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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, February 14, 2013

LOCATION:

Council Chambers  
Scranton City Hall  
340 North Washington Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

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

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.  
15 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
16 SCRANTON HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD JANUARY 7,  
17 2013.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
21 REPORT, APPEAL HEARING TO BE HELD FEBRUARY  
22 20, 2013.

23 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
24 If not, received and filed. Do we have any  
25 Clerk's note tonight, Mrs. Krake?

1 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

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

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Due to Mrs. Evans'  
6 illness we will be switching the order of  
7 the meeting tonight from we are going to  
8 have motions first and then go into  
9 citizens' participation if it's okay with  
10 everyone on the board?

11 MR. MCGOFF: That's fine.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yup.

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

15 MR. MCGOFF: We received a memo from  
16 DPW. It states that although Monday is a  
17 legal holiday, President's Day, there will  
18 be a trash pick up on Monday, so your trash  
19 is being -- it won't be a day delayed, so  
20 put it out at the appropriate time.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. ROGAN: Just two announcements,  
23 I spoke earlier today to the commander for  
24 the South Scranton Neighborhood Watch, their  
25 structure is the commander, they have block

1 captains, and they all report up to one  
2 another. They wanted me to announce two  
3 items, one is that they have a Facebook page  
4 which is South Side Neighborhood Watch on  
5 Facebook where you can follow and get  
6 updates on their meetings and things of that  
7 nature, and also that they meet on the third  
8 Wednesday of each month at the South Side  
9 Senior Center on 424 Alder at 6:30 p.m.

10 They also have a monthly observation  
11 and awareness walk each month, weather  
12 permitting. And again, if you are on  
13 Facebook you can go the South Side  
14 Neighborhood Watch Group.

15 And secondly, Giovanni Piccolino,  
16 owner of Buona Pizza, wanted me to announce  
17 on March 31 he will be holding an Easter  
18 brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Buona Pizza  
19 and it's free for all those who wish to  
20 attend.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I wish to  
22 announce that the contract between the City  
23 of Scranton and Standard Parking for  
24 management of the parking meters system will  
25 remain tabled since a review is in process.

1                   Also, I'd like to wish everyone a  
2                   very Happy Valentine's Day, and particularly  
3                   to my special Valentines, my sweet  
4                   granddaughters, Mara, Cara and Anna. Also,  
5                   I wish my darling Anna a very happy second  
6                   birthday tomorrow and a hundred more, and  
7                   that's it.

8                   (While Ms. Evans was speaking Mr.  
9                   Loscombe joined the meeting.)

10                   MS. KRAKE:   FOURTH ORDER --  
11                   Mrs. Evans, we go to 5-A motions?

12                   MS. EVANS:   Yes.

13                   MS. KRAKE.   5-A. MOTIONS.

14                   MS. EVANS:   Councilman McGoff, do  
15                   you have any comments or motions at this  
16                   time?

17                   MR. MCGOFF:  Nothing at this time.  
18                   Thank you.

19                   MS. EVANS:   Mr. Rogan?

20                   MR. ROGAN:   Yes, very briefly, and I  
21                   apologize, I don't have a whole lot to say,  
22                   I usually try to respond to what the  
23                   speakers are saying at the meeting, but as  
24                   Mrs. Evans mentioned I know myself and my  
25                   colleagues have had and are still receiving

1 a number of calls, e-mails and messages  
2 about the parking agreement that is up in  
3 the air and the response from the business  
4 community and those who shop and work in the  
5 downtown has been overwhelming that they are  
6 opposed to increases and rates and increases  
7 in hours.

8 Now, Mr. Loscombe, I know he was an  
9 advocate for StreetSmart, we did play phone  
10 tag a little bit this week, but I definitely  
11 want to get together with him and talk a  
12 little bit about the possibilities of  
13 bringing StreetSmart back. I know he left  
14 me a couple of voice mails, it's definitely  
15 something that I would like to work on.

16 Meter enhancement and the increasing  
17 meter rates is two completely different  
18 items. If you can get more money out of  
19 what you already have without increasing  
20 rates across the board that's a much more  
21 fair and, you know, equitable way to go for  
22 residents, for business owners, and for the  
23 city where the city could increase revenue  
24 without increasing rates. A blanket rate  
25 increase or hour increase seems that will be

1           detrimental, especially if we go past 6:00  
2           when I know as residents brought it up and I  
3           brought it up last week when people will  
4           have to pay to attend a city council meeting  
5           if they wish to park on the street to  
6           address city council.

7                        I also saw in the paper that the  
8           rates -- they won't be decreasing the rates  
9           of the garages, and this once again goes  
10          back to the idea of having two competing  
11          entities to drive competition and foster and  
12          come up with the best product. When, you  
13          know, if one company was managing the meters  
14          and the other was managing the garages it  
15          would be in each company's best interest to  
16          have the best profit when if we have one  
17          company manage both they would essentially  
18          have a monopoly off parking where they could  
19          pretty much do whatever they want.

20                       So that's some of the other issues  
21          that I have been brought up about it, but I  
22          look forward to working with my colleagues  
23          and definitely addressing the issue. I do  
24          think we need to do something to try and  
25          increase revenue, but also at the same time



1 we want to work with the business owners to,  
2 you know, keep the business owners in the  
3 downtown that are doing well and hopefully  
4 get some more business owners in the vacant  
5 areas of downtown.

6 So, you know, the big issue I felt,  
7 and I know Mr. Loscombe agrees is the reset  
8 on the meters where everyone pays their fair  
9 share. If there is extra time on there it  
10 goes away and you pay for what you stay and  
11 that's more than fair.

12 Finally, I did attend the Pinebook  
13 Neighborhood meeting this past Tuesday and  
14 they had many concerns, but the bulk of them  
15 focused once again on blight and,  
16 unfortunately, a lack of response from  
17 certain department heads. I do have a list  
18 of -- I'm not going to read all these off  
19 because they are numerous, I do have a list  
20 that I will give to you, Mrs. Krake, to send  
21 to Mr. Seitzinger, and also one of the other  
22 questions was there was a few rooming houses  
23 in that neighborhood and they have questions  
24 about the rooming house inspections, and  
25 there were some residents down that were

1 told that these inspections would be  
2 outsourced and not done by city inspectors,  
3 which is something they were concerned  
4 about, so I will put that request in as  
5 well.

6 And also I received a letter and a  
7 phone full of pictures from a resident, and  
8 I won't mention his name or address, but I  
9 will report this into Mrs. Krake, that the  
10 DPW damaged the property on West Mountain,  
11 west Mountain Road because of the ice  
12 issues. Now, there is an issue on both  
13 sides of the road, but the DPW went on his  
14 private property and changed the course of  
15 the run off onto his property where openings  
16 were made and the water drains basically  
17 down into his home. Small trees were also  
18 knocked down and the police have been called  
19 to correct the action. So I will be sending  
20 this one in as well, and sorry for being  
21 brief, but I look forward to your comments  
22 in the public participation. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 Mr. Loscombe?

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have nothing this

1 evening. Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Mr. Joyce, comments or  
3 motions tonight?

4 MR. JOYCE: Yes. As we know  
5 legislation for the parking meter contract  
6 as well as the rates and hours of operation  
7 will not be part of tonight's agenda. I'm  
8 pleased that these two pieces of the  
9 legislation are not part of tonight's  
10 agenda. More information needs to be  
11 gathered for both pieces of the legislation  
12 before a concrete vote can be made.

13 Over the past week I have received  
14 calls and e-mails from various residents and  
15 businesses regarding the parking meters  
16 situation. I encourage the public to keep  
17 contacting us with their thoughts and ideas  
18 regarding the parking meters as we look to  
19 make a well-informed decision taking both  
20 residents' concerns and business' concerns  
21 into consideration.

22 Secondly, parking garages. Scranton  
23 City Council has received e-mails from  
24 concerned citizens who state that one of the  
25 reasons why the parking garages are empty is



1 received a report for animals brought to the  
2 Griffin Pond Animal Shelter by the city's  
3 animal control officer for November and  
4 December of 2012. The total number of  
5 animals brought to the shelter for the month  
6 of November was 23. Subsequently, the  
7 number of animals brought to the shelter for  
8 the month of December was 30.

9 For the year of 2012, the total  
10 number of animals brought to the shelter was  
11 460. As one may or may not know, the City  
12 of Scranton is required to pay a fee of \$50  
13 per animal brought to the shelter. In 2012,  
14 the city paid \$35,000 to the Griffen Pond  
15 Animal Shelter as an advance payment for  
16 animals to be brought to the shelter in  
17 2012. 460 animals multiplied by \$50 per  
18 animal is only \$23,000. With this in mind,  
19 I'm wondering if we have a credit towards  
20 2013.

