
10 problems with it last week when we talked
11 about it, but I think that will be
12 beneficial to not only council, but to the
13 public in general, so thank you very much.

14 MS. EVANS: You are very welcome.

15 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
16 PARTICIPATION.

17 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
18 tonight is Ron Ellman.

19 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, my council
20 friends. I guess we are still on speaking
21 terms.

22 MS. EVANS: Absolutely. Good
23 evening.

24 MR. ELLMAN: My cat didn't like what
25 I wrote tonight so I had to explain to him

1 one more episode like this and he is on his
2 way back to JCPenney's.

3 You know, I'm very glad to see some
4 new faces entering our local politics. I
5 mean, there is really -- I don't think the
6 mayor's office is made for on-the-job
7 training. We've had about ten years of
8 on-the-job training and it failed. I'm not
9 trying to discourage somebody in the least
10 bit, but it's like starting as president of
11 a company or something to me. I think to be
12 the mayor you should maybe have a degree in
13 political science. If not, I think you need
14 a strong administration, an intelligent
15 administration and certainly Mr. Doherty
16 failed in that. So, lastly, I think that
17 most important thing is to have common
18 sense. I won't emphasize my common sense
19 statement.

20 But I read in the paper someone
21 that's had a half dozen jobs and worked for
22 the University of Scranton for seven years
23 on a resume that's not an asset to me. I
24 think you're allegiance would be to the
25 University and not to the people in this

1 city. The University has supported the
2 mayor these many years and I think that's
3 what -- all that would happen if I had an
4 association with someone all those years.

5 Last week -- I'm going to drop that
6 before I get somebody offended. Last week I
7 mentioned to please see if you can terminate
8 the use of the swimming pool slides. I
9 didn't say nothing about closing pools and
10 several people were mad that I'm trying to
11 close the pools, the mayor is closing the
12 pools. I have worked with the Taxpayers'
13 Association that did everything to try to
14 have young people swimming and paid for
15 swimming. I just asked for a qualified
16 legal inspection of the slide, you know, I
17 don't want any pools closed up, you know,
18 not in the least bit.

19 And last week across the street from
20 my house a pipe broke, the gas company come
21 over there and fixed it, you know, I was
22 watching them and this week a sewer pipe
23 broke across the street and I watched them
24 for two days and as a somewhat critic of
25 these two, the Sewer Authority, I'd like to

1 say I couldn't believe how organized, and I
2 mean this, I'm not joking, they were so well
3 organized and professional I couldn't
4 believe it. You know, I don't think they
5 were doing it because I was watching them,
6 but there wasn't six or eight guys leaning
7 on shovels watching one worker, there
8 weren't trucks getting warm, everybody was
9 working and had a job to do. On both
10 occasions it greatly surprised me. I think
11 that's makes me take back some of the things
12 I've said in the past.

13 And one thing before I go, I was
14 just wondering if the mayor is going to have
15 a garage sale before he leaves. There is
16 still some parks and fire trucks and things
17 that he could sell, but as you know I'd like
18 to get the two falstaffs at the end of the
19 stairs down there.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. ELLMAN: They remind me of my
22 boyhood in Memphis when they had Falstaff
23 beer and I was 12, 13 years old and used to
24 go down to get some. Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Andy

1 Sbaraglia.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
3 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
4 you heard me speak many times about the
5 mayor's plans to sell an asset and buy it
6 back. You heard me call him a flimflam man,
7 which he is, and I hope you are not going to
8 be a flimflam council. You have to tell me
9 how do you figure that it's going to be
10 cheaper on the citizens of Scranton to have
11 the SRA buy a property and then sell it than
12 the people of Scranton selling the property
13 themselves or borrowing themselves. You and
14 I know that. The police complex was
15 mentioned, whether that would be or not I
16 don't know, but it only cost about \$17
17 million to build and you plan to buy it back
18 and it's not even paid for as you know and I
19 know and everyone else knows. But yet, he
20 comes up with these grandiose plans.

21 We followed him down a street to a
22 dead end where Scranton is now. We are at a
23 dead end. To keep oppressing the people of
24 Scranton, which you are going to have to do,
25 is self-defeating.

1 A little on that parking meters, of
2 course you had to do it, but I don't
3 understand why we would want to go to 8:00
4 at night or six days a week, whatever.
5 That's going to cause more people anyway to
6 run, but the directions they ain't there. I
7 don't see a light in what you are doing and
8 I really don't understand that we were going
9 to be better off had you filed for
10 bankruptcy or not? As far as I can see, the
11 only people that would suffer more would be
12 the public employees. The people probably
13 would have got a break, but we are heading
14 down a trail we cannot go. We cannot
15 survive.

16 And you can shake your head all you
17 want, Janet, we are heading that way. We
18 are going to end up with 100 percent tax
19 increase by the time the next four years are
20 over, you and I know both know it. A lot of
21 these grandiose plans ain't going to work
22 out. People ain't going to come to
23 Scranton. They are going to drive more
24 businesses away than you bring in. Our
25 problem is bring people in or bring

1 companies in. Your plan, all your plans to
2 help small business are fine, but you are
3 going to drive away the big ratepayers.

4 Bestco left and you ain't going to tell me
5 it wasn't that he needed more room, he just
6 didn't like to pay the high taxes, which I
7 don't blame them. No one wants to pay what
8 we are doing and there is no way out of it.

9 I know you're stuck with it. I told
10 you that when you got there almost, what,
11 almost three years ago, coming up on four
12 now what was going to happen. The figures
13 were all on the wall then and they are not
14 any better now, in fact, we have gotten
15 worse. Never did we have to go out and get
16 the judge to give us their -- to borrow
17 money to pay off the bad debts, which the
18 city had many bad debts, and we continue to
19 have many bad debts.

20 All of your grandiose plans aren't
21 going to phase out. They are just not going
22 to work. People are like me, they are
23 stubborn. We live in a place where we are
24 very stubborn and very opinionated and we
25 are not going to stand by to see people

1 really have to pay a lot of money for so
2 little service. I told you a long time ago
3 you should have raised the mayor's salary,
4 not come up now, you should have done it
5 five years ago, even ten years ago.

6 I told you before, you get what you
7 pay for and that's what we got, lots of debt
8 but very little progress. Progress is not
9 words, progress is deeds and this city has
10 lost deeds for a long, long time.

11 Everywhere you look you see problems and you
12 are not going to correct them problems
13 without massive increases in taxes.

14 When I said go down to Harrisburg
15 like the mayor did when he wanted to sell
16 the South Side Complex, he went down to
17 Harrisburg. How many of you went down to
18 Harrisburg and asked them to work on that
19 bill where the taxes would come up for the
20 school board from increase the wage tax and
21 increase in the sales tax? How many of you
22 went down there and ask the legislature to
23 do it?

24 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Sbaraglia, that's
25 actually what I'll be speaking about on that

1 issue tonight.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, I figured you
3 would, Mr. Rogan, I understand that. But
4 there is where we stand. That's your
5 solution. All of these other solutions are
6 just going to drive people away. Do you
7 remember when they used to have satellite
8 parking outside of the city and they would
9 bring the buses and bring the people into
10 the city with satellite parking? Well, they
11 had it and I think it's coming again. Thank
12 you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bob Bolus.

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

16 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

18 MR. BOLUS: First off, I would like
19 to say I was rather disappointed last week
20 when Attorney Moses and I got here we are a
21 little late, and we both have extremely busy
22 schedules. We got here prior to going into
23 motions, I held up the agenda and waived it
24 back and forth, it was looked at by members
25 of council and we were totally ignored.

1 MS. EVANS: Mr. Bolus --

2 MR. BOLUS: I don't want to give up
3 my time, Mrs. Evans, please explain to me
4 later, if you would.

5 MS. EVANS: Then I'll respond when
6 you are done.

7 MR. BOLUS: We went through a lot of
8 time and energy to be here to explain the
9 council regarding the potential lawsuit that
10 was going to be filed and we couldn't get an
11 answer. You know, I understand the rules
12 that we look at, but we wanted to speak
13 before you got into the agenda and we were
14 denied that and we were quite disappointed.
15 I felt it was very unprofessional.

16 Well, we filed a lawsuit now and we
17 will get the answers that we have asked
18 council to get from Paul Kelly. Paul Kelly
19 will now be held accountable. He will give
20 the truth, he will give the answer, and he
21 will tell us who owns the 16 1/2 foot piece
22 of land up on East Mountain, whether it's
23 owned by the city or whoever and what
24 happened to it and what transpired to it.
25 There is a \$50,000 offer out there that's

1 been ignored by this city, when they are
2 paying minimum wages to employees. So now
3 we are going to get answers and,
4 unfortunately, it's going to cost us all
5 money for absolutely no reason because Paul
6 Kelly couldn't do his job, yet you want to
7 give him a backdoor raise and pay him more
8 money to go do extra work and it's
9 ridiculous.

10 On the legal fees, I requested the
11 fee agreement. I have not seen one yet or
12 been sent to me by either Mr. Hughes or
13 Mr. Kelly. Anybody hires an attorney you
14 get a fee agreement and I have numerous
15 attorneys that worked for me all over the
16 country and nothing is done until I have a
17 fee agreement and know what we are paying
18 and what we are paying for, but in this city
19 it's business as usual.

20 City council members, now, we heard
21 -- Boyd, this isn't personal one way or the
22 other, but we have heard that Boyd is the
23 only one that can do the work that had to be
24 done that's why all of this additional money
25 is being paid, but I have seen councils

1 here, Bob McGoff sat as council president,
2 Bill Courtright has been here, Kevin Murphy,
3 Hazzouri, Pocius, Gary DiBileo, Chris
4 Doherty, I never heard anybody say that
5 their council solicitor wasn't competent or
6 incapable of doing the work Mr. Hughes did
7 and I think that warrants some serious
8 explanation to the legal people that
9 represent a lot of people in this city that
10 we are paying extra money for people who
11 could do the same job.

12 The mayor's salary, I agree it
13 should go to 80,000. There is no question.
14 When are you taking on responsibility what
15 this town is and what this city is you
16 definitely need it.

17 On the bridge in Scranton, I'm going
18 to read this, and I submitted this letter to
19 council and asked for question. This is
20 sent to Scranton City Council, "As per
21 article in today's Scranton Times, the
22 Scranton Police Department is still
23 investigating the Moosic Street bridge
24 incident," which is three months or better
25 old.

