

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, February 7, 2013

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT
(Not present)

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff. Mr.
5 Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Here.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

12 MR. JOYCE: Dispense with the
13 reading of the minutes.

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
15 AGENDA FOR THE ZONING HEARING BOARD TO BE
16 HELD FEBRUARY 13, 2013.

17 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?
18 If not, received and filed. Are there any
19 clerk's notes?

20 MS. KRAKE: Not at this time,
21 Mr. Joyce.

22 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Do any
23 council members have announcements at this
24 time tonight?

25 (Mr. McGoff takes the dais and joins

1 the meeting.)

2 MR. ROGAN: I can wait until motions
3 if you would like. Okay, I'll do it now. I
4 would like to make a motion to table Item
5 6-A and Item 7-B regarding the parking
6 meters.

7 MR. HUGHES: They should each be
8 separate motions to be voted on instead of
9 combining them.

10 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Attorney
11 Hughes. I would make a motion to table Item
12 6-A.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

14 MR. ROGAN: The reason for tabling
15 them and, obviously, I see there are a lot
16 of people here to talk about these issues
17 today. Obviously there are a lot of
18 unanswered questions and many of you are as
19 upset about this proposal as I am. If there
20 were a final vote today I would have to vote
21 "no" and I think many of my colleagues
22 likely share that sentiment, but I think by
23 waiting a week, two weeks, maybe things can
24 be ironed out, maybe they can't and maybe it
25 will be voted down anyways, but I think

1 right now isn't the time to push this
2 through.

3 MR. MCGOFF: As far as the
4 legislation in Sixth Order, there were -- we
5 can't amend it tonight if it's tabled and
6 there were amendments that were being
7 considered to the legislation, plus if it
8 were amended tonight and we voted on the
9 amended parts there would still be a third
10 reading next week and if they are tabled
11 while in Seventh Order order then both of
12 them would be in Seventh Order next week, so
13 I would be more in favor of moving this one
14 forward until next week with the amendments
15 that are proposed and then voting on both of
16 them for final passage or not passage next
17 week. So I guess that's what I'm saying.
18 I'm not in favor of tabling this particular
19 piece of legislation.

20 MR. ROGAN: I don't want to debate
21 it, we talked about this earlier. I view --

22 MR. HUGHES: I don't want to be the
23 Parliamentarian, but until the motion is
24 seconded there shouldn't be any discussion
25 on it. If there is no second then the

1 motion will fail --

2 MR. ROGAN: There was a second.

3 Mr. Loscombe seconded it.

4 MR. HUGHES: Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't
5 hear that. I'm sorry, Jack.

6 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

7 MR. ROGAN: I believe that both
8 pieces of legislation are of such similar
9 nature that they both need to be placed on
10 the table and at the same time.

11 MR. JOYCE: If there is no further
12 discussion let's vote. All those in favor
13 signify by saying aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed?

17 MR. MCGOFF: No.

18 MR. JOYCE: The ayes have it and so
19 moved.

20 MR. ROGAN: I will also make a
21 motion to table Item 7-B.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

23 MR. ROGAN: And this is for the same
24 reasons as the previous item.

25 MR. MCGOFF: This one I agree with

1 tabling.

2 MR. JOYCE: All those in favor
3 signify by saying aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Opposed. The ayes have
9 it and so moved. If there are no further
10 announcements we move into Fourth Order,
11 citizens' participation. Our first speaker
12 tonight is Tax Collector Courtright.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you, Council.
14 My main reason for coming here this evening
15 was to ask you to table the legislation.
16 Although I don't currently sit on council,
17 many people still recognize my me from when
18 I did and this last week I have had several
19 people come to me with questions and
20 concerns. Now, I came in when Mr. McGoff
21 was speaking and two of the things that he
22 that he brought out were the major concerns
23 to people nobody is in favor of raising the
24 rates, but the two things that they were
25 most concerned about were the Saturday hours

1 and 8:00 at night, especially the bars and
2 restaurants when they are very busy between
3 five and eight. They said bad enough that
4 their patrons would have to pay more, but in
5 the event that their dinner ran late or
6 whatever and they come out and now they got
7 nice ticket on their car, so that was my
8 reason for coming here this evening.

9 And one question because I know you
10 have had a long night already, one gentleman
11 asked me he is interested in possibly
12 opening a business in one of the parking
13 garages vacant store fronts and he said his
14 decision probably would be contingent on
15 would he or his employees if they opened a
16 business in the parking garage be afforded a
17 discounted rate or some free parking spaces
18 and the same for his patrons. I told him I
19 didn't know the answer to that question.
20 Probably not, but that I would ask you, but
21 that was a major concern for him about
22 moving into one of the empty store fronts.

23 That's about all I have, and I
24 appreciate you letting me speak. It's a lot
25 easier sitting on this side, guys, than that

1 side, so good luck whatever you decide.
2 Thank you.

3 MR. JOYCE: Ron Ellman.

4 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you, Council.
5 You know, year after year you have watched
6 me stand here and jump out and down and
7 shout and yell and accuse you all of being
8 in a bunko and know not what's going on, but
9 when I sit down I realize you just -- you
10 just have haven't been dealt a good hand.
11 Ten years of the worst mayor the city has
12 ever had, and a menial administration that
13 is just -- just consists of a bunch of
14 Scopellettis and McGowans that have just --
15 they've messed up and they end up with a
16 better position and a raise.

17 I listened to these three men and if
18 you have -- in my opinion this will be the
19 end of downtown. I have talked to so many
20 people, they are going to end up parking at
21 the mall and getting in problems tere or
22 they are going to avoid -- I talked to a
23 fellow that had a place for rent in Olyphant
24 for two years and he said he had had a call
25 this week on it and rented it. I phoned him

1 about a garage that was vacant, but I guess
2 the city comes by it naturally.

3 Today I heard on the news the
4 governor has declared war on the churches
5 and the bingo and the gambling and all of
6 the enterprises churches use to help people
7 put food on the table. I don't know how he
8 plans to help people. He has taken
9 everything away from us. I talked to people
10 almost daily that have lost their medical,
11 they can't afford their copays, this is the
12 state we are supposed to come to while our
13 gas industry has bought the governor. I
14 think that the main reason he doesn't want
15 the churches and their gambling proceeds is
16 to protect his lottery and the sale which is
17 only going to be for his own financial
18 political enhancement.

19 To get back on the subject, it's
20 time that council acknowledge the fact that
21 nonprofits have destroyed our city. They
22 have stolen away the heart of our tax base
23 downtown. You just won't -- you won't
24 attack them, but their achilles heel is what
25 the state has written down and they have

1 outgrown the five requirements in the state
2 Nonprofit Charity Act. Otherwise, all you
3 got is bankruptcy. You cannot keep going to
4 the people out here year after year with
5 say's a tax increase and we are borrowing
6 money. PEL has failed us miserably, but
7 this isn't my opinion, this is for a lot
8 more knowledgeable people than I am, that
9 are -- that know what's going on in this
10 city. The borrowing and the tax raising is
11 just -- it's just ruined us.

12 The University of Scranton is in the
13 child education business and look what we
14 have done to our school system. They have
15 stolen millions of dollars of our tax money
16 that should go to our children, two of you
17 all up there taught these children. What
18 kind of future they have in this city? I
19 talked to a young man working at the Giant
20 market the other day, stayed in school and
21 he is leaving the city and he said when he
22 gets out of school he probably won't come
23 back here. There is nothing here for
24 people.

25 And this nonsense of 50, 100,000

1 dollar jobs in the future is just blowing
2 smoke in everybody's ear. Even if -- if 20
3 of them came they are the not going to live
4 in the city with hundred-year-old houses and
5 no sidewalks and no curbs and floods
6 everywhere. They will be up in Clarks
7 Summit or some place.

8 The time has come that you just have
9 got to face the fact you cannot keep on
10 raising our taxes, you got what 3,000 houses
11 in foreclosures that are abandoned and left?
12 Look, I keep talking about my neighborhood
13 has declined something terrible. It has
14 just hit bottom around there. I have chased
15 two guys out of my garage the past two
16 years. Now I've got two of them and they
17 are stealing.

18 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

19 MR. ELLMAN: I can't walk down the
20 sidewalk because there is no curbs, there is
21 cars parked everywhere on the sidewalk with
22 all four wheels and the children in the
23 streets in the morning nobody seems to care.
24 These are just --

25 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

1 Your time is up.

2 MR. ELLMAN: I know these are all
3 problems, but --

4 MR. JOYCE: I know but if you
5 could--

6 MR. ELLMAN: Let me just say this in
7 leaving, I realize you five people are
8 deserving my respect more than I'm given a
9 lot of times, and I realize that you guys
10 have given a lot of your time and deserve
11 better, but wherever I go there is just --

12 MS. KRAKE: Excuse me, Mr. Joyce --

13 MR. ELLMAN: -- hardships around here
14 that don't need to be, that shouldn't be.

15 MR. JOYCE: Excuse me, Mr. Ellman --

16 MR. ELLMAN: You need to do
17 something about the universities --

18 MR. JOYCE: -- I have to stop you
19 right there.

20 MR. ELLMAN: -- and the phony
21 nonprofits or you need to file bankruptcy
22 and give us hope or there is break. It's
23 just got to be over.

24 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

25 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you.

1 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

2 Lee Morgan.

3 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

4 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

5 MR. MORGAN: Yes. The first thing I
6 have is I have done requests to council on
7 the Right-to-Know. I have received no
8 response. On Section 312 and 313 of the
9 Home Rule Charter. I would like a letter
10 from the city clerk telling me what
11 information they actually have. I was given
12 one subpoena, but, you know, I'm trying to
13 get some closure on that and find out.

14 And the other thing is I asked for
15 records in regard to the voting record of
16 council from about 1975 to now, and there is
17 a reason for that and I received a reply
18 that it would cost me \$300, and what I would
19 like to do is I would like to come to
20 council and scan those documents with my own
21 scanner so that I would have them available
22 to me and if the council doesn't want to do
23 that I would like to also receive a letter
24 from the city clerk in regards to that, too,
25 so that I can go to the Court and ask the

1 Court to issue an order to give me the right
2 to scan those documents, but I can't do
3 anything until I get a reply, so I'm
4 waiting. I was wondering, Mr. Joyce, if you
5 could try to help me to, you know, receive a
6 reply.

7 MR. MCGOFF: It should be sent to
8 the Right-to-Know officer.

9 MR. JOYCE: Go ahead.

10 MR. MCGOFF: I was going to respond,
11 your request should be sent to the
12 Right-to-Know officer.

13 MR. MORGAN: It did go to
14 Right-to-Know officer and then I dropped one
15 off down here as a courtesy because that's
16 where it was coming anyhow and the last time
17 I dropped one off it went through the law
18 department and it came down to council and
19 there is just a lack of the transparency
20 here and I'm having a --

21 MR. MCGOFF: No, there is a
22 procedure to be followed.

23 MR. MORGAN: And I did follow that
24 procedure so that's why I'm saying that
25 there is a problem here and we need to find

1 a way through it.

2 And the other thing I would like to
3 say is on the subject for tonight, you know,
4 I had gone and I hope that this does not
5 pass council, okay? This whole parking deal
6 is just wrong for the city. I think that
7 any decisions on this should be done after
8 the election, and I also believe that this
9 should all be done in-house. We vilified
10 Mr. Scopelliti, I had an opportunity to talk
11 to him about two months before he left his
12 position, and a lot of the things that I
13 hear these gentlemen say he discussed with
14 me in his office.

15 So, you know, just because somebody
16 receives an appointment politically to run
17 any for lack of a better terminology
18 business in the city doesn't mean that they
19 are not capable, and I think he took a lot
20 of heat because honestly the city built
21 those garages and they knew they couldn't
22 pay for them and when we listen to these
23 gentlemen give their presentation we are
24 paying for everything, so why aren't we just
25 going to do it in-house? Can't the council

1 and the mayor come together and create an
2 entity which can legitimately run these
3 because --

4 MR. MCGOFF: It's called the
5 Scranton Parking Authority.

6 MR. MORGAN: -- it reminds in the
7 south when you read after the civil war how
8 the carpet baggers came down and just sat in
9 the south, and we keep privatizing
10 everything and we keep talking about the
11 great benefits to the city, but we don't
12 have enough money to run our city and we are
13 giving revenue to third parties. It doesn't
14 make any sense, okay?