21 Mrs. Krake, can you please contact  
22 the Griffin Pond Animal Shelter and inquire  
23 if the city has a credit for the Year of  
24 2013 on future animal deliveries to the  
25 shelter. Also, please inquire out of the

1 460 animals brought to the shelter how many  
2 have been euthanized.

3 Scranton City Council has received a  
4 final report of the organizations that  
5 contributed PILOTS for the year of 2012. I  
6 would like to thank these organizations for  
7 making contributions to the city and  
8 encourage them to do so again in 2013 as  
9 nonprofit contributions are vital to the  
10 city. These organizations are the Scranton  
11 Housing Authority, the University of  
12 Scranton, Lutherwood, the Harrison House,  
13 Covington Presbyterian Church. I would also  
14 like to encourage other nonprofits to make  
15 contributions to the city as well and be  
16 good neighbors to us.

17 Over the past week I have received  
18 numerous calls and e-mails regarding the  
19 salary of the mayor. Most of the calls I  
20 received were to the tune that the mayor's  
21 salary should be higher than \$60,000 per  
22 year after we moved it to 60,000 last week.  
23 Wheel I know that Scranton is in the dire  
24 financial situation right now, I clearly  
25 thought this out for awhile. The next mayor

1 will have much work to do, perhaps more work  
2 than any mayor had to do in the past.  
3 Scranton is in need of much repair and the  
4 candidate that would be our next mayor need  
5 to focus their attention on restoring fiscal  
6 health to the city.

7 With this in mind, I agree with what  
8 Mr. McGoff said last week after hearing from  
9 the public that there should be an  
10 incremental increase to the mayor's salary  
11 and tonight I make a motion, and I have copy  
12 of it here, I make a motion to amend Item  
13 7-A to increase the salary of the mayor  
14 incrementally as follows: \$5,000 in 2015,  
15 \$5,000 in 2016, and \$5,000 in 2017 for a  
16 ceiling of \$75,000 in 2017.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

18 MS. EVANS: On the question?

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes. If there were  
20 increases of \$5,000 for three years wouldn't  
21 that only be \$65,000 with the base of 50  
22 currently?

23 MR. JOYCE: Well, it's on top of the  
24 \$60,000.

25 MR. ROGAN: Okay, so it would be a

1 total of \$25,000?

2 MR. JOYCE: Over those years, yes.

3 MR. ROGAN: Okay. As I stated in  
4 the papers and at council, I believe that  
5 the \$25,000 is a little bit too much,  
6 especially when you would include that the  
7 mayor does receive a car, insurance and  
8 gasoline. Because of that, I will be voting  
9 "no" on this, and that's all.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Is the intent -- I'm  
11 sorry.

12 MS. EVANS: You go ahead.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Is the intent then to  
14 leave it at \$75,000 from that point on or  
15 would it revert back to \$60,000 with it --

16 MS. EVANS: No.

17 MR. MCGOFF: It would stay at 75.

18 MS. EVANS: I believe that's what  
19 you mean, yes?

20 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

21 MR. MCGOFF: I just wanted to make  
22 sure I knew what I was voting on.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I could just add,  
24 you know, again, I have heard a lot from a  
25 lot of the constituents out there, knowing



1 the condition the city is in at this point  
2 we are trying to be as prudent as possible,  
3 but, again, this is a major corporation and  
4 we do need a lot of work done and hopefully  
5 a lot of cooperation under the next  
6 administration, but I think it's due time  
7 that the mayor's salary is increased. I was  
8 happy with the 60, but after hearing a lot  
9 more this past week at this point I would  
10 have to agree with Mr. Joyce that I would go  
11 along with this here. That's all.

12 MS. EVANS: I note what Mr. Rogan  
13 says but, on the other hand, it might be a  
14 change for the next mayor to use his own  
15 vehicle rather than being provided a vehicle  
16 and certainly, you know, I think the city is  
17 27 square miles, so it's small enough that I  
18 really don't feel a vehicle is essential for  
19 a mayor.

20 MR. ROGAN: I would agree that there  
21 is that, it is still in the legislation.  
22 Just to elaborate a little bit, basically  
23 it's a \$25,000 raise in one year, but over  
24 10 years that's a quarter of a million  
25 dollars, over 20 years it's half a million



1 else? All those in favor signify by saying  
2 aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

5 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

6 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

7 MR. ROGAN: No.

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

10 MR. JOYCE: Okay. Finally, I did  
11 have some citizens' requests. The first  
12 deals with the 2500 block of Swetland  
13 Street. Several Keyser Valley residents  
14 have informed me that the 2500 block of  
15 Swetland Street is in very poor shape as  
16 there are numerous potholes and cracks in  
17 the road making travel conditions extremely,  
18 difficult and this is causing a good deal of  
19 wear and tear on cars.

20 Mrs. Krake, please contact Director  
21 Dougher and ask him to rectify the situation  
22 as best way that he sees fit.

23 Keyser Valley residents have also  
24 informed me that the 100 block of North  
25 Cameron Avenue is in poor shape as there are

1 many potholes and cracks in the road making  
2 travel conditions extremely difficult. Mrs.  
3 Krake, please add this to the concerns to  
4 contact Director Dougher about.

5 A number of West Scranton residents  
6 have informed that the home located at 1216  
7 West Gibson Street is in very poor shape.  
8 The home contains boarded up windows and the  
9 backyard is a mess as there is rubbish  
10 contained in the yard and the dead tree is  
11 falling into the house. Residents also  
12 report an odor coming from the home and they  
13 would like to see something done about this  
14 eyesore in their community.

15 Mrs. Krake, please contact Director  
16 Seitzinger and ask him to address this  
17 property as soon as possible.

18 And finally, North Scranton  
19 residents have expressed their concerns that  
20 the patch of road at the end of the 1200  
21 block of Court Street directly under the  
22 Scranton Expressway overpass is in very poor  
23 shape. Numerous potholes are present and in  
24 the vicinity and travel conditions are  
25 deplorable. Mrs. Krake, please add this to

1 the list of items to correct and contact  
2 Director Dougher about. And that's all.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good  
4 evening. I have only a few announcements.  
5 First, a request for qualifications to  
6 provide valuation services for the Scranton  
7 Sewer Authority was advertised in today's  
8 newspaper. The city pay wish to sell the  
9 Scranton Sewer Authority in the future,  
10 particularly in light of the extensive EPA  
11 mandates which the Authority, as it stands,  
12 may not be able to achieve.

13 If an eventually sale were to occur,  
14 proceeds would be used to pay the current  
15 financial obligations of the Scranton Sewer  
16 Authority so as to eliminate these financial  
17 burdens for Scranton taxpayers and all  
18 ratepayers. The remainder of the sale  
19 proceeds would be distributed to Scranton  
20 and Dunmore, both of whom have demonstrated  
21 needs for such revenue.

22 Equally important, the EPA mandates  
23 will require anywhere between 100 million to  
24 150 million in order to attain compliance.  
25 If the Scranton Sewer Authority continues as

1 the owner/operator these costs will only be  
2 split among Scranton and Dunmore ratepayers.  
3 We have already witnessed numerous rate  
4 increases in the past several years and they  
5 are no where near the significant increases  
6 that lie ahead. A sale to a national or  
7 global company will allow these increases to  
8 be spread among all it's ratepayers rather  
9 than solely Scranton and Dunmore ratepayers.

10 In addition, the improper use of  
11 vehicles and equipment by a few employees  
12 that occurred since the takeover by the  
13 Scranton Sewer Authority would be eliminated  
14 by a private company that can run the system  
15 more cost efficiently while meeting the  
16 requirements of federal mandates.

17 Now, a potential sale involves a  
18 lengthy process which also must achieve  
19 compliance with state regulations. The city  
20 and the Sewer Authority are in the very  
21 early stages of this process which means  
22 they are exploring the possibilities and,  
23 thereafter, analyzing the information  
24 obtained.

25 Next, I had worked over the last few

1 months to develop a health care consortium  
2 among the city, county and school district  
3 in order to drive down the costs of health  
4 care for each of the governing bodies.  
5 Mayor Doherty was agreeable to exploring  
6 this potential savings and a meeting was  
7 conducted among representatives of the city,  
8 county and school district.

9 While the city and school district  
10 agreed to provide their health care data to  
11 be analyzed for cost saving purposes during  
12 the meeting, the county commissioners, who  
13 were not present but represented by their  
14 chief of staff, have since declined any and  
15 all participation. There is no cost  
16 involved to the participants. It is most  
17 discouraging that the commissioners have  
18 shown no interest in even an analysis of the  
19 data and bowed out of an opportunity to save  
20 money for the taxpayers.