1 "Since the City of Scranton has been
2 involved in the Moosic Street bridge
3 incident and that payment in excess of
4 \$20,000 has been paid to Boots and Hanks
5 Towing Service in Scranton where the removal
6 and storage of the excavator involved in
7 this nonreportable accident."

8 By questions are did the city pay
9 this amount? If so, who authorized payment?
10 If not, what agency paid Boots and Hanks on
11 behalf of the city police department? They
12 have permission to leave the machine on our
13 property after they were given insurance
14 information and everything else they need.
15 That evening in the middle of the night they
16 came in with a search warrant and removed
17 the machine. They chose to remove it and
18 incurred this expense in excess of \$20,000.

19 Who was responsible for the
20 environment cleanup costs ordered by the DEP
21 in the amount in excess of \$7,000 caused by
22 the City of Scranton and Boots and Hanks
23 Towing during the removal of this machine
24 from our Dunmore property?

25 I would request, not only did I send

1 it in writing, I would request that I
2 receive this response from whatever
3 department or whoever paid this and allow
4 this to take place at whose expense it was.
5 Our insurance company didn't pay it.

6 Our engineers have stated the bridge
7 could have been repaired. We paid for it
8 and reopened. PennDOT, who owns the bridge,
9 not the city, has elected to replace the
10 bridge. This bridge is almost worn out.
11 It's been compromised in the past by other
12 accidents and been hit. Our insurance
13 company is involved, they will deal with it
14 as they have to deal with it, but for people
15 to pay in excess of \$20,000 of taxpayers' --
16 at somebody's expense to remove this machine
17 I think is an absurdity and I think it's
18 council's responsibility to find out who did
19 this.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. BOLUS: Thank you, Mrs. Evans.

22 MS. EVANS: Before I call the next
23 speaker I just want to respond to some of
24 the incorrect allegations that were just
25 made. First of all, Mr. Bolus, you were

1 denied nothing last week. I called your
2 name, I called the name of Attorney Moses
3 during citizens' participation. Neither of
4 you were present and so I continued with the
5 sign-in sheet. When that was exhausted, I
6 asked if there was anyone who cared to
7 address city council. There were no
8 individuals who responded.

9 MR. BOLUS: We weren't here, Mrs.
10 Evans, we came in late, I admitted that.

11 MS. EVANS: Yes, and --

12 MR. BOLUS: And I raised my agenda
13 and I asked for the courtesy --

14 MS. EVANS: Mr. Bolus, I'm speaking
15 now. I listened to you, now please listen
16 to me.

17 MR. BOLUS: Well, you should have
18 explained to me --

19 MS. EVANS: Show a reciprocity of
20 respect.

21 MR. BOLUS: Um-hum.

22 MS. EVANS: Now, we began motions.
23 In fact, I believe, I can't even recall
24 which council member was presenting his
25 motions at the time you came in, so you

1 arrived well past the deadline of citizens'
2 participation that evening, unfortunately.

3 Now, if you are asking that we
4 should have stopped a meeting in progress to
5 accommodate you, I don't believe that
6 exceptions like that should be made. Now,
7 in addition to the prior solicitors that
8 have served city council, no former
9 solicitor ever did this type of work. They
10 were never asked to do this type of work by
11 any previous council because I think you and
12 the audience members can recall those
13 council members that you enumerated were
14 often very busy approving the mayor's
15 financial agenda such as parking garages,
16 unnecessary borrowing, annual budgets.

17 So the only question that was ever
18 issued from this desk came from me. The
19 only one offering any alternatives to what
20 was ongoing all those years was Janet Evans,
21 and so to say that council is disparaging or
22 to infer that we are disparaging any other
23 solicitor is absolutely untrue, but let's
24 tell the truth. These responsibilities were
25 never asked of any other solicitor.

1 And in addition to that, why? The
2 city was not teetering on the edge of
3 bankruptcy either during those years. The
4 actions that were taken were the actions
5 that lead up to what happened in 2012 and
6 they needed to be addressed.

7 And, sadly, I know there are those
8 that think bankruptcy would have been the
9 answer because our problems do seem
10 insurmountable, but what they seem to be
11 unable to understand is that bankruptcy
12 isn't the easy out. Bankruptcy appoints a
13 receiver. The state appoints a receiver.
14 The primary obligation of that receiver is
15 to repay the debts of the City of Scranton,
16 that means bonds, banks, it is not their
17 primary responsibility to take care of all
18 of you. So what would happen is in order to make
19 those payments back to the people that are
20 their priorities your taxes really would go
21 through the roof. You are not going to walk
22 away unscathed through a bankruptcy. They
23 will be exceedingly high and there will be
24 no one, no elected official who will have
25 any authority to change that.

1 And in addition, they will in an
2 attempt to save money decimate your police
3 department, your fire department, your DPW,
4 so if citizens are anxious to stand guard on
5 their homes and their own blocks and hope
6 that we never have more than one fire at one
7 time and be willing to pay 100 percent or
8 more to get service like that then I say go
9 for bankruptcy. Go for it. But what I have
10 been trying to do is save this city.

11 MR. BOLUS: I think you are way
12 beyond that.

13 MS. EVANS: Excuse me.

14 MR. BOLUS: I will respond to that
15 next week.

16 MS. EVANS: Your time -- thank you.

17 MR. BOLUS: I know my time is up;
18 right.

19 MS. EVANS: That's right.

20 MR. BOLUS: I will address it next
21 week why the city is where it is.

22 MS. EVANS: We all appreciate that
23 very much.

24 MR. BOLUS: Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Now, I think it's

1 important to remember if you did not have
2 this council seated here you wouldn't have
3 had a 22 percent tax increase, that's very
4 true. Very, very true. Instead, you would
5 have had an 81 percent tax increase. 81.
6 22. And if PEL single handedly directed the
7 city it would have been, I believe, I don't
8 know, Mrs. Krake, I might need your
9 correction I don't recall right now where it
10 was 126 or 134, that's what they're looking
11 for, and this is all that stood between
12 those things happening.

13 So, ladies and gentlemen, you decide
14 for yourselves what's the correct direction
15 for this city and you consider the facts and
16 what would you rather have had?

17 Our next speaker is Doug Miller. Or
18 I'm sorry, I'm so sorry, it actually is
19 Mr. Lee Morgan.

20 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

21 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

22 MR. MORGAN: Well, I think the first
23 thing I'll say here is, President Evans,
24 your opinions are fine, but you are not a
25 judge and you haven't heard a bankruptcy

1 case presented by the city and you don't
2 have the ability to reach a determination,
3 only a judge can, and any attorney can have
4 any opinion they want, but a judge makes
5 decisions based on law and no one else.

6 Now, with that said, I've tried very
7 hard --

8 MS. EVANS: I want to interject very
9 quickly --

10 MR. MORGAN: Well, I'd hope you wait
11 --

12 MS. EVANS: That was not the case in
13 Harrisburg.

14 MR. MORGAN: Look at, I don't want
15 to get stuck in some kind of spinning thing
16 that's going no where.

17 MS. EVANS: It's not a spinning
18 thing, it's a fact.

19 MR. MORGAN: It is spinning
20 absolutely no where because this city is so
21 downtrodden by the political spaghetti
22 dinner politicians we've had for decades
23 that when you sit there as a councilwoman
24 and make the statements you just made I just
25 think it's very disrespectful and I think

1 that you should make your comments to people
2 when they are standing here so they can
3 respond.

4 But with that said, you know, I have
5 done requests to council and Section 213 --
6 I mean, 313 and 312 of the Home Rule
7 Charter. I received one subpoena allegedly
8 from 2005, but I'm looking for a letter from
9 council and that's what I have asked for
10 stating whether any record exists or not and
11 a copy of all subpoenas and this is what I
12 was given.

13 And the other thing is recently I
14 asked for a record of all city council votes
15 from 1976 until January 1, 2013. And what I
16 would like to do is I would like to come
17 here and scan these documents and load them
18 into my own computer. I'm not interested in
19 paying \$300 for those documents. I want to
20 come here, scan them, and own them or I want
21 the city to put them on a website so that I
22 can have access to them because I think as a
23 resident I should have a right to them and I
24 can't understand why I can't just load them
25 electronically, because my opinion is much

1 different than this councils.

2 I believe there has been a lot of
3 mistakes made and rolling your eyes,
4 Mrs. Evans, I think you should put your name
5 on the ballot again and I think you should
6 allow the residents to make the
7 determination on whether you should serve
8 anymore, and that's not disrespectful to
9 you. You know, so many people are just so
10 fed up.

11 You know, that's why starting on --
12 I'm going to start collecting signatures and
13 I'm going to run for mayor in the next
14 election. I am just so disgusted with where
15 the city is and we can all smile, but
16 working people have come up to me and said
17 -- a guy came up to me today and said, you
18 know, I earn \$23,000 a year. I work a
19 full-time job and a part-time job, council
20 forced the Parking Authority into
21 receivership, they are borrowing tons of
22 money. They are going to borrow money to
23 pay the employees at a higher percentage
24 rate than if they just put it in the budget
25 and paid it at the 6 percent rate.

1 I think there is such a disconnect
2 in the city government, you know, when you
3 sit there and listen to Judge Nealon, he is
4 a judge, "Why aren't we doing a bankruptcy
5 petition here?" A judge asked that. I
6 mean, and we keep coming back to the same
7 taxpayers and telling them that we need more
8 of your money and, you know, when you talk
9 about the 22 percent tax increase this year
10 it didn't close any of the budget shortfall,
11 not one drop of it, okay?

12 And that came up. I mean, so how
13 can this council honestly come to the
14 residents of this city and tell them that
15 this council is doing anything for them?
16 All the neighborhood pools are closed. The
17 council decided that SAPA was a bad idea for
18 the city, came up with no plan.

19 You know, Mr. Rogan, with all
20 respect to you, you voted "no" on things,
21 but I didn't hear any plan from you either
22 and I just think the residents of this city
23 have a right to a council that has some idea
24 what reality is and votes in reality, okay,
25 because the truth of -- I agree with Andy,

1 there is not going to anybody living in this
2 city because we got a lot of people running
3 around here with suits and nice clothes who
4 make incompetent decisions, okay, and then
5 say to the voters, "Wait a minute, we can't
6 pay our bills so, look, just give us more
7 money."

