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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING	
HELD:	
Thursday, February 21, 2013	
LOCATION:	
Council Chambers	
Scranton City Hall	
340 North Washington Avenue	
Scranton, Pennsylvania	
CATHENE S. NARDOZZI. RPR – OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	
	HELD: Thursday, February 21, 2013 LOCATION: Council Chambers Scranton City Hall 340 North Washington Avenue

2 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT (NOT PRESENT)

5 FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF
(NOT PRESENT)

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR (NOT PRESENT)

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1	(Pledge of Allegiance recited and moment of reflection
2	observed.)
3	MR JOYCE: 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 reading
13	of the minutes.
14	MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. AGENDA
15	FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY'S REGULAR
16	MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 6, 2013.
17	MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?
18	If not, received and filed.
19	MS. KRAKE: 3-B. APPLICATIONS ALONG
20	WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING
21	HEARING BOARD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY
22	13, 2013.
23	MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?
24	If not, received and filed.
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MS. KRAKE: 3-C. THE SCRANTON
MUNICIPAL RECREATION AUTHORITY'S 2011
BALANCE SHEET FOR DECEMBER 31, 2011.

MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments? If not, received and filed.

Do any council members have announcements tonight? Councilwoman Evans not be in attendance tonight as she is seriously ill, and Councilman McGoff will not be in attendance tonight either. And that's all.

MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION.

MR. JOYCE: Our first speaker tonight is Ron Ellman.

MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

MR. ELLMAN: As council knows, I usually define myself as a messenger to you guys or a critic of you guys. I know I must be a constant source of grief and aggravation for you. Standing up here I sure made a lot of enemies, I told people you can make enemies two ways, walking your dog, my whole neighborhood seems to hate me

for that, and standing up here. It's just -- it's getting -- everybody used to like me when I stood up here now I got a bunch of enemies. If I side with you I guess some people mad at me, but when I say something adverse he get people mad. So I know what you guys must be going through. I know you must spend a lot of hours and time on things that none of us appreciate, and I'm on your side when a push comes to a shove.

In yesterday's paper a Ben McCormick wrote a harsh criticism of council and Mr. Miller and Mr. Courtright and I think he had a good point, but I think he just overexaggerated in his statements and I think council -- I don't see nothing wrong with council using this podium to announce your intentions to run for an office. What Mr. McCormick failed to mention there is a handful of people running for office that seem to have a complete indifference to the city. I don't know why they are running. They don't come to council meetings, school board meetings, taxpayers, commissioners,

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anything to do with the city. I have never seen any of them but they want an office all of a sudden.

You know, there is just so many good speakers that stand up here with so many good suggestions like Mr. Bolus and Andy and and Ozzie and Lee and Doug, it seems like you just don't grasp them. It just seems like unless you think of it yourselves that our ideas are no good. I don't know.

That's just my say-so on it.

I'm just make it short and sweet.

When I was a little boy my daddy would buy a Packard every year or two and the Packard -- the owner of the Packard dealer names Jack Chamberlain he was like a member of the family I saw him so much. He would bring a car over to the house for my mother. My mother bought the car. My father didn't care if it was a convertible or a wagon or what it was. Mr. Chamberlain would bring a car over and my mom would say, "Yeah, that one."

Where I'm going with all of this, you have to go after sales sometimes. I

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read in the paper last week that Mr. Hesser is moving the Nissan dealer. The mayor or one of you, somebody should go see this man and stop this or attempt to stop this. Ι know Mr. Hesser for years and he is just a congenial person. You could walk into his office if he is there and speak to him. of these inducements to get developers who have done nothing but cheat us left and right on building permits, there's got to be something done to save this dealership from leaving the city. This is really, that's why you can't make a budget. Please, I mean, somebody takes some time and go see this man and see if you could keep him here somehow. Thank you.

MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next speaker is Giovanni Piccolino.

MR. PICCOLINO: Good evening, Council. Giovanni Piccolino, one of the owners of Buona Pizza and my message is just simple, you know, it's only February but Easter will be five weeks away, if you could kind of roll this message out there in the next few weeks, I'm not sure I'll be ever to

be here, but we are just having a free
Easter bunch from 11 to 2 Easter Sunday at
Buona Pizza. Again, if you could guys could
just roll that message.

And alos, the other things I have is that I have teamed up with a partner and Mr. Tom Moran and we will be opening up two new businesses at the end of the block on Lackawanna Avenue at 544 Lackawanna AVenue within the next two weeks, the Corner Store and an express coffee shop. Just kind of ironic how they tried to throw me out of the block and now I'm the only one opening up a business there. So that's my two positive messages for the city. Hopefully we can all keeps our heads up with this city crises ordeal constantly going on. Thank you.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

MR. ROGAN: Mr. Piccolino, thank you for the invitation and the tour of the new business that you are opening as well as -- and for the pizza, the great pizza at Buona and I wish you the best of luck with the new business as well.

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MR. PICCOLINO: Thank you very much.

Have a good one. Thanks, guys.

MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next speaker is Gerard Hetman.

Good evening, Council. MR. HETMAN: Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County Community Relations Department. To begin this evening, the Lackawanna County Armed Forces Day parade will take place this coming spring on Saturday, May 18, 2013, on the same parade route in downtown Scranton that it's followed for many years now. department is working in conjunction with the Armed Forces week committee to try to build the parade and grow the parade both in terms of spectators and also in terms of participating organizations as much as we can. This is something we worked on last year as much as we could with the few months that we had available from the time our department started. This year we are trying to do bigger and better and more comprehensive job in growing the parade as much as we can to pay tribute to our men and woman in uniform and all of our veterans and

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associated personnel.