21 And, Mrs. Krake, just one brief  
22 request, in the letter that Councilman Joyce  
23 requested to be sent to Mr. Washo, if we  
24 could also include a request from council  
25 with my colleagues' agreement to consider

1 providing reduced price parking on the top  
2 level of at least one garage, if not all,  
3 for those who work in the downtown.

4 And I just wanted to explain,  
5 council has no authority over the garages  
6 whatsoever. They are strictly and solely  
7 under the control of Mr. Washo, but I do  
8 believe that some good ideas came out of  
9 last week's meeting and they should be  
10 considered by Mr. Washo. And that's it.

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

13 6-B. NO BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

14 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
15 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
16 FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 7, 2013 (AS  
17 AMENDED) - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 31  
18 OF 1987, SECTION 2, BY INCREASING THE SALARY  
19 OF THE MAYOR TO SIXTY THOUSAND (\$60,000.00)  
20 DOLLARS ANNUALLY WITH SAID SALARY INCREASE  
21 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014.

22 MS. EVANS: Do we have to add the  
23 amendment to that?

24 MR. HUGHES: It would be to approve  
25 the motion as amended and that would be



1           tonight's amendment because last week the  
2           motion was amended to increase it from 50 to  
3           60 thousand dollars, so that's the motion  
4           that is before council tonight and then with  
5           the amendment that has been amended that it  
6           would be three \$5,000 increments starting in  
7           2014, so the motion would be to approve the  
8           motion as amended.

9           MS. EVANS: Thank you.

10          MS. SCHUMACHER: 2015.

11          MR. HUGHES: Or '15, okay.

12          MS. EVANS: What is the  
13          recommendation of the Chair for the  
14          Committee on Finance.

15          MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the  
16          Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
17          passage of Item 7-A, as amended.

18          MR. MCGOFF: Second.

19          MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
20          call, please?

21          MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

22          MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

23          MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

24          MR. ROGAN: No.

25          MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

3 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

8 At this time we will return to  
9 Fourth Order, citizens' participation, and  
10 the first speaker tonight is Gary Lewis.

11 Mr. Lewis, before you begin, I do  
12 apologize for having to leave.

13 MR. LEWIS: That's okay. Certainly  
14 hope you feel better.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. LEWIS: Over the past two weeks  
17 I have attended multiple meetings that have  
18 been organized by Scranton Tomorrow to  
19 discuss the proposed enhancements to the  
20 city's on-street parking program. The  
21 meeting attendees are primarily downtown  
22 businesses, but many residents have also  
23 attended. The business community has put  
24 forth a consistent message, these  
25 enhancements are detrimental to the

1           downtown's growing recovery. These proposed  
2           enhancements will drive business out of the  
3           downtown. Just imagine having to feed the  
4           meter in the middle of dinner or ran out of  
5           a clothing store to add quarters to the  
6           meter. Why would patrons deal with such  
7           issues when they can head to the Shoppes at  
8           Montage or the Route 6 corridor in Dickson  
9           City and not deal with these problems?

10                        During our meetings, the validity of  
11           the data contained in the parking study is  
12           also been called into question. The study  
13           does not appear to have reviewed parking  
14           habits during the extended hours being  
15           proposed. It also appears to have failed to  
16           account for free parkers, such as municipal  
17           vehicles, food trucks or meter violators.  
18           The businesses again report a consistent  
19           message, parking in the busy portion of the  
20           downtown is difficult. Spots may be  
21           available at other locations, but patrons  
22           are reluctant to walk across the downtown  
23           just to get where they are going.

24                        On top of the availability concerns,  
25           businesses are already struggling with meter

1 anxiety. Many patrons cut visits short and  
2 many merchants sensitive to the customer's  
3 budgets warn customers to watch the clock so  
4 that they can avoid the \$20 meter overtime  
5 ticket.

6 Another common concern is the impact  
7 of the proposed enhancements on employees of  
8 businesses in the downtown. The many of  
9 these businesses are restaurants which pay  
10 relatively low wages to employees who rely  
11 heavily on tips. Under the proposed  
12 enhancement, a minimum wage employee who  
13 works nights would be facing a \$30 per week  
14 cost just to get to work, this is on top of  
15 any other lost wages or tips due to  
16 reduction in business.

17 Our message is not no contract for  
18 on-street parking, it's simply not this  
19 contract for on-street parking. The  
20 downtown community was not consulted by Rich  
21 and Associates when they complied the  
22 parking study and it does fully support a  
23 functional and reasonable parking system.

24 We believe that there are a few  
25 alternatives that should be considered.

1 Perhaps the city could engage in a  
2 multi-month pilot program by Standard  
3 Parking in which they would operate the  
4 city's meters under the current hours and  
5 rates to see if they can actually achieve a  
6 25 percent efficiency that they, themselves,  
7 claim they would provide. Maybe the city  
8 could pursue better signage. Many  
9 individuals that come into the downtown are  
10 not familiar with the downtown. They don't  
11 know where the garages are and in many cases  
12 they don't even though if they are public  
13 garages because they are so poorly signed.

14 Alternative parking solutions such  
15 as valet parking, which could utilize the  
16 garage, may also be another idea.

17 The removal the food trucks from  
18 courthouse square would also be a great  
19 benefit to the downtown parking situation.  
20 These trucks take up two or three spots,  
21 they are often accompanied by spotter  
22 vehicles and they also appear to be  
23 violating city code which prohibits the  
24 peddling of goods such as that within 100  
25 feet of a brick and mortar business that

1           pays mercantile tax. If you look at the  
2           downtown you can't get 100 feet away from  
3           another restaurant and we have food trucks  
4           lined up in parking spots.

5                       Beyond these types of implementation  
6           and management issues, I also have some  
7           concerns around the revenue estimates that  
8           were in the proposed contract. It appears  
9           that Standard is planning to more than  
10          double the Rich and Associates estimates for  
11          on-street meter revenue. This includes  
12          violations.

13                      A number of factors contribute to  
14          what I think will be an inability to meet  
15          the 2013 revenue projections. These factors  
16          are the number of off-line meters, which was  
17          reported at more than 600 in the month of  
18          January, timing of the new meter  
19          installation. If you look at the contract  
20          it looks like there is about a three-month  
21          lag between execution of the contract,  
22          ordering of the meters and final  
23          installation. That means the new meters,  
24          which are supposed to provide a 50 percent  
25          efficiency increase, would not be on-line

1           until June at the earliest so we are losing  
2           more than a half of year of that additional  
3           incremental revenue.

4                         Additionally, I think the total cost  
5           of the contract will exceed \$600,000 per  
6           year. That's roughly double what the city  
7           is currently paying for the six meter  
8           enforcement personnel that are employed by  
9           the city. This \$600,000 number includes the  
10          management fee, the meter fee, the vehicle  
11          fee, the monthly costs for operating the  
12          credit card meters, as well as reimbursement  
13          for office space, salary and benefits.

14                        It also looks like they appear to be  
15          relying heavily on violation revenue, which  
16          depending on how aggressive are, can also  
17          contribute to driving people out of the  
18          downtown.

19                        Finally, I just want to call your  
20          attention to what I think could be some  
21          additional negative clauses within the  
22          contract. There is a termination fee of  
23          \$5,000 per employee. That would amount to  
24          about \$35,000 should the city cancel the  
25          contract, rehire the six employees and then

1 hire a new director. The vehicle purchase  
2 to maintain the meters is questionable given  
3 the meters are generally located in a  
4 one-square mile area and the interest rate  
5 of 8 1/2 percent is also being charged on  
6 the sales tax, which Standard will pay on  
7 behalf of city because the city is unable to  
8 purchase the meters on their own.

9 Again, this isn't no contract, we  
10 are just encouraging you to not adopt this  
11 contract and pursue alternatives and closely  
12 review the contract as exists. Thank you.

13 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

15 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is  
16 Leslie Collins.

17 MS. COLLINS: Good evening. I'm  
18 Leslie Collins. I'm the executive director  
19 of Scranton Tomorrow and I thank you for the  
20 opportunity this evening to speak on behalf  
21 of Scranton Tomorrow, the downtown business  
22 community as well as our main street  
23 Scranton participants. The purpose of my  
24 attending the meeting this evening was to  
25 discuss the legislation regarding parking



1 and I would like to thank you for tabling  
2 the legislation once again and our hope is  
3 by tabling the legislation that it will  
4 enable the downtown business community to  
5 provide additional input. We also hope that  
6 it will lend the opportunity for Scranton  
7 Tomorrow to bring a number of business  
8 representatives to together with members of  
9 council for a more in-depth conversation of  
10 some of the questions, the concerns, as well  
11 as recommendations that they have regarding  
12 downtown parking since they are in the  
13 downtown on a daily basis.