8 Look at what Mr. Corbett wants to
9 do, the governor. He wants to get rid of
10 the lottery, he wants to sell the liquor
11 stores. Now, why don't we just take all of
12 the revenue from the liquor stores and plug
13 it into education instead of selling, and I
14 know, Mrs. Evans, you have a lot to say, so
15 do you want to say it while I'm standing
16 here or you do you want to wait until I
17 leave?

18 MS. EVANS: Well, actually, I will
19 now that you have given me permission --

20 MR. MORGAN: Well, I would love to
21 have the opportunity to respond.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you so much for
23 your permission. First of all, please don't
24 make false statement. I was not rolling my
25 eyes at you nor have I ever.

1 MR. MORGAN: I was looking at you.

2 MS. EVANS: Well --

3 MR. MORGAN: Not well. Well doesn't
4 come into that. With all due respect, Mrs.
5 Evans, when I have a line of vision and I'm
6 looking at you and you are rolling your
7 eyes -- I'm saying you were just
8 disingenuous.

9 MS. EVANS: If you would like to
10 have a discussion --

11 MR. MORGAN: I'm trying to do that,
12 but you are being very deceitful with your
13 comments because if you can't acknowledge
14 that you rolled your eyes, I'm looking right
15 at you.

16 MS. EVANS: Listen, I'm looking
17 right at you --

18 MR. MORGAN: You are right, you
19 didn't see me roll my eyes because I'm not
20 disrespectful.

21 MS. EVANS: Mr. Bolus further asked
22 me --

23 MR. MORGAN: I'm not talking about
24 Mr. Bolus.

25 MS. EVANS: Mr. Bolus -- I'm

1 responding to your comments. Mr. Bolus
2 asked me not to respond and use his time
3 until he had finished and unlike Mr. Bolus
4 you seem to want the responses while you
5 are speaking which means the time will be
6 taken from you, but --

7 MR. MORGAN: Well, that's fine, but
8 you know something --

9 MS. EVANS: I tried --

10 MR. MORGAN: -- I come here -- now,
11 wait a minute.

12 MS. EVANS: Excuse me, I have not
13 finished.

14 MR. MORGAN: Go ahead.

15 MS. EVANS: I tried to respond to
16 you during your time, but it's quite clear
17 that you are undeterred by facts and unmoved
18 by the truth.

19 MR. MORGAN: No, the facts are that
20 as many people have seen here from the
21 podium many times I have left the podium and
22 you have made comments or you wait for
23 motions to make comments because, Mrs.
24 Evans, to be quite honest, okay, you as
25 council president or council in general can

1 do what you perceive to be right, but you
2 know something, making comments when
3 somebody leaves the podium is extremely
4 disrespectful and you did roll your eyes.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 MR. MORGAN: And you know what I'm
7 saying, Mrs. Evans, put your name on the
8 ballot, please.

9 MS. EVANS: Mr. Morgan?

10 MR. MORGAN: Don't waste your breath
11 because I can't respond.

12 MS. EVANS: I'm sure, but perhaps if
13 would be nice if remained during the
14 meetings when you ask so many questions, you
15 are often seen fleeing out the door before
16 you can ever receive a response.

17 Is there anyone else who cares to
18 address council?

19 MR. MORGAN: I think that these
20 meetings are on public access channel, but
21 then again, Mrs. Evan, that's the way you
22 conduct your meetings. You take shots at
23 people after they leave your podium because
24 you are a very disrespectful person.

25 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

1 Doug Miller, Scranton.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

3 MR. MILLER: You know, I just have
4 to address some of the statements that were
5 made tonight. You know, again, we seem to
6 want to go back to this bankruptcy thing
7 again and I just, you know, I think your
8 batting your head off the wall here and I
9 just can't simply understand why the
10 residents of this city cannot understand the
11 concept that bankruptcy is not the answer.

12 I mean, I don't understand how many
13 lessons and education courses we have to go
14 through on this. You know, we saw what
15 transpired over the summer, that if
16 decisions weren't made and if the council
17 and the administration didn't come together
18 we would have to have to file for
19 bankruptcy, but we know what bankruptcy
20 does. Look at Harrisburg. I mean, it's not
21 complex. A receiver comes in and the taxes
22 go through the roof. It will be obscene and
23 somebody that's 23 years old I don't want to
24 be stuck with paying what I am already stuck
25 with and that's what would happen if the

1 taxes went up 123 percent.

2 I'm looking out for myself and the
3 next generation and I'm asking myself, do I
4 want to be left with an additional mess on
5 top of what's already been left for me? No.
6 And that's what happens when you go for
7 bankruptcy. You lose your services, you
8 think things are bad now with the police and
9 firemen, well, let's go for bankruptcy then
10 and when your house catches on fire let's
11 see what's left, because let me tell you,
12 you better run and hope you don't have
13 anything that valuable in there because you
14 are not going to save it.

15 You know, you get mugged on the
16 street, well, you better hope there is a cop
17 in sight because with bankruptcy you are not
18 going to have one or if you have the chief
19 get you better hope there's somebody on
20 standby that you can call to come in and
21 help you so that's what bankruptcy does.
22 It's not solution, I have said it before and
23 I'll continue saying it, and I just get
24 frustrated hearing it because we think
25 bankruptcy is the solution to everything and

1 it's going to solve all of our problems.
2 It's going to just come in with an eraser
3 and just wipe everything out. It's not that
4 simple, believe me.

5 I have looked at it, I've listened
6 to council, I have listened to people and I
7 know it's not the solution. We have had
8 people in here in the past who have been
9 making money off coming in here to try to
10 get the city to file bankruptcy, so it's not
11 the solution. I'm just tired of talking
12 about it.

13 Moving on, I'm glad to see that we
14 will conduct a caucus next week with
15 Standard Parking to answer any questions
16 that people do have. I'm certainly looking
17 forward to have them come in in a public
18 setting, I'm glad that the council President
19 Evans was able to put that together with the
20 request of Councilman McGoff.

21 In regards to the agenda tonight,
22 5-C, the increase of the mayor, I have a
23 different opinion than some people that
24 spoke tonight. Do I believe the salary of
25 the mayor is low for the duties that he does

1 have to take on? I do. Do I think it
2 should be increased? I do. But do I think
3 a \$30,000 increase at this time is
4 appropriate? I don't know. I think that
5 rather than considering a \$30,000 increase
6 at one shot perhaps we should consider a
7 gradual increase. I think that may be the
8 more appropriate avenue to take due to our
9 current financial restraints and having the
10 inability to, you know, make payroll as is,
11 going back to the summer again where we had
12 employees making minimum wage.

13 You know, we just -- the bottom line
14 is we struggle to pay our bills and going
15 and approving a \$30,000 increase in the
16 mayor's salary in one shot I just don't feel
17 is in our interest at this time. Again, it
18 doesn't mean that I don't feel the salary
19 should be increased, because I do think it
20 should, but I think maybe we should consider
21 a gradual increase, you know, rather than
22 just simply saying no. I know some of us
23 have a history of just like to say no and
24 move on and not consider other options,
25 there are other options out there and one of

1 them is a gradual increase and I look
2 forward to hearing some of our council
3 members' opinion on that later on that when
4 we go into the agenda.

5 In regards to the \$500,000 that the
6 city was rewarded as our share of the casino
7 revenue, we have been made aware that that
8 will be used for paving and street repair.
9 My question to council tonight is do we have
10 an idea of where the city plans on using
11 that money and what streets do we intend on
12 repairing? Will we be going by the 2013
13 street paving list that was already approved
14 by council or will this money go in other
15 repairs, and maybe we can get an answer to
16 that later on in motions.

17 Finally tonight, in regards to the
18 dirt testing that was conducted on council's
19 request off of Lake Scranton Road, we
20 certainly know the issues that the residents
21 have dealt with up there in the last few
22 months. We understand DEP did conduct a
23 visual study and made a determination there
24 was no contamination in the dirt, my only
25 question would be is maybe this is a gift I

1 wish I had, I just don't understand how you
2 can look at dirt and visually make a
3 determination that it's not contaminated, I
4 don't know if they are like Superman and
5 have some type of vision that we weren't all
6 born with, but I just don't think they
7 abided by council's request and I think we
8 should send another letter to them and tell
9 them to come in and we want a testing done
10 where samples are taken so that we have a
11 factual determination as to whether or not
12 that dirt is contaminated or not. Simply
13 looking at something, like I said, I don't
14 know what gift they were born with, but I
15 don't see how you can make that
16 determination by looking at it.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

18 MR. MILLER: This is a detriment to
19 the health, safety and well-being of those
20 residents and they should have this issue
21 resolved once and for all. Thank you.

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

24 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
25 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton. I have

1 a couple of newspaper trimmings and stuff I
2 would like for people to look over. This
3 one is from the mail, and a copy of this one
4 for Jack, this one I'll speak on then hand
5 over and this is on taxes. I don't know if
6 you get the papers, because I could imagine
7 you would look at, but here we have
8 Clearbrook CEO defends high pay, \$2.5
9 million. Now, Clearbrook isn't in our town,
10 but previously, I have spoken on profitable
11 nonprofits, and I think it needs to be
12 examined all throughout the state. How much
13 compensation some of the honchos in the top
14 of these organizations are getting because
15 it's obvious it's a very profitable
16 nonprofit, I'll give this to Cathy and you
17 can look at it and go through it later, and
18 it's ungodly that somebody is worth \$2.5
19 million working for a nonprofit drug rehab.
20 It's another town, but my question is how
21 many nonprofits or alleged nonprofits do we
22 have in this town where somebody is raking
23 \$2 or \$3 million every couple of years and
24 calling it a nonprofit and they can't give
25 us \$150,000 or \$200,000 PILOT, which is

1 probably 5 percent of what the property is
2 worth for private.

3 And there has been talk about a
4 sale's tax and personally I feel that the
5 county is looking to get a good portion of
6 that for themselves and I'd like to just
7 point out, I realize that we have a lot of
8 ends we have to meet, so as far as the tax
9 increases and so forth I realize that they
10 have been necessary, but the poor pay that,
11 the people that are homeless would pay that
12 on certain items. So, you know, it's just
13 like I can't understand or can't believe
14 that somebody has very much to be thankful
15 about if he are homeless in our society.