15 And when you start talking about
16 downtown business owners, I really think
17 they are struggling because of the economy,
18 I really do, and I think there is lot of
19 problems here and i think that we can find
20 solutions for our problems in-house, and I
21 think what we have going on here is
22 political reality and fiscal reality coming
23 together, the only question is which reality
24 are we going to accept? Because evidently
25 for a long time the residents of this city

1 have taken political reality over everything
2 else and closed their eyes to anything else
3 taking place here and now it's come to the
4 point where we say really very silly things
5 like, you know, if a receiver came into the
6 city they would raise your taxes. Well,
7 it's evident that the city is going to have
8 to pay it's debts no matter what, but when
9 we take a look at how they are going about
10 the process of paying our bills it's not
11 conducive to recovery because you just had
12 to sit through the hearings with the judges
13 and see that what's said here and what was
14 said in the courtroom, two different things.

15 And then when we see like the Rule
16 312 and 313 in the Home Rule Charter that I
17 passed for information on, okay, that most
18 certainly tells you what powers council has
19 and whether they exercise them or not. And
20 then my question going back to 1975, I'd
21 like to see the voting record of every
22 councilman to see who actually was trying to
23 help the city and who wasn't and I think
24 that's very important, especially an
25 election year.

1 And the last thing I have here is,
2 you know, I hope a lot more candidates run
3 for every office in the city. Mayor,
4 council, school board. If you have never
5 run before put your name on the ballot, get
6 out there and mix it up. There is a lot of
7 good ideas out here.

8 And the last thing that I have I
9 hope the League of Women Voters does debates
10 throughout the city and maybe ECTV, maybe
11 the tax group, maybe other parties, because
12 we need a lot of the discussions in this
13 city to find our way. Thank you.

14 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Morgan
15 Bob Bolus.

16 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
17 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

18 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

19 MR. BOLUS: It's kind of sad to say,
20 but, you know, Scranton is Scranton, here we
21 go again. You know, we have a cash cow, our
22 meters and what do we do? Now we want to
23 take them and give that away. Scranton has
24 been nothing but a giveaway of every asset
25 we have in the city.

1 Let's reflect back on the Scranton
2 Municipal Golf Course. With interest about
3 \$4 million that was in the escrow for the
4 parks and recreation. Last summer the kids
5 stood outside with a water hose rather than
6 go to a park. Why? Because Scranton
7 squandered \$4 million that was earmarked
8 perpetually to stay in escrow and only the
9 interest used for parks and recreation.

10 Historically this city doesn't know
11 how to manage it's assets. It's one of the
12 most poorly run businesses in the United
13 States and we are already the laughing stock
14 of the country paying minimum wage to our
15 employees. You have to turn around and
16 examine your conscious here. It's time.
17 Because you people, this administration, do
18 not know what a business is. You don't know
19 how to run a business, and that's what the
20 city is, it's a business. The only
21 difference between you and a real business
22 is we, in the business world, can't tax. We
23 have to figure it out how to get our money
24 from a bank or other means of creativity.
25 There is no creativity here, it's just

1 pretty much -- well, let's take the meters
2 or raise your taxes 80 percent. In all of
3 years I have come here not once has this
4 council effectively gone after the KOZs and
5 the nonprofits by creating, and I'm talking
6 creativity, of a public service fee. A 1
7 percent fee across everybody in this city
8 including the KOZs and nonprofits would
9 bring in millions of dollars. That's
10 utilization of your assets, but we are
11 cowards here because we let the bullies
12 bully us around because none of our
13 administrators or people want to take charge
14 and now is the time to take charge.

15 Mr. Rogan, last week I thought it
16 was kind of comical actually, I read it in
17 the paper really, is that you said for the
18 love of your city you shouldn't be here for
19 the money. My suggestion is that everybody
20 that takes a fee here give it back. Give it
21 to the police department, give to the fire
22 department, give to the some of the
23 charities. We come here, we love our city
24 and we don't get a dime out of it. To the
25 contrary, we get taxed. We get the living

1 heck pounded out of us time after time after
2 time and we are kind of sick of it and, you
3 know, you just got to turn around and take a
4 hard look at where we are going.

5 You know, on the meters here doing
6 what they're doing they are a business.
7 They are showing you how they make money,
8 copy what they do and you will make money,
9 but don't just give it away. We gave away
10 South Side Center, the sports complex, you
11 still have 500 grand plus that somebody pays
12 you a dollar a year at the old Ice Box.
13 That's not creativity, that's pure stupidity
14 on the part of our administrative people.
15 It's a disgrace. It's a mockery. And then
16 to think senior citizens that people have to
17 suffer because of the incompetence, and that
18 went on time after time councils, past,
19 present, I hope not the future, and
20 administrations past, present and not the
21 futures that things get a lot better.

22 People have come here and pleaded
23 their case, it's fallen on deaf ears. If
24 you want to do something borrow the money.
25 Go to a bank. Borrow against your meters.

1 You still have your equity, you still have a
2 way to run it as a business and pay it back.
3 These guys aren't here to say, "We are nice
4 people," they are here for themselves. They
5 are not here for you, me, or anybody in this
6 room. They are a business and that's how a
7 business is run. Copy it. Pay attention to
8 it. Look at everybody that's profiteered
9 off this city. Professional fees, no fee
10 agreements. Nothing else that went on here
11 and we all sat back and were made a fool out
12 of.

13 As far as the mayor's salary goes,
14 80 grand to run this city is a gift to have
15 somebody even want to come in here and take
16 on where we are and administer, what, this
17 city? If they are credible, remember, for
18 50,000 look what you got for the last 12
19 years. We are broke. We look like fools
20 and we are acting like fools. It's time now
21 to step up to the plate, pay the people what
22 they are worth and maybe you will get an
23 administrator that will work with a council,
24 but more importantly, work for the people
25 here instead of a self-serving government.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.
3 Attorney Moses.

4 MR. MOSES: Good evening, Council.
5 I just want to thank council and the
6 Scranton residents and the business people
7 for the opportunity to come in and speak
8 tonight. My name is Tony Moses. I'm an
9 attorney. My offices are in Kingston and
10 Luzerne County. I do work up here. I
11 represent Bob Bolus. I actually also
12 represent several of his companies and the
13 reason I'm here is to talk about a couple of
14 items in the allotted time.

15 First thing I want to bring up was
16 the parking meters. I personally haven't
17 reviewed the proposal that was addressed
18 tonight and sat down and had a chance to
19 review it, neither has my client. However,
20 Mr. Bolus has expressed to me he does have
21 an interest in possibly making an offer
22 regarding the meters. You know, the reasons
23 for this is he is a life-long resident as
24 well as a longtime business person in the
25 City of Scranton. He knows -- I guess he

1 has known the people, he knows how to
2 successfully run a business. He has a track
3 record for successful businesses and also as
4 a resident, somebody who is required to be
5 in the city and come into the city he has
6 been subject to the meters and the parking
7 laws and he has paid tickets. I was with
8 him a week ago and we got a ticket and he
9 paid it himself, so he feels he would bring
10 a unique perspective as someone with his
11 business experience he feels he could
12 possibly make an offer that would generate
13 money for the city and be realistic and be a
14 smart way to run it and generate some money
15 for the city as well as administer them in a
16 way that would be fair to the people using
17 them and allowing them to leave the city
18 with a desire to come back and not, you
19 know, not do anything that would be unfair
20 with the meters as he, himself, has been
21 subject to him his whole life and knows what
22 that's like.

23 However, now it is an interest we
24 have to review the current offer and then
25 would have to make a decision to see if it's

1 something that would be realistic to him,
2 but it is something he has expressed an
3 interest in.

4 Another thing I wanted to address, I
5 guess this was publicized a few weeks ago,
6 but Mr. Bolus named the city in a lawsuit.
7 The subject of the suit was over a 16-foot
8 deeded waterway. I filed it so just a
9 couple of things I wanted to touch on that.
10 You can review these things hundreds of
11 times and once it's filed go back and say,
12 "I wish this was more clear, I wish that was
13 my clear," but basically the controversy is
14 over a 16-foot deeded waterway, and
15 according to my client the city has denied
16 ownership of it, despite a title search
17 which he secured that showed otherwise. He
18 still does actually have a standing offer of
19 \$50,000 to buy the land. His main concern
20 is his property, is personal property, is
21 adjacent to the waterway and he has some
22 safety concerns. It's not necessarily a
23 danger, but it can be if it's not maintained
24 properly and he would like to purchase it so
25 that he can get in there and have it

1 inspected and do the proper maintenance on
2 it. And again, he has a standing offer for
3 and he feels that \$50,000 to the city would
4 be fair.

5 Again, he does have a title search
6 showing the city owns it, however, according
7 to him there has been denial of the
8 ownership of it so he would like to get to
9 the bottom of that. And also, our research
10 indicated that if the city owned it at one
11 time, did a title search and disposed of it,
12 unless there is proven wrong our research
13 indicated that the council would have to
14 approve any kind of transfer of city-owned
15 property and I believe so. If that -- if it
16 was sold or disposed of we would figure that
17 would probably have to be evident somewhere
18 if that was the case.

19 And that's really all -- the main
20 two areas I wanted to touch on tonight.

21 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

22 MR. MOSES: All right. Thank you.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

24 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is Doug
25 Miller.

1 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
2 Doug Miller, Scranton.

3 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

4 MR. MILLER: Before I begin I just
5 have one question, can this proposal be
6 viewed publically in council's -- or in the
7 City Clerk's Office for the interested
8 public to take a look at it?

9 MR. JOYCE: Are you speaking about
10 the parking meter --

11 MR. MILLER: Regarding -- yeah, I'm
12 sorry, in regards to the Standard Parking
13 agreement?

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes, that's available in
15 council's office.

16 MR. MILLER: Okay, I appreciate
17 that. There were some interested people
18 that did contact me with that question. I'm
19 glad we got clarification on that.

20 Now, I do appreciate the Standard
21 Parking individuals coming in tonight in a
22 public setting to discuss the issues of the
23 parking authority in the future, this plan,
24 taking the time to answer your questions. I
25 may see this a little differently than some

1 people here this evening, I think a lot of
2 this comes down to two very simple, simple
3 points. We either want to go back in time
4 to the days of fiscal mismanagement, lack of
5 transparency, one-page high school class
6 officer budgets that lead us to the
7 financial disaster that we are in today; or
8 we can go in a new direction that alleviates
9 the burden on the residents of this city by
10 bringing in the nation's largest parking
11 operator to come in and generate revenue so
12 that the city is not on the hook for over
13 \$100 million in bond payments.

14 Those are the two things that we are
15 juggling right now, and there is certainly
16 some questions that still need to be
17 answered, I have questions myself. One of
18 them is a question that was brought up by
19 Councilman Loscombe tonight and that's in
20 regard to the employees. We understand six
21 of them will be coming back and employed by
22 Standard Parking, but we also know that
23 there is six other individuals that at this
24 time aren't being employed, and I don't feel
25 that the employees should be punished due to

1 the mismanagement of those that ran this
2 authority recklessly, they are the ones that
3 should be punished, that's why they are no
4 longer here, but those who got up every day
5 and went to work just like each and every
6 one of us does every day shouldn't lose
7 their job, and I think that before we go
8 ahead and vote on this deal that that's a
9 major question that should be addressed and
10 that we need to determine why these
11 employees aren't being kept on because I
12 don't feel it's fair to them. They didn't
13 do anything wrong. They did there job and
14 what they were told to do. Those that
15 didn't do their job were the ones that
16 caused the mess we are in today.

17 You know, my whole issue on this is
18 that I don't want to see the city liable for
19 having to make these bond payments. That's
20 going to happen if we don't go in a new
21 direction, if we don't implement some sort
22 of program to generate revenue that we need.
23 If we don't come up with some sort of new
24 enhancement to bring in the revenue, whether
25 it's through parking meters or parking

1 garages or parking ticket revenue to make
2 these bond payments, I think the residents
3 need to understand that it's what we'll
4 entail between two or three million dollars
5 coming out of our city budgets each year to
6 make these payments.

7 But, most importantly, you are
8 looking at excessive tax increases. That
9 certainly we saw our taxes go up 22 percent
10 this year, something we didn't want to have
11 happen, but when you have tax increases in
12 the amounts of between 80 and 100 percent it
13 makes that 22 percent tax increase look
14 inviting, but that's not a direction we want
15 to go in. That's going to happen if we
16 don't take action. You are going to look
17 at, whether you want to believe it or not,
18 we like to talk about reality here, the
19 reality is you will see an 80 percent tax
20 increase, you will see 100 percent tax
21 increase because the money has to come from
22 somewhere.