14 Within the past week, Scranton  
15 Tomorrow has facilitated several meetings  
16 focused on the proposed parking legislation.  
17 Our initial meeting included a presentation  
18 from Standard Parking and proved to be quite  
19 successful and very educational. It was a  
20 forum where it allowed for attendees to ask  
21 relevant questions and voice their initial  
22 concerns regarding the proposed on-street  
23 parking rate increase and the extended hours  
24 of enforcement.

25 Our most recent meeting focused on

1           their review and the analysis of the study  
2           which was prepared by Rich and Associates in  
3           late 2012. We believe the study conducted  
4           by Rich and Associates has several  
5           deficiencies, not only did the study not  
6           include public outreach, but the study  
7           failed to analyze current parking habits  
8           after 5 p.m. and on Saturdays. Therefore,  
9           one could conclude that the proposed  
10          increase in the hours of monitoring are not  
11          necessarily based on valid findings or  
12          market data.

13                    The consensus of our meeting  
14                    indicates that they extended hours  
15                    monitoring Monday through Friday and the  
16                    addition of the Saturdays are not justified  
17                    and will create a less desirable perception  
18                    of our downtown, negatively impacting those  
19                    in this our community who have invested and  
20                    believed in the revitalization of our city.

21                    The study does provide relevant  
22                    information and data regarding the rate  
23                    system. The study states that the City of  
24                    Scranton's on-street and off-street parking  
25                    rates are higher than most benchmark cities.

1           It continues by stating that the current  
2           rates are compatible to those implemented in  
3           Philadelphia and Harrisburg. We believe  
4           these findings are extremely important and  
5           clearly indicate that both on-street and  
6           off-street parking rates are at the maximum  
7           threshold as they currently stand.

8                     Additionally, the study shows us  
9           that the occupancy in the public garages  
10          continues to decline and it is at  
11          approximately 30 percent occupancy at all of  
12          the facilities. If we are to apply the  
13          theory of supply and demand, we can see that  
14          the rate scale, both hourly and monthly,  
15          from the public garages is prohibitive to  
16          downtown parkers. Knowing the data to be  
17          factual, we conclude that increasing the  
18          on-street parking meter rate will not move  
19          existing parkers into the garages with the  
20          existing rate schedule.

21                     Currently, the rates are more than  
22          the market can tolerate. This increase will  
23          have a negative effect on the business  
24          community and we ask that you do not agree  
25          to increase the meter rates knowing that our

1 city's rates are already above the norm.

2 I would reiterate Gary's statement  
3 that the downtown business community that we  
4 have engaged is not against improvements for  
5 the parking. They are not against  
6 technological improvements and they are  
7 certainly open to other suggestions. The  
8 concern is the specifics of this contract,  
9 specifically the increased monitoring dates,  
10 the extended dates and hours as well as the  
11 increase potential rates.

12 Before voting on any type of parking  
13 enhancements, we would ask that you engage  
14 input from the downtown businesses. The  
15 businesses welcome the improvements, but  
16 certainly not at the expense of their  
17 patrons or of their business.

18 And once again, I would like to  
19 offer that Scranton Tomorrow would be more  
20 than happy to facilitate a meeting next week  
21 in order to continue the dialogue and the  
22 open communication and have a meeting with  
23 the business representatives that we have  
24 been working with along with residents, new  
25 residential individuals and have a meeting

1 with city council representatives, so I  
2 would like to offer that and I will be  
3 calling city council next week hopefully to  
4 arrange a meeting. I do think that would be  
5 quite productive. Once again, thank you  
6 very much.

7 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next  
8 speaker is -- Mr. Bolus, are you the next  
9 speaker? You may have erased your name.

10 MR. BOLUS: I'll take it. I don't  
11 care.

12 MR. JOYCE: Oh, okay. Bob Bolus.

13 MR. BOLUS: Around here when you are  
14 first you are last. I don't think it makes  
15 much difference. You know, tonight -- well,  
16 first off, I would like to do a little  
17 announcement here, on Sunday in Dunmore  
18 fellow firefighter Dominic Rinaldi there is  
19 a benefit going on so if people are out  
20 there they should show up and show some  
21 support. He had a fire this week at his  
22 home. And also on March 9, my fire company  
23 in Throop is also going to hold a benefit  
24 for him.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Bolus, the one

1 Sunday can you give us more detail on it?  
2 Do you know where it's going to be.

3 MR. BOLUS: I believe it's around  
4 the firehouse or somewhere up there. I'm  
5 not sure where they are holding it.  
6 Somebody could inquire or they could even  
7 make an announcements to make let people  
8 know where it's at, but while I was here  
9 tonight I though I would broach that subject  
10 for them.

11 I have yet to receive a copy of the  
12 fee agreement between Attorney Hughes and  
13 Mr. Kelly as to what's going on here. I put  
14 it in writing on couple of occasions. I'd  
15 like to get that done once and for all. I  
16 think we are entitled to it.

17 On the meters, and I know it's not  
18 on the agenda tonight, I think it's a cash  
19 cow giveaway. You know, anybody here watch  
20 Shark Tank on Friday evenings, what you got  
21 there the sharks don't take a bad deal, the  
22 sharks take only good deals and something  
23 that's going to give them a return. What  
24 you are dealing here last week were sharks.  
25 They are here because it's a good deal, not

1 a bad deal. But the beauty part of it for  
2 them is they are dealing with the  
3 incompetence we have in this area that we  
4 cannot administer or control our own assets.  
5 We have to look at everybody else out there  
6 to show us what to do. And that's the sad  
7 part of why Scranton is where it is. You  
8 look at Washo, gets \$100,000 a year.

9 Tonight I'm rather upset with  
10 council with the procedure that we didn't  
11 get to speak regarding the mayor's wages.  
12 You guys took that out of our hands, and I  
13 don't know if it's right or wrong what you  
14 did here tonight because when you change an  
15 agenda item I think we have a right to speak  
16 on it before you vote on it, and I think  
17 it's something we should all look into. I  
18 don't know if you did it legally  
19 procedurally correct tonight. We had  
20 something to say about it because, remember,  
21 it's not about your money it's about our  
22 money.

23 Mr. Rogan last week said you are  
24 here for the love of the city not the money.  
25 I didn't see anybody here cut their wages in

1 half, I don't see anybody here cut their  
2 pensions in half and say, let's give back to  
3 the people. I didn't hear any of those  
4 comments. But tonight you took a mayor's  
5 salary, a man or woman that you want to  
6 administer this city, a living disaster, and  
7 you want to pay 50, 60, 70 thousand dollars?  
8 Come into the real world find out what it is  
9 to administer a business, and this is a  
10 business, a 90 some million dollar a year  
11 business and we had a right to speak about  
12 it.

13 Mr. McGoff just thinks it's a joke  
14 because he gets a pension for the rest of  
15 his life from the school district where we  
16 pay taxes to see that he got his salary and  
17 got all of his increases and make sure that  
18 he will have his benefits and health care.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me, we are not  
20 here to speak about my --

21 MR. BOLUS: No, I'm not done, Mr.  
22 McGoff, you can talk with me when I'm  
23 finished.

24 You had a smile on your face talking  
25 about what we are doing here with people and



1           it annoys me.

2                   MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me --

3                   MR. BOLUS: I run a business --

4                   MR. MCGOFF: We're not here to talk  
5           about my pension or my retirement --

6                   MR. BOLUS: Oh, well, it is your  
7           pension. We pay for it. It's part of  
8           public record.

9                   MR. MCGOFF: I paid into it.

10                  MR. BOLUS: Yeah, you paid into --

11                  MR. MCGOFF: For 35 years.

12                  MR. BOLUS: So do we. So do we. We  
13           pay into it very dearly every time our taxes  
14           go up on our homes we pay very, very dearly  
15           and I work 365 days a year, much more than  
16           you did so let's not go there. I can debate  
17           you on it right to the end.

18                           I'm accustomed to running businesses  
19           and corporations. Now, if you want somebody  
20           to administer and run this city you had a  
21           \$50,000 a year person running it, look where  
22           you went? For 12 years you went down the  
23           tubes. What you need is somebody in here  
24           with a business background, somebody that is  
25           going to administer this city, come in here

1 and deal with you people face-to-face and  
2 not hide and run. Take the responsibility,  
3 what it's going to take to turn Scranton  
4 around. Deal with the leachate line. Deal  
5 with the KOZs and nonprofits, the University  
6 and other people. You need a strong  
7 administrator. You're not going to get it  
8 for \$60,000 handing out money that people  
9 earn without having the responsibility.