We would like to ask council, not obviously at the moment, but as you go through your daily business if you can recommend any community organizations, civic groups, anybody you know who is there a group in the city or in the region who may be interested in entering the parade, to march, to have some cars, any type of, you know, representation. It would have to be a community group, like a civic group, you know, marching, some type of marching group, like maybe a dance studio, something like that, but any community group that you may know that want to participate. We have reached out to pretty much all of the veterans groups, school bands and we have got a number of community partners involved, but there is always someone who may not be aware of it or we have may have missed or may not be aware of.

The two numbers they can contact on the Armed Forces Day committee, first is Sergeant First Class Tammy Naslowski and that's 570-496-8908 and then Joe Sylvester

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at 570-961-2696. And as always, we thank council and everyone who is in attendance and watching the meetings in helping us to develop the parade bigger and better and every year we aim for that goal.

Secondly, we have a letter on this, and we will leave it with council's office after the meeting, but the Lackawanna County Arts and Cultural Department has their annual \$500 municipal arts and cultural grants available for application. This is a program that provides municipalities with the stipend to provide fee arts and cultural programming in the community. There is a very simple process to apply and there is no set deadline, the Department just asks that you apply approximately three to four weeks before the program will be held. So if it's a concert series, just a few weeks before the concert starts, or if it's an art exhibvit, you know, maybe three or four weeks before the gallery opens, but there is a letter that details the process, it's pretty simple, and we'll leave that with your office at the conclusion of the

meeting.

And the third, just a note for council and taxpayers, the Lackawanna County Tax Claim Bureau will hold their annual judicial sale on 10:00 a.m., it's going to this coming Monday, February 25, at the Lackawanna County Courthouse, and there is a list of properties that will be available on the county website at LackawannaCounty.org.

So that's all I have for this evening and thank you, gentlemen. Have a good night.

MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much. Our next speaker is Andy Sbaraglia.

MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian.

MR. LOSCOBME: Good evening.

MR. SBARAGLIA I know we are in trouble financially. I'm not going to sit up there and browbeat you on it, I know what we got. I know what's going to happen, but you got to put more of an emphasis down there in Harrisburg. Our solution to where we were now is down in Harrisburg. You can only owe oppress the people so much.

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can't keep looking for ways to increase revenue on the poor backs and for people that are there, that doesn't work too well.

A lot of people are trying to get the heck out of Scranton. You got to get down to Harrisburg with our representatives.

We are 2-A city. Maybe there is a possibility we could start charging for fire service or police protection or one of these things just like we charge for picking up refuse. I mean, these nonprofits do pay electric, they pay sewer, okay? Of course they have their own trash haulers, but they do pay for things that they use, but they don't pay for fire protection and they don't pay for police protection. We have to be the great Santa Claus. The people in Scranton are actually Santa Claus to all of the nonprofits. Something's gotta be done. You got to get down or get our representatives down in Harrisburg and see what you can do. Maybe even -- I know we got a very young legislature, Blake and our two representatives are all first term, so hence, we are at a disadvantage down in

Harrisburg, I know that, but common sense might prevail if you would explain that all of the cities are in the same boat, it's not only Scranton, but everyone is going down the tubes, and they are going to continue to go down the tubes unless some ways change.

We got to make an effort down there either to get the state to take over the schools, which would help us tremendously or some way where we can charge the nonprofits for police or fire protection or both. I mean, we are -- you and I know there is a 40 percent increase coming. Do you want a 40 percent increase? I don't think you do. I don't think anyone in the city does. You got to try to head it off.

That selling the Sewer Authority with their liabilities and this, that, whatever, I don't think we are going to get that much out of it. I didn't take a look at the audit. I assume you studied the audit to get some idea of what the Sewer Authority is worth, how much they owe, how much their vehicles are, because it's all in the audit.

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Now, I need to have somebody go out there and I guess maybe to push, you have to say it was done by somebody competent, but the audit points everything out. Just look at what's in the audit and then figure on the liability for that 120 million is coming off that would be split over 20 years or something like that. You got to look at that and figure out what we can actually get by selling the Sewer Authority and actually what will happen to the tax ratepayers when a private entity gets in there. You know, of course, when they get in there they will be under the state, they become an authority, not an authority, but -- in other words, you would be like the PUC. I mean, the PUC, under the PUC, public utility commission, because they won't no longer be an authority.

Somewhere along the line we got to look at all of these things and try to head off that 40 percent increase in taxation that's coming up. I don't know if you can, but you got to make an effort now because really them months really fly by. We are

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almost into March already.

And as far as the Parking Authority goes, you and I know it's a lost cause. Nobody would ever buy that Parking Authority. There is no way. It doesn't make sense. Why would you by something that you can't even pay off the bonds? And their figures, I don't know where they got them from, but we are going to be more in debt with that Parking Authority and nobody actually ever says we still have a Parking Authority authority. I told you long ago, I would asked for their resignations. I would have went out there and said, "Get the heck out of here. What you did to the city is almost criminal."

I don't know if it is criminal, you would have to look, but certainly it was incompetence and to keep an authority in that's incompetent is ridiculous. You got to make an action. I mean, Mr. Joyce, I liked it when you told that guy from the business to retire. Of course they are all Democrats so you are not going to get too much on that. Thank you.

