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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, February 28, 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  
(Not present)

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE  
(Not present)

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

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

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.  
15 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH &  
16 WELFARE AUTHORITY'S REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
17 HELD JANUARY 17, 2013.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. LACKAWANNA COUNTY  
21 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND  
22 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION RECEIVED ON JANUARY  
23 8, 2013.

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

1 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
2 FOR THE MONTH ENDING JANUARY 31, 2013.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. AGENDA FOR THE CITY  
6 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD FEBRUARY  
7 27, 2013.

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

10 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE  
11 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD  
12 MARCH 13, 2013.

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

15 Do any council members have  
16 announcements at this time? I have just  
17 two. The Scranton/Lackawanna County  
18 Taxpayers' meeting will be hold their  
19 regularly scheduled meeting on March 5 at 6  
20 p.m. in Scranton Council Chambers located  
21 here in city hall. Anyone that would like  
22 to attend they are more than welcome to do  
23 so.

24 And also, on February 14, the city  
25 clerk, Nancy Krake, attended a legislative

1 breakfast with Senator John Blake. At the  
2 breakfast, a small booklet was provided to  
3 her which she distributed to all council  
4 members regarding senior programs for older  
5 Pennsylvania residents. In this booklet,  
6 there is information regarding many programs  
7 to help the elderly in our city. The  
8 booklet contains information about PACE and  
9 PACENET pharmaceutical assistance,  
10 transportation, Meals on Wheels, motor  
11 vehicles registration as well as hunting and  
12 fishing license discounts as well as  
13 property tax and rent rebate information  
14 just to name a few. If you would like more  
15 information on the booklet or a copy of any  
16 of the information in the booklet please  
17 call council's office at 348-4113.

18 I'd also like to announce that  
19 Councilman Loscombe is not feeling well  
20 tonight and will not be in attendance at  
21 tonight's meeting, and Councilwoman Evans is  
22 still suffering from illness and will not be  
23 at tonight's meeting. She did send a  
24 message that she would like to thank all of  
25 those who did send her get well cards as

1 well as flowers and hopefully we can see  
2 both council members back next week.

3 Tonight we have a special  
4 presentation by the antique club for Jimmy  
5 Klee, and this presentation is going to be  
6 given by Mike Passaro, who serves, correct  
7 me if I'm wrong, as president of the car  
8 club, and if you wish like to give that  
9 presentation tonight I will certainly  
10 welcome you to.

11 MR. PASSARO: Chief Graziano, James  
12 Klee and nine of his friends founded  
13 Scranton Regional Antique Automobile Club of  
14 America 42 years ago. Their insight,  
15 dedication and love of the old vehicles has  
16 lead to preservation and enjoyment of the  
17 automobile history in our area. We are  
18 truly honored to have known Jim and worked  
19 with him, he was just a great individual.

20 On behalf of the Scranton Region  
21 Antique Automobile Club of America, its  
22 officers, board of directors, past  
23 presidents and the attendant membership, we  
24 present this memorial plaque to the Scranton  
25 Police Department in Honor of our friend,

1 James Klee.

2 MR. GRAZIANO: I would just like to  
3 say that Chiefly Klee was the chief when I  
4 got on the job back in 1992 and to '93, and  
5 he was not only a great police officer and a  
6 great police chief, he was a great man. He  
7 was someone that no matter who you were you  
8 could come up to him and talk to him and he  
9 would get you honest and concise advice and  
10 we will hang this proudly in the police  
11 department in his memory.

12 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Krake?

13 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
14 PARTICIPATION.

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

17 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you, Council. I  
18 was going to Mr. Sandal's antique auction  
19 tonight and give everybody a day off, but  
20 when I read this article in the paper about  
21 the parking meters I just became so  
22 infuriated I had to come down here and say  
23 something. People told me that there was  
24 notes left on some of the meters, nobody did  
25 nothing. Half the meters not working is

1 just senseless. We got a \$100 an hour man  
2 that doesn't do nothing for our money,  
3 that's the product of what we are getting  
4 for \$100 an hour? This is ludicrous. Then  
5 they got the blame game passing it around  
6 and so and so's fault. You ought to run  
7 Standard Parking off and just get rid of all  
8 of these people. You are wasting time and  
9 money.

10 If you people just had any idea how  
11 the public is so totally fed up and  
12 disgusted, I'm not talking about you, with  
13 the situations like this one after another,  
14 it just doesn't end. You know, this lousy  
15 governor has taken everything he can from  
16 the public, people are paying huge co-pays  
17 and paying for hospitalization, house  
18 insurance is doubled or tripled, everything  
19 is expensive. It's not just the taxes no  
20 more, it's just like -- it's just like  
21 homeowners were being just persecuted  
22 almost, but to give somebody a \$100 an hour  
23 was asinine to start with. There is nobody  
24 in this city worth anything like that,  
25 especially when you don't know what's going



1 on right under your nose. It is time to get  
2 rid of people like this and just take our  
3 money and we don't get nothing back for it.

4 Well, before I explode up here or  
5 something I'll go on. You know, I consider  
6 it fortunate that there so many people  
7 running for office in the city, but there is  
8 only three or four of them ever come to  
9 these meetings that show any interest in our  
10 city, the rest of them just mouth a bunch of  
11 stuff and it doesn't mean nothing.

12 To me, if you are not interested  
13 enough to attend meetings and be part of  
14 this and take time out from your life, you  
15 are just not interested in our city like  
16 that. You can't closely monitor what's  
17 going on if you don't jump in and you are  
18 not informed. I hope I'm getting my point  
19 over. I'm not against anybody running for  
20 office, I'm glad they are doing it, but if  
21 you just don't show any interest in the city  
22 and want to have an office, and to me it's  
23 just a simple you are not just interested in  
24 what concerns our city.