10 So what you did tonight you took the  
11 vote away from us to talk to people about  
12 where we are going and what we are doing and  
13 that was wrong. I'd love to be able to  
14 discuss everybody else's wages and see how  
15 they would like it at the end and see what  
16 they gave back in return, which is very,  
17 very little.

18 When you turn around and think that  
19 someone should come in here and now talk  
20 about the Sewer Authority you want to get  
21 rid of, the next cash cow in the city, we  
22 have assets that we, the people, have paid  
23 for and just look at your history, your  
24 background in administrative challenging, so  
25 to speak. South Side Complex. You sit here

1 and talk about money, yet, for a dollar a  
2 year you gave away the Ice Box. They put in  
3 a new Turkey hill, they are making money,  
4 because that's what a business does. It  
5 makes money. Chris Doherty is leaving this  
6 job because he said he is going to go out  
7 and make money, but he couldn't make a dime  
8 for the City of Scranton here and that's  
9 what you got for \$50,000.

10 If you want Scranton to survive and  
11 you want somebody in here to do the job and  
12 turn this disaster, this sinking ship  
13 around, you got to pay for what you are  
14 going to get, and what you did tonight was  
15 totally wrong as far as I'm concerned.  
16 Thank you.

17 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

18 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Joyce, before the  
19 next speaker, on the benefit that Mr. Bolus  
20 mentioned, I know Mr. Loscombe asked for the  
21 details, it's a breakfast buffet benefit  
22 this Sunday, February 17, from 9 a.m. to 12  
23 p.m., \$10 per person at the Dunmore  
24 Community Center located at 1414 Monroe  
25 Avenue in Dunmore and if you are unable to

1 attend and wish to make a donation they  
2 could be sent to Dunmore Fire Department in  
3 care of Dom Rinaldi, 400 South Blakely  
4 Street, Dunmore, PA, 18512.

5 MR. BOLUS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: You're welcome.

7 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is Ron  
8 Ellman.

9 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

10 MR. JOYCE: Hello.

11 MR. ELLMAN: Those three fellows  
12 here last week remind happened me of three  
13 vultures flying over a dying city picking at  
14 the bones. There just couldn't be a more  
15 one-sided useless contract than they  
16 proposed, but I didn't come to talk about  
17 them.

18 I hope everybody read this this  
19 morning, this about the pure Public Charity  
20 Act Mr. Blake is defending. You know, for  
21 the past couple of years I have pleaded with  
22 you people to investigate this Act and its  
23 loopholes and, of course, there was just an  
24 overwhelming lack of results from council  
25 like a lot of times when we suggest up here.

1                   Now Mr. Blake wants to go as far as  
2                   having a constitutional amendment made  
3                   against the cities for this Act. He wants  
4                   to clear up all of these loopholes. You  
5                   know, it's like we are not suffering enough  
6                   around here, I just don't understand  
7                   somebody that the taxpayers put it in office  
8                   thinking like this completely 100 percent  
9                   against the people that put him in office.

10                   Maybe if those guys are Archbald, if  
11                   their taxes were a third more like ours and  
12                   their school system was suffering and the  
13                   streets suffering and everything about the  
14                   city suffering because of nonprofits taking  
15                   away millions of dollars they might feel  
16                   different. I just find Mr. Blake's actions  
17                   an absolute disgrace to the people of this  
18                   city. It's an attack upon us, if you ask  
19                   me.

20                   You know, I talked to a real estate  
21                   attorney on the phone with an idea that I  
22                   had and he told me as far as he knew it was  
23                   feasible. It's simply freeze the taxes  
24                   where they are right now, have the Single  
25                   Tax Office put a lien for the year coming or

1 the coming years, 99 years, whatever, on  
2 every taxable property in the city and you  
3 cannot take it off. The nonprofits can't  
4 remove it without the Single Tax Office  
5 releasing it. What's wrong with that?  
6 That's it. That way you can have a budget  
7 without a million dollars or two million  
8 dollars worth of property being taken off  
9 the tax rolls by these nonprofits every  
10 year. You could have some kind of idea what  
11 kind of income we are going to have in, it  
12 wouldn't interfere one bit with buying or  
13 selling a piece of property. Maybe our  
14 esteemed attorney, I'm sure he would know  
15 more about it than I do, but just don't --  
16 you just got to do something. The city is  
17 just --

18 I talked to Mr. Seitzinger this  
19 morning about a little problem. In fact I  
20 phoned the office and left a message and in  
21 less than five minutes he phoned me back,  
22 and that's how things should be done in this  
23 city. I was really surprised. And I had a  
24 complaint about a piece of the property in  
25 my neighborhood and he said -- it wasn't

1           important, but he said he would have  
2           something done today about it which, you  
3           know, I certainly congratulate him.

4                       My neighborhood is just  
5           deteriorating. There is just -- I don't  
6           have no sidewalks, I got every -- last week  
7           there was water all over my yard where the  
8           sidewalks should be because the sewer they  
9           have been stopped up for 20 years and nobody  
10          seems to care. I go down, like I said, I  
11          can't walk on the sidewalk anywhere people  
12          park there cars with all four wheels on it.  
13          This isn't the neighborhood it was when I  
14          bought the house and I'd like to see that  
15          neighborhood come back.

16                      And I'd like to see something done  
17          about an elected official that wants to  
18          attack this city like this. This is a  
19          disgrace. This is absolutely -- it's just  
20          senseless to have a man in office that is  
21          completely supported and bought and owned by  
22          these nonprofits. Thank you.

23                      MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Ellman  
24          our next speaker is Doug Miller.

25                      MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,

1 Doug Miller, Scranton.

2 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

3 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to  
4 comment on the legislation again tonight in  
5 regards to the mayor's salary. You know, I  
6 feel we have had an ample time to have  
7 discussion on this issue. I think it's been  
8 a secret. We have had time to go back and  
9 forth and have dialogue and discuss whether  
10 or not we believe the mayor's salary should  
11 be 50,000, 60,000, 70, 80 or whatever we  
12 feel it should be.

13 I from day one did support an  
14 increase in the salary for many reasons, a  
15 few being including the fact that, you know,  
16 when you take a look at a lot of the other  
17 municipalities throughout the Commonwealth  
18 our salary certainly doesn't even come close  
19 to the salaries of the mayors such as those  
20 in Wilkes-Barre, Reading, Allentown and  
21 other municipalities, so I do feel that it  
22 was necessary to do that.

23 I didn't support a \$30,000 increase  
24 in one shot, as I made that quite clear from  
25 the podium a few weeks ago. I from day one



1 also was up of the opinion that it should  
2 have been done incrementally over the course  
3 of the next five years. That's what we are  
4 going to be doing here tonight with the  
5 amendment made to the legislation, \$5,000  
6 over five years. I would have been fine  
7 with the \$60,000. I don't have a problem  
8 with the 75 because I do feel when you take  
9 a look at the duties that the mayor,  
10 particularly in this town, has to take on I  
11 certainly feel it's appropriate to enact the  
12 this increase.

13 There was some concerns about  
14 vehicles and other things, other expenses as  
15 to being reasons why we would go against  
16 this. If that's an issue or if we have a  
17 problem with vehicles then I think we have  
18 the ability to draft legislation that would  
19 prohibit any elected officials such as the  
20 mayor from having a vehicle if that's our  
21 big problem and if that's our reason why we  
22 are against the mayor getting a raise.  
23 Well, then let's draft legislation to do  
24 away with the vehicle then, but I think that  
25 simply because our reason to go against an

1 increase for the mayor I just find it being  
2 totally absurd.

3 We know the situation we face and if  
4 we want to get competent people to run the  
5 city, well, then you have to pay them. We  
6 saw what we had the last 12 years for 50,000  
7 and we see the situation we are in today,  
8 well, you get what you pay for.

9 Onto the Parking Authority,  
10 obviously it's tabled this evening and there  
11 is still many questions that we had in  
12 regards to this contract. I'm looking  
13 forward to getting answers to some of them.  
14 I know there is issues on the meter  
15 increases and the switch to Saturday meter  
16 operation, I know there was some questions  
17 in regard to the remaining six employees  
18 that are out there that have not been  
19 retained. I, too, have some issues with  
20 that. It's my understanding that at one  
21 time there were 12 employees staffed by the  
22 Parking Authority, six were kept on by  
23 Central Parking which has obviously merged  
24 with Standard and other the six were left  
25 behind and I just don't feel that that's

1 fair. Those employees had a job, they did  
2 what they were told and they shouldn't be  
3 punished for the incompetence and fiscal  
4 mismanagement of that Authority that ran it  
5 recklessly over the last 12 years and  
6 certainly caused quite a mess that we face  
7 today.