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

MR. QUINN: Good evening.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

MR. QUINN: My name is Ozzie Quinn with the Scranton Taxpayers' Association, homeowner. May I give these to Jamie? Thank you. First, I want to send my wishes to Janet Evans to get well. Janet works very hard in my opinion and she has taken a beating by the news media and blamed for a lot of things that it's not her fault. the Doherty's administration's fault, she and the rest of the majority up here have tried to turn this thing around and they are trying to turn it around on you. I feel very sorry for you and I feel sorry for Janet tell for all of the stress that she is under.

I want to say that I want to thank
Mr. Rogan for coming to our taxpayers'
meeting two weeks ago. We spoke on some
various issues in the city and Mr. Rogan did
very good job and that is being televised
and anybody out there who wants to look at

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the show, the taxpayers' program, go to ECTV
-- goggle ECTV schedule, ECTV schedule and
you will get the dates and times and you
will go and see that show over, okay? That
will be playing for all of February.

You know, in 1968 when the city and Dunmore ventured into that Sewer Authority, okay, having former a board of directors voted on by Chase bond -- the Chase bond and then in 1999 they had a management agreement with Anglican American who then a subsidiary of America Waters Association took over the management and in 1999 and 2004 the city and the Sewer Authority bailed out of agreement and they went before the Court, Anglican American, and they won a judgment against the city for \$8 million, which the city had to pay. Mayor Doherty went down to Mr. Barrett at the Sewer Authority. Barrett is a good friend of mine, personal friend of mine, and I know him for many, many years in OECD and he has done a lot of good public service, however, he signed an agreement which you have in front of you with Mr. Doherty and it's witnessed by one

person. It's a global agreement to sell the Sewer Authority off, all right, and for \$8 million the Sewer Authority borrowed the \$8 million from a bank, paid off the Dunmore judgment and paid off the City of Scranton judgment and we are left holding the bag. He did not come to city council for any approval.

Now, the Home Rule Charter
unequivocally says that Section 502 that he
has to come to the city council, the
council, for any ordinance of legislation or
resolution. He just unequivocally went down
there and signed that agreement. Can you
imagine that, without anybody knowing? You
people did in the even know that. Nobody
knew that on city council, and he said -- he
says the only thing that the Sewer
Authority, the city council has the power
now, I give them the power to -- we have the
power to appoint board members. Of course,
he appoints the board members for your
verification or second, okay?

Now, come on. What do we have a Home Rule Charter for? I would talk to

Mr. Hughes because I think this here whole thing is void. This whole agreement that's going on from day one if someone challenges -- if somebody with any money ever challenged the Court we are going to be in a lot of trouble. There is no doubt about it.

The PUC, when he did it I called the PUC up and I asked them, "What can be done? What's going on here? He didn't go to city council?"

The PUC again says to me unequivocally "We have doing to do with the municipal authorities. It's not a public utility, the Sewer Authority. It's not a public utility."

I read now where they have get approval to sell it, okay? Now, I don't know where this is coming from. I guess it's factual or it wouldn't be printed maybe, but the fact is that I was told by the lawyer that the PUC says nothing to do with --they couldn't do nothing -- they couldn't do anything in regard to what Mr. Doherty did by taking -- taking out a loan through the Sewer Authority for \$8

million to pay off that judgment. I think

-- I hope you people look into it and find

out what's going on here because it's a sham

and it's a shame and it's deceptive and it's

put us in a very precarious position for a

further lawsuit in the City of Scranton.

Thank you very much.

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

MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.

Dave Dobrzyn, resident of the Scranton.

Chief troublemaker at large.

MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

MR. DOBRZYN: First of all, once again, I would like to express support for what council has gotten done during this term, and I would also like to try to influence everybody to run again, as many as can, hopefully we won't have a health issue or something involved there, but the job is only partially done and if you can take it, please do it because who knows what you will get next time.

We missed the big opportunity here, we should have bargained with that mayor's

race for it term of two limit, two-term limit. It just got passed. We always seem to have some kind of crises going on here, but none of us walk on water. There is good and bad in everybody and I'm not talking about legislative side I'm talking about administrative side. It's the power is too concentrated there and people run out of ideas and their ideas don't work and then it just gets to be enemies of the glorious revolution instead of, you know, getting something done that need to be done the way it needs to be done.

And once again, I would like to call on a -- for a tax exempt -- a Commission on tax exempts. We really have to -- how many are too many, and I'll go to the bottom of my little note page here because Senator Blake is looking up some type or pushing some type of -- what is it, constitutional amendment maybe to ban towns from refusing tax exemptions and now Scranton Times had an editorial the other day on this, it said 20 percent. Well, we are at 33 or 35 percent and how much is too much? And it's just

ashame but it's going to drain our tax base and as you know every year you people makeup the budget if you take what we would be paid in taxes on tax exempts, and not all of them are nonprofits, we would definitely have our budget hole filled, so we really need to emphasize this and then to lobby people like Senator Blake because I think it's getting a little wrong-sided there.

And I have been noticing in the courts when I walk poochie TVs are no longer accepted by DPW by law. Computer screens are no longer accepted, electronics are no longer accepted and tires haven't been for a number of years and they are piling up in the courts, so if we could get somebody to start paying attention to that maybe put a warning, you know, make a list that says, "This is not an acceptable solution to disposing the tires," before they wind up on my lawn. I don't need them.