16 On Mr. Hughes, I would say that the
17 competency of the current people or past
18 people that have done these things was
19 questionable so that's why we need to pay
20 him a couple extra pennies and that's all
21 there is to it. If we let the other guy do
22 it, who knows what it's going to turn into.

23 On this bankruptcy business, I'm
24 also tired of hearing it. I don't know if
25 you realize that once you file bankruptcy --

1 in our other states they actually come in
2 and tell you are bankrupt, in Michigan, and
3 the only thing you people would be allowed
4 to do is to salute the flag and make
5 announcements about what church has a
6 social, so I don't know what Pennsylvania
7 has in store for us, but to me that is
8 handing it over to the same fancy pants
9 thieves that have put us where we are at
10 now, the state. They want us to pay for
11 everybody else, a free ride.

12 And on elections a little advice to
13 try and get your names out there as soon as
14 you can, please, I support this council. I
15 don't care what anybody else thinks. I'll
16 tell you how I vote each and every time. I
17 work seven out of the last nine days for
18 Obama and I'm far to the left of him, and
19 I'd like to point out with the DPW I talked
20 to a small store owner and he is paying \$700
21 a year so now if we start cutting back on
22 these services I don't need people throwing
23 garbage around my lawn. I have had tires
24 thrown on. I have a little semi-wooded lot
25 next door to my house that I purchased. I

1 pay taxes pretty high taxes on it, and then
2 every now and then there is a tire deposited
3 there, well, I have to go and beg some tire
4 shop to take that and pay five bucks out of
5 my pocket.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

7 MR. DOBRZYN: Finally, I'll make it
8 quick, Bernie Frank was turned down by the
9 governor of Massachusetts, he could have
10 filled Kerry's seat so the governor of the
11 Massachusetts gets the bawk, bawk and Mayor
12 Chelik from -- he had said that he had us
13 surrounded, I couldn't find hat in the
14 newspaper and, I mean, Mayor Chelik, you get
15 a trouble bawk, bawk. Thanks a lot you
16 freeloader.

17 And on the voting situation, they
18 are looking to turn, and Pennsylvania is
19 one, away from the electoral college and
20 make it a district and if they had done
21 that, if the states proscribed, although, it
22 was like a six point difference between
23 Obama and Romney, Romney would have won.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

25 MR. DOBRZYN: Have a good night and

1 don't forget, bawk, bawk, bawk.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: You, too.

3 MR. EVANS: Good evening, Council.
4 Gregory Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

6 MR. EVANS: Resident of Scranton,
7 small business owner in Scranton. I want to
8 start by thanking you for having the caucus
9 next week. I think anything regarding the
10 Scranton Parking Authority is a sensitive
11 topic for anybody that pays taxes here in
12 Scranton and also even for the downtown
13 business owners, so thank you for that.

14 And I do have a question though
15 regarding that because I came in late, would
16 there be an opportunity for citizens'
17 participation in that caucus or is it just
18 council's asking the question?

19 MS. EVANS: It is for Standard
20 Parking to provide us with an overview and
21 then those representatives will take
22 questions and concerns from city council
23 members. However, I'm sure when the caucus
24 conclusion if you would like to speak with
25 them I would think that he would be more

1 than happy to.

2 In addition to that, if you have any
3 specific questions or concerns if you would
4 like to forward them to council we would be
5 happy to pose the questions for you.

6 MR. EVANS: Thank you. The other
7 thing item I want to speak about, and it's a
8 hot topic, is the increase and I think most
9 people believe that, you know, the mayor is
10 underpaid, the role of the mayor is
11 underpaid, I should say, regardless of your
12 opinion on the mayor, but I had a thought or
13 an idea and everything is just an idea and,
14 you know, the University of Scranton is a
15 hot topic with the PILOTS and this is more
16 of a question than an idea but has there
17 ever been any effort in reach out to the
18 University of Scranton to maybe touch base
19 with the Department of Economics and utilize
20 their expertise to help with the recovery
21 plan?

22 MS. EVANS: Actually, I believe
23 there were interns working in the BA's
24 Office in 2012.

25 MR. JOYCE: There are or there were.

1 MS. EVANS: Yes, so they were
2 involved.

3 MR. EVANS: I'm thinking of more
4 than interns, I'm thinking actually
5 professors and people and educators versus
6 the students who might be a little more
7 enlightened to, you know, the roll of
8 economics in this society because I know
9 with the PILOT issues, you know, with a
10 better return would that be if they were
11 actually able to help us with the recovery
12 versus just monetary payment, just a
13 thought. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
15 anyone else?

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
17 Council. Marie Schumacher, city resident
18 and taxpayer.

19 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: It pains me that
21 this year we may be shipping \$120,000 in
22 management fees and another \$306,800 in
23 commissions to Chicago that could have
24 stayed in Scranton and helped to make
25 Scranton Parking Authority debt payments

1 which now will fall to us taxpayers, and for
2 what, so a receiver is able to make \$100 an
3 hour and the city will receive more citation
4 revenue that could have been achieved under
5 prior management with new meters, meters for
6 which we'll pay \$414,600 for and another
7 \$53,700 for two automobiles though you were
8 incensed the Scranton Parking Authority
9 director was provided a vehicle?

10 None of this really makes a lot of
11 sense to me as it appears the city is paying
12 all of the bills and absorbing all the risk
13 while the provider is reaping all the
14 benefits, but onto my comments.

15 First, we are putting the cart
16 before the horse. File of Council 100 of
17 2009 defines the placement of meters, the
18 days of operation, the hours of operation
19 and the maximum time a vehicle may remain at
20 a meter, the cost per hour or minute and
21 perhaps other ground rules but this document
22 is no longer available on-line as the
23 Scranton Parking Authority's website is no
24 longer available. This document forms the
25 basis for this entire operation and should

1 be amended prior to a final vote on the
2 Standard Parking agreement.

3 Now, I know this is on the ballot or
4 on the agenda tonight and I have some
5 concerns for the people who are in the
6 downtown and trying to have viable
7 businesses that you are going to extend the
8 days of the week through Saturday and the
9 hours of the operation until 8:00 at night.
10 I thought the city -- the downtown was
11 starting to come back, but it looks as
12 though we are trying to do everything we
13 possibly can to kill it.

14 Now, one second, I'm sorry. Some of
15 the other questions I have now was a
16 business impact study conducted on any of
17 this, and as a consumer I know recently, as
18 you mentioned, Standard Parking bought
19 Central Parking and US Justice Department
20 required Standard to sell 107 parking
21 facilities in Chicago and 28 other cities to
22 obtain approval to buy their rival parking,
23 Central Parking, as federal anti-trust
24 authorities said that the combined company
25 would have gained a dominant market share in

1 certain areas in each of the cities that
2 would have resulted in higher parking fee
3 from a parking consumer standpoint having
4 the same company managing both the parking
5 garages and the parking meters is the worse
6 thing that could happen. Consumers would be
7 better served with competition between the
8 meters and the garage.

9 And now onto the agreement itself
10 which starts with, I am convinced, a
11 fabrication. Only a copy of the Scranton
12 Times-Tribune legal notice soliciting bids
13 for the management and administration of the
14 city's on-street parking meter operation
15 including enforcement and citation
16 collection services. I don't believe I
17 ever-- I read them all the time, and I don't
18 ever remember seeing it. All I ever
19 remember seeing was a demonstration program
20 for the downtown for the enhanced parking
21 system and those were, I don't know whatever
22 happened to them they died on the vine, and
23 I'm surprised anybody even bid the second
24 time around. Making a bid is not exactly
25 inexpensive either.

1 One generic flaw that is reported
2 throughout the agreement is the use of the
3 word "city". For example in paragraph four,
4 I believe, it's stated, "Operating expenses
5 shall also include any operating expenses
6 not listed above that are approved by the
7 city prior to expenditure."

8 Who is the city? This needs to be
9 clear. Is it the BA or city council or the
10 mayor or some other entity? This is an item
11 that should come before council and the city
12 just doesn't do it for me. I'll be back
13 next week, good Lord willing.

14 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city
15 council.

16 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

17 MR. UNGVARSKY: I'm Tom Ungvarsky.
18 Why is it whenever the City of Scranton
19 enters into an agreement we always seem to
20 come out second best? It seems like the
21 City of Scranton is always the guarantor
22 instead of the guarantee. Any time we enter
23 an agreement we either give up our position
24 and come out as second or third in line to
25 collect our debt or when we give up

1 something to an authority we end up paying,
2 such as the \$2 million last year to Pennstar
3 Bank, several years ago to American
4 Anglican, and many other such as the
5 streetlights, the fire plugs, and I can name
6 three or four others. We always seem to
7 give away our rights. Here again, we are
8 now entering into an agreement for the
9 parking meters and maybe somebody can tell
10 me how they are coming up with 300 more
11 parking meters than we presently have. We
12 are going up from what is it, 900 to 1400
13 parking meters plus we are raising the fee
14 by 50 cents.

15 Last week we were told that we would
16 raise approximately two million
17 eight-hundred thousand dollars extra by
18 giving these meters to Standard Parking.
19 Just the fees, the extra hours and the 1400
20 meters would amount to a lot more than that
21 two million eight-hundred thousand. Once
22 again, it seems we are giving away the
23 store. I hope we get a better explanation
24 this week than what we got last week. There
25 is lot in this agreement. I guess we are

1 going to have to read it to see what's in
2 it. It doesn't sound kosher and I hope you
3 will investigate it a lot more than what the
4 past has presented.

5 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Nice shirt.

7 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Thank you. Well,
8 Frank, the game is Sunday, who is going to
9 win, Sunday? Who do you think? Who is
10 going to win Sunday?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Niners.

12 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Um-hum. No way,
13 Jack.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: You a Raven's fan.

15 MR. SLEDENZSKI: These guys. Ravens
16 all the way. Good luck down there.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll get you a 49er's
18 hat next week.

19 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

20 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, city
21 council. My name is Dave Gervasi, I'm a
22 citizen and a resident of the City of
23 Scranton.

24 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

25 MR. GERVASI: Mrs. Evans, may I ask

1 you a few questions?

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 MR. GERVASI: When we borrowed \$7
4 million to buy the streetlights were you on
5 city council?

6 MS. EVANS: No.

7 MR. GERVASI: When we borrowed all
8 that money.

9 MS. EVANS: No, I wasn't.

10 MR. GERVASI: Then I believe there
11 was a -- I don't know what number, I don't
12 remember, whether it was multi-millions of
13 dollars in refinancing to do work in the
14 parks. Were you on city council when that
15 happened?