8 But the bottom line here is real  
9 simple, as I've said, I've stated last week  
10 and I couldn't be more passionate about it  
11 if I wanted to be that the money has to come  
12 from somewhere, and certainly I don't want  
13 to see the residents punished. I obviously  
14 don't want to see businesses suffer, but the  
15 city could possibly be on the hook if these  
16 payments aren't made for over \$100 million  
17 and when we ask ourselves where will the  
18 money then come from? Well, it's going to  
19 come from the taxpayers and how are we going  
20 to get it from the taxpayers? It's going to  
21 come as the result of tax increases whether  
22 we want to believe it or not. It's the  
23 reality, it's the truth, I'm not going to  
24 lie, that's where it's going to come  
25 prosecute. As I said, you know, the city

1           doesn't have a printing press, we don't have  
2           a tree that we are going to print money  
3           from, it comes from somewhere and ultimately  
4           the taxpayers would yet again suffer and we  
5           want to avoid that at all costs.

6                        And I think that's why we are  
7           looking a new innovative way to bring in  
8           revenue and certainly do it in a way that's  
9           fair for all sides. Again, we are not  
10          looking to see anybody punished and that's  
11          why there is still some questions that need  
12          to be answered, that's why this legislation  
13          is still upon the table. So I'm hopeful  
14          that we will get the answers we need so that  
15          an informative decision can be made and this  
16          all works out for all sides involved. And  
17          with that said, that's all for tonight.  
18          Thank you.

19                      MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next  
20          speaker is Lee Morgan.

21                      MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

22                      MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

23                      MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

24                      MR. MORGAN: You know, generally I  
25          guess I don't see things the same way as

1 everyone else at times and as far as the  
2 mayor's salary, I think it should stay at  
3 \$50,000 and I think that maybe a lot of  
4 people will disagree, but I think what we  
5 are creating is a professional class of  
6 politicians who lack the vision, the insight  
7 or any leadership ability whatsoever.

8 You know, we keep talking about  
9 liquidating assets and, you know, talking  
10 about so many issues in this city and has it  
11 ever dawned on any of the council members  
12 that maybe the blight in the neighborhoods  
13 is due to poor legislation or just a total  
14 draining of the resident's salaries through  
15 taxes and other means?

16 And when you take a look at the  
17 Parking Authority, you know, when you see  
18 what people pay to park and you compare it  
19 to the wages they earn in this city, I  
20 don't-- you know, don't get me wrong, I know  
21 that the council forced the Authority into  
22 receivership, but at the same time it also  
23 caused a lot of problems with future  
24 borrowing and interest rates and the ability  
25 of the city to recover. You know, and then

1 we just keep continuing on and maybe it's  
2 time to gain control of these parking  
3 garages again and go back and look at the  
4 minutes when all of this money was borrowed  
5 and look at what the councilmen said at the  
6 time, because really what's happened here is  
7 with the creation of a professional  
8 political class we have thrown the working  
9 class people, for lack of better  
10 terminology, right under the bus because  
11 they are struggling to survive with the  
12 political class that has no understanding of  
13 the average working person in the  
14 communities they serve.

15 Now, in regards to the Sewer  
16 Authority, in eye opinion, I have had quite  
17 lengthy conversations with Mr. Barrett about  
18 the viability of the Scranton Sewer  
19 Authority and should we even consider  
20 liquidation of that asset? I disagree.  
21 Most of the borrowing that that Authority is  
22 doing is through Pennvest. If we term and  
23 we sell off that authority all of the  
24 requirements are still going to be have to  
25 be met by whoever runs it, unless the

1 federal government just decides, hey, you  
2 can privatize, so don't worry, do whatever  
3 you want.

4 You know, there comes a point when  
5 the people you elect have to show the  
6 ability to be leaders and lead, but that's  
7 not what's happened in this city. What's  
8 happened in this city is we have played  
9 politics, and like I have said before, we've  
10 elected spaghetti dinner politicians without  
11 the ability to lead, but what's really going  
12 to happen in this city is the residents,  
13 they are going to be living on spaghetti  
14 because they won't be able to afford  
15 anything else because absolutely this city  
16 has been misdirected, and not -- you know,  
17 it's pretty easy to come here and blame only  
18 the last mayor, but this problem has been  
19 ongoing for a very long time. A very long  
20 time. And it's been addressed many times,  
21 but the only problem is we have never  
22 elected leadership possible -- possibly that  
23 had the ability to lead because we keep  
24 trying to manipulate the voter base where it  
25 reached a point that so many people refuse

1 to vote and participate and those people are  
2 the people that if they return to the polls  
3 we can turn this city around. We can turn  
4 this country around. We have got to change  
5 our direction and selling our assets all off  
6 is not an answer. It's a problem. We need  
7 solutions, not more problems and we need  
8 something else that we don't have in this  
9 city, leadership and we need to let  
10 politics-- just pick all the politics up  
11 and stuff it in a corner and leave it there  
12 because anything the politics touches it  
13 destroys. Look at this city. Thank you.

14 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.  
15 Our next speaker is Fay Franus.

16 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

17 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

18 MS. FRANUS: Hi. I would just like  
19 to say I'm in favor for the parking meter  
20 raise. People seem to understand their  
21 taxes -- not their taxes, but their money  
22 maybe be spent from this, but don't they  
23 understand that without this revenue their  
24 taxes could skyrocket? I mean, everything  
25 adds up these revenue projects, so they have



1 to consider this stuff. And I also have to  
2 say to you council members, you don't only  
3 represent the business people you represent  
4 the 70,000 people in this who do not want  
5 their taxes to go up. I mean, I see all of  
6 these business people come here but what  
7 about everybody else sitting at home that  
8 possibly would get their taxes raised if we  
9 don't put this through? I mean, you just  
10 can't because everybody comes here try to  
11 please them and talk nice to them like, oh,  
12 we can't be afraid, they might not like us.  
13 If you really feel we need this revenue then  
14 you have to speak up. You really do.

15 And as far as the parking meter  
16 program, you need to get a manager. The  
17 city needs to get a manager to run this as  
18 and soon as possible, like, today. As soon  
19 as possible.

20 Where were the business people were  
21 the mercantile tax was lowered? Did they  
22 come and thank you? No. It's amazing,  
23 isn't it? You have to think about everybody  
24 in the city, not a select group. We need  
25 the revenue. I would rather pay a little

1 bit more in the parking meters than pay high  
2 amount in my taxes. Think about it and  
3 think about all of the people in the city  
4 not a handful.

5 Another thing, I'm sure Andy  
6 Sbaraglia didn't mean anything by this, but  
7 last week he said something that I picked up  
8 on, he mentioned about the mayor's salary  
9 and I agree it should be up. He said if a  
10 man wants to run for office, you know, a  
11 wife and a couple of kids he needs more  
12 money. Well, that's true, but how about if  
13 a woman wants to run for office with a  
14 couple of children or how about if a woman  
15 wants to run for mayor with no children.  
16 Did anybody take that into consideration?  
17 And I think everybody that's running for  
18 office instead of just their slogans on  
19 signs saying, "Time for a change. Out with  
20 the old, in with the new," I would like to  
21 see every person that runs for mayor or  
22 council or school board say exactly what  
23 their platform is. How are they going to do  
24 things financially to get things in order,  
25 not just say we are going to change things

1 and not talk about Mayor Doherty what he did  
2 wrong, I don't want to hear about who did  
3 what wrong in the past. I want to know what  
4 they are going to do in the future. What  
5 exactly their plans on are, not just signs  
6 and a little clip that's in the paper. I  
7 want to know exactly what their plans are to  
8 take care of the financial situation in the  
9 City of Scranton. Council, school board,  
10 and mayor, be explicit.

11 Another thing, I understand that  
12 Bill Courtright, he always was a big fan of  
13 the unions, the firemen and the policemen  
14 and other unions, but from what I understand  
15 now he is not publically supporting them or  
16 saying he will support them. Privately he  
17 is telling them, "Oh, I'm with you guys, but  
18 I really can't be associated with you."

19 Well, that's a little shocking. Why  
20 is this? I feel it's because many people  
21 the Scranton area don't like unions. Some  
22 do, some don't, but many don't, so he  
23 doesn't want to alienate these voters, so  
24 what he will do is make on he doesn't like  
25 the unions just to get their vote. I

1           wouldn't like it if somebody told me, "I  
2           like you, but I don't want to be seen with  
3           you or anybody to know that I support you."