25 And lastly, last Thursday's paper

1 Detroit, which has over 700,000 people and  
2 owes a little over \$2 1/2 million is filing  
3 for Section 9 bankruptcy. Here we are they  
4 got ten times as many people and we have  
5 less than 40,000 taxable properties left, we  
6 owe twice as much as they do, it's just time  
7 to realize there is no way in the world, you  
8 put a pencil to it there is no way that  
9 taxpayers can keep this on their back. It's  
10 just time to file bankruptcy. With 22 years  
11 of PEL they have never come up with one  
12 positive suggestion. That shows you it's  
13 just the city is just too far in debt. You  
14 just can't keep going like this. If  
15 everything is happening, not just with --  
16 everything is counterproductive, it's  
17 senseless. It just keep on raising taxes  
18 and borrowing money. You're throwing good  
19 money after bad year after year, and what's  
20 going on at the Parking Authority ought to  
21 show you good money after bad. That's  
22 deplorable what's happened down there, half  
23 the meters not working and nobody doing one  
24 thing about it.

25 And I got one thing then I'll get

1 out of your hair. I was reading about the  
2 tax sales, there should be a limit on how  
3 long you have to fix up your house and put  
4 it on the tax rolls. I got a dumpy house  
5 down the street from me, the man bought it  
6 three years ago, he has used it for a  
7 warehouse to store things in, it's not on  
8 the tax rolls, he doesn't answer any letters  
9 or anything to do anything about it. You  
10 should have six months or a year to have  
11 that house back on the tax rolls or lose it.  
12 Thank you.

13 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.  
14 Bill Jackowitz.

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,  
16 South Scranton resident, member of the  
17 Taxpayers' Association. Year 22 distressed  
18 city. Number one, is it affordable? Number  
19 two, is it sustainable? Approximately 75  
20 cents of every dollar is spent on wages,  
21 retirement and health care, loans and bonds,  
22 that leaves approximately 25 cents to run  
23 the city. Is that affordable or  
24 sustainable? I say no.

25 Some people are Democrats, some are

1           Republicans, some are Independents. We have  
2           liberals, conservatives, moderates,  
3           libertarian and tea party. I consider  
4           myself to be a realist, meaning I look at  
5           what is really happening. The budget is not  
6           balanced, the recovery plan is a failure,  
7           the city is in debt, assets must be sold,  
8           parking meters and garages are losing money,  
9           receiver Mike Washo makes \$100 an hour,  
10          swimming pools are closed, \$5 a day to swim  
11          at Nay Aug Park, more potholes than  
12          residents, population is declining, taxes  
13          going up, services going down, parking rates  
14          going up, parking garages run down,  
15          taxpayers still on the hook for bad loans  
16          never made by the Parking Authority. Sewer  
17          Authority rates going up, Sewer Authority  
18          cannot be sold in the near future. I can go  
19          on, but my time is limited.

20                 One may ask, why is that nobody is  
21                 willing to help Scranton? Could the answer  
22                 be that most people realize that Scranton  
23                 government insanity will never change an  
24                 Scranton elected officials like being the  
25                 victim so that they can put the blame on

1 others and not accept responsibility,  
2 accountability for their voting records and  
3 poor decisions that were made in the past  
4 and are still continuing?

5 Who made the decision to fight the  
6 public service unions employees? The mayor,  
7 city council and the Pennsylvania Economy  
8 League, PEL. Who pays for these poor  
9 decision? The taxpayers. Who made the  
10 decision to give the next mayor a \$25,000  
11 pay raise? The mayor and city council,  
12 although, the city still remains distressed.

13 All around Scranton and the county  
14 people are losing jobs, accepting pay cuts  
15 and having their working hours and benefits  
16 reduced, but yet Scranton will give two  
17 attorneys a bonus, the newly elected a mayor  
18 a \$25,000 pay raise, but yet the city  
19 remains distressed and then ask the  
20 commuters of Scranton, taxpayers, visitors  
21 and shoppers downtown to pay for these  
22 bonuses and raise. It makes me wonder, do  
23 we really have a financial problem in the  
24 city? I'm not sure.

25 How many new people have announced

1           their candidacy for mayor since the pay  
2           raise was announced? One, Gary Lewis.

3                       The new government and old -- the  
4           new generation and the old generation,  
5           nothing will change in Scranton until  
6           taxpayers and voters realize that change  
7           must be made at city government starting  
8           with the reduction in the bi-weekly payroll  
9           and retirement and health care benefits.  
10          Scranton population approximately 72,000  
11          residents. Scranton taxpayers approximately  
12          35,000. Scranton median family income  
13          approximately \$36,000. Highest unemployment  
14          in the city, highest percentage in taxes  
15          paid in the area, including wage taxes at  
16          3.4 percent, three tax increases in the last  
17          five years.

18                       We can blame the nonprofits,  
19          Times-Tribune, Honorable Mayor Doherty,  
20          Councilwoman Evans, Parking Authority, Sewer  
21          Authority and anybody else. The real story,  
22          this mess has been brewing for decades. I  
23          can go back to Mayor Hanlon's administration  
24          and blame each mayor and city council and  
25          woman for helping to create this financial

1           mess. A financial house of the cards has  
2           been being built for decades and now in the  
3           Year 2013 it has finally collapsed and  
4           nobody has a clue on how to solve the mess  
5           except raise taxes, borrow more money, and  
6           continue to pay the wages that the taxpayers  
7           can no longer afford.

8                     Mr. Rogan, can we afford to survive  
9           on the 25 cents out of every dollar, yes or  
10          no?

11                    MR. ROGAN: No.

12                    MR. JACKOWITZ: Mr. Joyce, can we  
13          afford -- can we continue to survive on 25  
14          cents on every dollar that we bring in, yes  
15          or no?

16                    MR. JOYCE: It would be very  
17          difficult.

18                    MR. JACKOWITZ: Mr. McGoff, the same  
19          question, can we afford to run this city on  
20          25 cents on every dollar?

21                    MR. MCGOFF: We are going to have to  
22          try.

23                    MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay. So that  
24          doesn't sound very positive and you people  
25          are our elected leaders. We have seven

1           elected leaders in the City of Scranton, we  
2           have mayor, which we have a strong mayor  
3           form of government, we have five council  
4           members and we have a city controller. All  
5           seven of you have responsibilities to deal  
6           with our finances.