16 MS. EVANS: No. I think that was
17 back in 2003 that occurred.

18 MR. GERVASI: I believe you are
19 correct. Were you on city council when the
20 war started between the unions and the
21 administration?

22 MS. EVANS: No, I was not.

23 MR. GERVASI: Are you aware that we
24 really weren't asking for much and then we
25 ended up getting more than we wanted?

1 MS. EVANS: Yes, I'm aware of.

2 MR. GERVASI: I believe there were
3 three more sets of borrowing, I believe one
4 you weren't on council at the time, I
5 believe two of them, one I believe was a
6 refinance and one was a huge borrowing, how
7 did you vote?

8 MS. EVANS: I voted "no."

9 MR. GERVASI: You voted "no" for
10 that borrowing. So now that we have all of
11 this debt -- one more thing, and I'm just
12 jogging my memory here, when you got
13 actively involved, when you became the
14 council chairperson and you got actively
15 involved in budgets and there was no I
16 believe for the last eight years there
17 hasn't been an on-time financial audit of
18 the city?

19 MS. EVANS: That's correct.

20 MR. GERVASI: And am I correct in
21 saying that you really don't know where you
22 are and where you are going into your next
23 budget if you don't have the audit to tell
24 you where you've been; is that an accurate
25 statement?

1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2 MR. GERVASI: And wasn't it you
3 digging last year that found out that the
4 city I believe it was six or \$11 million
5 that nobody even knew about even when the
6 budget came out before you even touched the
7 budget; is that accurate?

8 MR. GERVASI: Yes. So the only
9 question is why is everybody blaming you for
10 this all of a sudden? I was kind of here, I
11 kind of know a little bit about it and I was
12 very involved in the budgets and analyzing
13 them anyway and all of you sudden it's your
14 fault for everything. I don't understand
15 why.

16 MS. EVANS: Well, maybe because it's
17 election time.

18 MR. GERVASI: Maybe. Wasn't is you
19 who got Mr. Loscombe to go out and ask the
20 nonprofits for PILOT payments?

21 MS. EVANS: Yes.

22 MR. GERVASI: I believe that was
23 true. Thank you. That's all I have.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
25 anyone else? Mrs. Krake?

1 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

2 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, you
3 have any comments or motions tonight?

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Thank you.
5 First, the PEL meeting on Monday we
6 discussed an update of the recovery plan and
7 took a look at the different changes that
8 were made and the aspects of the recovery
9 plan and Mr. Cross said that they would be
10 providing an update to council within the
11 very near future, so that we can see where
12 we are at and any recommendations that PEL
13 may have.

14 I also noticed that we received a
15 letter from PEL stating that they would --
16 they were extending the time for the amended
17 -- amendments to the -- it was in our e-mail
18 today.

19 MS. EVANS: I didn't see that.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Well, I'm sorry. It's
21 it stated that the coordinator shall provide
22 to the governing bodies an amendment to this
23 August 24 revised recovery plan to meet the
24 provisions of Act 133. They had said that
25 this would be done by January 31, 2013. Due

1 to some that they want to use the actual --
2 final 2012 expenditure information from the
3 city and that was not available to them as
4 of yet that they are extending that, that
5 they will provide that amendment by March
6 31, 2013, so basically I guess it's the same
7 thing that they -- that PEL intends to give
8 us an update on the recovery plan by May 31
9 -- or March.

10 Also, at the time we discussed the
11 rental registration and at not necessarily
12 at the request of one person, but a little
13 bit of an update on the rental registration.
14 The database is being increased daily. They
15 have tried to contact the Sewer Authority
16 for information from them, that was not
17 forthcoming for some reason and the people
18 in charge were then going to go to the
19 garbage bills from the city to try and
20 increase that but the most effective thing
21 that they found so far has been the housing
22 inspectors as they are out on a daily basis
23 reporting properties back to the rental
24 registration coordinator and those are being
25 added regularly and as soon as a property is

1 identified notices are being sent to them so
2 notices are being sent out pretty much on a
3 daily basis as new properties are
4 identified.

5 Also, the second position in the
6 rental registration program has been filled.
7 That position was filled as of this past
8 Monday, so that there are now two people
9 working on rental registration which
10 hopefully will improve the operation of it.

11 The other thing that they are
12 looking at doing is hopefully at some point
13 in time using the assessment, Lackawanna
14 County assessment, to provide a mass
15 mailing. That would be something that would
16 have to come before us because of the cost
17 that might be involved in it, but that's
18 something that is being considered.

19 And the final two things on rental
20 registration, collections from August of
21 2012 to December of 2001 were somewhere a
22 little over \$100,000, so the program if we
23 can base 2013 on the short period of 2012 I
24 would think that the projections that we
25 have made for -- revenue projections that we

1 have made have, you know, have good a
2 potential to be realized in 2013 and
3 hopefully we can do that, and if I would say
4 that if we can -- if those projections are
5 realized and hopefully even more is
6 collected that perhaps I know Mr. Rogan has
7 spoken of it before as well perhaps that
8 that would allow us to also put on more
9 inspectors, city inspectors, and that should
10 even enhance the program even more and allow
11 for the dealing not only of the revenue part
12 of it, but also additional inspectors would
13 help us deal with the blight problem as
14 well.

15 And the last thing, the amended
16 legislation that has been asked for, we are
17 still awaiting that, I don't believe that it
18 has been sent to the office as of yet, I
19 thought that it would have been here last
20 week and I will check tomorrow and see, you
21 know, where that is, that I see some
22 quizzical looks, the amendment was simply to
23 remove a phrase dealing with the safety
24 inspections that would make it little bit
25 more controllable.

1 The last thing I would like to speak
2 on, and I thought I would do this prior to
3 it being introduced, was the section on the
4 mayor's -- legislation on the mayor's
5 salary. Somewhere about four years ago I
6 suggested this at council and was attacked,
7 for want of a better word, for suggesting
8 it. I thought it was a good idea then, I
9 believe that it's a good idea now for any
10 number of reasons. I do believe that
11 raising it that \$30,000 from 50 to 80 is
12 perhaps too much at once. What I would like
13 to see, what I would like to see and I had
14 suggested it when we spoke about this, are
15 graduated increases, a salary schedule, as
16 such, that would provide for a guaranteed
17 raise over the course of the term of the
18 mayor that would reach perhaps a maximum of
19 80,000 or whatever it might be set at, but
20 that would start at a lower rate, at a lower
21 amount, so that it would perhaps act as
22 incentive to do a good job, that, you know,
23 that raises beyond the, you know, the four
24 years might encourage someone to do a better
25 job as mayor.

1 Also, the other thing it may be
2 raising, gradually raising the salary of the
3 mayor, it might also act as a deterrent for
4 multi-term mayors, that people may look and
5 say, you know, do we want a mayor at \$85,000
6 or do we want a mayor back at an original
7 \$65,000 or whatever, you know, the amount
8 was set at. It may somehow act as a little
9 bit of a deterrent, but I don't know how
10 others feel about that, but I looked at some
11 possibilities, you know, I considered some
12 things if we are interested in perhaps
13 pursuing something of that nature we can
14 talk about it when it is introduced.

15 And that's all I have for tonight.
16 Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
18 Rogan, comments or motions?

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. Just a
20 few brief comments on some issues. Some
21 other issues then I'll address the two hot
22 topics of the day. First we saw on the news
23 about the Moosic Street bridge, this is very
24 good news that eventually and hopefully soon
25 it will be back up and running. I know it

1 is a hindrance to many on the South Side and
2 on East Mountain.

3 For those in West Side I did speak
4 to representatives from PennDOT today
5 regarding the Linden Street bridge. They
6 said that it is expected -- construction is
7 expected to start very shortly. The
8 problems they ran into with this bridge was
9 a little more complex because of the
10 railroad tracks underneath and also the fire
11 optic cables that were running through that
12 area, but they did say they project that the
13 bridge will be completed by the end of 2013,
14 so the end of this year from Linden Street
15 bridge as well. So I think everyone in West
16 Side, myself included, will be ecstatic when
17 that bridge is open again.

18 Next, is issue that Mr. Sbaraglia
19 brought up that I had jotted down to speak
20 about tonight is property taxes to funds
21 from the school district. I know it is a
22 new legislative year and Scranton has two
23 brand new state representatives. I know
24 it's been mentioned before and in the
25 previous legislative there were proposals

1 out there to completely eliminate property
2 taxes to fund school districts. If that
3 were to happen, the burden would be removed
4 from senior citizens who generally own
5 property and their children have graduated
6 many -- sometimes decades or generations ago
7 and would place the burden of the taxes on
8 the working people, people my age who maybe
9 in the short future will have children that
10 are in those school systems and at the same
11 time it would also by reducing the property
12 tax burden for school taxes, it would make
13 any future tax increases on the city's end
14 easier to swallow for the taxpayer.

15 So with my colleagues' agreement, I
16 would like to send a letter to
17 Representative Haggerty, Representative
18 Flynn, and Senator Blake encouraging them to
19 support the complete elimination for
20 property taxes funding school districts. Is
21 that agreeable?

22 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

25 MS. EVANS: Yes.

1 MR. ROGAN: Great. So far
2 Representative Flynn and Representative
3 Haggerty have been very eager to talk to me,
4 I have spoken to both of them on numerous --
5 many times and they have been great to work
6 with so I just want to compliment them for
7 that.

8 Next onto the two big issues on this
9 week's agenda, the first one being the pay
10 increase for Mayor Doherty, or I apologize,
11 for Mayor Doherty's successor, and I'll
12 basically reiterate what I said in the
13 newspaper this morning, I think everyone
14 agrees that the position of the mayor should
15 make more than \$50,000 per year. Do I think
16 right now is the right time to make that
17 raise up to \$80,000. Absolutely not. Just
18 a few months ago we had city employees
19 making minimum wage and Scranton was on
20 national news because we couldn't pay our
21 bills and there was I think \$5,000 left in
22 the city coffers and just a few month
23 removed from that to consider raising the
24 mayor's salary by \$30,000, which is more
25 money than the average Scrantonian makes is

1 something that I'm not comfortable voting
2 for.