23 And that's my other question if we
24 don't take action where is the money coming
25 from? We all know the money doesn't grow on

1 the trees and the city certainly doesn't
2 have the ability to go out there and pick
3 money from the sky. We need money. Do we
4 go with this plan or do we go and tax the
5 people and place the burden on them? We
6 don't want to see that happen, but that's
7 going to happen if we don't make a plan and
8 move forward and do something to prevent
9 that from happening.

10 You know, we hear about bankruptcy.
11 Well, on the other end of our mouths we want
12 to talk about all of the services that we
13 are grateful for, our police protection, our
14 fire protection, our DPW. You are not going
15 to see any of that with a bankruptcy
16 because, yes, taxes will go up 1 25 percent
17 and, no, we don't have any say over it.

18 So these are all things that before
19 we come up and we make statements we have to
20 take into account and that's where I'm
21 coming from. My main issue is looking out
22 for the residents of this city, myself and
23 the next generation. I know that debt
24 that's been left out. I don't want to see
25 it continue to pile up to effect the next

1 generation and the next generation after
2 that because that's what's going to happen
3 if we don't take action with this parking.

4 Council had to make very difficult
5 decisions over the last summer to get us to
6 the point we are in tonight. That's why I
7 was critical for the recovery plan to be
8 passed in August because without that
9 recovery plan in place we wouldn't even have
10 Standard Parking here tonight. We wouldn't
11 have the ability to go to a bank and ask for
12 a loan to make payroll. Remember, we had
13 employees making \$7.25 an hour due to the
14 fiscal mismanagement of this administration,
15 and so tonight when we stand forward and we
16 make comments we need to take all of this
17 into account, that this isn't about
18 punishing businesses, punishing the
19 residents, this is trying to alleviate a
20 burden.

21 Believe me, I'm not comfortable with
22 meter increases and rates. I'm not
23 comfortable with Saturday hours, these are
24 all questions that are going to be discussed
25 before we vote, but we need to take into

1 account that this is about protecting the
2 people and protecting our taxpayers. Thank
3 you.

4 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Gary Lewis.

5 MR. LEWIS: Good evening. Gary
6 Lewis. I'm a resident of the downtown.
7 Tonight I wanted to talk about the proposed
8 meter contract and I think you guys did a
9 fantastic job during the caucus. I was very
10 impressed with the questions that you
11 brought up, especially the way Mr. McGoff
12 laid into the actual costs of the contract.

13 I do think that there are a couple
14 of very important points to note, and
15 specifically around the fixed costs with the
16 contract. There is the \$10,000 management
17 fee, the \$7,000 essentially meter rental or
18 meter payment and then there is the vehicle
19 fee of \$895, and then during the caucus it
20 came up that the actual additional costs
21 related to credit card processing and data
22 downloading works out to about \$9 per meter
23 was the number that I believe the Standard
24 Parking representative gave, that's an
25 additional \$13,000 a month if we go that

1 route. So when you just add up those fixed
2 costs alone that's a \$32,000 monthly payment
3 that's fixed and on top of that you have the
4 10 percent of the citations, you have the
5 salary, you have the benefits, and you have
6 all of these different expenses, an office
7 expense. I'm sure they are going to charge
8 you for everything that they can.

9 It seems like we started off on a
10 good foot. You went looking for a third
11 party to outsource the parking meter
12 management so we can actually raise some of
13 the additional revenues we have in the 2013
14 budget, but it seems like this isn't the
15 best contract for the city. I do encourage
16 you to continue to pursue it and to keep
17 looking at the details because I think there
18 was a lot hidden in this contract that you
19 don't catch at first glance.

20 The other thing I wanted to talk
21 about was the state of the Scranton Parking
22 Authority garages. I live in the Connell
23 building, and obviously, the Connell garage
24 is attached to the Connell building. Since
25 the SPA was dissolved essentially and the

1 receiver was appointed the maintenance has
2 fallen off drastically. We now know that's
3 because they got rid of the six maintenance
4 employees that the SPA employed.

5 There are a number of the problems.
6 They aren't cleaning up after the birds that
7 get into the garage. They are 11 burned out
8 lights in the Connell garage. There is only
9 about 60 lights total and there are entire
10 sections of the rear park part of that
11 garage that are pitch black at night, which
12 isn't exactly a very safe situation. The
13 stairways at multiple garages are full of
14 garbage and human feces and bedding supplies
15 for some homeless.

16 You know, this morning we had a
17 meeting also with Standard, and it was a
18 number of downtown residents and downtown
19 businesses and one of the individuals that
20 was at the meeting brought up the fact that
21 he reached out to Central Parking and
22 complained about the lack of maintenance,
23 the lack of snow removal, the lack of care
24 and the common areas of the Linden garage,
25 and he said his feedback was that if he is

1 that concerned about it he can take the
2 initiative himself and clean it up. That's
3 not what we pay rent for. That's not what
4 we are forking out more than \$100 a month
5 for and if you are leasing a space you are
6 forking out substantially more than that.
7 It seems a little rude that they have just
8 completely knocked off the maintenance.

9 The final thing that I wanted to
10 touch on was the actual contract itself and
11 was the contract ever put out to bid or did
12 we just select Central Parking?

13 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Hughes, that would
14 be up to the receiver; correct?

15 MR. LEWIS: I'm talking for the
16 actual meter.

17 MR. HUGHES: This -- I don't -- I
18 believe it was sent out to bid. That would
19 be up to the mayor and the administration to
20 bid it, then have the controller review it
21 and then the bid would be awarded by the
22 mayor. The only thing when that's all done
23 then the solicitor's office drafts the
24 contract, does the enabling legislation, the
25 ordinance, and sends it down to council. I

1 reviewed the contract, I had several
2 comments on it to be revised. It was
3 revised according to my comments.

4 So council has -- takes no part or
5 has nothing to do with the bidding process.

6 MR. LEWIS: I understand that.

7 MR. HUGHES: But I believe it was
8 bid at some point from what I have seen.

9 MR. JOYCE: Now that you mentioned
10 that I actually do believe it was put out to
11 bid, too, because I remember that was
12 discussed in a meeting at one point.

13 MR. LEWIS: That's all I have
14 tonight. Thank you very much.

15 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next
16 speaker is Ozzie Quinn.

17 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Scranton
18 Taxpayers' Association.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

20 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

21 MR. QUINN: Good evening. A year
22 and a half ago Jack Loscombe, I met with
23 Jack Loscombe and the owner of the
24 StreetSmart and, you know, Mr. Doherty
25 dragged his feet so that he could keep care

1 of his boys over at the Parking Authority,
2 and we are talking about bidding and
3 whatnot, I think that was the company to go
4 with and now we are here a year and a half
5 later and collecting the revenue if they
6 only listened.

7 Now, you know, we sit here and Ron
8 Ellman is talking about the neighborhoods
9 and he is so right. And you know what? The
10 Scranton Times, Scranton Tribune have been
11 big supporters and cheerleaders of Mr.
12 Doherty for ten years. As a matter of fact,
13 the financial campaign reports show that the
14 publishers or the owner of the Times had
15 made payments to each of Doherty's
16 campaigns.

17 Now, here we are in situations where
18 now they are trying to spin this around to
19 look like the majority up there and
20 Mrs. Evans is a bad boy. And why? Because
21 they know that their idol, Mr. Doherty, is
22 going down the tubes, he is not going to run
23 anymore, and this is ashame that our city
24 has to put up with a one-town newspaper and
25 it just keeps on knocking the city council

1 and knocking the city council so it makes
2 the people start to think, "What is that
3 city council doing? Why did they ever elect
4 them for and?"

5 The reason why was it was Doherty.
6 It was the Scranton Times, Doherty, Doherty,
7 Doherty. You know that. He borrowed. You
8 know what, he didn't raise taxes, he spent
9 hundreds of million off dollars he didn't
10 raise taxes, what did he do? He borrowed.
11 He borrowed with this credit card and paid
12 off the other credit card and what happened?
13 They didn't say anything, they didn't
14 criticize him and here we are ten years
15 later.

16 Now, this may not sound too sexy,
17 but I am the president of the Taxpayers'
18 Association and right now in Harrisburg, and
19 you wouldn't know about it but, you know,
20 Mark Twain says the paraphrase if you buy
21 the Scranton Times -- if you don't buy the
22 Scranton Times you are uninformed, if you
23 buy the Scranton Times you are misinformed.

24 So the fact is that I think that we
25 have Act 75, Senate Bill Act 75, and House

1 Bill Act 75 in the state legislation which
2 has to do with the elimination of school
3 property taxes. The total elimination of
4 school property taxes. Wouldn't that be
5 nice that you people could have some room to
6 breathe, okay?

7 And that I urge you to get in touch,
8 please. Someone who is -- Mr. Joyce, you
9 are the Finance Chair, with Mr. Haggerty and
10 Mr. Flynn and talk about this bill, okay?
11 Mr. Blake is going his own way in regard to
12 the boroughs and the municipalities outside
13 of the city and I don't know if he cares too
14 much for the city, but let's start worrying
15 about the city, let's try to get it back on
16 track.

17 And, you know, I know you take a lot
18 of abuse and I really feel sorry, you know,
19 to see a lady like Mrs. Evans who put all
20 her time in a situation and they abused her.
21 They abused her because she took disability
22 because of her back. They abused her
23 because she did anything to fight Doherty.
24 Every time, \$35 million to repair the garage
25 in the Connell building. She voted against

1 it. Abused. And do you know what, the
2 tenants in the Connell building they don't
3 pay any rate and they keep their cars there
4 all day. Who owns the Parking Authority?
5 And it's true and you can check it out,
6 please, okay.

7 And I just want to let you know that
8 there is it lot going on here, there is no
9 investigative reporting. No investigative
10 reporting. Forget about it. Whatever is
11 handed to the Times they read or they go
12 back and they are told what to do and that's
13 all there is to it. Thank you very much.

14 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next
15 speaker is Gregory Evans.

16 MR. EVANS: Good evening, Council.
17 Gregory Evans. Resident of Scranton and
18 small business owner in downtown Scranton.

19 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

20 MR. EVANS: I have a prepared
21 statement, but real quick before, I want to
22 reiterate something that Gary Lewis just
23 mentioned that, you know, it's commendable
24 that Scranton has gone out of their way to
25 actually seek a national company who is an

1 authority in parking, which is great, but as
2 it stands this is bad deal, but onto my
3 prepared statement, please.

4 With the support of fellow downtown
5 business owners, many who stand here with me
6 tonight, I began circulating a petition on
7 Tuesday in opposition to the rate increases,
8 the times lengthened and the days extended
9 in regard to the parking meters. I have
10 with me right now nearly 1,000 signatures,
11 just in the past three days, we were able to
12 acquire. And this is opposition is based
13 upon insufficient data supporting this will
14 not create an exodus of downtown Scranton,
15 the economic and cultural hub of our city.

16 The concern, of course, is that it
17 will deter businesses from investing and
18 people living and customers patronizing
19 businesses in downtown Scranton.

20 I had the privilege of attending a
21 round table discussion this morning with
22 Central Parking, it's management and the
23 city business administrator. The most
24 intriguing data shared was that the parking
25 garage average under 30 percent occupancy

1 while parking meters are at almost 100
2 percent occupancy. This tells me that the
3 most practical opportunity for increasing
4 revenue would be to focus on the 70 percent
5 vacancy rate of the parking garages and not
6 punishing the people who actually occupy the
7 meters currently.

8 While we all know the meters are
9 often occupied by downtown employees because
10 of the high rates of the parking garages, we
11 can increase overall parking revenue by
12 offering discounted rate. With the 70
13 percent vacancy rate some money is better
14 than none.

15 Another concern is the parking of
16 vehicles with blue municipal license plates
17 that do not pay the meters and do not
18 receive parking violations. While these
19 vehicles sit at meters for hours, zero
20 revenue is being generated. Let's somehow
21 get these vehicles in the garages, to, so
22 the meters can collect proper revenue.

23 I understand this legislation
24 tonight is regarding the meters and not the
25 parking garages, but the big picture is the

1 effect of the parking in downtown Scranton,
2 generating revenue and the spending of our
3 tax dollars.

4 We all understand Scranton is in
5 desperate need of increased revenue sources,
6 but we also want to be certain that the
7 decisions being made aren't penny rich and
8 pound foolish. The fear is that the parking
9 meter increases will be a deterrent. If
10 this is true, then we don't know because we
11 don't have a sufficient data regarding the
12 effects of the proposed changes there will
13 be a domino effect. Businesses will
14 relocate, residents will relocate, downtown
15 will be vacant. Even worse, they might
16 relocate outside of Scranton. This would be
17 catastrophic to any budget or recovery plan.