7                         We, the people, put our trust and our  
8           faith in our elected officials and right now  
9           we are hanging over the cliff and we are  
10          about ready to fall over this cliff because  
11          we have no money. We have to admit the fact  
12          that we have no money, but yet we are going  
13          to go out and give the mayor of a distressed  
14          city a \$25,000 pay increase hoping to get a  
15          better qualified candidate? Why don't we  
16          get the candidate first, have that person,  
17          he or she, elected and see if they give us  
18          out of the distressed city status before we  
19          give that person a pay raise? That would be  
20          the common sense way and the right quotes to  
21          approach this matter, but no, we go ahead  
22          and give the raise first and then we give  
23          raises to attorneys who make enough money as  
24          it goes right now, and yet we are going to  
25          scream poverty? I have a hard time



1 believing that the city is broke. I think  
2 we have excess money, otherwise we wouldn't  
3 be giving these raises out.

4 MR. JOYCE: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Jackowitz.

6 Our next speaker is, and I'm sorry  
7 if I get the name wrong, E. McNichols?

8 MR. MCNICHOLS: I pass. Thank you  
9 though.

10 MR. JOYCE: Okay. And I'm having  
11 trouble reading the next name, I think it's  
12 A. Borchill?

13 MS. BORCHILL: No, no thank you.  
14 The next one, too.

15 MR. JOYCE: And our next speaker is  
16 E.Nichols. No. Our next speaker is Ozzie  
17 Quinn.

18 MR. QUINN: Good evening.

19 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

20 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Scranton  
21 Taxpayers' Association. I want to start off  
22 by saying that, you know, that the  
23 Scranton/Lackawanna County Taxpayers'  
24 Association will meet on Tuesday, as  
25 Mr. Joyce announced, March 5, that's this

1 Tuesday, at 6:00 p.m. and Representative  
2 Kevin Haggerty District 112, State  
3 Representative, will be the guest speaker so  
4 everyone is invited to attend or if you are  
5 out there it's going to be live on ECTV  
6 Channel 19, so we hope you can attend or  
7 come down and watch it.

8 I just want to say that, you know,  
9 the last few months sort of make me sick.  
10 For ten years I have been coming around here  
11 and, you know, everybody praising that Mayor  
12 Doherty, infamous Mayor Doherty, King  
13 Doherty. The Scranton Times they put him on  
14 a pedestal for building these -- the  
15 Southern Union building, they got the 500 of  
16 Lackawanna Avenue and Davis Trail. Oh, he  
17 was doing wonders, you know? And now the  
18 city is crumbling with the debt that he  
19 could not handle, that he just borrowed and  
20 borrowed and borrowed year after year using  
21 one credit card to pay off another credit  
22 card and he couldn't do it, and we  
23 complained and we complained and now here we  
24 are and yet the Scranton Times now all they  
25 do is print complaints, negative stuff

1           against Mr. Rogan, Mrs. Evans, Mr. Joyce and  
2           Mr. Loscombe. That's all they print is the  
3           negative stuff about the parking, about the  
4           finding the money in the sewers and whatnot,  
5           okay? And the only thing is that you are  
6           trying to get this back into a situation  
7           where it's a viable city, and I understand  
8           that, but the Scranton Times wants to kill  
9           you people and they are trying to do it.

10                    You know, they are so corrupt it's  
11           unbelievable over there because of the fact  
12           that they have been sponsoring, since  
13           Mr. Doherty took office in 2002, right, 2002  
14           through 2014, almost 25, 28 campaign  
15           finances you have to submit, you know? The  
16           publishers they all have supported Mayor  
17           Doherty financially. They supported him  
18           financially and they write about this man,  
19           all right? It just can't be done. It just  
20           can't be done. It's corruption. It's  
21           corruption.

22                    I see in here on page 59, I see the  
23           solicitor, who is appointed by Mayor  
24           Doherty, and no one squawked by the Scranton  
25           Times who is -- who is the solicitor or OECD

1 and the SRA, he made about a million dollars  
2 easily here, I see here he contributed  
3 \$4,000 to Mayor Doherty's campaign that  
4 year. Mayor Doherty spent almost 900,00 --  
5 over \$900,000 a year to be elected, you  
6 know, and it keeps on coming and coming and  
7 coming, and the people, don't be so gullible  
8 and listen and think that these people here  
9 are responsible for the city. It's because  
10 of the Scranton Times standing back and  
11 praising Mr. Doherty and Mr. Doherty  
12 spending that money and spending that money  
13 and the former councils letting him go ahead  
14 and do it, okay?

15 And I really feel sorry when they  
16 have a caricature of Mrs. Evans in the paper  
17 and here's a woman that's been sick for a  
18 month now with pneumonia and they have a  
19 caricature in the paper of her today.  
20 That's sad, okay? So basically what I'm  
21 trying to do is trying to clarify what's  
22 going on here and it's pathetic.

23 Now, I want to point out a couple of  
24 complaints, one thing is I come down North  
25 Washington Avenue in front of Cooper's

1 Restaurant by the parking lot there and, you  
2 know, I think the last run for the  
3 Greenridge suburban was 1954, the Scranton  
4 Street car, you can see the streetcar  
5 tracks. The streetcar tracks. And that  
6 just didn't happen, it's been a year I  
7 complained about that. Streetcar tracks in  
8 downtown Scranton. It's unbelievable, you  
9 know?

10 And another thing is the mayor's  
11 salary, you know, you say raise the salary,  
12 I say raise the salary if he does something  
13 good. Every year he should be looked at and  
14 evaluated just like everybody else. Never  
15 mind just saying give him 75 or 80 thousand  
16 dollars. Evaluate it because we had one  
17 doozer in there for the last ten years and  
18 he earned \$50,000, he should have earned  
19 20,000. Thank you.

20 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.  
21 Is there anyone else who would like to  
22 address council?

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
24 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I  
25 supported that mayor's increase. You got to

1 get people in here that can live off the  
2 salary of the city. I don't want to have a  
3 mayor up there that runs another business  
4 down the line somewhere. I want a full-time  
5 mayor. We are paying for a full-time mayor,  
6 we should get a full-time mayor, and the  
7 only way you can get that is to pay him a  
8 salary that he can live on. Now, I won't  
9 use single anymore, I'll use plural, man or  
10 woman, that being the mayor, being that it  
11 was pointed that out, but look at the walls  
12 around here. When you go by past presidents  
13 you can see why I would use male instead of  
14 female, but anyway, if we get a female mayor  
15 I'll be happy if we get a male mayor,  
16 whatever the mayor would be as long as they  
17 are doing what they are supposed to do.