3 Now, I do understand that the
4 mayor's salary hasn't been raised since the
5 year I was born, not too long ago, but it's
6 been 25 years since the mayor's salary has
7 been increased, so I would be open to a
8 graduated increase and the one I gave that
9 some residents brought up to me that
10 actually would be the best scenario,
11 although, I don't know if it would be legal
12 because it would have to be placed into the
13 Home Rule Charter is to have a pay scale
14 based on performance.

15 For instance, currently the mayor
16 has \$50,000 a year plus a city vehicle, plus
17 gas for the city vehicle, plus insurance for
18 the city vehicle, and those three items are
19 always left out of the media because those
20 are part of his compensation as well.
21 People have proposed a couple of extra
22 thousand dollars for passing and adhering to
23 a balanced budget, which is something that
24 hasn't happened in this city in a very long
25 time.

1 Also, there were also proposals to
2 request to put in there increases for things
3 such as services that are provided to the
4 city, not making cuts in services, working
5 to eliminate government waste. You know, I
6 think those are excellent ideas. I don't
7 know how practical they are by putting them
8 into legislation.

9 That being said, I would like to
10 speak to all of my colleagues, and
11 Mr. McGoff had a proposal and Mrs. Evans
12 made comments in the paper as well, as the
13 current proposal stands I will vote "no."
14 If we were looking to increase the pay to
15 \$60,000 over the course of four years,
16 \$2,500 a year and then take a look and
17 revisit it another four years, that I would
18 be willing to consider, but as the proposal
19 stands I will be voting "no".

20 Next, onto the parking agreement,
21 this is an issue that I have been wrestling
22 with over the last week. I voted "yes" last
23 week. I do plan on moving for final passage
24 this week, but that does not mean that I
25 have many, many reservations about this

1 piece of legislation. I'm very happy that
2 we will be having the caucus to answer a lot
3 of these questions and I do want to hear
4 from those of you who had concerns because I
5 know a lot of questions were just brought up
6 at this podium that I would like to look at
7 before making a final vote.

8 A couple of my concerns that I do
9 have are I fully support the initial
10 proposal that council, the majority of
11 council wanted a few years back, which is a
12 StreetSmart style system where -- and I
13 think the best part of this would be, and
14 we've talked about this many times, if I put
15 a dollar in the meter to park for an hour
16 and I left after 15 minutes and Mr. McGoff
17 pulled in after he would get my 45 minutes.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

19 MR. ROGAN: You're welcome. Under a
20 new system it can be set to a reset, the
21 meters would reset and set back to zero, so
22 the person -- every person that would be
23 pulling in would be paying for their own
24 time. I would prefer to see that happen
25 instead of raising the rates across the

1 board. So they are some issues that I do
2 want to talk about next week at the caucus
3 before making a final decision on that.

4 I am encouraged to hear Mr. McGoff
5 comments on the rental registration and I
6 did vote for the rental registration
7 proposal and I have said all along that I
8 don't believe it's something should be used
9 as a revenue enhancement, it should be used
10 as something to combat blight in our
11 neighborhoods, and the idea of having the
12 program being self-sustaining or if it's
13 bringing in "X" amount of dollars we will be
14 using that money specifically to fight
15 blight in our neighborhoods, that's what it
16 should be used for. It shouldn't be used as
17 a gap fill to balance the budget.

18 Finally, just one citizens' request
19 for tonight, Mrs. Krake, and I'll provide
20 this to you after the meeting as well, the
21 lines on Meadow Avenue are in need of
22 repair. They are fading and that is all.
23 I'll have more comments on the agenda items
24 as they come up.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman

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

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, just briefly. I
4 was going to wait until the legislation, but
5 I might as well make my comments now, as
6 Mr. Rogan said, the two hot topics this
7 evening. So far it appears, I mean, I'm on
8 the same page as my prior colleagues that
9 spoke here prior to me, Mr. Rogan and
10 Mr. McGoff, so I won't repeat a lot of what
11 they stated, but we all know that, you know,
12 the mayor's salary is pretty low at this
13 point, but given these economic times and
14 the condition of our city to ask for a
15 \$30,000 increase right off the bat is just
16 beyond, you know, what we can do at this
17 point.

18 Again, I do believe that we should
19 work on something as far as increase and
20 there has been many ideas passed here,
21 graduated increases or whatever, so I will,
22 you know, be happy to work with my
23 colleagues and come up to some kind of
24 consensus on what's going to work out best
25 for the future of this city.

1 As far as voting on it, I will vote
2 to introduce it tonight because if we all
3 vote it down tonight we won't have this
4 conversation, so I will vote to introduce it
5 and then we can work on discussing the
6 options in the future.

7 And as Mr. Rogan stated, too, I
8 believe last week I had a lot of questions
9 on the parking agreement. I brought some
10 issues out, I will be making an amendment
11 tonight on 6-B, but there are still some
12 questions and I'm happy we are going to have
13 a caucus next week, hopefully we will have a
14 lot of those questions answered because as
15 you know we are all concerned and we did
16 look at this issue for the past two years
17 and we just want to make it that it's
18 transparent, it's going to benefit the
19 public and it's going to benefit the
20 businesses, so there are some questions, we
21 don't want to detract from the downtown
22 businesses and we don't want to detract
23 people from parking there with higher
24 increases.

25 So, again, there is going to a

1 number of questions yet, but I will be, you
2 know, putting in an amendment tonight to
3 address some of the financial issues and
4 then perhaps, you know, in the mean time we
5 can get some more information together, but
6 that's basically all I have this evening.
7 Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
9 Councilman Joyce, do you have comments or
10 motions tonight?

11 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I'm very pleased
12 to hear that Mr. Romey Vallerio will come in
13 next week for the public caucus. I have
14 some questions I would like to see answered
15 regarding Standard Parking and what they
16 intend to do and I think it's important that
17 the public receives more information as
18 well. Excuse me, I'm still a little bit
19 under the whether so I'll try and be brief.

20 Secondly, on tonight's agenda
21 obviously, as everyone knows, there is
22 legislation to raise the salary of the mayor
23 in 2014 from \$50,000 a year to \$80,000 per
24 year. While I agree that the mayor's salary
25 should be raised for the next mayor, I do

1 not think it should be as high as \$80,000.
2 Tonight I'll vote to introduce this
3 legislation only. After I would like to see
4 this legislation amended to lower the raise.
5 I did some research to see what mayor's in
6 other cities comparable to Scranton's size
7 were making. Currently the salary of the
8 Scranton mayor is the lowest. For instance,
9 the mayor of Allentown earns \$95,000 a year.
10 The mayor of the Bethlehem earns \$90,500 per
11 year. Easton mayor earns \$80,000 per year.
12 Erie's mayor earns \$65,000 per year.
13 Harrisburg's mayor earns \$80,000 per year.
14 Lancaster's mayor earns \$77,932 per year.
15 The mayor of Reading earns \$72,600 per year
16 and the mayor of Wilkes-Barre earns \$79,900
17 per year, and the mayor of York earns
18 \$75,000 per year. As we all know. The
19 mayor of Scranton earns \$50,000 per year.

20 Looking at the ten cities I just
21 mentioned, Scranton has the lowest paying
22 mayor salary by far. The next closest in
23 regard to the mayor's salary is Erie where
24 the mayor earns \$65,000 per year. I firmly
25 believe that the next mayor coming in should

1 earn no more than that given the situation
2 -- than that given the situation that
3 Scranton faces. In fact, I believe that
4 \$60,000 per year is appropriate. A raise to
5 \$60,000 would still put the salary of the
6 next mayor as the lowest salary out of the
7 ten cities that I just mentioned.

8 Furthermore, the salary of the mayor
9 who is the leader of the city would still be
10 lower than each of the county commissioners
11 and the leader of the Scranton School
12 District who merely earns \$140,000 per year.
13 As the leader of the city the next mayor
14 faces many unique challenges that other
15 mayors will not have to face. Much work
16 will be needed from our next mayor.

17 With the state that the city is in,
18 I do not see a raise of \$30,000 as
19 appropriate. However, I do think that some
20 raise in salary for the next mayor is
21 warranted.

22 In other news, Scranton City Council
23 has been forwarded some information that
24 proposals will be opened on February 26 for
25 insurance coverages for the period of the

1 April 1, 2013, through March 31, 2014. Once
2 more information is known on the potential
3 bidders I'll further inform the public.

4 Secondly -- or actually fourth, a
5 meeting will be held next week that I'll be
6 attending with Rossi & Rossi as well as
7 other appropriate administration and
8 authority parties to review the timetable
9 that must be adhered to for the timely
10 delivery of the 2012 audit. As one knows,
11 the annual audit has been historically late
12 over the past number of years and this year
13 I'm hoping for that trend to change.

14 And I do have a number of citizens'
15 requests. Number one, several South
16 Scranton residents have contacted me
17 regarding the condition of the road at the
18 intersection of South Webster and Ripple
19 Street. The road is in very poor shape.
20 There is numerous cracks and potholes in the
21 road making conditions difficult. Mrs.
22 Krake, please contact Director Dougher and
23 ask him to handle this situation the best
24 way that he sees fit.

25 Also, South Scranton residents have

1 informed me that the patch on the road on
2 top of the 600 block of Brick Street is in
3 very poor shape, there are many cracks
4 making travel conditions difficult. Mrs.
5 Krake, if you could please add this to the
6 list of concerns for Director Dougher about.

7 Hill Section residents have informed
8 me that the 200 block of Wheeler Avenue is
9 in poor shape as there are potholes
10 throughout the whole block which is making
11 travel conditions difficult for residents.
12 In fact, one resident has informed me that
13 over the course of one week he hit a pothole
14 so many times that his tire went flat.

15 So, Mrs. Krake, if you could please
16 add this to the list of the concerns for
17 Director Dougher.

18 Also, residents in the Hill Section
19 have informed me that home located at 217
20 Harrison Avenue is in poor shape to say the
21 least. Upon visiting the site I was
22 welcomed by debris all over the yard which
23 included numerous busted bottles and other
24 rubbish. The home also had busted windows.
25 Residents have informed me that this home

1 has been an eyesore to the community and
2 they would like to see something done about
3 it.

4 Mrs. Krake, with this in mind,
5 please contact Director Seitzinger and ask
6 him to send out an inspector hopefully to
7 rectify this situation as residents would
8 like to see something done as soon as
9 possible. And that's it for tonight's.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
11 evening. First, I wish to thank Mr. Tom
12 Welby for operating the ECTV cameras and
13 making this live broadcast possible.