18 With this perspective and with the
19 many questions from the caucus earlier this
20 evening, I thank you for tabling the
21 legislation which would accept the parking
22 agreement until proper -- thank you for
23 tabling the legislation until there is
24 proper data collected and until hopefully
25 another caucus can be held. Thank you.

1 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

3 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is Kim
4 Howard. Our next speaker is a Danielle
5 Dolan. Our next speaker is Leslie Collins.

6 MS. COLLINS: Good evening. I'm
7 Leslie Collins and I'm the executive
8 director of Scranton Tomorrow. I'd like to
9 thank you this evening for giving us the
10 opportunity to have a discussion with you
11 and I would like to speak on behalf of the
12 downtown business district as well as our
13 main street Scranton participants.

14 Earlier today Scranton Tomorrow
15 facilitated a meeting with Standard Parking
16 and Ryan McGowan from the city's
17 administration office and downtown
18 representatives, including business owners,
19 building owners, as well as new downtown
20 residents.

21 My purpose of coming this evening
22 was first and foremost to ask you to please
23 table the legislation so that we could
24 investigate the documents in more detail and
25 provide comment, so I would like to thank

1 you on behalf of the businesses. I'm sure
2 they are all grateful that you did listen to
3 the concerns that obviously people have been
4 calling you with and we thank you for
5 tabling the legislation.

6 Secondly, I was coming so that I
7 could give you feedback from the meeting
8 that we held this morning. The meeting
9 proved to be very productive allowing for a
10 presentation by Standard Parking and an open
11 forum for our attendees to ask relevant
12 questions, to voice their concerns and to
13 offer alternative suggestions as well.

14 I believe it was evident that the
15 majority of the participants welcome
16 improvements such as new meters, credit card
17 capabilities as well as smart phone payment
18 options. However, with that said, it was
19 also quite evident that our meeting was the
20 first attempt for open dialogue providing an
21 arena for those who are the lifeline of our
22 downtown to have a voice.

23 When formulating policy we feel it
24 is vital for those who will potentially be
25 affected by such legislation to have a voice

1 and that they are able to offer valuable
2 information which most definitely should be
3 taken into consideration.

4 Additionally, Standard Parking
5 provided us with information regarding new
6 meter capabilities, the training process for
7 meter ambassadors, and the ability to
8 monitor parking trends and revenue, all of
9 which we feel have a positive potential, yet
10 we feel strongly that more information is
11 needed for the justification of extended
12 monitoring on weekdays, the proposed
13 addition of monitoring on Saturdays as well.
14 This point in the legislation will most
15 definitely have an impact on our
16 visitorship. It will also have a great
17 impact on our independent retailers, our
18 restaurateurs, our cultural venues as well
19 as our public facilities.

20 I thank you once again for
21 recognizing those are issues with the
22 legislation. We also encourage further
23 discussion to be held on the increased meter
24 rates as well. We realize that there is a
25 distinction between the management of the

1 public garages and the on-street parking
2 management. The consensus shows that this
3 lends to somewhat of a frustrating situation
4 for many. Ideally we would like to see a
5 more synergistic relationship between the
6 receivership of the garages and the
7 management company that potentially would
8 take over the on-street parking.

9 Standard Parking has agreed if, in
10 fact, their contract is put, they have
11 agreed to meet about Scranton Tomorrow and
12 are downtown business community on a monthly
13 basis to continue the process of open
14 communication. We would like to invite
15 representatives of city council to attend
16 those meetings on a monthly basis and we
17 also would like to ask Mike Washo, the
18 receiver of the parking garage, to
19 participate in those meetings as well.

20 I will be communicating further
21 information as we move forward in the
22 process on those potential meetings.

23 Realizing the importance of public
24 input, there was unanimous consent at our
25 meeting this morning by those who

1 participated that we would come and ask you
2 to table the legislation and the purpose for
3 that is that I know that, Jack, you had
4 brought up the parking study, and that was
5 presented to us today. However, there was
6 not sufficient time to review that document
7 so we would like to time to actually -- we
8 will be setting up an immediate meeting with
9 our downtown businesses. We welcome council
10 to participate if you are able, and we will
11 have a work session and work through the
12 documents as well as the parking study and
13 then we certainly will come back to you with
14 our findings and our recommendations.

15 Gentlemen, thank you very much for
16 tabling the legislation.

17 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next
18 speaker is Les Spindler.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
20 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
21 homeowner and taxpayer. I, too, am glad
22 that those two pieces of legislation are
23 tabled tonight. Those two pieces of
24 legislation cannot be passed the way they
25 are now. The hours from eight to eight from

1 Monday to Saturday will absolutely kill
2 businesses downtown. I was speaking to, you
3 know, Mother's Table yesterday, and he said
4 he does very good hours on Saturday and
5 having parking -- paying for parking on
6 Saturday he said would kill his business.
7 He probably would have to close up and
8 that's a great little restaurant downtown.

9 And I have worked downtown for over
10 20 years now and I was against the meters
11 going up to a dollar and I have seen parking
12 diminish on the streets since it went up to
13 a dollar. You look at the 200 block of
14 Franklin, the 200 block of Mifflin, you
15 could count the cars on one hand that had
16 parked there during the day. Sometimes no
17 cars on those spots. The block of Linden
18 where McCarthy Tires is, there is never cars
19 parked on that block. I defy anybody to go
20 down there during the day and find cars
21 parked there. People cannot afford it.

22 Just recently the 100 block of Penn
23 Avenue where Mother's Table is, you couldn't
24 get a spot there. Now, the last few months
25 I noticed it's happening every single day.

1 People cannot afford to park. It's just out
2 of control. We are being taxed. Now they
3 want to raise the rates on the meters,
4 extend the hours, you are going to kill
5 downtown Scranton if this passes, and I know
6 a lot of business people came here tonight
7 saying the same thing. It just cannot be
8 passed the way it is.

9 And I agree with what Councilman
10 Rogan said last week, I think we should go
11 back to the idea of a StreetSmart program or
12 a business similar to that. These people
13 don't want it. Of course, it would hurt
14 them and they don't think it's feasible. I
15 disagree with them. I think we should look
16 into that again. It's worked in other
17 cities, it's proven in other cities, so I
18 don't know what more we need. I guess
19 that's all I have on that subject.

20 The mayor's salary. I heard a lot
21 of discussion last week about it. I think
22 some of the ideas were terrible. I think we
23 should just set it at \$60,000, and I think
24 Councilman Rogan also said that, and if for
25 some reason he deserves another raise, go

1 ahead, but to raise every year and then
2 after four years go back to 50,000 I think
3 that's a ridiculous idea. No city does
4 that. Just make it a set salary and just
5 leave it at that and I think right now
6 60,000 is fair. If you want to raise it
7 again next year, but to raise it to 80,000
8 it's -- with our financial status it's
9 wrong. I think 60,000 is a fair raise.

10 That truck ban on Lake Scranton Road
11 that the signs haven't been put up there
12 yet, I'm pretty sure, Attorney Hughes, can
13 council do anything to force the city to put
14 those truck ban signs up?

15 MR. MCGOFF: On Lake Scranton
16 Road -- I'm sorry, on Lake Scranton Road?

17 MR. SPINDLER: Lake Scranton Road.

18 MR. MCGOFF: I was up there recently
19 and didn't see any.

20 MR. SPINDLER: Well, the law was --
21 it's law; right? The truck ban was passed
22 by council, it's law. Those signs should be
23 put up. And, Attorney Hughes, can council
24 force anybody to put them up?

25 MR. HUGHES: It would be up to the

1 mayor. I mean, council -- that legislation
2 came down from the solicitor's office, was
3 passed by council and signed by the mayor.
4 It's up to the mayor to enforce that.

5 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Thank you.
6 Last week Councilman Rogan said the Linden
7 Street bridge they are going to start to
8 work on it soon and it should be fixed by
9 the end of this year, that would be great
10 news but I'll believe it when I see it.
11 That should have been fixed I don't know how
12 long ago. Now, the Moosic Street bridge was
13 damaged not that long ago and they are going
14 to start work on that Monday. I think it
15 was just a lot of foot dragging on that
16 bridge and it's really inconvenient to a lot
17 of people and I hope it is fixed by the end
18 of the year, but I will believe it when I
19 see it.

20 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Spindler, I'll be
21 sure to keep everyone posted on that as
22 well. Like I said before the meeting, to us
23 fellow West Siders it's -- it makes us go
24 out of the way every day.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Absolutely.

1 MR. ROGAN: For me to and from work
2 every day it's an extra, you know, five
3 minutes added to my commute or five or ten
4 minutes --

5 MR. SPINDLER: For me, I don't care
6 going out of the way but for an emergency
7 vehicle that has to go out of the way that
8 could cause somebody's life.

9 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

10 MR. SPINDLER: And I think this has
11 just dragged on long enough, and I thought
12 they were supposed to start it last July,
13 now we are in February and it's still no
14 sign. Hopefully they will start soon and
15 have it done soon. That's all I have.
16 Thank you for your time.

17 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

18 MR. JOYCE: Excuse me if I don't
19 pronounce the next name right I can't read
20 it in it's entirety, Julie --

21 MS. MACDOWALL: MacDowall. Sorry
22 about that.

23 MR. JOYCE: Oh, that's okay. I just
24 had a tough time --

25 MS. MACDOWALL: That's the chicken

1 scratch.

2 MR. JOYCE: --with the last part of
3 the writing there.

4 MS. MACDOWALL: That's fine. Good
5 evening, gentlemen.

6 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

7 MS. MACDOWALL: My name is Julie
8 MacDowall, I'm the owner of Northern Light
9 Espresso Bar, which is located on courthouse
10 square, the 536 Spruce Street. I have a
11 very brief statement and then I just want to
12 touch on a couple of points that you
13 gentlemen mentioned earlier, okay?

14 The purpose of having parking meters
15 and setting them at a sufficiently high rate
16 is to create turnover in the parking places
17 while not keeping the rates so high as to
18 discourage people from visiting the downtown
19 in the first place. Public parking is one
20 of a downtown's most important assets. The
21 pricing structure can impact the success of
22 downtown businesses, influence potential
23 developers and new businesses' decisions to
24 locate in downtown.

25 We believe it would advantageous for

1 the city to look at the big picture. The
2 system that we have now is broken and unless
3 we can fix what is wrong with the current
4 system, regardless of who is managing it, it
5 will still be a broken system.

6 These are few issues that we have
7 with the current system: Courthouse square
8 already has limited parking. It is
9 congested with city, county and state
10 vehicles. These cars do not pay to park and
11 take up spaces that could be used by
12 downtown patrons. This is a loss of revenue
13 and needs to be addressed.

14 Food vendors that park on courthouse
15 square use spotter vehicles that park all
16 day so that when their food truck rolls in
17 they have a place to park. Outside our shop
18 we had a vendor who parked his car in
19 handicapped parking all day on Friday so he
20 could park his car around 4:30 and leave it
21 there for the entire weekend right outside
22 of my business. This needs to be addressed.

23 Signage. It is imperative that the
24 city have signage in place directing
25 visitors to any customers to downtown to

1 parking garages.

2 Speaking of parking garages, it
3 makes absolutely no sense that we have empty
4 parking garages and streets full of cars.
5 There is no incentive right now to park in a
6 parking garage. The city need to find ways
7 to make parking in garages attractive to
8 those who live and work here. I have a few
9 suggestions. Offer the top level of the
10 parking garages at a discount to people who
11 work in the city. It will get these cars
12 off the street, create guaranteed revenue
13 for garages and increase turnover at the
14 meters.

15 Offer discounted parking to these
16 people who reside in the city. Again, it
17 will get these cars off the street and
18 increase meter turnover and provide
19 guaranteed revenue for garages.

20 And in regard to Saturday parking,
21 we believe that will only discourage
22 downtown visitors. People generally do not
23 have a problem finding parking on a
24 Saturday. Downtown Scranton does not need
25 to be metered on Saturday and it will be

1 detrimental to the need of local merchants.
2 I can speak for myself, our gross receipts
3 are 30 percent lower on Saturday than they
4 are Monday through Friday. We have all
5 worked really hard to get people come down
6 on the weekend. I'd hate to give them a
7 reason not to come.

8 Basically, as far as addressing the
9 plan, I personally believe that the city
10 needs to address the plan on a more
11 long-term basis. There are very serious
12 issues that directly effect downtown
13 merchants, employees and residents. All we
14 ask the city to do is consider the big
15 picture. Let's all work together to
16 continue to make downtown Scranton a
17 destination for visitors and not visit those
18 who so much want to be a part of that now.