18 The paper prints a lot of bad news,  
19 no question about the Parking Authority. We  
20 all know that's bad, but when Dunmore  
21 started backing on the Sewer Authority,  
22 that's a bigger problem we although what the  
23 Parking Authority is, but if we can't sell  
24 the Sewer Authority then we have to look  
25 toward Park Gardens. That's the only things

1 we got that we can actually sell and, like I  
2 say, with the Sewer Authority Dunmore is  
3 digging their heels in, they may not go with  
4 it, but we don't have -- Park Gardens is a  
5 good piece of property, too, and it won't  
6 affect the rates any time soon because, like  
7 I said, it's a private development that we  
8 own, but somewhere along the line we got to  
9 come to realize what's happening. There is  
10 no doubt that we are in financial straights  
11 and we are in deep financial straights.

12 Now, we have to go down the list to  
13 borrow \$25 million this year to pay off some  
14 of the debts we all know with the fire and  
15 policemen and pensions I think, wasn't it?  
16 I think that.

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: But when we go to  
19 borrow that I wish we could just say we're  
20 borrowing 25 million, but, unfortunately, we  
21 are not. Any time you borrow money like  
22 that you got the interest, God knows where  
23 it's going to end up, but it's -- I usually  
24 it double and say and we are going to borrow  
25 \$50 million instead of \$25 million, and you

1 are probably right in the ballpark, but we  
2 can't afford that anymore, that's the  
3 problem. We hit the point where we are at  
4 the low point in the city. We are really in  
5 dire straights and nobody seems to be able  
6 to deal with it other than sell an asset and  
7 even if we do sell the asset there is no  
8 way that's going to solve the problem. It's  
9 going to give us money to spend, give us  
10 breathing room, but we are still going to  
11 have to be saddled with a lot of debt, and  
12 to go forward we are going have to pay that  
13 debt.

14 You and I know that the budget is  
15 going to be, well, Mr. McGoff, he said it  
16 was going to be about 7 1/2 million in the  
17 red in the paper, and I believe what he  
18 said. I believe we are going to be about 7  
19 1/2 million at least in the red this year.  
20 That means you are going to have to go  
21 before that judge again, and it's not going  
22 to go good. The more we go before that  
23 judge who says, "You can't keep your house  
24 in order," the more trouble we get into.  
25 The banking community probably doesn't want



1 much to do with us at all, and then the  
2 loans we are getting at 8.9 percent isn't  
3 exactly the best considering the bank is  
4 only pay about 2 percent on your savings.

5 Somewhere along the lines you got to  
6 come up with a better plan. Like I told you  
7 four years ago, well, actually, three years  
8 ago, three and a half maybe when you first  
9 stood up there, you are going to have to do  
10 a lot, a lot of planning, because we were in  
11 debt then and we weren't going to get out of  
12 it. Anybody that was able to add one and  
13 one and get two knew it.

14 But I cannot see faulting the  
15 mayor's salary as an impediment to the city  
16 getting somewhere. Sure, it's money, but by  
17 not spending that money look at where we  
18 got. If we had to spend that money in the  
19 very beginning we probably wouldn't be in  
20 the mess we are now. There would have been  
21 more people that would step up. Scranton  
22 has a lot of millionaire, a lot of them that  
23 really tried to help the area. Some of them  
24 worked out, some of them didn't, but  
25 Mr. Nardelli was there, Mr. Karam was there,

1           they tried to help. They grew up -- well,  
2           Nardelli in Old Forge, but Karam grew up in  
3           the city and he tried to help the city, and  
4           I think there is lot of other millionaires  
5           out there that probably would help the city  
6           if you can get to them. Thank you.

7                     MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much. Is  
8           there anyone else who would like to address  
9           council?

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

12                    MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

13                    MS. SCHUMACHER: Before I decide  
14           what I want to do tonight, would you tell me  
15           are you going to take the previously tabled  
16           items on the Standard agreement and the  
17           original File of Council 100 of 2009 off the  
18           table tonight?

19                    MR. JOYCE: No, we are not.

20                    MS. SCHUMACHER: Can you explain  
21           why? I mean, a month ago that was an  
22           emergency, there was emergency legislation,  
23           you know, another one of those wonderful  
24           emergency certificates attached so that it  
25           could have been gone through in --

1           essentially in three readings in one night  
2           if you so chose, and now all of sudden it's  
3           no longer an emergency and, you know, we are  
4           two months into the year. Whatever you do  
5           is going to take time to execute. We are  
6           not going to see very much income from it if  
7           it keeps going on and on.

8                   MR. JOYCE: Well, there has been a  
9           lot of disagreement about these two pieces  
10          of legislation among council members; and,  
11          two, a majority of the council members I  
12          believe would like to see it put out to bid  
13          as that would be the proper process.

14                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And what  
15          about File of Council 100 of 2009? Did you  
16          check, are there any standard rules or any  
17          study on the placement of parking meters or  
18          will there be a public hearing so people can  
19          input?

20                   MR. JOYCE: I'm not sure if and when  
21          a public hearing would be scheduled.

22                   MS. SCHUMACHER: But there would be  
23          one?

24                   MR. JOYCE: I'm not 100 percent sure  
25          at this point.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: As I said, I really  
2 think that would, you know, allowing people  
3 some input -- first, telling people what the  
4 ground rules are for a parking meter being  
5 placed in a location. I think you owe us  
6 that, and then once we know the ground rules  
7 we can review the legislation and see where  
8 we think changes are made, and I gave one  
9 example last week.

10 And did anybody check to see or  
11 request that a check be made with IPS to see  
12 if they would lease us those parking meter  
13 heads of 750?

14 MR. JOYCE: I personally do not  
15 know, but, Mrs. Krake, if you could send a  
16 request back to Business Administrator Ryan  
17 McGowan to inquire with IPS if they, in  
18 fact, could lease us the 750 parking meter  
19 heads I'd greatly appreciate it.