Okay, now up in Crown Avenue, and I talked to people down the street now three blocks at a local store and there is a lot of animals being abandoned and maybe people

put them out after they lose their apartment or they can't find a place for them to go, and there is a low cost neuter clinic EPAA, they do it up at Griffin Pond Animal Shelter, it's \$60 and the number is a 570-994-5846 and I might note that the city seems to be spending a lot of money on this so, please, have your animal neutered and then even if you did abandon the thing, which is the wrong thing to do in the first place, they won't be reproducing.

And on this Sewer Authority and the parking meters and so forth, I think no large deals for right now. Have it appraised, have it audited and let's get it straightened out, but that's -- I didn't vote for anybody to go privatizing. Unfortunately, Chris Kelly gets the golden parrot award this week because once again because Janet has to read off the proposals of the administration and these authorities somehow she is listed as a supporter of it and I don't think that's the case. I haven't talked to her about it, and she probably has too many people to talk to in a

week every week, but the point being that these were bad ideas to begin with and they are not going to get any better. They are not going to get any better. We have -- we just need to stay the course and taxes have to go up and that's the way it is and then it's time for everybody to wake up and get involved.

Once again, another golden parrot for Harry Reid, he did change the filibuster rules, one senator gets to dictate more power than the president and we have Chuck Hagle, I always liked him as a Republican and I thought he would make a great president, but a lot of people don't think so, so they are filibustering. We don't have a Secretary of Defense, we have NATO negotations and all this week, but nothing is being done, so bawk, bawk, Harry, I'm just wild about Harry. Have a good night.

MR. JOYCE: Thank you. You, too. Our next speaker is Doug Miller.

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

MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

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MR. MILLER: Before I get into my issues tonight I just wanted to take a brief moment just to express my condolences to the family of Ms. Diane Marinchak, a West Scranton teacher who passed away suddenly the last few days and certainly is going to be missed in the West Side community, made a tremendous impact on the lives of many students through the years and she was quite instrumental in many community engagements, particularly here yearly cleanup efforts over at Fellows Park. She was never a teacher of mine, but over my four years at the high school I did get to know her and I did work with her on a few of these cleanups and she truly will be missed and just if we keep the family in our prayers tonight.

Moving on, I wanted to ask tonight it we can get an update on the Linden street Bridge, I know that this has been ongoing for quite some time now. This is going back to when Mr. Brazil was still head of DPW and I know that PennDOT and other officials were going to take a look at it and I don't know if we have any update at this point.

MR. ROGAN: I spoke to PennDOT I believe it was two or three weeks ago and the last update I had they were just working on one or two last things regarding fiber optic cables that were underneath the bridge and with the railroad company as well, but they do expect that project to be finished before the end of the year. I will follow-up with them again next week.

MR. MILLER: Okay. Appreciate it.

It's my understanding that the last few weeks the situation over there has gotten a little worse in the terms of the condition of that bridge and, you know, I would hate to see us have another, you know, Rockwell Avenue bridge situation on our hands where it's tied up for quite some time and interferes with people trying to commute daily.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Miller?

MR. MILLER: Yes.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Are you referring to the West Lackawanna Avenue bridge?

MR. MILLER: I'm sorry, yeah. I'm sorry, the West Lackawanna Avenue bridge.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I actually was over their the other day and took some new photographs, that section is just about ready to go down.

MR. MILLER: I apologize.

MR. ROGNA: Yeah, I'd assumed that's the one you were talking about.

MR. MILLER: With all the bridge we have out in this town it's hard to keep track.

MR. ROGAN: Lucily -- if Linden went back us in West Side would have a tough commute.

MR. LOSCOMBE: I know, I was going to say, I know Mr. Rogan addressed it last week or the week before about the Linden Street bridge and that's why I --

MR. MILLER: Yeah. No, thanks, Jack, for correcting me on that. In regards to the parking meter issue that we have ongoing, as I have been stating for the last few weeks it's my only hope had that a decision will be made that certainly solves the issue once and for all. You know, this morning's paper we saw that with projections

they are projecting that we may be between 300 and 500,000 thousand dollars short in revenue and certainly we know that the outcome would be that the city would be on the hook for those payments and that's something we are trying to avoid and that's why I think we are looking at some sort of innovative way to generate new sources of revenue so that we avoid placing that burden on the taxpayers.

You know, Mr. Sbaraglia earlier tonight spoke about the potential of seeing a 40 percent tax increase. Well, if we don't come up with some sort of the plan to generate revenue I think you are looking at well beyond the 40 percent tax increase and that certainly something that we don't want to have to deal with.

Mr. Ellman brought up a point tonight, and I normally don't address the criticism and things like that, but there was I guess a letter to the editor I was made aware of yesterday and it did refer to myself campaigning, supposedly campaigning from the podium. Mr. McCormick claimed that

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I campaign from the podium and lay out my agenda every week. Anybody that knows me quite well knows that I come to these meetings every week and I have done so for close to 12 years now. I'm not an individual that you only see here every I believe four years around election time. that would be the difference between myself and any other individual or any other candidate that may seek an office. I think it's pretty safe to say that all of the candidates that are you think for office, whether it's council, school board, mayor, I probably have been coming to these meetings a lot longer than any of them and that's something I'm very proud of because it shows one thing, it shows a commitment to the city and not that I'm someone who campaigns every year from the podium. I'm here every week in your face, I raise my issues and it's not a secret.