14 Included in tonight's agenda in
15 Fifth Order for introduction is legislation
16 to increase the annual salary of the mayor
17 of the City of Scranton from \$50,000 to
18 \$80,000 effective January 1, 2014.

19 At Mayor Doherty's request, the
20 city's legal department drafted this
21 legislation and submitted it to the Office
22 of City Council just yesterday. The mayor
23 also determined the dollar amount of the pay
24 increase.

25 According to the Home Rule Charter,

1 Article 13, Section 1304, and I quote,
2 "Compensation to be paid to elected
3 officials holding the positions of the
4 mayor, council person and controller shall
5 be established by the city council no later
6 than February 1 of the year in which
7 election will be held to fill any or all of
8 these positions for a full four-year term."

9 Because tomorrow is the deadline set
10 by the charter for establishment of a pay
11 increase, both Mrs. Krake and Solicitor
12 Hughes researched prior legislations to
13 learn the process that had been followed.
14 Salaries for all of those elected positions
15 were previously increased in 1987 following
16 adoption by city council on February 11 and
17 signed approval by Mayor Wenzel on February
18 17.

19 In 1999, the salary of the city
20 controller was increased to its current
21 level after adoption by city council on
22 February 8 and signed approval by Mayor
23 Connor on February 18. Thus, it appears
24 that precedents were set in 1987 and 1999 to
25 exceed the charter's deadline. As a result,

1 the current legislation will undergo three
2 traditional readings. If it succeeds in
3 passing introduction tonight.

4 Like my honorable colleagues, I do
5 believe that the salary for Scranton mayor
6 should be increased. However, I cannot
7 agree to a \$30,000 raise at this time while
8 our city faces additional borrowing to
9 comply with the Supreme Court award for
10 police and fire and must cover the costs of
11 a defeated commuter tax.

12 In addition, the panel of judges who
13 decided against the commuter tax in
14 December, were concerned by the proposed
15 raises to six city employees totaling
16 approximately \$70,000. Consequently, it
17 does not appear likely that a \$30,000 salary
18 hike would meet with the approval of judges
19 in the future. I do hope that when our city
20 has achieved the goals of the revised
21 recovery plan and has returned to sound
22 financial footing, the salary of the
23 Scranton mayor will become commiserate with
24 her or her colleagues throughout comparable
25 Pennsylvania municipalities.

1 In the mean time, however, I am open
2 to discussion among my colleagues as to how
3 best to increase a mayor's salary. Perhaps
4 council might consider an annual percentage
5 increase equal to the percentage received by
6 city employees or a set dollar figure that
7 is paid annually throughout the next four
8 years such as perhaps a \$5,000 annual
9 increase over a four-year period up to a
10 ceiling of \$70,000.

11 I ask all council members to keep in
12 mind that amendments are not made during
13 Fifth Order introduction, rather, they can
14 be made only during Sixth or Seventh Order.
15 Should you vote to introduction tonight,
16 then no salary increase will occur. If you
17 sincerely wish to raise a mayor's salary by
18 any dollar amount you must vote "yes" for
19 introduction tonight.

20 Also, on tonight's agenda for Fifth
21 Order introduction is an ordinance to amend
22 File of Council No. 100 of 2009 which
23 establishes parking meter rates, meter zones
24 and hours of operation. It provides for two
25 hour meters at the rate of \$1 per hour in

1 designated blocks of the downtown and areas
2 surrounding city hospitals as well as
3 ten-hour meters at the rate of \$1.50 in
4 other designated lots.

5 In addition, parking meters will be
6 operational between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. with
7 the exception of Sundays. The rate increase
8 and time extension will provide for much
9 needed increased revenue for the city to
10 meet its financial obligations. Without
11 such changes, Scranton homeowners would be
12 faced with larger property tax increases.

13 I live in Scranton, I pay property
14 taxes among others. Admittedly I don't
15 travel to the downtown on a daily basis, but
16 I would rather pay a higher parking meter
17 rate for my occasional trips to the downtown
18 than see my property taxes rise.

19 And remember, ladies and gentlemen,
20 the city is on the hook for \$100 million in
21 past Parking Authority debt. Monies raised
22 from the parking garages and meters will be
23 used to make these debt payments. If
24 insufficient funds are realized, the burden
25 then falls squarely on the shoulders of the

1 taxpayers.

2 Furthermore, during the recent
3 commuter tax hearing, we learned that twice
4 as many commuters work in the downtown as
5 Scranton residents. Therefore, the parking
6 meter rate increase will be fairly shared by
7 all who work in downtown Scranton.

8 Next, please request on behalf of
9 Scranton City Council a revenue report from
10 the business administrator for the month of
11 January and each month thereafter. It's
12 important to determine areas of strength and
13 weakness and to detect any problems as they
14 occur in order that they can be addressed
15 promptly.

16 Finally, I have two citizens'
17 requests for the week. City residents
18 report that the structure located at 131
19 Morris Avenue has been condemned for four
20 years and poses a safety and fire hazard
21 particularly to children playing in the
22 neighborhood. Windows are open or missing
23 causing water damage to the structure. The
24 property must be secured immediately before
25 someone is injured. Thereafter, it should

1 be included in the city's 2013 demolition
2 program.

3 Residents of Lake Scranton Road are
4 requesting that council contact the
5 Harrisburg office of DEP regarding the
6 visual soil testing performed by the
7 regional office.

8 Also, they state that our drinking
9 water supply may be compromised by the
10 proximity of the junk yard and they ask
11 council to request MTVE water tests of the
12 American Water Company.

13 Mrs. Krake, please send a letter of
14 request to AWS and I believe that's it just
15 one quick addition. I have just been
16 informed that Mr. Charlie Newcomb is now
17 working on cameras. We thanked Mr. Welby
18 for being here earlier and we thank
19 Mr. Newcomb for assisting us as well, and
20 that's it.

21 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AMENDING FILE OF
22 COUNCIL NO. 100, 2009 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
23 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 91, 2002 "AN ORDINANCE
24 AS AMENDED PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
25 OF PARKING METER ZONES WITHIN THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON; ESTABLISHING HOURS OF OPERATION;
2 PROVIDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF METERS AND
3 PARKING METER RATES; AUTHORIZING THE
4 ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING ORDINANCES AND
5 PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”
6 BY AMENDING SECTIONS 3 (A).

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

10 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

11 MR. JOYCE: Second.

12 MS. EVANS: On the question?

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question. I
14 talked earlier on Item 6-B and 6-B and 5-B
15 are very connected. I stated I would vote
16 to move 6-B along and I will do the same for
17 Item 5-B until after we have a caucus and
18 since they are so closely related at least
19 we get that information then I will make a
20 final decision on this item as well.

21 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?
22 All those in favor of introduction signify
23 by saying aye.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

2 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AMENDING FILE OF
6 COUNCIL NO. 31 OF 1987, SECTION 2
7 BY INCREASING THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR TO
8 EIGHTY THOUSAND (\$80,000.00) DOLLARS
9 ANNUALLY WITH SAID SALARY INCREASE EFFECTIVE
10 JANUARY 1, 2014.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. JOYCE: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question?

17 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, and I'm not going
18 to do this as a motion tonight, just
19 something that I've said before that I
20 believe that is something that maybe we can
21 do to look at a salary increase but not one
22 that is a large one over one year. I
23 suggest the idea of a salary schedule. What
24 I meant by that was that something that also
25 Mrs. Evans mentioned, gradual increases

1 through the course of the terms of the
2 mayor. I put together one that started with
3 year one at \$60,000, year two at 65,000,
4 year three at 70, year four at 75,000. If
5 you are thinking that would start -- if we
6 were to do something like that it would
7 start in 2014 and it wouldn't be until 2017
8 that we are looking at a salary of the
9 \$75,000.

10 After that, I would suggest a 2
11 percent increase per year for the remainder
12 of the salary or the remainder of the terms
13 or the second terms of the mayor or third
14 terms up to a maximum of \$85,000. And
15 again, we are looking at those increases not
16 until we get into, you know, 2020 or that
17 would even get close to that amount and that
18 that would renew at year one at \$60,000 with
19 the election or appointment of each new
20 person to the office of mayor and so that we
21 weren't always looking at a salary of
22 \$80,000 that it would go back to, you know,
23 year one and an increase for each subsequent
24 mayor.

25 Now, you know, with inflation and

1 other things we could, you know, look at or
2 future councils could look at changing those
3 numbers, but I think it's a way of
4 increasing the salary of the mayor without
5 doing it in one large amount. Just
6 something that we can -- that I think we can
7 consider and, as I said, I'm not going to do
8 that as a motion now, it's something that we
9 can possibly talk about and look at at
10 future readings.

11 MS. EVANS: Yes.

12 MR. MCGOFF: That's all I have.
13 Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: I indicated that
15 earlier, that we cannot amend during
16 introduction, the amendments must come --
17 well, ideally during Seventh Order, but we
18 have amended during Sixth Order as well.
19 So, you know, I'd like to consider what my
20 colleague has said, I'm considering what
21 Mr. Rogan, stated in the paper a raise to
22 the \$60,000 flat. I think if we are look
23 at, for example, the raises of workers, the
24 highest raises would amount to 5.2 percent
25 annually, those being for police and fire.

1 That may be a consideration to raise the
2 salary of the mayor 5.2 percent for 2014,
3 2015, in other words, following along in
4 line with what's been established for the
5 city workers.

6 I know, on the other hand, we might
7 also consider, as I was saying earlier,
8 which is very similar to what you were
9 saying, Councilman McGoff, \$5,000 annual
10 increases even if it began at \$55,000 and
11 worked its way up to \$75,000 over a
12 four-year period, thereby costing only
13 \$5,000 per year.

14 But I think it's very important to
15 note that if we sit here tonight and just
16 say "no", and I know I don't agree with the
17 \$80,000. Mr. McGoff has said he doesn't
18 agree. Mr. Rogan has said he doesn't agree.
19 Mr. Joyce do you agree?