20 MS. KRAKE: I will do that,  
21 absolutely, Councilman Joyce, however I do  
22 know that that was a bid and they did ask  
23 per the specs that were issued, so I don't  
24 know if Ms. Schumacher is asking for it to  
25 be rebid.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, the agreement  
2 with IPS is that the bid was sent directly  
3 to Standard Parking, it was not sent to the  
4 City of Scranton, which I think it would  
5 have been if -- it's in the package. It's  
6 in the package. Anyway, I think that  
7 certainly needs to be looked into.

8 And then moving on, and again,  
9 certainly on the parking meter thing,  
10 Mr. McGoff, how many rental registration --  
11 how many properties, rental properties, have  
12 been registered to date or last you checked?

13 MR. MCGOFF: I can't give you  
14 update. I have asked Mr. Seitzinger if I  
15 could get a monthly report, I have not  
16 received that as of yet, when I do I will  
17 certainly convey it to you.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And, yeah, I  
19 look forward to that starting, and I don't  
20 know if you are aware, have you ever gone to  
21 the SSA website to see what they have on  
22 there because they do get affidavits on  
23 rental properties and I would think, I know  
24 you said they were not willing to share with  
25 the persons and the people in the LIPS

1 group, but perhaps they could Right-to-Know  
2 for the affidavits and get the information  
3 that way. Did they ever go -- do you know  
4 if they ever went to the county and asked  
5 for the list of all of the properties where  
6 the bill went to some place other than the  
7 address of the property?

8 MR. MCGOFF: I know they have a list  
9 of out-of-town landlords that they were  
10 looking at, they were going to do a mass  
11 mailing to them, I don't know where they  
12 obtained those names.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Maybe by  
14 next week hopefully. One more call. And  
15 then how many of the entities that receive  
16 the parking fee tax notice have responded to  
17 date?

18 MR. JOYCE: I will research that  
19 situation and get an answer for you  
20 hopefully by next week.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. That would  
22 be nice. Now, as to the sale leaseback  
23 property that we are looking at, what's the  
24 status of that? Because aren't we coming up  
25 on a critical one year when the interest

1 rate goes up on that Court award?

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I will also  
3 inquire about the status of that as well.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And when can  
5 we expect Mr. Washo to attend a caucus and  
6 explain, I understand that he does not  
7 currently have anything to do with the  
8 parking meters, but there continue to be  
9 complaints about the --

10 MR. JOYCE: Garages.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- garages and did  
12 anybody go back and read the Rich report  
13 this last week?

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I actually looked  
15 at some of it and, Mrs. Krake, I believe we  
16 are discussing before the meeting that  
17 Mr. Washo would be available to come in for  
18 a caucus in two weeks from now?

19 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

20 MR. JOYCE: So we'll have him in.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: I would certainly  
22 hope that you would all read the Rich report  
23 before then and have the answers on all that  
24 maintenance and the status of the garages  
25 considering that they are under water so

1                   badly and that could fall back on us and  
2                   sink us. Thank you for your time.

3                   MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

4                   MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
5                   Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton. Taxes  
6                   paid today. Okay, now on these meters, they  
7                   I understand are being managed by a  
8                   corporation right now, they are under  
9                   corporate management?

10                  MR. JOYCE: Yes. It's on a  
11                  month-to-month basis.

12                  MR. DOBRZYN: And they let the  
13                  batteries go for how long?

14                  MR. JOYCE: The former employees of  
15                  is the SPA are now being managed by Standard  
16                  Parking.

17                  MR. DOBRZYN: It's not their fault  
18                  it's the executive's fault. I blame the  
19                  corporation that's managing it. To have  
20                  dead batteries that's -- I was down two --  
21                  weeks ago I parked in front of the Guild  
22                  Studios and both meters were dead. I just  
23                  didn't get enough time up here to mention  
24                  it, I forgot.

25                  We had a few accidents downtown, I



1 notice if anything they were probably where  
2 it's okay to turn when the walk light is on,  
3 we need the state to come in and put left  
4 and right-hand turn signals depending on  
5 whether it's a one-way or whatever, but  
6 that's what I feel is the cause of the  
7 problem because I have had to dodge cars  
8 myself right out at this very corner here  
9 Washington and Mulberry.

10 And once again, I'd like to call for  
11 a commission to study tax exempts, how many  
12 are too many, and we really need somebody  
13 and some sound legal advice because it's  
14 time to start taking this on. I'm tired of  
15 paying everybody else's bill around this  
16 county. I appreciate the hospitals and so  
17 forth, the schools, okay, but therein again  
18 it's societies' problem and they are dumping  
19 on us and a constitutional amendment to  
20 shove them down our throat is not the answer  
21 as far as Mr. Blake is concerned.

22 Once again, also, we need  
23 inspections on the street excavations  
24 because we have freshly paved streets that  
25 are just being torn up and destroyed. Also,

1 we really need a to consider a term limit  
2 for mayor. They run out of ideas and get a  
3 few too many friend and that's just the way  
4 it is.

5 Now, on the federal income tax, the  
6 bottom end has been changed so much don't  
7 expect people to be able to pay their taxes  
8 without taking money out of their pocket,  
9 their property taxes and so forth. A lot of  
10 this stuff has been rendered nondeductible  
11 or you don't hit the threshold and so your  
12 property taxes and so forth aren't -- that's  
13 not your fault, it's the federal  
14 government's fault, they have no heart for  
15 anybody who lives within their means and  
16 pays taxes based on a house that they are  
17 living with in there.

18 And it would be interesting to know  
19 why the commissioners did not work with you  
20 people on the medical issue, medical  
21 insurance. I think that's just terrible  
22 that these people aren't finding ways to  
23 make things better for everybody and pay  
24 out, I mean, what is the beef? If you get  
25 an insurance pool naturally they are going

1 to get a better deal and you have more  
2 negotiating power. I don't understand that.  
3 Now, they refused from the last time I heard  
4 from Janet Evans they refused to go along  
5 with it and I'd like to know why without  
6 having to go through a frisking and a  
7 striptease down in the middle of Adams  
8 Avenue where they hold their meeting.