So to Mr. McCormick, you know, when you want to make statements, you know, talk factual information. You know, you see me here every week, you know this podium is

maybe if we put that much effort into something positive we might be able to get something accomplished in the city rather than worrying about who is running for an office or who comes down and speaks and let's put all that effort in something productive so we can move the city forward. We come here to try and find solutions to move the city forward, rather than coming down here being critical and, you know, playing personal attacks I just think it's irrelevant and it has no place in what we are trying to do here. And, you know, finally tonight, it was stated earlier this evening, you know, about the criticism that the council has faced, whether it's the media, you know, the Scranton times in particular, you know, its writers Chris Kelly, the editorial board,

you know, all of the articles and the

editorials that they have done recently in

open, it's free speech, if you have an issue

or concern come on down. I don't believe I

have ever seen you down here, so rather than

focus our time on all the negative energy

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regards decisions that this council has made, you know, maybe if they took a second to sit back and actually see how difficult these decisions are and what you have had to go through, you know, especially last summer when we had to go through the recovery plan and the budget process and all the obstacles that you faced they would see how difficult it truly is.

You know, it's easy to sit back, as I've said, and sort of cheerlead from the bleachers and tell elected officials how they should run the city and name call and blame this one and blame that one, but, you know, take a look and see how difficult it really is and the city faces. You know, it's all well and easy to sit behind our computer screens and write our letters to the editor and blame this one and blame that one, but, like I said, come forward and put all the energy into something productive and that maybe if we put our minds together we can turn the city around because it's about cooperation and coming together. That's the only way you get things done. Thank you.

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MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next speaker is Bob Bolus.

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

MR. LOSCOBME: Good ahead evening.

MR. BOLUS: I hate to see Mrs. Evans not here, I hope she has a speedy return. It's no fun without her being here, you know? It just take the fun out of it. As you know, we put a suggestion in that we are interested, our group is interested in taking over the city meters, and I'd like to pursue that. If we are going to do something about it then we might as well do it locally then instead of if giving it somebody out of the area, so I want to make that approach to council before you do something else with it. We would like to review the contract, we would like a copy of it and I'd like to submit our own offer.

I believe meters should be put around all around the University, all around their commercial properties that they are leasing and renting out to students and people, meters should be put there. At the

same rate that they want to put everywhere else in the city. There should be no separation as to who is is who and where they should be. That's all lost revenue on a daily basis since they have been taking a free ride. We should go after them with the Chick-fil-a and everything else inside, this commercial businesses, they shouldn't be exempt.

The parking garages all throughout the city that we have been in litigation for God knows how many years yet nothing has come to fruition. There is litigation, why isn't it pursued? What is Paul Kelly doing? He wants to earn an extra fee, go get our money on the parking meters and the parking garages especially those that are owned by the DeNaples that we have never received a dime for, yet he has tied us up with litigation now he wants to continue litigation.

I don't know if anybody today
watched the dust storm going across the
Interstate, across Dunmore now from the
landfill. That wind was blowing, it was a

dust cloud blowing across. Well, if you don't know anything about pollution, think about airborne carcinogens going through the air and that's what we are breathing.

That's our real health hazard, so I believe people, especially the Scranton Council may want to send a letter to DEP and inquire about why we have to breathe what's coming from the landfill because of the height and the wind blowing across there, when all they needed to look at to realize what I'm saying here could be serious health consequences for all of us. We don't even have that.

Us, our children, and their children for no reason.

You know, the Scranton Times I heard Mr. Miller talk about something. Well, Mr. Miller doesn't know I took it to litigation when I was a candidate and we defeated the council that was here that was trying to prevent candidates from coming here and speaking and they lost. Every candidate, including Mr. McCormick who wants to sit back and play with his computer or whatever, if he has got an issue and he

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knows how to make the city any better than it is or any worse come here, it's free speech, so don't think he could sit there and deny any candidate or any person from coming here and speaking out. We took it to Court, Mr. McCormick, and we won. It's free speech for everyone, including yourself, and any of those that want to quarterback from a bleacher.

I think when you sit here and you listen about the meters and stuff they should put a big dart board behind you guys because nobody's got an accurate figure yet for the three judges, before anybody, and throw a dart and see what we come up, but it's the best estimation of where we are financially. So let's just play darts next council meeting. I think we'll get more out of that than we will with all the hypotheticals that we are shooting around Scranton needs a forensic audit the place. once and for all and know where you are going because we are in the dark, we are blind allied, we don't know what we want to sell, what we want to do next because we

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have no clue and we need to get a clue, we need to know where we are going and then make intelligent decisions. So far we haven't made a single one that's intelligence. Now, it's the Sewer Authority, it's this, it's that. I think before we put city hall up for sale we should fix the lights in here. We will get a heck of a lot of better price then you can see in here.

You know, you see Mr. Volpe, there's another guy. He wants somebody to do his dirty work. He is like Mr. McCormick. won't run for an office, he won't come out here where it takes a lot more, as each and every one of you know, myself and other candidates, what it takes to really run for a public office. He has tried it and lost. If the people wanted him they would have put him in office, so don't come around and want to change how the commissioners do business, how we live our life. If you want to be a changemaker run for an office, but don't ask the people of the Lackawanna County to do your dirty work. It's not going to work

that way.