19 Okay, so sorry about losing my place
20 there, but just to touch on a couple of
21 things briefly that you guys brought up
22 before, one of you mentioned something about
23 you didn't think that people fed the meters
24 all day if they work downtown. I have 15
25 part-time employees, they feed the meters

1 all day and they park their cars in places
2 that we could have patrons parking at
3 because it's not advantageous for them to
4 park in the parking garage.

5 Also -- well, I can't remember
6 anything else, it doesn't matter. I want to
7 thank you question for tabling the
8 legislation tonight. That was a very good
9 move on your part. I appreciate your time.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Maureen
12 Duffy.

13 MS. DUFFY: Hi. My name is Maureen
14 Duffy. I am an owner of Duffy Accessories.
15 I have a retail store for 25 years in the
16 City of Scranton. I come here on behalf of
17 the downtown merchants because we are
18 outraged that it is really going to
19 discourage so many people to not shop
20 downtown, not come down to pick up
21 something. People don't like to pay to
22 park, which is why the garages are empty,
23 and all day long I know more about parking
24 now than I think that contract is listing.
25 I mean, it's insane. I can tell you how

1 much it is at every garage. To go to the
2 movies it's \$7 to park at that parking
3 garage. The parking garage at Pappa's Pizza
4 to go make a bank deposit, one hour, \$3.65
5 and these are just people that said, "Oh, I
6 went there last week or I went the other
7 night," and that's why the movie theatre is
8 vacant. I mean, mainly they sell the same
9 movies at the same price nobody wants to
10 pay.

11 So I'm also involved in a lot of
12 things with the community. I am on the
13 Board of Directors of the Forum Towers and
14 there is 80 residents that live there. A
15 lot of them are senior citizens. This
16 parking 8 to 8 p.m. I can't imagine having
17 these people having to go feed the meters,
18 and a lot of the residents park on the
19 street.

20 I also park on the street six days a
21 week and I feed the meter all day long,
22 move my car, set little timer, it's a joke,
23 but I am willing to pay because I love the
24 City of Scranton and I know that's what it
25 costs, but my customers they have options.

1 They could go to Dickson City, they go could
2 other places, Montage. We have a lot of
3 competition, big box stores, chains, and
4 it's really tough times and I think anything
5 to discourage people from coming downtown is
6 a terrible idea.

7 I'm also on the Board of Directors
8 of First Friday, which is a huge event in
9 downtown and I want to say it's probably the
10 best night of business for every single
11 business in the City of Scranton. That's a
12 free event. It's a national event. Now
13 they are going to have to charge parking
14 until 8:00. That changes that. People come
15 because they can afford it. We get people
16 from all over, new customers that finally
17 see your business, and then to charge them
18 to come, people already told me the articles
19 in the newspaper that they are not going to
20 be coming. It's not even a done deal and a
21 lot of people think it's a done deal
22 already, they are out paying the meters
23 tonight and I told them it didn't start, but
24 people -- I mean, we have a lot to be
25 concerned about here.

1 And the lack of the communication?
2 There was no open dialogue with the
3 businesses. I mean, my friends we all
4 support local downtown businesses. Die hard
5 always on the soap box telling them about
6 all of the new places. My neighbor is Sid
7 Markowitz, he has been here for 64 years,
8 people are running in there buying a
9 newspaper and then they get a \$20 ticket?
10 It's unjust. It's not necessary. There is
11 no validation. I mean, that's not right
12 either. There should be incentives to come
13 downtown. We need it. Businesses are
14 leaving.

15 Forum Towers, four commercial units
16 out of the ten left as of January 1. That's
17 a big difference. It's a lot of employees.
18 There is McCarey and McCarey Physical
19 Therapy. People go in with casts on their
20 legs have to run out and have the therapist
21 go feed the meter. I mean, there is so many
22 different issues.

23 And I would love that you would come
24 to one of our meetings and talk to us about
25 our concerns because we are the city.

1 People come down to support us, we support
2 it, we buy our lunch at the delis. You go
3 to a place and pay the meter. I mean, when
4 I get a ticket I pay it if I'm guilty.
5 That's the deal. But a lot of people get
6 aggravated and say, "I don't want to come
7 back to town. I mean, I'm coming to your
8 store because I like what you have," I have
9 a small gift shop, items are priced from
10 five to fifty dollars, they don't want to
11 get a \$20 ticket. It's really discouraging,
12 so I'm glad you did table the legislation
13 tonight about this because it was necessary.

14 There so many questions that they
15 could not answer this morning at the
16 business meeting that nobody would sign it.
17 I mean, a high school group would not do it
18 so we definitely need to reconsider and
19 maybe put it out to bid again and see what
20 else we can come up with because there is
21 money to be made and I just hope you would
22 consider that and talk to the businesses.

23 And if Mr. Mike Washo would return a
24 phone call or an e-mail, it's been months we
25 are been trying to get that. A \$100 an

1 hour? No wonder why we are broke. Thank
2 you.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

4 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is Don
5 LaMagna.

6 MR. LAMAGNA: Good evening, Council,
7 residents. I think I'm near the end of the
8 list so that's probably a good thing. I'm
9 very impressed with the ladies who spoke
10 this evening and coming here tonight with no
11 agenda other than to see the City of
12 Scranton become successful.

13 You know, I moved here seven years
14 ago, sold my house in Blakely and purchased
15 a home on the East Mountain, brought my
16 business here, the NEPA Miners, a minor
17 league football team and, you know, seven
18 years later it's really getting concerning
19 being a resident and business owner in
20 Scranton. It's very difficult to read the
21 newspaper every day, seeing the mayor make
22 some decisions and giving raises when we are
23 on the verge of the bankruptcy.

24 You know, the time pee are speaking
25 on this meter parking we don't have all of

1 the data. You know, in seven years I have
2 had a lot of politicians from the county to
3 the mayor to council to the school board
4 coming to my house for a vote, but I never
5 see anybody supporting my business on a
6 Saturday night as we bring a minor league
7 team to this area, and I know a lot of the
8 other businesses in the community have their
9 concerns as well. I think it's time we
10 think differently, get away from the good
11 ole' boys network of Northeast PA and put
12 our energy in supporting Scranton and the
13 businesses.

14 You know, we have west Lackawanna,
15 which looks beautiful now, but there is
16 vacant properties. We spent hundreds of
17 thousands of dollars trying to chase Buona
18 Pizza out of there instead of putting that
19 money back into the city.

20 Now, with the Miners, we have an
21 opportunity to go behind the Mohegan Sun.
22 Seven years of no support here, but they are
23 going to a build a mega sports complex and
24 they want the Miners there in that venue.
25 I'm concerned because we have brought money

1 into the city before and after and now we
2 are going to chase people out. The parking
3 meters are a great concern. I commend you
4 for tabling that tonight because we do need
5 more data.

6 Also, as the associate dean of
7 students at Lackawanna College I support
8 those students and I hear their concerns as
9 well and they are concerned about those
10 meters. Our commuters, the people we bring
11 in from out of this city, this is their
12 impression of Scranton. You know, I'm a big
13 advocate of brain drain in the area. We
14 want students to stay here, the young
15 professionals, so I think that as we move
16 forward we keep in mind what we are doing in
17 Scranton. Let's focus our energy on the
18 businesses and the students and keep people
19 here and the parking meters is one step
20 towards that, guys.

21 Let us build this city together and
22 not chase people away and, you know, I
23 commend you guys, it was a long night, but
24 please work with the business owners, the
25 residents and the students. Thank you.

1 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next
2 speaker is Tom Sheakoski.

3 MR. SHEAKOSKI: Hi. How is everyone
4 doing today? You'll be happy, my paper is
5 real small so we are not going to be too
6 bad. I want to thank you all for tabling
7 the whole thing tonight. And like Leslie
8 said I would like to invite you, please, to
9 meet with the downtown businesses to go over
10 our concerns. I think you will find that
11 our concerns are also your concerns.

12 Just a little background, just
13 importance of your decision that you are
14 going to make, my father started the
15 business at Pizza by Pappas 42 years ago in
16 Scranton and we have seen a lot of ups and
17 down in the city. I have seen a lot of
18 mayors that I agreed with, mayors I
19 disagreed with.

20 Just to let you know what's going on
21 with the parking garage part for 41 years we
22 have seen an increase in our business, we
23 have never had a year where we did less than
24 the other year, even through all of the
25 turmoils and all of the problems that were

1 going on with the country. Since the
2 takeover in May and they switched over to
3 all of the automatic machinery and the
4 parking garages this is the first time in
5 almost 42 years that our business has been
6 on the decline. Is it just economics? Is
7 it the garage? I really can't say so, but
8 it's just from beginning of the year until
9 May to when the garages decided to go
10 automatic and they got rid of the employees
11 our business has been dropping.

12 I mean, we would like to be able to
13 continue in Scranton. I'm just bringing
14 this out to you just to let you know the
15 importance of your decisions do make a
16 difference to myself and my family and my
17 employees, and please work with us. I would
18 love to see every shop in downtown the
19 storefront filled. More restaurants is more
20 competition, it's better for me. Like I
21 said, we have been here for over four
22 decades, I would like to continue being here
23 for many decades more and that's basically
24 it. I just want to let you know that your
25 decision does make a difference on the

1 businesses of downtown and what's going to
2 come and thank you for my time.

3 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

5 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is Bob
6 Neverosky.

7 MR. NEVEROSKY: Gentlemen, ladies.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

9 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

10 MR. NEVEROSKY: Robert Neverosky,
11 304 Prescott Avenue, Scranton, PA. I know
12 there is a pavecut inspector in the city and
13 I know who he is, but I'd like you tell him
14 to get out of his house and he can start
15 right here on Mulberry Street and work his
16 way up, in the 1100 block there is a cut you
17 fall into it. Then he can go over to Moosic
18 Street and start down the hill because he is
19 not doing his job.

20 Now, what brings me here today is
21 the University of Scranton and the State of
22 Pennsylvania spent \$2 million on Mulberry
23 Street, when I was with the Hill Association
24 we had Governor Ridge come in, Fred Belardi
25 got a million dollars for Mulberry Street,

1 the city was supposed to match it with a
2 million but as usual the city disappeared
3 and never come through. So then we got Ken
4 Smith, got the million again and the
5 University come up with a million so there
6 was a \$2 million project there. It's a
7 beautiful project.

8 I come down the other day, the
9 Parking Authority comes up in the 1100 block
10 it was supposed to -- the deal was two
11 traffic lanes, one up, one down, and a
12 turning lane in the middle. The Parking
13 Authority comes up in the 1100 block, they
14 start and they go out into the street for
15 the sake of 11 meters in three blocks and
16 there is even no head on the meters, the
17 University -- the school, they put grass,
18 they put shubbery, concrete curbs, slate
19 sidewalks and now we have 11 polls sticking
20 out of the ground and they are forcing you
21 to coming down Mulberry you have to take a
22 sharp left, you almost hit the guy coming
23 up, it shouldn't be there.

24 I come down here, I am imploring you
25 people, it's aesthetically insane what they

1 did. It's stupid. They have ruined three
2 blocks. How much money are they going to
3 make off 11 crummy meters? Are they going
4 to pay the city debt off? I don't think so,
5 so why the polls are there without a head on
6 them I would appreciate them getting them
7 out.

8 Now, remember the movie Cool Hand
9 Luke? He was there with the big pipe cutter
10 cutting the meters out and the sheriff was,
11 "What are ya'll doing, boy?"

12 Now, I don't want to go to that
13 extreme, I don't want to be in the county,
14 your know, but I think they should leave.

15 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, did you say
16 the 1100 block of Mulberry?

17 MR. NEVEROSKY: The 11, 10 and 9 of
18 Mulberry --

19 MR. MCGOFF: Mulberry, okay. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. NEVEROSKY: On the right,
22 Mr. McGoff, coming down they start at the 11
23 and you are coming down and then they make a
24 sharp -- they put a line, a sharp turn, the
25 turning lane is gone. They put 11 meters

1 in. I would implore you to get them out of
2 there. They look terrible. They have
3 ruined a \$2 million job for the city. I
4 mean, it was supposed to be like a gateway,
5 a promenade, it looks terrible. Terrible.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: I was going to ask
7 about that because, like you said, it's like
8 traveling on Snake Road.

9 MR. NEVEROSKY: That's right.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Back and forth and
11 the other night there was some vehicles off
12 loading I guess by the DeNaple's Center and
13 they had that all blocked up so you are
14 trying to squeeze through. It's a danger.