9 MR. JOYCE: That's correct. They  
10 did refuse.

11 MR. DOBRZYN: By the time I got  
12 through the security check the meeting was  
13 over the last time around, you know, it's  
14 just like how convenient. And it's really  
15 egregious that they won't study into medical  
16 issues on medical insurance considering what  
17 we pay.

18 And, okay, through the fire engine,  
19 I'd like to remind the citizens, fine  
20 citizens of Throop that it's one of their  
21 citizens that challenged our commuter tax,  
22 so thanks a lot and for their reward we are  
23 going to lend them a fire engine for God  
24 knows how long.

25 And once again, PA is the second in

1           loss in income over outsourcing to foreign  
2           countries so call your representatives and  
3           tell them to take their trade pack and stuff  
4           it. And once again, I'll give a golden  
5           parrot to Antonio Scalia, our Supreme Court  
6           justice, he called the Voter Rights Act a  
7           racial entitlement. Well, to me it's a  
8           privilege, it's a right and it's a duty.  
9           Thank you and have a good night.

10           MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Is there  
11           anyone else who wishes to address council?

12           MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

13           MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

14           MR. MORGAN: The first thing I have  
15           tonight is that I would like to thank  
16           Dunmore for standing up and saying no to the  
17           sale of the Scranton Sewer Authority. I  
18           think it's time to stop selling assets  
19           completely. I don't agree with selling one  
20           single thing or leasing back one single  
21           thing. I think we have one very serious  
22           problem in this city, and I don't blame the  
23           Scranton Times for that, I blame the  
24           residents. The residents had an obligation  
25           to pick a leader. They have done really a

1           terrible job at that for a very long time.  
2           Probably all of my life. I mean, how you  
3           take a city of 130,000 people and shrink it  
4           down to the point where it is now, it's just  
5           ridiculous.

6                        You just watched as all of these  
7           things have taken place and now, well, I'd  
8           have to say that I think that maybe as much  
9           as 10 or 15 percent of the houses in this  
10          city are abandoned. There is nobody living  
11          in them. You know, it makes you wonder  
12          because when you look at all of these mayors  
13          on the wall and, look it, I have been a  
14          teamster and I have negotiated a teamster  
15          contract over the head of the Local 229 and  
16          over the shop steward where I worked, but my  
17          question is really simple and, you know, I  
18          have a lot of respect for the employees in  
19          the city whether they are unionized or not,  
20          but I'm just wondering have the labor  
21          leaders of the unions in the city supported  
22          candidates because they wanted something and  
23          in the end they elected these people and  
24          these people kept giving and giving and  
25          giving and giving?

1                   You know, there is nothing wrong  
2                   with the employees, but I have a problem  
3                   when somebody who may be a labor leader  
4                   decides to move their candidate forward at  
5                   the detriment to the residents, and me  
6                   personally, I believe it's happened here and  
7                   I believe it will continue to happen.

8                   And you know what I would like to  
9                   see, I'd like to see the city employees make  
10                  a decision to change their union leadership  
11                  because the city employees, a city without  
12                  residents doesn't have employees and it's  
13                  time to realize one thing, this battle  
14                  between the mayor and labor, that didn't  
15                  spin from here, that spun from Harrisburg,  
16                  because Harrisburg wanted to use the  
17                  distressed status to smash municipal unions.  
18                  That's my opinion. The only thing is, the  
19                  taxpayers in Scranton are going to pay for  
20                  it all.

21                  And you know when you take a look at  
22                  the protracted battles we have had, it  
23                  hasn't helped any of us, but in the end we  
24                  have continued to shrink the labor base, the  
25                  City of Scranton has, and at this point from

1 watching the hearing with the judges there  
2 is nothing left and if I was a city employee  
3 I would be really scared because if we keep  
4 electing people, if we keep control in the  
5 mayor's office we are going to have  
6 problems.

7 Now, this mayor he wasn't  
8 controllable, and my point on that is this  
9 that, yes, sending the Scranton Parking  
10 Authority over the side that was a beautiful  
11 thing if you were a union member because you  
12 got rid of the mayor, but the harm that was  
13 done to the residents of this city and its  
14 borrowing abilities and its ability to  
15 finances itself, you know, you can blame  
16 Mr. Washo for what's happened, you blamed  
17 Mr. Scopelliti and all he got a little  
18 stipend for fuel, okay, and we keep coming  
19 up with all of these excuses, but in the end  
20 this city need to elect a leader, not only  
21 here but in Harrisburg and Washington, and  
22 we just -- we are a country that's  
23 leaderless. We are the most powerful  
24 country in the world, we can smash any Army  
25 at any time without even being provoked, but

1 we can't seem to pick leaders to lead our  
2 country. Leaders, I don't know, you would  
3 have take a look at some. Truman,  
4 Eisenhower, Kennedy. Even ones before them,  
5 Lincoln, real leaders, but now money is  
6 taking the place of leadership.

7 Mr. DiBileo spent \$450,000 to be --  
8 want to become mayor for a \$50,000 a year  
9 job, and Mr. Doherty spent, according to the  
10 Scranton Time's figures \$933,000 to be the  
11 mayor of a town that paid \$50,000. I would  
12 have just took that money and put it in the  
13 bank and retired. So, I mean, that's our  
14 real problem, and you know something, filing  
15 bankruptcy is just a formality because we  
16 are bankrupt, and I wouldn't want to be in  
17 your seat because I don't how you walk  
18 around in public considering the situation  
19 and the stands this council has taken  
20 against the Scranton Abington Plan  
21 Association's comprehensive plan, but no  
22 plan, no development, think about it. Thank  
23 you.

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



1 I'm sorry, Mr. Evans, I have to stop  
2 you before you speak, I know that you are a  
3 candidate for city council and I would just  
4 ask you to remove your campaign button while  
5 speaking.