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The KOZs and the non -- I'm sorry, KOZs and nonprofits, you ought to go after them, you need to go for the fees, you need to bring in money in the city. There is millions and millions of dollars out there. Don't look at liquidating the city, look at going after the money that's owed us. have the Ice Box down there. Let Paul Kelly figure out how to break the lease right now for a dollar a year for how many years? And we'll take over the rent down there. take over the property, we will put it out for bid and pay our bills. There are many, many ways here in the city to generate income from our assets, and that's not selling them and that's not giving them away. We can't be that stupid. We can't run the meters in the city? You are paying over a 100 grand for a guy to walk around the parking garages and administer that yet you want to have a mayor in the city and pay him peanuts to administer a 90 some million dollar a year budget.

And last week I faulted council for

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changing the agenda by putting motions first, changing the agenda items that we didn't get to speak on before you voted on them. I personally think, and it's been challenged in the past, that was illegal to do. Because we have the right to speak when you change the agenda item that was on the agenda, so I think you have to revisit that and maybe make a motion to put it back where it was then let people speak on it and then vote and it. Thank you.

MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to address council?

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

MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

MS. SCHUMACHER: First I'd like to thank Mr. Loscombe for providing the quantity of false alarms for the last calendar year. Thank you. Continuing where I started last week on the Rich report, did you all read the Rich report? Okay.

MR. LOSCOMBE: The parking report,

is that what you are asking? No, I haven't, in fact, I've got to request a copy. The last copy I have of a Rich report is 2003.

MS. SCHUMACHER: The last I think was '4, the previous one. Okay, because the Rich report states based on this, which was a dialogue, it appears that the on-street parking meter may be adequately staffed with four issuing tickets, one collection and repair person, and one on-street coordinator.

Now, I'd like to make a little comparison between the Parking Authority and what we have been told about SP Plus. First of all, in 2012 the city budgeted \$562,000 for the employees and to pay for the expenses, which is \$416,000 less than the amount that Mr. Hughes estimated would be paying to SP Plus for their operating expenses. I believe the figure he used was \$978,000.

Next, the 2013 prepared by the administration and you all increased the revenue from the parking meter violations by \$300,000 over the 2012 budget attributing

the increase to the upgrade of the meters that will take place, so that's a wash. If you put the new meters in it doesn't matter who is -- and you have got the same people doing this citation issuing. So so far the SPA is still ahead of SP Plus by \$116,000 even if you give all the \$300,000 to SP Plus, though one could argue that the SPA would have collected more with the new meters as well.

Now, Mr. Hughes estimated the citation revenue would increase by \$1.1 million by the enhancement of the meter people and with the conversion of the meters. Since the citation issuers are, if we are to believe Mr. Valera, the former SPA people and will be trained by the manufacture of the new meters according to the proposal from IPS, with the balance credited to the new meters it's again reasonable to assume the Scranton Parking Authority would have achieved the same increased revenue with the new equipment and training.

Bottom line, it's entirely possible

that we could do as well or better with the prior SPA agreement than with the SP Plus agreement. The only thing SP Plus brings to the table is financing the new meters. But if you put in that overwhelming \$120,000 a year I think that the interest we are paying on those meters goes up quite a bit.

I believe that a lease of the new meters from IPS should be investigated if it hasn't already been. Do we know what IPS would charge to lease the meters to us instead of outright buying?

MR. JOYCE: We don't know.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Because we are going to pay all that money and we are not going to have, according to go Mr. Valera, we are not going to have any value because they lose their value after seven years, so I think you really need to look. Is that going to be brought off the table tonight, by the way?

MR. JOYCE: No.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I think that's sort of imperative that you get that off the table because the new meters, all this

revenue is attributed to the new meters, according to all sides, so every day or week that you put off addressing that issue is another week that the parking -- or the new meters aren't put on order and are not functioning, so we are just cutting the revenue for this year.

report it's imperative that Mr. Washo appear before council to answer the many questions raised by this report. I would like to know why the Scranton Parking Authority garages offer a monthly rate of \$80 to the county employees, yes, those people who spend our tax dollars, but won't give a similar break to city businesses, yes, the people who pay the taxes on their gross receipts. Whether or not they make a profit, the government gets their share of the top off the top.

Now, we know from that report, if anybody has read it, that the garages are severely underwater. I believe the valuation put on the garages was \$22 million. According to the last audit report we owe \$54 million in principal and, of

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course, another almost a like amount in interest, and there is a big -- apparently a big maintenance bill coming up. I mean, in the millions of dollars, not huge, but in the millions of dollars and I would like to know where that's coming from.

And, if I may, just one more thing on the other item that's tabled, which is is there some place that I could read how it is a procedure for selecting where parking meters are placed? Is it just random? Because, I mean, for instance somebody called to my attention the fact that in the 500 block of Jefferson there are parking meters and that's in front of the Amos Towers building and so all the people there who get either people coming in to help them clean their apartments sometimes get \$20 tickets, but if you go down to the 600 block of North Washington Avenue there are none. None at all, and I don't understand that difference and and I would think there is some kind of a procedure and maybe you could research that and see if there is a way, some methodology that is used that could be

shared with the public?

MR. JOYCE: Yes. Something we'll have to look into. I believe there would have to be -- I believe when they meters were put into place that there would have been some sort of study to decide where these locations would be.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, that's what is in my head, too. There must have been something or there must be some kind of methodology and I think that needs to be brought out and maybe changed or followed instead of just this block yes, that block no, so thank you very much.

MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to address council? Mrs. Krake?

MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

MR. JOYCE: Mr. Rogan, do you have any motions or comments tonight?

MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. I would also like to start off, as Mr. Miller did, to send my condolences to the family of Mrs. Marinchak. She was my 9th grade science teacher at West High and she was liked by

everyone and I could speak for most freshman classes, we weren't always the easiest to deal with, but she was always very kind to everyone and she was a great teacher and she we will be missed in West Side.

Next onto a few items, I'd like to thank Representative Kevin Haggerty, and specifically his chief of staff Joe Fabricatore, for contacting me earlier in the week regarding a grant that PEMA is opening up for emergency generators for emergency shelters in the area and I did pass that along to -- and, Mrs. Krake, if would then pass it along to everyone who is handling that issue so hopefully the city will be able to reap the rewards of that grant. And, once again, thanks to Representative Haggerty.

Next, I would like to comment on the report I received from OECD regarding the loans. It's very lengthy, so I'm going to break it down by weeks. The first week I'm going to start off positive and name all of the businesses who have received a loan from OECD and that loan has been satisfied, and

next week I will address the loans that are open and then the week after that would be the loans that are in litigation, and just to get the number out there regarding the dollar amount for what's in litigation, it is, when you add it up, to over \$2 million worth of loans that are currently in litigation.

But these are this list of
businesses or businesses that did receive
loans through OECD and have fully repaid
them: 119 Jefferson Associates; 410-412
Spruce Street; Preferred Produce; Scranton
Dunlop, Incorporated; SECCAS, LLC; Ash Car
Lackawanna County Station; Backyard Ale
House, LLC; Electric City Television; Jay's
Commons; United Neighborhood Centers; F & M
Restaurant Gree Bistro; About Tyme Cafe;
Main Street Tent Rental; and Mitchell
Restaurant.

So these are some of the success stories where the loans were paid off and taken care off and they were satisfied, so they are the success stories and, as I stated, next week I will list the longer

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list of the open loans, and finally the also long list of the loans that are, unfortunately, in litigation, and the one that really seems to burn me and many residents the most is the infamous Molly Branigans's loan for \$650,000 that still remains unsatisfied.

Next, over the last weekend I had a resident contact me who lives on West Mountain who had an issue, and just to Now, West briefly address the problem. Mountain Road there is significant runoff when it rains because it being built on a The resident contacted me stated mountain. that the DPW went on his land and averted some of that water that was washing down onto his property which could cause a very big problem, and I went up there and by looking at it, I'm obviously not an engineer, but by looking at it all of water on this road travels down one side. There are gutters systems established for that and they were clogged with leaves, debris, bricks and instead of addressing that situation or if there was a Sewer

Authorities' responsibility passing it onto them, what they did was they took a section of this resident's property, took a backhoe or front end loader to it, pushed out a cut and averted all that water coming down the road onto his property.

And there is no doubt that there is a problem with water on that road and something has to be done, because you could see the road may have erroded away where all of the water is washing down and it's something that needs to be addressed, but by diverting water onto sombebody's property isn't the right way to go about it.

There is a police report. The police report also states that the residents contacted DPW and the DPW informed them that the city would not correct the problem that they caused on February 13 when they plowed the ditch onto their property. Now, they also showed the concern for the blocked drainage pipes on the other side of the roadway that seems to be the issue that should have been addressed because it's overflowing all the way to the other side of

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the road.

This is just another one of these issues where it seems that things were done without thinking them through and this is another issue that may end up in the courts as a lawsuit because the property owner obviously doesn't want all of the runoff from the road traveling onto his property, and when I spoke to him he mentioned that it may wind up in litigation. We surely hope that doesn't happen.

So, Mrs. Krake, can we please send this to the DPW and ask them to reach out to the residents, they know who they are, they have contacted the DPW numerous times on this issue and see if this can be worked out without them getting into litigation where it's going to cost the taxpayers more money?

I also have a few more requests:

Please send a request to the proper city
departments asking the status of the

Rockwell Avenue bridge. Some residents
called today asking for the status of that
project, and I did look up in the Scranton

Times, there was an older article regarding

this, and it mentioned about PennDOT being involved. Well, PennDOT is only overseeing the safety, they are not actually -- it's not actually a PennDOT project from speaking to them, so this is, you know, a project that I know the residents of North Scarnton have been waiting a long time for this to be completed.

Next, another request to DPW that

Dewey Avenue behind Lackawanna Little League
is plowed when it snows. Residents have
contacted me and stated that they plow all
around, but not on Dewey Avenue.

Also to DPW, a request that Pike
Street is it paved with the grant money that
was recently announced that the city will be
receiving, and this unlike the funds that
are used yearly for paving, these funds are
not limited to low or moderate income areas,
they could be used anywhere throughout the
city and I know from being up at Pike
Street, I know Mr. Loscombe was up there as
well, and I believe Mr. Lockwood from the
Times, it might have been a previous
reporter that was up there with me and we

looked at it, and the road is in terrible condition, so hopefully that can be placed on the list for the grant funds.

And finally, another request to
Licensing and Inspections asking if there is
a date for rooming house inspections in
Pinebrook; and also they want to know, some
people brought up the question about the
outsourcing of certain inspections within
the city and they would like to know what is
recently done in-house and what is currently
outsourced and that's definitely something I
think all of council should be informed
about it and the citizens as well.