4                        I think if a person likes somebody  
5           or is with someone they should stand by  
6           them. I think anybody that is running for  
7           mayor if they feel strongly about the unions  
8           they should be on that stage at their  
9           campaign events with a fireman or a  
10          policeman or any union representative with  
11          them saying, "I support you. I'm with you."

12                      And if you don't then say you don't,  
13          but don't play out of both sides of your  
14          mouths. Don't tell the union people you're  
15          for them, but I can't be seen with you.  
16          Make it known what you feel, don't scurry  
17          around it. And I understand he doesn't want  
18          to be associated with anyone on council  
19          either because some people don't like you  
20          people on council, so there is more votes he  
21          may lose. You can't do that. If a person  
22          could be like that, what kind of person  
23          would be if he were mayor? You have to  
24          think about it. If he can't really say how  
25          he feels what kind of person would that be

1 for mayor?

2 That's about all I have to say and I  
3 hope everybody thinks about what I said  
4 because it's very important. Thank you.

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

7 MR. EVANS: Good evening, Council.  
8 Greg Evans, resident of Scranton and  
9 Scranton small business owner.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

11 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

12 MR. EVANS: I had some things  
13 prepared and they involve -- bear with me,  
14 please, if I take a break and stutter my  
15 words. But first of all, I want to thank  
16 Leslie Collins from Scranton Tomorrow to  
17 come out, and she did an excellent job of  
18 articulating the concerns of downtown  
19 business owners, and also Gary Lewis. He's  
20 a great numbers guy, I always said that, and  
21 so his perspective is also very much valued  
22 by a small business owner.

23 The proposed parking meter times,  
24 date, rates are a slippery slope for  
25 downtown Scranton businesses and Scranton as

1 a whole. Simply, if downtown Scranton  
2 businesses losses customers they will  
3 relocate. If they do that, we could also  
4 lose wage tax and the mercantile tax if they  
5 leave Scranton altogether.

6 Something that Ms. Schumacher  
7 mentioned last week which gave a great  
8 perspective, and in regard to two things,  
9 the parking meter management and the mayor's  
10 salary. We are now going to give the next  
11 mayor, right, not the current mayor?

12 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

13 MR. EVANS: Irregardless, \$75,000 a  
14 year, but on the table is an agreement for  
15 \$120,000 a year management agreement with a  
16 minimum 3 percent annual increase and 10  
17 percent of citation revenues, and as she  
18 stated that you have the seal of a city of  
19 75,000, but the parking meter management  
20 only manages meters and six employees or  
21 seven employees. So when you put that into  
22 perspective, one is underpaid and one is  
23 overpaid it seems.

24 But going back to the parking  
25 agreement, it seems like we don't need a

1 management company, although, maybe we want  
2 to hire a management company to, what's the  
3 word, to advise us maybe, that way we are  
4 not locked into a five-year contract and  
5 with that advisement we can hire someone, a  
6 single manager at a lower rate and a  
7 reasonable rate at that to manage the six  
8 current employees and management of the  
9 meters and they can implement and come up  
10 with their own strategy, one voted on by  
11 council, perhaps, they can consider issues  
12 by the downtown business owners as well.

13 Again, regarding the parking, I do  
14 have a question and it concerns the bidding  
15 process. I remember in past council  
16 meetings there was talk of the StreetSmart  
17 program and I believe that was for an RFP  
18 for a 90-day trial period; is that correct?

19 MR. JOYCE: That is correct.

20 MR. EVANS: And Central Parking's  
21 RFP was not for a 90-day trial, was it? It  
22 was just for a management agreement; is that  
23 correct?

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

25 MR. EVANS: All right. So if the

1 90-day trial period actually occurred it  
2 would have been concluded by now and with  
3 that we would have more data to make an  
4 informed decision; right? Okay. You see  
5 where I'm going with that; right?

6 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

7 MR. EVANS: Okay. So that's all I  
8 have regarding the parking agreement. One  
9 more thing about the mayor's salary, like I  
10 said, it is underpaid. Even \$75,000 is  
11 arguably underpaid as well, but my concern  
12 is where is the money coming from because we  
13 do have a budget shortfall as is and, like I  
14 said, you know, there were salary increases  
15 that were voted down recently and not that  
16 anybody is, you know, those salary increases  
17 overpaid anyone, and including the mayor,  
18 but without defining where that money is  
19 coming from I would have disagreed with that  
20 vote until that money, that stream of income  
21 or that stream of the revenue for the  
22 mayor's increase was defined.

23 Lastly, I want to actually say  
24 something positive. It rarely happens at  
25 city council meetings, so let me do that and



1 I want to thank the city actually because  
2 when I returned to Scranton in 2007 I was  
3 part of the renaissance of downtown  
4 Scranton, that was my goal, and I suffered  
5 my own financial crisis when a vault  
6 collapsed in front of my building, and  
7 having all my eggs in one basket at that  
8 time I had an insurance claim in litigation  
9 that took over three years to settle and to  
10 obtain the funds to rebuild that sidewalk  
11 area. I want to thank the city and,  
12 subsequently like everyone in the city for  
13 enduring that timeframe. I know it has been  
14 an eyesore to many and a burden maybe, but  
15 please realize the strain it took on my  
16 business.

17 However, I am pleased to share with  
18 everyone that construction will begin on my  
19 vault sidewalk area as soon as we have  
20 consistent temperatures above freezing and I  
21 will be glad to be viewed as an asset to  
22 downtown Scranton as may of my neighbors  
23 are. Thank you.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

25 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, council.

1 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton.  
2 Troublemaker. First of all, I would like to  
3 once again express support of this council  
4 and I really would appreciate it if some of  
5 the speakers would consider what this  
6 council has done as compared to the previous  
7 councils. I mean, they may disagree with  
8 each other up there from time to time, but  
9 by and large there is a world of difference  
10 and many of your problems date back to what  
11 was just let happen and there weren't enough  
12 people on council to oppose it. So if you  
13 blame anybody blame the last councils and  
14 try to work with these people and don't  
15 discourage them from running, I am hoping  
16 that council will keep a similar  
17 configurations.

18 Now, in the 600 block of South Side  
19 Crown Avenue, once again, animal control was  
20 up there. To answer your question, if an  
21 animal is captured by animal control in most  
22 instances it's euthanized within an hour  
23 after it gets to the Humane Society, so if  
24 you have a cat or a dog that isn't neutered  
25 and they stray away please keep them in and

1           get them neutered. My cat got out one day,  
2           I went for a little stroll on my bike and I  
3           came back and he was laying right next to  
4           the dog out in the yard, but he is neutered  
5           so if he turns up missing you have nobody  
6           but yourself to blame.

7                        And last week a man mentioned about  
8           the paved patches on the roads, already  
9           there is patches already all over Mulberry  
10          Street, once again, it's the Sewer  
11          Authority.

12                      And I also would like to comment on  
13          I wish if somebody wants to be a lame duck  
14          they should stay a lame duck. Please no  
15          bright ideas with sewers or meters that --  
16          it's just gone too far. A lot of people in  
17          downtown were handed a lot of money and they  
18          renovated and put buildings up and some  
19          people have been sitting and treading water  
20          forever and it's just I appreciate that you  
21          tabled that last week.

22                      And, once again, corporations take  
23          care of themselves. They don't care take  
24          care of the people. They are more  
25          productive maybe, but then they also take

1 care of themselves and they line their own  
2 pockets. Down at the library there is "The  
3 Corporation", that's a documentary, and  
4 "Free Lunch" that's a book, and there is a  
5 new book out by David K. Johnston that is  
6 "The Fine Print" and last week we learned  
7 what the fine print was in that contract, so  
8 in the future I'll address that a little  
9 more.

10 And I just read an article in the  
11 Nation magazine about rebel towns, and I  
12 think it's about time we start to look into  
13 this. I am going to reprint the article up  
14 on my printer and let you guys have it.  
15 People are rebelling against these state  
16 governments that just impose a certain  
17 situation on them and be totally  
18 recalcitrant on how they are supposed to  
19 keep their heads above water and pay their  
20 city staff.

21 And on parking once again, you know,  
22 I have been noticing once the meters are no  
23 longer charging fees people park in the  
24 middle of the double meter and they get a  
25 big van or something like that and they are

1           denying another people -- a person a space  
2           and you have to walk, I'm parked way up by  
3           the library, and you will see various people  
4           parking at times right in the middle of a  
5           double meter. It's ridiculous. I mentioned  
6           that to you one night, Jack, and why don't  
7           we just have the police officers come by and  
8           hit them with a 20, 30 dollar fine and let  
9           them pay it, you know, get an ordinance  
10          going. And one vehicle one space is the  
11          bottom line.