15 MR. NEVEROSKY: It's dangerous, Mr.
16 Loscombe. There's going to be -- somebody
17 is going to have a head-on collision because
18 they are forcing you to go to the left.

19 Another issue I have is there an
20 ordinance in this city about parking on the
21 wrong side of the street? They used to be
22 on the tickets, when Elliott was chief he
23 took it off. I'm sure your neighborhood you
24 look around people pull up, they have to
25 drive on the wrong side of the street to get

1 there, they have to drive on the wrong side
2 of the street to get back onto the right
3 side of the street, they are parked right
4 next to the corners you can't make the turn.
5 They are hanging out into the next street
6 with parking, nobody gives a ticket.
7 Nobody. Police go by, but nobody stops and
8 gets out of the car to write a ticket.
9 That's another dangerous situation. You are
10 pulling out, you are going to have a head-on
11 collision with somebody coming up the street
12 because you are parked on the wrong side of
13 the street.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just to address that,
15 when Chief Duffy was here we did redo the
16 tickets and there was an extra line put on
17 for certain violations that weren't listed
18 and that was supposed to be one of them.

19 MR. NEVEROSKY: See, it was there,
20 Mr. Loscombe --

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Parking on the
22 sidewalks, parking the wrong way --

23 MR. NEVEROSKY: And it has to be
24 enforced. Elliott took it off the ticket.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

1 MR. NEVEROSKY: But it was there.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: And Chief Duffy came
3 to us and we had to approve it here.

4 MR. NEVEROSKY: But I'm sure there's
5 a city ordinance against parking on the
6 wrong side of the street.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: You're right.

8 MR. NEVEROSKY: It's going to cause
9 a lot of damage and people are going to get
10 hurt, but I would appreciate if you would
11 look at the Mulberry Street because my next
12 step, and I'm not threatening here, I'm
13 going go to the state because the deal was
14 with the \$2 million two lanes and a turning
15 lane, not 11 meters and a parking lane.
16 Thank you, gentlemen.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

18 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next
19 speaker tonight is Dave Dobrzyn.

20 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
21 Dave Dobrzyn. Resident --

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

23 MR. DOBRZYN: -- of Scranton, chief
24 troublemaker. Okay, now, we have heard a
25 lot about the parking tonight and, once

1 again, I'd like to push for a commission on
2 tax exempts. I'm not going to call them
3 nonprofits, I'm not going to call them
4 anything, I'm not going to call anybody
5 names, but I would love if we could
6 compensate a competent attorney like
7 Mr. Hughes there to do a study on how many
8 tax exemptions can be handed out off of one
9 (inaudible.) If you study the typical
10 amount of exemptions you will find that they
11 are roughly equal to our budget hole and
12 every year they increase. So, I mean,
13 currently it's water over the dam and we are
14 stuck with the state constitution and
15 everybody outside of town seems determined
16 to use us as a place mat for their tax
17 exempts and they don't want to hear it.
18 They don't want to hear about the commuter
19 tax, they don't want to hear about PILOTS,
20 they don't want to hear about paying extra
21 for parking.

22 And now that being said, the parking
23 on the terms I have concerns about that, and
24 businesses years back, and I'm not
25 criticizing anybody, they could have came

1 and possibly headed off all of this
2 ill-advised spending back then. Now we are
3 stuck with the situation where things have
4 to be paid for and special interests came
5 into town, one hotel chain went bankrupt
6 what, three times now? It was bankrupt when
7 I first moved here and I was buying a house.
8 I was sitting over at the real estate agency
9 across the street and they had stopped
10 construction on it then they went bankrupt
11 again, and I remember before I started
12 attending council Gary DiBileo -- and then
13 once again about two more years, two years
14 ago or so they went bankrupt again, and we
15 keep feeding these people and they unable to
16 stay in business now they are here and
17 that's understood. We can't divide and we
18 give them the store, but what about it? I
19 mean, are we requesting to just keep
20 allowing tax exempts and people that are --
21 private entities taking over our public
22 property and given them the store.

23 So, I mean, you have my total
24 support on tabling this tonight with that,
25 and it's ashame but the more you look into

1 it and the better job you do I think you
2 will find that your jobs you will get a lot
3 more compliments and less criticism.

4 Also, it came to my attention that
5 certain businesses were financing things
6 like First Night, Friday night, First Friday
7 and fireworks downtown, and it's just a
8 suggestion, but I think council should get a
9 list of those people and at least thank them
10 for spending their own money because if
11 somebody is sponsoring something out of
12 their corporate pocketbook it would be a
13 nice gesture, at least it's not on our tab
14 or we are paying for a \$20,000 fireworks
15 display or something like around the Fourth
16 of July or what have you. If a bank wants
17 to do that they should be at least be
18 thanked for it and mentioned. It's nice to
19 hear you did something nice for somebody.

20 And totally consider referendums in
21 the future on some of this and it's a good
22 way of dumping things off your back. Let
23 the people decide what --- they do have to
24 decide whether they want to pay more taxes
25 or do they want to see things go up. And

1 it's ashame it has to be that way, but
2 that's the way it has to be.

3 And one mention animal control was
4 in my neighborhood, a lot of people are
5 letting cats breed and they are maybe
6 letting that treasured pet roam around,
7 well, in the 600 block of Crown Avenue and
8 vicinities so if you have a pet that you are
9 letting roam around and he comes up missing
10 or she and they are not neutered, well, you
11 have nobody but yourself to blame. Thank
12 you and have a good night.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

14 MR. DOBRZYN: Finally, one little
15 quick thing, the trade packs were over the
16 last 20 years are what are killing the
17 industrial class, call your congressman and
18 tell him take his trade pack and shove it,
19 and it's just 30 percent of our industry has
20 been lost. It's no wonder we are in the
21 trouble we are in. No matter what else we
22 do until that stops we are in trouble.
23 Thank you and have a good night.

24 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Does anyone
25 else wish to address council?

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia.
2 Citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian.
3 I'm going to talk too much at the parking, I
4 already gave Mr. Rogan an earful yesterday,
5 I don't know that he wants to have it again,
6 but there was something mentioned when they
7 were saying about their citations they were
8 talking about a citywide citation and I
9 thought they were only going to be with the
10 meters, the citation for people parking, not
11 to go out through the city and look for
12 violations. That's the job of the police
13 force, but they did mention it and I was a
14 little surprised.

15 I don't think you probably glossed
16 over it, but I have listened to that
17 citation and it did strike a cord with me
18 because, yeah, they can get a lots more
19 money by instead of doing just parking
20 meters to go out there and look for
21 somebody, like he mentioned, parking on the
22 wrong side of the road, parking on the
23 sidewalk, doing this and parking that and I
24 don't think that was your intention in it.

25 Well, anyway, you could -- I brought

1 it up so you can address it if you will. If
2 not, you are giving cart blanch to go
3 throughout the city and hand out citations.

4 Okay, the other part is the mayor --
5 I mean, the mayor's salary. Not the mayor
6 himself, I'm tired of talking about him, but
7 the mayor's salary. Now, what we want is a
8 salary to be large enough that a man can
9 bring some new blood into the city, a man
10 with a wife, maybe a couple of children
11 could live on the salary. \$50,000 is
12 ridiculous. When we get through paying the
13 policemen for all their back pay I guess for
14 the next four years they'll make more than
15 the mayor, way more than the mayor. So I
16 believe you should think about at least
17 giving the salary up. What he does, he does
18 a lot. In fact, most of the damage we got
19 is because we paid so little for the mayor
20 and nobody -- the only person that could run
21 is somebody with another business. DiBileo
22 ran because he got a business, but an
23 individual or somebody that just got married
24 or whatever has to be given a salary that
25 they can live with.

1 I mean, you possibly got a lot of
2 people on this payroll that makes a lot more
3 than the mayor, probably many, many times
4 more than the mayor so you got to look at
5 that. I mean, a salary of \$70,000 isn't
6 bad. I think a man would look at \$70,000,
7 "Well, I can live on that. I don't have to
8 have a lot of different things out there to
9 bring money in. I don't have to have an
10 insurance company to bring money in or I
11 don't have this or that, I could actually
12 live on this 70,000 and put my full effort
13 into the city."

14 And that's what we really need,
15 somebody that can put their full effort into
16 the city. We all know we have problems,
17 there is no sense of bringing them up, we
18 got a multitude of them, I could speak for
19 hours on the problems, but that isn't the
20 solution. We got to look at the mayor as
21 being the top executive in the city. We got
22 to look at that. We want people in that
23 position that knows what they are doing or
24 at least has common sense.

25 I mean, you are looking -- look at

1 this legislation that you are talking ab
2 out. Nobody went out and talked to the
3 business people. I mean, you got something
4 that was supposed to be passed tonight and
5 nobody got out and talked to the business
6 people? I mean, Mr. Rogan talked about us
7 and actually everything that we said is what
8 the business people said is counter
9 productive.

10 But the mayor's salary I think is
11 the most important thing you got to look at.
12 You want a man in that position that can
13 live on the salary and not need a bunch of
14 other things around to do or to have a lot
15 of income coming from outside of the city or
16 this that or whatever, so I wish when you
17 bring that up you think about that, you
18 think about a salary. We need to figure
19 what you make. I make more in retirement
20 than the mayor. You think that's right?
21 That you should have a man on retirement
22 sitting down doing nothing making more than
23 somebody active? But that's how it is.

24 So think about that. I think that's
25 one of the most important things you could

1 do for the city's future is set a salary
2 competent to what that man has to do. Thank
3 you.

4 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Does anyone
5 else care to address council?

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
7 Council. Marie Schumacher, city resident.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Most of my
10 questions were answered tonight, and I thank
11 you for that, but I do have, if I could beg
12 your indulgence again one more time, I have
13 yet to be convinced that there was a bid
14 advertised for this entire package of the
15 enhancements and the management of the
16 on-street parking, so if you could please
17 indulge me and get a copy of that from the
18 business administrator I would really like
19 to see that, especially if you are planning
20 to proceed, and even if you are not if we
21 are going to redo it, which I hope you end
22 up doing, maybe you could talk and see if
23 something else could be added to it.

24 MR. JOYCE: We'll contact the BA and
25 try to get that for you.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Next,
2 even though it was tabled tonight what was
3 the -- I think it was 6-A, what was the
4 amount of the fines to be paid for a
5 violation?

6 MR. JOYCE: Could you repeat the
7 question? I'm sorry, I didn't hear that.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, what was the
9 penalty for the violation that's in that
10 6-A.

11 MR. JOYCE: I believe it's \$20.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: What?

13 MR. MCGOFF: You made me look.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, I'm sorry,
15 while are you doing that I'll continue on, I
16 have my five minutes. Yeah, and then three,
17 also with respect to that, is there going to
18 be a cost for parking permits? For
19 instance, I believe it's \$5 -- or currently
20 \$5 for a parking meter if you are doing a
21 renovation and you have on-street dumpster
22 -- a dumpster on the street it's \$5 per day,
23 is that a separate ordinance or is that part
24 of 6-A?

25 MR. JOYCE: As far as the dumpster

1 permit?

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Um-hum.

3 MR. JOYCE: I believe that's a
4 separate ordinance.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. So how will
6 that mesh with the authority you are giving
7 under Standard Parking? So that's another
8 open question.

9 MR. JOYCE: Yes, that's an
10 interesting question.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Schumacher, \$20
13 within 24 hours.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: What after 24?

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: \$30.

16 MR. JOYCE: I believe it's 30.

17 MR. MCGOFF: I didn't get that far.
18 I only got to the first part.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.
20 I'll be here for a few more minutes, thank
21 you. Next, I think it would be nice to see
22 just even a straw man of what is in the
23 budget that contained the \$1.8 million
24 revenue to the city, supposedly that was
25 sent in and I would also like to see a straw

1 man of the monthly report that they were
2 stating they are going to provide. It
3 doesn't need numbers, but the budget I think
4 it would be very nice to see.

5 And then I think really it's a
6 strange juxtaposition on tonight's agenda, I
7 really had to laugh to myself because here
8 we are talking about paying \$120,000 per
9 year for the first year of a contract to
10 manage -- a fee to manage a 100 -- or 1,400
11 meters in the city and going up to a minimum
12 of \$135,000 -- or \$135,060 in the fifth year
13 and yet we are talking about our chief
14 executive officer, our mayor, making
15 \$50,000. It just doesn't make any sense. I
16 mean, managing parking meters is not exactly
17 rocket science. That IPS, they are going to
18 do the training, it just doesn't -- there is
19 just nothing -- not enough in it for us. I
20 really think we should bring it back
21 in-house, but that's up to you guys.