6 MR. EVANS: Absolutely. I  
7 apologize.

8 MR. JOYCE: Just to be fair to all  
9 of the other candidates.

10 MR. EVANS: I understand 100  
11 percent.

12 MR. JOYCE: Thanks.

13 MR. EVANS: Good evening. Gregory  
14 Evans, Scranton resident and Scranton small  
15 business owner. I'm here to readdress the  
16 nonprofit situation. As I asked back in  
17 January if the city ever utilized the  
18 expertise of the Department of Economics of  
19 any of the universities, the response was  
20 perhaps there were two interns that were  
21 utilized in the administration office, and I  
22 would like to suggest to council or the city  
23 or whomever within the government to call  
24 upon these universities and politely, of  
25 course, request perhaps maybe of council of

1           the Departments of Economics of the Scranton  
2           based universities. I think this would  
3           really aid in the process of figuring out  
4           what to do with a recovery plan and with  
5           balancing a budget.

6                        As we know, we have struggled to  
7           balance a budget with real numbers and to  
8           follow the recovery plan that will actually  
9           work, so I would like to call upon perhaps  
10          the Marywood University, University of  
11          Scranton, even Lackawanna College, all of  
12          the Scranton based universities to not  
13          necessarily, you know, give a PILOT in terms  
14          of the money, but the expertise instead.  
15          Thank you.

16                       MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Is there  
17          anyone else?

18                       MR. SLEDENZSKI: Frankie.

19                       MR. JOYCE: Hi, Chrissy.

20                       MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Pat.

21                       MR. ROGAN: Hey, Chrissy.

22                       MR. SLEDENZSKI: Next Saturday is  
23          the big parade, Frankie, next week, you know  
24          that, don't ya? I'll be there. You have to  
25          be there, too. All of us. Thank you.

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

3 MR. ARCHER: Good evening, Council.  
4 Joseph Archer, resident. I have a question,  
5 do we know any time that West Lackawanna  
6 bridge is going to be done completely?

7 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Krake, do we have  
8 any updates on that?

9 MS. KRAKE: No, we don't.

10 MR. ARCHER: Can we find out when  
11 approximately.

12 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Mrs. Krake, if you  
13 would be able to send that request I would  
14 greatly appreciate it.

15 MR. ARCHER: And another thing, we  
16 have a stop sign down on Franklin Avenue,  
17 why did they take the traffic lights away,  
18 do we know?

19 MR. JOYCE: I wouldn't be sure, I'm  
20 not 100 percent sure why they took the  
21 traffic lights away. I know that when they  
22 remove stop signs or traffic lights or vice  
23 versa there is traffic study that has to be  
24 done.

25 Mrs. Krake, if we could please send

1           that request to the DPW to inquire why that  
2           was done?

3                   MS. KRAKE: What would be the exact  
4           address?

5                   MR. ARCHER: I don't know the  
6           correct address, but I know it's down there  
7           right where Northeast Eye is.

8                   MS. KRAKE: Franklin and --

9                   MR. ARCHER: Franklin and Spruce I  
10          think it is. That's all I got tonight,  
11          guys. Thank you.

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

14                  MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.  
15          MOTIONS.

16                  MR. JOYCE: Mr. McGoff, you have  
17          questions -- or any comments or motions?

18                  MR. MCGOFF: I've got questions,  
19          too. First on the parking, one of the  
20          things, we keep talking about the meters,  
21          the meters are owned by the city and  
22          Standard Parking or any other company is not  
23          going to invest money in those meters if  
24          they don't have a contract. We have tabled  
25          the management contract and unless the city



1 hours, days, rates for the meters and then  
2 let someone else manage it. Hopefully  
3 that's going to take place in the relatively  
4 near future or the speakers are right, we  
5 are going to continually lose money that is  
6 part of -- that we put in as part of the  
7 budget for 2013.

8 Another thing that came up, and it's  
9 been spoken of by people here at council and  
10 has to do with very concerned with the  
11 signals and crosswalks in the City of  
12 Scranton, especially in the downtown area.  
13 In fact, I happened to be walking through  
14 the downtown today just for a number of  
15 reasons, but one of the things I wanted to  
16 do was to look at how they operated, and one  
17 of the one of the areas that I watched the  
18 lights and the crosswalks was at where  
19 Wyoming Avenue meets Lackawanna Avenue right  
20 at the mall. If you are crossing Lackawanna  
21 Avenue if you follow the crosswalk sign when  
22 it lights and says "Walk" at the very same  
23 time that you're allowed to walk it's a  
24 green light on Wyoming Avenue and cars can  
25 turn either way onto Lackawanna Avenue,

1           which means you have people crossing the  
2           street at the same time drivers are assuming  
3           that they have the right-of-way. I think  
4           that that is just a very dangerous situation  
5           and that is not the only intersection where  
6           that takes place. Throughout the downtown  
7           that seems to be the normal.

8                        I think that something should be  
9           done to look into that situation and to see  
10          if it can be rectified. In the past I have  
11          said what I would like to see at any of  
12          those intersections is for all of the lights  
13          to go red for a short period of time, 15  
14          seconds or whatever to allow people to cross  
15          when there is no traffic going in any  
16          direction. I think that that -- and I  
17          didn't walk up there to observe today, but I  
18          think at the corner of Jefferson and Linden  
19          at the University of Scranton that does  
20          happen, that everything goes red. There is  
21          a certain period of time for people to cross  
22          whatever way they want to go and then  
23          whatever appropriate light does turn green  
24          to allow traffic to go. That seems to be a  
25          more workable idea rather than endangering

1 people, you know, in these crosswalks. I  
2 just think it it's something that we really  
3 have to look at as we move forward and as  
4 the development of the downtown takes place  
5 I think that that is a very necessary item.

6 And I'm not sure where we go to do  
7 that, but certainly I think we should look  
8 into it and I will personally look into it  
9 and see what we can do as far as this  
10 signals in the crosswalks are concerned.

11 And one last thing, we have been  
12 talking about amending the rental  
13 registration ordinance, I know Ms.  
14 Schumacher had brought up the phrase within  
15 the rental registration that gives a very  
16 great leeway to the inspectors, and I made a  
17 request to the legal department if they  
18 would do legislation or write up a piece of  
19 legislation to have that phrase deleted.  
20 They had requested of us that we send  
21 essentially a letter to them to okay that or  
22 to ask them to prepare that, so at this  
23 point in time I would like to make a motion  
24 to request a letter sent to the legal  
25 department to draft legislation to amend the



1 rental registration ordinance by deleting  
2 the phrase "But not limited to" from the  
3 safety inspection definition.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

5 MR. JOYCE: On the question? All  
6 those in favor of introduction signify by  
7 saying aye.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed?