20 MR. JOYCE: No.

21 MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

23 MS. EVANS: There is no agreement on
24 council to provide a \$30,000 increase in one
25 year, but if we were all to cast our votes

1 tonight in the negative, in other words, if
2 each one of us tonight says "no" because
3 each one of us believes \$80,000 is wrong and
4 it's not happening, then the legislation
5 dies and there will be no raise. So I think
6 it's important to remember that if you
7 sincerely are interested in raising the
8 salary and gaining a consensus on council
9 then you must approve the legislation for
10 introduction tonight and, thereafter, you
11 have provided yourself and your colleagues
12 with the opportunity to amend in a
13 reasonable fashion. Is there anyone else on
14 the question?

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes. As I stated
16 before, I won't vote for it in its current
17 form. It can be shot down and put back on
18 the agenda. The legislation is one and a
19 quarter pages, all that would need to be
20 changed is the dollar amount once it's
21 agreed upon.

22 As I stated in the paper and
23 earlier, I believe the \$60,000 is a fair
24 raise. It's actually a little bit more than
25 I'm comfortable with giving, but another

1 thing that can be negotiated, and I don't
2 know if anyone feels this way, but the mayor
3 does receive a city vehicle, city fuel and
4 city insurance. That could be negotiated as
5 well whereas the salary increase may be a
6 little bit more than the perk of having a
7 city vehicle would be taken away, so that's
8 all something we can discuss as well.

9 MS. EVANS: I think it's important
10 to remember as well that the mayor receives
11 full health care and if he serves long
12 enough or has served in other offices, for
13 example, tax collector or remains as a mayor
14 for three terms will qualify for a pension,
15 so there are additional circumstances that
16 merit our consideration.

17 As for voting it down and placing
18 new legislation on next week, I don't
19 believe that that's possible in that once
20 something is defeated and it could have been
21 defeated by all of us it cannot be raised
22 again for a period of a year. So is there
23 anyone else on the question?

24 MR. JOYCE: By the Home Rule Charter
25 does it have to be done by the end of the

1 month as far as the legislation?

2 MS. EVANS: Well, I addressed that
3 under motions, that we have precedence set
4 in 1987 and 1999 and the legislation was
5 adopted in both cases well past the February
6 1 deadline and signed by Mayor Wenzel and
7 Mayor Connors well past the deadline.

8 MR. JOYCE: But, I mean, if say we
9 were to vote it down could it actually be
10 placed on the agenda after February 1? I
11 understand that it could be adopted.

12 MS. EVANS: Oh, but you mean --

13 MR. JOYCE: -- in its full form? I
14 mean, is there a set deadline that it has to
15 be introduced before February 1?

16 MS. EVANS: Yes, it has to be
17 introduced -- what they are saying is
18 council has to establish this by February 1
19 so I think by voting "no" tonight it kills
20 any sincere attempt to make a change.

21 MR. ROGAN: I would just want to
22 make one final point that I forget to
23 mention, we all mentioned it the mayor
24 salary for the responsibility is very low,
25 and I forget to mention and one of the

1 things when you get involved with public
2 service you shouldn't be in it for a
3 paycheck. You don't sign up to be mayor of
4 Scranton to work 80 or 100 hours a week and
5 collect hundreds of thousands of dollars.
6 You are doing it for the love of your city
7 and that's why it should be done.

8 The same thing with being on city
9 council. City council is a part-time paid
10 position, but as we know there is it no
11 part-time position when your phone goes off
12 at 11:00 at night when you have a request
13 from a citizen and you have to take the call
14 and call them back, and I think that's
15 something we also have to consider that it
16 shouldn't be comparable to the private
17 sector because this isn't the private
18 sector, and in the private sector people are
19 compensated on how much money they bring
20 into a company and things of that nature, in
21 the public sector we are not here to make a
22 profit, it's to help the community and that
23 shouldn't be -- money shouldn't be the thing
24 that's driving people to run for mayor. We
25 already have a few candidates in the mayoral

1 race, who knows, there may even be more
2 before the salary was even being discussed
3 being increased, so that's for one point I
4 forget to mention earlier.

5 All those in favor of introduction
6 signify by saying aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

9 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

10 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

11 MR. ROGAN: No.

12 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and so
13 moved thankfully. Mrs. Krake, back to you.

14 MS. KRAKE: 6-A. READING BY TITLE -
15 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 4, 2013 - AN ORDINANCE -
16 ESTABLISHING A "NO PARKING" ZONE ALONG
17 THE EASTERLY SIDE OF WEST MARKET STREET
18 (S.R. 6011) FROM BRICK AVENUE TO ROCKWELL
19 AVENUE TO ALLOW FOR SAFE SIGHT DISTANCE FOR
20 A PROPOSED DRIVEWAY BY NOONES MARKET FOR A
21 PROPERTY LOCATED AT 416 WEST MARKET STREET.

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

24 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
25 pass reading by title.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

10 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
11 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 5, 2013 - AN ORDINANCE -
12 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
13 OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A MANAGEMENT
14 AGREEMENT WITH STANDARD PARKING CORPORATION
15 TO ADMINISTER AND MANAGE THE CITY'S
16 ON-STREET PARKING METER OPERATION; PROCURE
17 ON-STREET PARKING METER EQUIPMENT; ENFORCE
18 VIOLATIONS OF CITY ON-STREET PARKING METER
19 ORDINANCE; EMPLOY PERSONNEL TO ADMINISTER
20 AND ENFORCE THE CITY'S ON-STREET METERED
21 PARKING OPERATION; PREPARE AND DELIVER TO
22 THE CITY A BUDGET EVERY YEAR FOR CITY
23 APPROVAL; DEPOSIT GROSS RECEIPTS FROM MONIES
24 COLLECTED AND EARNED BY STANDARD INTO A
25 FEDERALLY INSURED BANK ACCOUNT IN EXCHANGE

1 FOR THE SUM OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS
2 (\$10,000.00) PER MONTH FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE
3 (5) YEARS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2013 AND
4 ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2017.

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

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'd like to make a
8 motion to amend Item 6-B per the following
9 amendments:

10 File of Council No. 5, 2013, shall
11 be amended as follows: The following shall
12 be inserted as the fifth whereas clause to
13 the ordinance. Whereas the management
14 agreement, Exhibit A, shall be amended to
15 add the following as Article 32:

16 Yearly revenue meeting and Article
17 32, Authority, shall be renumbered as 33,
18 and Article 33 counterparts shall be
19 renumbered as 34.

20 Article 32, yearly review meeting.
21 The governing body of the city, mayor and
22 council and the operator shall meet in
23 January following each calendar year of the
24 agreement to review, analyze the previous
25 year's operating expenses and gross receipts

1 and net profits and discuss the developments
2 in parking meter technology that would be
3 applicable to upgrade the parking meters and
4 whether the purchase of that technology
5 would be economically feasible.

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

10 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

16 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
17 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
18 FINANCE FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 3,
19 2013 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 56,
20 2011 --

21 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, we have to
22 return to 6-B. We did pass the amendment --

23 MS. KRAKE: I apologize.

24 MS. EVANS: -- but we did not pass
25 the legislation.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Chairmen, I move
2 that Item 6-B, as amended, pass Reading by
3 Title.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

5 MS. EVANS: On the questions? All
6 those in favor signify by saying aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

13 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
14 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
15 FINANCE FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 3,
16 2013 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 56,
17 2011, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL
18 OPERATING BUDGET 2012" BY TRANSFERRING
19 \$692.22 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01.051.00051.4201
20 (LICENSING, PERMITS & INSPECTIONS -
21 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) TO ACCOUNT NO.
22 01.051.00051.4101 (LICENSING, PERMITS &
23 INSPECTIONS - MILEAGE /UNIFORM ALLOWANCE) TO
24 PROVIDE FUNDING FOR MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT TO
25 INSPECTORS.

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

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

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION-
23 RESOLUTION NO. 7, 2013 - ACCEPTING THE
24 RECOMMENDATION OF THE HISTORICAL
25 ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD ("HARB") AND

1 APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
2 FOR POCONO SIGN & GRAPHIC, 1147 THE HIDEOUT,
3 LAKE ARIEL, PENNSYLVANIA FOR REMOVAL
4 OF EXISTING SIGNAGE LOCATED ON LEFT-SIDE
5 FAÇADE; REPLACE WITH NEW SIGNAGE OF THE SAME
6 DIMENSIONS/COLOR SCHEME AND CHANGE BUSINESS
7 NAME ON EXISTING AWNING TO MATCH DIMENSION
8 OF 10"H X 7'W AT 414 SPRUCE STREET,
9 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

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

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

1 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

5 Before I ask for adjournment I just
6 have two very quick items that I neglected
7 earlier, Mrs. Krake, please a second request
8 to Mr. Seitzinger regarding the information
9 concerning the housing inspection in
10 Pinebrook in February. I'm disappointed
11 that we have not received a response nor has
12 the Pinebrook Neighborhood Association. I
13 have heard, you know, that often times when
14 these requests are being discussed by the
15 department heads that the response have
16 been, "Well, I didn't get a raise," meaning,
17 well, it's up to your interpretation, ladies
18 and gentlemen. That's not sufficient where
19 I'm concerned. I expect the job will be
20 done regardless of whether or not you
21 received a raise, so I would like this
22 answer prior to next week's meeting, please.

23 And also, Mrs. Krake, gave me
24 several letters to department heads and
25 wanted to know what I would like done, we

1 are going to follow-up on them, please,
2 Mrs. Carrera, send it out again, and if need
3 be we will remind them that "I didn't get a
4 raise" is not the correct answer to I'm
5 ignoring the taxpayers of Scranton.

6 MR. GERVASI: Mrs. Evans?

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MR. GERVASI: Can you make an
9 announcement that we have received a new
10 shipment of smoke alarms and people can go
11 to the Scranton website, Scrantonpa.gov and
12 get information on how they can be installed
13 in their home. We just received a shipment.

14 MS. EVANS: We just received a new
15 shipment of smoke alarms I have been
16 informed by Mr. Gervasi, and anyone
17 interested in having those alarms installed
18 in their homes should go to the city
19 website, I believe it's www.ScrantonPA.gov
20 and you will find assistance in contacting
21 the fire department. I know they do a
22 wonderful job. I received a few of my own,
23 they were installed and I'll tell you I feel
24 much safer, I'm very happy, and I appreciate
25 that very, very much and I ask all city

1 residents who do not have smoke detectors,
2 please, take advantage of this program, and
3 it's absolutely free of charge. If there is
4 no further business, is there a motion to
5 adjourn?

6 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

7 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
8 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