22 Also, on the post File of Council 6
23 of 2013, if I understood correctly, and the
24 microphone wasn't working too well, so I
25 don't know if the gentlemen from Standard

1 said that they were still going to look at
2 some of the other streets, presumably with
3 the intention of putting meters on them or
4 taking meters off, and I thought that was a
5 function of the council, and that's what you
6 were -- you are going to do tonight, but it
7 got tabled, and are you giving that right up
8 after this -- after what is 6-A tonight?
9 Once you pass that would Standard or some
10 other contract person be allowed to make
11 future determinations on where the parking
12 meters went and hours and times, charges?

13 MR. JOYCE: It's my understanding
14 that that would still have to be passed by
15 ordinance, but I'll definitely double check
16 that.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, because if
18 they would have come back to us, I don't see
19 anything in the agreement that states that,
20 however. Two more quick ones, if I may?

21 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: As a patron of the
23 library and city participant of coming to
24 council meetings and when I can going to
25 school board meetings, I just think it would

1 be a travesty to have to come down or either
2 wait until 8:00 or to pay for parking to use
3 the beautiful Albright Library or go to a
4 school board meeting at the administration
5 building or even come here.

6 And then finally, Mr. Loscombe, do
7 you have the number of false alarms from
8 last year yet?

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: I haven't had an
10 opportunity to get that yet.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.

12 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.
13 Does anyone else wish to address council?
14 Oh, Chrissy.

15 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Frankie. Jackie.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy. Where's
17 your Raven's hat tonight?

18 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hey, jack, they
19 beat them, didn't they? Jack, you know what
20 I heard the other night? On Saturdays there
21 is going to be no mail, they're stopping the
22 mail up there. They are stopping the mail.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: All right, Chrissy.
25 Take care.

1 MR. JOYCE: Does anyone else care to
2 address council?

3 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

4 MR. JOYCE: Mr. McGoff, DO you have
5 any motions or comments?

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Thank you. Just
7 to answer Mrs. Schumacher's questions, first
8 after all, I can't find any amount for a
9 violation for not paying within 24 hours. I
10 didn't see any amount listed. It may be
11 there, but I did not see it. And the only
12 other --the one clause I see, "The city
13 reserves the right to amend this ordinance,
14 so if we are reserving the right to amend
15 the ordinance it must mean that we have the
16 right to --

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: But it's not in the
18 contract. That would have to be in the
19 agreement that we --

20 MR. MCGOFF: Right. It's the right
21 to amend -- -

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: But that's --

23 MR. MCGOFF: Okay, I'll look into
24 that.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

1 MR. MCGOFF: I'm just assuming.

2 MS. DUFFY: It's \$30.

3 MR. MCGOFF: It is now, but there is
4 nothing in the legislation, the current
5 legislation or the one that we were looking
6 at.

7 Just to continue with the parking
8 thing I guess very quick, I talked a whole
9 lot before. I spoke to any number of people
10 today concerning this, and Mr. Rogan said we
11 were all inundated from phone calls from a
12 variety of the people from, you know,
13 merchants, citizens, Scranton Tomorrow, all
14 with concerns and ideas, and I know that
15 sometimes it's -- we are not -- people don't
16 believe that we listen, but we do, and
17 believe me we have -- or at least I have the
18 same and I think most of us have the same
19 concerns and we are -- we are looking to
20 amend the legislation that's before us.

21 Certainly tonight on the one of the
22 things that was going to be done was to --
23 there was supposedly a proposal to at least
24 vote on deleting Saturday from, you know,
25 meter collection, so it was a step forward.

1 Hopefully we can deal with the basic issues
2 by next week and that we can look at this
3 again.

4 There are two separate things that
5 we are looking at dealing with this parking,
6 and I mentioned it as we spoke to the people
7 from Standard Parking, the one part of this
8 is the management part. We do need somebody
9 to manage our parking. I know that it was
10 suggested that we could do it in-house. I
11 think we have proven that we can't. You
12 know, one of the things that we spent
13 fighting about was that the Parking
14 Authority who is in charge of the managing,
15 you know, the meters and we all, you know --
16 I shouldn't say we all agreed, but there was
17 a consensus that it wasn't being done well.
18 So to try and return to this, you know, very
19 same system to me would be, you know,
20 foolish.

21 I think we are looking at and we
22 have a management company that is very
23 professional, who has a proposal before us,
24 and since they are also acting in dealing
25 with the -- although, there may be two

1 separate entities or parts of the same
2 entity, there are also dealing with the
3 garages and it was brought up by a couple of
4 speakers that there should be a coordination
5 of the effort between people working with
6 the garages and the people you monitoring
7 the meters. You know, maybe there can be
8 some synergy between them so that we can
9 find what's best for, you know, long-term
10 parkers, diners at night, you know, whoever
11 is coming to the city, but the management
12 part of this I believe that we need to hire
13 a professional.

14 And while I did well on a lot of
15 costs when questioning the people from
16 Standard Parking, it may have -- it is a lot
17 of money, but it's not -- when you get down
18 to the basic costs much of those costs that
19 we are speaking about we were paying to the
20 Scranton Parking Authority. It was costs
21 that we were incurring anyhow and it's not
22 like Standard Parking is coming with, you
23 know, new and additional costs. Yes, the
24 cost of new meters, costs of vehicles, there
25 are some things there, but they may be

1 needed to bring about the enhancement that
2 we want. There is going to be a cost
3 incurred if we are going to improve meter
4 revenues and parking revenues in general.

5 So I guess I'm trying make a point
6 for looking at a professional management
7 company as opposed to doing this in-house.
8 I know there are people who will disagree,
9 but at least that's my perspective on it.

10 The thing that when we get to the
11 second part of this in dealing with the
12 rates, the hours and the days, one of the
13 things that I spoke to the gentlemen
14 afterward about and that they did answer is
15 that they will manage -- they will manage
16 within the parameters that we establish.
17 It's up to us to establish the parameters
18 for collections and, you know, that's our
19 responsibility. They will work within
20 whatever we ask them to do, whatever
21 parameters we establish. The thing that may
22 be effected is the overall revenue. If we
23 take away Saturday, if we reduce the hours,
24 if we, you know, do whatever, they will
25 still manage in the same way, it's just that

1 the projected revenues that they had made
2 based on what we had before us will not be
3 achieved. You know, that would be a
4 reasonable thing to expect, and maybe we
5 have to revise our thinking a little bit as
6 far as our revenue projections are concerned
7 if we want to also amend this legislation to
8 meet what we feel are the needs of the
9 community.

10 So I think that by, you know, next
11 week hopefully we are more informed, we have
12 some of the questions answered that we need
13 and that we can move forward with this
14 proposal. The longer we put it off, I guess
15 I'll say the less time we have to implement
16 it, and if we are looking to improve revenue
17 from this we are certainly not going to do
18 it to prolong it, you know, any lengthy
19 period of time. Certainly a week isn't a
20 lengthy period of time, but hopefully it
21 doesn't go much beyond that.

22 A couple of other things that were
23 brought up, and I'd just like to comment on,
24 a couple of people have talked about the SPA
25 employees that were not rehired or that were

1 let go. That's a separate issue from what
2 we are looking at tonight. As they said,
3 they have nothing to do with those six
4 people not being rehired. We would have to
5 take that up with the receivership of the
6 Parking Authority. I don't want to get -- I
7 don't want to get tied up with a problem
8 that's not part of -- the problem that we
9 already have. I don't want the hiring of
10 those six people to or lack of hiring of
11 these of people get in the way of dealing
12 with the parking legislation that we have
13 before us.

14 And as far as the mayor's salary is
15 concerned, I'll speak more about it when we
16 get to the legislation. I still believe
17 that we can go to graduated raises to a
18 certain point. I think that that would be
19 an equitable thing to do to get the salary
20 to a position where we feel it is
21 reasonable.

22 And the last thing, I don't know, I
23 received my tax bill in the mail today so
24 that the real estate taxes have gone out and
25 the first thing I did was I took a look at

1 the totals and worked out at least my bill
2 the city portion of my real estate taxes is
3 22.8 percent. The county was 25.8 percent,
4 and the school district was 51.4 percent, so
5 that the tax bill from the school district
6 is more than double or more than the other
7 two combined and the city is still the
8 lowest taxing body of the three, despite the
9 fact that we raised taxes a significant
10 percent and I think that's something
11 important to keep in mind as we move
12 forward. And that's all. Thank you.

13 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Mr. Rogan,
14 do you have any motions or comments?

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I'll try to be
16 brief. I just want to speak a little bit
17 about the parking, about both issues, about
18 the increasing of rates, the extending of
19 hours and the idea of having a firm run the
20 management of the parking.

21 One thing that was brought up, and
22 it just struck me about listening to people
23 talk and through the length of the meeting
24 tonight was that -- let me just start off by
25 saying I'm not opposed to having an outside

1 company come in and run the meters if it's
2 the right company with the right plan. I am
3 concerned with the fact that this company
4 already does run the garages so if you are a
5 firm that's running the garages and running
6 the meters they essentially have a monopoly
7 of parking for the city. I think what might
8 be a better solution is just to let -- if we
9 had another firm in charge of the on-street
10 parking and left Central in charge of the
11 garages, the two would be competing against
12 each other, which as we know as the small
13 business owners that were here today know,
14 that really is what drives the success when
15 you have that competition.

16 It was mentioned that there is a 70
17 percent vacancy rate in the garages and the
18 meters are full, and that's because as was
19 stated before it's cheaper to pay the meter
20 than to go to the garage. And I say this
21 all the time you are better off broadening
22 the base and charging less than by having
23 just a few people paying more. For
24 instance, if you have 30 people, just for
25 easy numbers, that pay \$2 a pieces you have

1 \$60 that garage is generating. If you have
2 70 people paying a dollar a piece you are
3 getting in \$70, so it's in our interest to
4 have the garages full and to keep meter
5 parking for businesses, for people who are
6 going to go shopping and to go into the
7 businesses for maybe for an hour or a half
8 hour. Somebody who is going to pick up
9 coffee, pick up, you know, whatever they are
10 going to purchase.

11 The way I look at meters is that
12 it's a balance between the city and the
13 business owners where both people will win,
14 where the city gets some revenue from the
15 street parking and the business owners don't
16 have to worry about people parking in front
17 of their business for the entire day where
18 nobody would be able to park and go in and
19 do their business, so it's balance that has
20 to be struck between keeping the rates that
21 are level that will help the turnover that's
22 necessary, but not making it so oppressive
23 where people won't pay it.

24 Somebody sent me a message today,
25 and I'm not going to mention their name, but

1 they said they went downtown for a cup of
2 coffee a few weeks ago, went and drank the
3 coffee, ran into somebody on the way out,
4 talked for an extra ten, 15 minutes, as many
5 of us do when you run into somebody you
6 haven't seen in awhile, gets back to his car
7 and sure enough he received a citation.

8 So his \$3 cup of coffee just became
9 a \$35 cup of coffee and that's very
10 frustrating, and even though it has nothing
11 to do with the business owner that person is
12 going to feel, you know, that they were
13 ripped off and they may not patronize that
14 business again.

15 Now, I absolutely think we all want
16 to bring in as much money as we can on meter
17 revenue, but it has to be in a fair way. I
18 think that the proposals that were brought
19 up years ago to have the meter reset I think
20 that is great plan. It will bring in more
21 money for the city because that extra time
22 that somebody paid for goes back to zero but
23 everybody is paying for the amount of their
24 fair share when they are there. If you put
25 in for an hour and you stay for an hour, you

1 pull off you don't get a ticket. If the
2 next person -- if you pay for an hour and
3 you happen to leave early they shouldn't pay
4 for the hour, they should only pay for the
5 30 minutes and then it would reset. The
6 next person would come in would pay the
7 rate. So by doing an item like that, have a
8 reset or things of that nature that would
9 generate more money without increasing
10 rates, which will look bad for the city and
11 will hurt business owners and workers and
12 patrons.

13 That being said, as far as the
14 changes on that end go I would oppose any
15 legislation that would have Saturday
16 collections. I believe the main reason for
17 the meters is to have turnover for business
18 owners. It's not just to make money for the
19 city. It's that balance that I talked about
20 and as business owners said and as anybody
21 who drives downtown on Saturday will notice
22 there is quite a bit of parking available on
23 Saturday because you don't have your every
24 day 9 to 5 workers parking in the metered
25 spots downtown, so I think Saturday

1 collections are a bad idea.