12                   And, oh, Mr. McGoff, I hope that  
13           information I gave to you could help to  
14           please encourage recycling and get that  
15           coordinated because there is a lot of  
16           recycling, stuff that isn't recycled and we  
17           are paying for that after that.

18                   And golden parrot goes to Harry  
19           Reid. You know, I thought that our current  
20           choice for secretary of defense would make a  
21           good Republican president, but they're  
22           filibustering him, so bawk, bawk, Harry  
23           Reid. And don't forget call your  
24           congressman and tell him to take his  
25           outsource and shove it because is that why

1           your city is falling apart. Nobody has any  
2           money, everybody is starting back to work  
3           for 40 percent less and then people that may  
4           be voting for these people want raises, who  
5           knows. Thank you and don't forget to bawk,  
6           bawk, bawk.

7                   MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

8                   MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie.

9                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy. What's  
10           going on? Look at that, Jack. Look at  
11           that, Jack.

12                   MR. JOYCE: Well, you have a trophy.

13                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Nice, Chris.

14                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Chris would like me  
15           to thank, you can show the front and the  
16           back. He has got all of the autographs on  
17           the back of his shirt as well, and he wants  
18           to thank Bill Pasqualichio and his wife, and  
19           Lilly and Joe Repchis for all they did for  
20           him at Abington to get this award.

21                   MR. LOSCOMBE: They are all former  
22           West Siders, Chris.

23                   MR. SLEDENZSKI: That's right.  
24           Remember that. Like that, Jack?

25                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,

1 council.

2 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Since the amendment  
5 or the agreement has been tabled I will  
6 start because I probably had more than I  
7 could get through anyway, but I'll start  
8 with a couple of housekeeping items.

9 Mr. Loscombe, the false alarms from  
10 2012 yet?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: I to apologize, I was  
12 working on a lot of stuff on the parking  
13 issues this week. Between my job and that I  
14 haven't had a chance to get to the fire  
15 company.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: And, Mr. Rogan,  
17 three weeks ago you said you had received  
18 the OECD loan list the night before and you  
19 were going to study it and comment the next  
20 week and provide me a copy.

21 MR. ROGAN: I'm still reviewing it.  
22 Again, kind of the same thing Mr. Loscombe  
23 said, the parking issues kind of took the  
24 forefront, but if we can we'll print you off  
25 a copy right after the meeting.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Back to the  
2 agreement. Remember this quote? "Council  
3 fought for this for months. Council waited  
4 for cooperation from the administration on  
5 this for many months and we are very pleased  
6 in conjunction with the administration to  
7 pass this legislation tonight."

8 That was council president's  
9 endorsement of amending the Administrative  
10 Code of the City of Scranton, Pennsylvania,  
11 Section 614, contracts, Subsection C, to  
12 publically bid for professional services. I  
13 verified via a Right-to-Know there is no  
14 city solicitation on record for the  
15 procurement of on-street parking meter  
16 equipment and for the management  
17 administration of the city's on-street  
18 parking meter operation including  
19 enforcement and citation collection  
20 services.

21 Further substantiation is the quote  
22 from IPS for the parking meters, was  
23 submitted to SP Plus, which seems strange  
24 if, in fact, the quote was in response to a  
25 City of Scranton solicitation, so that first



1           whereas has definitely got to go. You are  
2           violating your own legislation. Needs to be  
3           bid out.

4                       Now, disclosing the memorandum of  
5           understanding between the city and SP Plus,  
6           a document executed on December 21, 2012,  
7           until it became a pseudo emergency is  
8           another issue as it's hamstringing the  
9           flexibility of our next mayor and city  
10          council. It's nice to say the agreement may  
11          be terminated without cause with 60 days  
12          notice, but the clause that requires the  
13          city to pay off the cost of the parking  
14          meters and vehicles would make termination  
15          prohibitive.

16                      We are on the hook now for \$468,300.  
17          At the start of the second payment year it's  
18          \$374,640. The third year \$280,872. The  
19          fourth year \$187,320. And the fifth year,  
20          \$93,660. Is it your plan to include the  
21          \$468,300 in the contingency account in the  
22          2014 budget? And maybe you can answer that  
23          next week. I would think it would be  
24          appropriate. If not, you best include at  
25          least a clause that protects the taxpayers

1           such that should SP Plus terminate the  
2           agreement they will lease the meters to the  
3           city for the \$7,805 a month for the balance  
4           of the 60 months at which time they will  
5           become city property.

6           The office space we are providing is  
7           another issue. Mr. Hughes told us they will  
8           have an office in city hall, but in caucus I  
9           believe Mr. Valero stated they would have a  
10          street level office which is important as we  
11          pay all expenses for their office, including  
12          utilities, and would be on the hook for the  
13          balance remainder of any lease of a  
14          non-city-owned property should the agreement  
15          be terminated. A ceiling amount for the  
16          expenses of this second office needs to be  
17          established. How much of this cost is  
18          included in the expenses provided?

19          Also, should File of Council No. 6  
20          of 2013 be passed without amendment SP Plus  
21          will they have the keys to city hall and the  
22          Treasurer's Office for those days and times  
23          that city hall is not open for regular  
24          business?

25                 Mr. Valero spoke of additional

1 equipment such as cameras similar, I assume  
2 to the equipment that's being used by the  
3 City of Harrisburg and leased for \$70 a  
4 month. Are these included or are they added  
5 into the expenses? Mr. Valero also noted  
6 that you, Council, and therefore we the  
7 public, did not have the final agreement  
8 before you. What you have has been amended.  
9 Do you now have you the amendments to that  
10 contract?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I'll  
13 complete next week, good Lord willing.  
14 Thank you and Happy Valentine's Day.

15 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, and Happy  
16 Valentine's Day to you as well. Is there  
17 anyone else who cares to address council?

18 MS. CHILIPKO: Good evening. Mary  
19 Chilipko, resident and taxpayer of the City  
20 of Scranton, crazed resident of the City of  
21 Scranton. I literally just did what Ms.  
22 Franus did, ran down here as I watched city  
23 council. I found I can't do that anymore.  
24 I either have to watch or be here, it  
25 doesn't work, so I look a fright.

1                   Thank goodness we have the Chrissys  
2                   of the city who come here with their honest  
3                   and sincere thoughts and express themselves  
4                   in such a manner. First, I'd like to just  
5                   report on Pinebrook, Pinebrook as a  
6                   neighborhood we have some good news. We are  
7                   doing well. Our city councilmen are  
8                   concerned, our police chief is concerned  
9                   about our neighborhood, and we have taken  
10                  some action as a neighborhood on some of the  
11                  condemned properties, some of the blight in  
12                  the neighborhood, and we are working slowly  
13                  to improve it.

14                  We also have good news, and I hope  
15                  it's okay to say this, that the canine unit  
16                  of the Scranton Police Department will be  
17                  training at the Chick Feldman, or as it's  
18                  better known, the Pinebrook field. That's a  
19                  very big plus for our neighborhood, and we  
20                  are so excited to have them there. That's  
21                  very good for Pinebrook.

22                  What I came here to say in the  
23                  future, the president, I guess, or the vice  
24                  president of city council should gavel  
25                  campaigning from the podium. I don't like

1           what I heard. It should be stopped and I  
2           hope this won't continue until the election  
3           in May. Isn't it city business that we are  
4           here for? Is there any kind of issue with  
5           people coming up here and campaigning rather  
6           than city issues or pertinent issues to the  
7           city or even the country? Can anyone answer  
8           that?

9                       MR. JOYCE: Yes, matters should be  
10           kept to city business.

11                      MR. MCGOFF: I was going to say,  
12           it's improper to discuss politics.

13                      MS. CHILIPKO: Right. Can we handle  
14           it in the future so we don't have to hear  
15           this week after week about candidate after  
16           candidate?

17                      MR. JOYCE: Yes, I'm sorry, I may  
18           have let one of the speakers go a little bit  
19           over the line and I was sitting there and I  
20           though about that afterwards.

21                      MS. CHILIPKO: That's okay. It  
22           comes as kind of a shock, but it's time for  
23           all of that too start, I guess, so if we can  
24           just handle that in the future I would  
25           appreciate it and I'm sure many of the other

1 people either viewing it at home or half  
2 dressed in city council chambers. Thank you  
3 have a good night.

4 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

6 MR. JOYCE: Is there anyone else who  
7 cares to address council? Mrs. Krake?

8 MS. KRAKE: We exhausted the items  
9 on the agenda and he did Fourth Order to the  
10 end.

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

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.

15 MR. JOYCE: This meeting is  
16 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
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