So that is all I have for tonight.

Thank you.

MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.

Mr. Loscombe, do you have any motions or

comments?

MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you.

Just to echo Mr. Rogan and Mr. Miller, I,
too, would like to send my condolences to
the Marinchak family, although I'm not as
young as Pat, I wasn't a student, but I have
known Diane for many, many years and it is

heartbreaking. Her husband George was a colleague of mine for many years on the fire department and keep the whole family in your prayers because this last year has been a tough one on the whole family. Diane and George have raised a special needs child through all of the years, but she lost two brother-in-laws very young in this past year too, so it's been a tragedy for the family and I would like you to keep the whole family in your prayers and give them your strength. And that's all I have tonight. Thank you.

MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much,
Mr. Loscombe. Good evening. I would just
like to begin by addressing a few issues,
but before I do that I also would like to
send my condolences to the Marinchak family,
and I would ask that you keep them in your
prayers over the uncoming weeks.

Secondly tonight, there was an article in the Scranton Times, as everyone knows, regarding the parking garages and the SPA and that the SPA -- or that the parking garages, rather, aren't performing up to par

according to Standard parking estimates.

Basically here's how it goes: The SPA has to pay \$3.4 million worth of bond payments. The city budgeted \$1.9 million to assist in those payments. That leaves \$1.5 million left. According to the figures in the newspaper based on the four months of Standard Parking data, it looks like we are only going to come out \$1.2 million, which would be leave the city -- or the authority, rather, \$300,000 short with the additional \$1.9 million that the city budgeted.

Now, with this in mind, I'd like to know what Standard Parking plans on doing to meet the revenue projections that they originally provided.

So, Mrs. Krake, if we could please send a letter to John Rogers from Standard Parking and ask him the steps that Standard plans on taking to address the parking garages and what they intend to do to increase revenue. It's very important that revenue is increased so we don't go over that \$1.9 million amount.

Secondly, there has been a lot of

talk tonight about nonprofits, and I know that Mr. Sbaraglia said that we need to put more of an emphasis on Harrisburg, and I can't agree with him more. Basically there is a lot of good ideas for revenue that people bring to the podium, that other council members think of, that the administration thinks of. However, the Local Tax Enabling Act, which is Pennsylvania law, prohibits a lot of what these ideas would bring to us. Basically it sets restrictions on what the City of Scranton as a class 2A city can and cannot do.

With this in mind, I think that a public safety fee is something that we should definitely look into as far as the nonprofits are concerned because I know that the University of Scranton and Marywood do have a security force, however, there is --there is still instances where the Scranton Police is called out and also the Fire Department is called out and the Fire Department is a service that the taxpayers of Scranton provide for.

So with this in mind, I would like to construct a letter or letters to Representative Flynn, Haggerty and Senator Blake asking if they would support fighting for a public safety fee for nonprofits organizations because they do use our services in the city such as the size of Scranton we have a lot of nonprofit institutions here, and I know that some nonprofit institutions are contributing to in the form of PILOTS, however, we have to get more out of the nonprofits because the taxpayers are constantly getting slammed and it's not right.

Other than that, I do have just two requests for tonight, two citizens' requests: There is a stop sign knocked down at the corner of Rockwell Avenue and Charles Street in North Scranton. No one has been out to fix it.

So, Mrs. Krake, if we could please contact Mr. Dougher, Director Dougher, and ask him to have his stop sign repaired.

And a second request about the property at 1346 Sanderson Avenue. It's in

very poor shape. In 2011 the person who -or a person contacted the city about the
property, spoke to one of the inspectors,
however, nothing was done. However, to this
day there has been no progress and it's
2013.

So, Mrs. Krake, if we could please contact Director Seitzinger and ask him to handle this situation the best way he sees fit. And that's all for tonight.

MR. ROGAN: Mr. Joyce, one thing I forget to mention, and I do see a stack here, that Mr. Dougher, he did reply, and I would like to thank him for sending responses on these, and a lot of times we, especially myself, always complain for lack of a response, but I would like to thank him for a response on these and hopefully these requests will be taken care of.

MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

MS. KRAKE: 5-B. ESTABLISHING A "NO PARKING" ZONE ALONG THE EASTERLY SIDE OF WYOMING AVENUE (S.R.3025) FROM SEGMENT 0030 OFFSET 2190 TO SEGMENT 0030 OFFSET 2410 AND ALONG THE SOUTHERLY CURB LINE OF LARCH

1	STREET 175 FEET EAST FROM ITS INTERSECTION
2	WITH WYOMING AVENUE TO ALLOW FOR SAFE SIGHT
3	DISTANCES FOR A PROPOSED MCDONALDS
4	RESTAURANT AT WYOMING AVENUE AND LARCH
5	STREET.
6	MR. JOYCE: At this time I'll
7	entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
8	introduced into its proper committee.
9	MR. ROGAN: So moved.
10	MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.
11	MR. JOYCE: On the question? All
12	those in favor of introduction signify by
13	saying aye.
14	MR. ROGAN: Aye.
15	MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.
16	MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
17	have it and so moved.
18	MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO BUSINESS
19	AT THIS TIME.
20	SEVENTH ORDER. NO BUSINESS AT THIS
21	TIME.
22	MR. JOYCE: If there is no further
23	business, I'll entertain a motion to
24	adjourn.
25	MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.
	II

CERTIFICATE

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