2 And I also agree with offering
3 discounts in the garages. It's not, you
4 know, if we had 100 percent occupancy I
5 wouldn't be sitting here saying that we
6 should offer a discount, but when you are
7 only at 30 percent and you have those extra
8 spaces that you already pay the bill, the
9 spots are there and we have to maintain them
10 we might as well have somebody there versus
11 leaving them vacant.

12 So I hope that we can all discuss
13 this as a board. I hope this isn't
14 something that's put on the agenda next week
15 with a couple of little fixes because this
16 is a large issue. This isn't something that
17 can be fixed in a week, and I do like the
18 idea that some residents and business owners
19 brought up today of having a round table
20 discussion and even have it here at council,
21 which be would great so it would televised
22 for the public of business owners, folks who
23 work downtown, elected officials and other
24 interested parties to just sit and discuss.
25 We could do it on Thursday or we can do it

1 meant to bring this up last week but I kind
2 of got sidetracked with some other issues,
3 this is from the West Scranton Hyde Park
4 Neighborhood Watch, and I'm just going to
5 read the first paragraph. "Within the past
6 year the West Scranton Hyde Park
7 Neighborhood Watch, formerly the Elm Street
8 Project Committee, with the intent of
9 successfully implementing the DCED program
10 in a manner similar to South Scranton, the
11 Elm Street project has been folded into an
12 initiative known as the Keystone Communities
13 and has one new requirement, the West
14 Scranton Hyde Park Neighborhood Watch must
15 obtain a cooperation agreement for work to
16 be done from both Scranton City Council and
17 the mayor."

18 With that, they asked for our --
19 council's formal support, formal approval
20 and cooperation with their efforts to
21 revitalize Main Avenue and the Hyde Park
22 section of West Scranton. They have
23 attached the DCED attached cooperation
24 agreement for our consideration. The funds
25 acquired would be appropriated through DCED

1 requirements and managed through the West
2 Scranton Hyde Park Neighborhood Watch. They
3 are not seeking any funds from the city, so
4 there are two items in the draft that do not
5 apply.

6 So with my colleagues' agreement I
7 would ask that we definitely consider this.
8 I think this is a great proposal for West
9 Scranton. I do know from talking to the
10 president of the neighborhood watch, Karen
11 Foster, that they are looking at one of the
12 buildings that's actually on Main Avenue
13 right next to Citizens' Savings Association
14 that's for sale as one of their starter,
15 places to start the project and it's a
16 beautiful home that I actually when I was
17 looking to purchase a home I was looking at,
18 it did need a little bit more repair than I
19 could afford, but it's over 100 years old,
20 it's beautiful, and I would just love to see
21 that revitalized and that block of West
22 Scranton to be what it used to be. We have
23 a lot of businesses in that neighborhood so
24 hopefully this is something that council and
25 the mayor could get behind to support them.

1 And that is all I have for tonight. Thank
2 you.

3 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

4 Mr. Loscombe, do you have any motions or
5 comments?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just briefly. We
7 have had a lot of discourse this evening. I
8 appreciate the fact that the gentlemen from
9 Standard Parking came in and he answered
10 quite a few questions to the best of their
11 knowledge, and I think we asked just about
12 every question we possibly could here.

13 But more importantly, I really
14 appreciated the amount of people that came
15 out for this meeting tonight. I know it was
16 a hot button issue and, you know, a lot of
17 the standard speakers they are always asking
18 for more input from other people and this is
19 what we need. We can't always get to
20 meetings of these other organizations and
21 that, but, you know, any time we are
22 available we try to, but I do appreciate
23 them coming out and, you know, just
24 discussing their ideas and what will work
25 for them, too.

1 You know, we have to have a vibrant
2 downtown and, you know, business people are
3 the crux of it and I really appreciate, like
4 I said, the discourse back and forth. We do
5 have come decisions to make and, you know,
6 there is still a lot of answers that we are
7 waiting for before we can even make those
8 decisions. So that's all I have to say
9 tonight. Thank you.

10 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.
11 Good evening. Tonight I'll be very brief
12 given the duration of the meeting and I was
13 going to plan on speaking on the two pieces
14 of legislation regarding the Standard
15 Parking during votes, but we are not voting
16 on them so I will save that for next week,
17 but I am glad that we did have Mr. John
18 Rogers, Mr. Brian Scoggins, and Mr. Romy
19 Valera come in to answer some of our
20 questions that we had tonight. There were a
21 number of questions, there are a number of
22 questions raised by citizens as well that
23 were forwarded to us and I'm glad that some
24 of those were answered.

25 But at this time there are still

1 some questions that remain unanswered and
2 hopefully over the next week some more
3 dialogue can be held between Standard
4 Parking as well as city council and we can
5 get the answers to some of the questions
6 that are still remaining out there.

7 Regarding the mayor's salary, this
8 was a hot topic discussion item last week.
9 After thinking about the mayor's salary over
10 the past week, my personal feeling is that
11 \$80,000 is too much of a raise in such dire
12 financial times. I have received phone
13 calls and e-mails on the issue and no one
14 thinks that the salary should be increased
15 to \$80,000 from what I have received. Most
16 of the people that I spoke to or received
17 e-mails from believe that an increase was
18 warranted since there was not an increase in
19 over a decade.

20 Therefore, tonight I'll be making a
21 motion to increase the salary of the mayor
22 to \$60,000 per year rather than \$80,000, and
23 with that being said, I hereby make a motion
24 to amend File of Council No. 7 of 2013 of
25 1987, Section 2, to increase the salary of

1 the mayor to \$60,000 per year rather than
2 \$80,000 per year.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

4 MR. JOYCE: We have a second. On
5 the question?

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, and while I
7 believe that the salary should be raised, I
8 think it should go beyond 60. And as I said
9 before, I think that the way to do that is
10 through graduated raises. I think that
11 would be a more equitable way. If we set it
12 at 60 it's -- that's set for I would believe
13 another four years that it can be changed
14 again and \$60,000 doesn't put the mayor of
15 the City of Scranton even close to salaries
16 of the mayors of comparable cities within
17 the Commonwealth. I really believe that it
18 should be raised beyond 60 perhaps to a
19 maximum of about 75,000.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I might comment, I
21 do agree with Mr. McGoff. I do believe that
22 the mayor should get higher pay. You know,
23 \$100,000. But, you know, we are in a tough
24 position right now. We have no shortage of
25 candidates running for the seat right now,

1 so we still have four years to see how this
2 city turns around, but economically right
3 now, you know, I believe it's still a good
4 salary. To take that big of a jump from 50
5 to 80, when you see the condition we have
6 been in the past 12 years, whatever, until
7 we can get ourselves straightened out
8 economically and climb out of this
9 distressed status I think at this point it's
10 fair, and that's the reason I will be voting
11 in favor of it. I don't know if Mr. Rogan
12 heard the motion.

13 MR. ROGAN: No. I apologize, I
14 wanted to speak to one of the business
15 owners before they left. Are we on the
16 question?

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes, on the question.

18 MR. ROGAN: As I stated in the paper
19 and at last week's meeting, I said that I
20 would go along with increasing the mayor to
21 \$60,000, so I will support this. Obviously,
22 the mayor of Scranton still will be
23 underpaid compared to his counterparts, but
24 like I said, public service is not to make a
25 large salary. It's for the love of your

1 city and to do a service. Even when we look
2 at the hours that members of city council
3 put in for \$12,000 a year, if you break it
4 out by hours it's less than minimum wage.
5 I'm not complaining. I signed up to do it
6 because I love to do it. I love going out
7 and talking to people and trying to help
8 them with their problems and hopefully we
9 will have a mayor that will do that as well,
10 but not having a raise in 25 years for the
11 mayor's position is a little excessive, so I
12 will support the \$10,000 raise instead of
13 \$30,000.

14 MR. JOYCE: Okay. All those in
15 favor signify by saying aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

18 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed?

19 MR. MCGOFF: No.

20 MR. JOYCE: The ayes have it and so
21 moved.

22 Also tonight I had a few other items
23 to mention. City council did receive some
24 information as far as delinquent taxes and
25 delinquent refuse fees that are concerned.

1 For the period of January 1 to January 31,
2 the City of Scranton collected \$52,506.15 in
3 delinquent property taxes from Northeast
4 Revenue. As we all know, Northeast Revenue
5 is collecting all of the delinquent real
6 estate taxes from the years of 2011; and
7 prior to 2012 delinquent real estate taxes,
8 of course, are now being collected by the
9 Single Tax Office.

10 Also, they ran a distribution from
11 January 1 to January 31 regarding delinquent
12 refuse payments and so far they collected
13 \$59,732.12 in delinquent refuse payments.

14 Also, city council has received a
15 notification that Comcast has sent us a
16 check for the franchise fee of \$202,732.
17 This was received February 7, 2013, in our
18 office and this includes the statement
19 period of October to December of 2012. So
20 that's what the franchise fee equated to
21 that for that time period.

22 And I do have a few citizens'
23 requests. North Scranton residents have
24 informed me that are large potholes near the
25 stop sign of the intersection of Well Street

1 and Main Avenue.

2 Mrs. Krake, if you can please
3 contact Director Dougher about this
4 situation and ask him to handle in the best
5 way that he sees fit.

6 The 200 block of the Holister Avenue
7 North Scranton residents have informed me
8 that the entire 200 block is in poor shape.
9 Residents report numerous potholes and
10 cracks in the road making travel conditions
11 difficult.

12 Mrs. Krake, if you could please add
13 that to the concerns to contact Director
14 Dougher about it.

15 And several Scranton residents have
16 actually contacted me regarding the
17 Christmas trees. Residents have reported
18 that their Christmas trees were never picked
19 up and they are still waiting for them to be
20 picked up on refuse collections days.

21 So with that being said, Mrs. Krake,
22 if you could please add this to the list of
23 the concerns for Director Dougher.

24 And I received an e-mail from an
25 employee of the CTC regarding the condition

1 of Greenbush and Reese Streets. The e-mail
2 reads as follows:

3 "Mr. Joyce, just thought I would
4 send another useless e-mail to tell you
5 about Greenbush and Reese Street in north
6 Scranton. They have been patched here and
7 there over the years, featured in the
8 Scranton Times about how bad they were, but
9 no one is doing anything. They haven't been
10 completely paved in over 37 years. Going
11 down Reese Street you now have to almost
12 come to a stop and dodge all of the holes.
13 12 school buses go up and down those hills
14 four times a day, plus all of the employees,
15 the students, the practical nursing
16 students, nine classes and all the visitors
17 and parents we receive daily.

18 Please, if you won't pave them get
19 someone to patch them properly. I have been
20 at the CTC for 33 years and they are
21 horrible. I understand though, however,
22 these streets are on the paving list for
23 2013."

24 Mrs. Krake, please contact Director
25 Dougher to inquire when these roads will be

1 paved. I just feel bad that it's ashame
2 that some people in Scranton think they are
3 sending useless e-mails to council members
4 and perhaps if we could get a time frame
5 when those roads will be paved we could get
6 this information back to the woman who wrote
7 this e-mail, and that's it.

8 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. NO BUSINESS AT
9 THIS TIME.

10 SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. TABLED.

11 6-B. READING BY TITLE - FILE OF
12 COUNCIL NO. 7, 2013 - AN ORDINANCE -
13 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 31 OF 1987,
14 SECTION 2 BY INCREASING THE SALARY OF THE
15 MAYOR TO SIXTY THOUSAND (\$60,000.00) DOLLARS
16 ANNUALLY WITH SAID SALARY INCREASE EFFECTIVE
17 JANUARY 1, 2014.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
21 pass reading by title.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

2 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed?

3 MR. MCGOFF: No.

4 MR. JOYCE: The ayes have it and so
5 moved.

6 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
7 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
8 SAFETY FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 4,
9 2013 - ESTABLISHING A "NO PARKING" ZONE
10 ALONG THE EASTERLY SIDE OF WEST MARKET
11 STREET (S.R. 6011) FROM BRICK AVENUE TO
12 ROCKWELL AVENUE TO ALLOW FOR SAFE SIGHT
13 DISTANCE FOR A PROPOSED DRIVEWAY BY NOONES
14 MARKET FOR A PROPERTY LOCATED AT 416 WEST
15 MARKET STREET.

16 MR. JOYCE: What is the
17 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
18 Committee on Public Safety?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: As Chairperson for
20 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
21 final passage of Item 7-A.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

23 MS. JOYCE: On the question? Roll
24 call, please?

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

7 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I hereby declare
8 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

9 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. TABLED.

10 MR. JOYCE: If there is no further
11 business, I'll entertain a motion to
12 adjourn.

13 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

14 MR. JOYCE: This meeting is
15 adjourned.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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