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. And if,  
12 Mrs. Krake, that's not my province to do  
13 that, but if we can send a letter to the  
14 legal department stating that I would be  
15 very pleased. Thank you very much, and  
16 that's all.

17 MR. JOYCE: You're welcome.

18 Mr. Rogan, do you have any comments or  
19 motions?

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. I  
21 actually want to speak a little bit about  
22 pedestrian safety myself and with that in  
23 mind please remember to keep in your prayers  
24 the victims of the recent accidents in the  
25 downtown and the drivers as well.

1                   As Mr. McGoff said, it is very  
2                   dangerous situation in the downtown if you  
3                   follow, you know, what the -- whether it  
4                   says "Walk" or "Don't Walk" it's very  
5                   difficult to get across the downtown  
6                   streets. The one thing I think that can be  
7                   done, and I know PennDOT's has been involved  
8                   with signalization downtown, I'm going to  
9                   request that we send a letter to PennDOT  
10                  asking that they do a study to review the  
11                  safety of the signalization in the downtown  
12                  for pedestrians and drivers as well. When  
13                  walking in the downtown I think any of us  
14                  have had many close calls to being struck by  
15                  a vehicle and it's a very dangerous  
16                  situation.

17                  Also, and McGoff brought it up as  
18                  well, residents have brought up to me on  
19                  Mulberry Street by the University of  
20                  Scranton when class is in session, you know,  
21                  there is a lot of students crossing the road  
22                  on both sides and the one thing that might  
23                  be necessary there is a covered pedestrian  
24                  bridge. Now, I don't think that's something  
25                  the city should have to foot the bill for, I

1 think the University of Scranton should be  
2 willing to assist on that, I would say I'd  
3 ask for a covered bridge that way things can  
4 be thrown off as they were some of the other  
5 areas, but a lot of people have reported  
6 that to me that by driving up and down  
7 Mulberry Street when school is in session  
8 it's very difficult for cars to commute  
9 because of the large amounts of students to  
10 cross that road and not everyone is  
11 following the traffic laws in that area as  
12 well, so hopefully that is something that  
13 can be looked at to make it safer for  
14 drivers and pedestrians as well.

15 Next, as I stated last week, I do  
16 have the economic development loan portfolio  
17 from OECD. Last week I went through the  
18 list of loans that were fully satisfied,  
19 this week I will go through the companies  
20 that have open loans with the city. Now,  
21 open is bit vague, it doesn't state that  
22 they are open and paid up-to-date, they may  
23 be delinquent, they may be ahead of  
24 payments, but they are not in litigation, so  
25 they are still are open loans and this is

1 the list: 321 Development Corporation;  
2 Alexander's Salon and Spa; Across the Pond;  
3 D & S Auto Sales; Denise's Salon, LLC; DTK  
4 Ventures; Electric City roasting; John's  
5 Signs; Kenmark, MTM Real Estate, LLC; WM  
6 Fox; National Pastry Bake Shop; Ed and Krisp  
7 Pizano Partnership; Salon Bridge; Scranton  
8 Downtown, LLC; Woolworth Corp; Learning  
9 Growth Child Center; DML Properties, LP;  
10 Fratelli's Pasta and Pizza House; 500  
11 Lackawanna Development Corp; Freckle's and  
12 Frill's Inc.; 520 Madison Associates; F & M  
13 Restaurant; Yanni's Greek Bistro; Local  
14 Focal, Inc; Posh Life, LLC; DMS City Cafe;  
15 Fratelli's Pizza House, again; Carl Von  
16 Lugar, LLC; Connell TC, Inc.; and United  
17 Neighborhood Centers Development Corp.

18 As I stated, next week I will go  
19 through the list of delinquencies that are  
20 currently in litigation and, unfortunately,  
21 as I mentioned, those do total over \$2  
22 million in taxpayers' fund that were loaned  
23 out that the companies have either gone  
24 bankrupt or for some reason are in  
25 litigation with the city.

1                   And finally, just two citizens'  
2                   requests this week: One, can we send a  
3                   letter to the DPW requesting that potholes  
4                   at the end of North Washington near D & S  
5                   Auto and the railroad tracks are repaired.  
6                   I had a couple of residents bring this up to  
7                   me, and I drove over there myself, and it is  
8                   for someone who drives a small car it's very  
9                   difficult to get over those railroad tracks  
10                  with all of the potholes; and also on 300  
11                  block of 16th Street in West Scranton, this  
12                  block was recently paved, the residents  
13                  stated they did a nice job paving it, but  
14                  there is a crack that is forming that they  
15                  would like tarred before it would become a  
16                  bigger problem, and that is all I have for  
17                  tonight. Thank you.

18                  MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.  
19                  To report tonight, meter revenue in January  
20                  of 2013 was \$67,942. During January of  
21                  2012, meter revenue was \$76,665. In the  
22                  Scranton Times on Tuesday there was an  
23                  article attributing the drop in the meter  
24                  collection to dead batteries. It is logical  
25                  for one to think that if a meter is not

1 working people aren't going to put money in  
2 it. I must say, in reading the article I  
3 was appalled. To learn that there was 600  
4 meters with dead batteries which constitutes  
5 over half of the parking meters that  
6 Scranton owns is unacceptable. How can the  
7 city expect to generate revenue for parking  
8 meters if the parking meters are not even in  
9 operation? This is just simply atrocious.

10 Personally, I wonder if this problem  
11 was fixed by the start of February or could  
12 the city expect another month with decreased  
13 meter revenue? The city can simply not  
14 afford to have dead parking meters generated  
15 no revenue. We are all already behind  
16 because of the dead battery situation and  
17 now we have to make sure that this problem  
18 gets solved.

19 With this in mind, Mrs. Krake,  
20 please send letters to Standard Parking as  
21 well as our business administrator Ryan  
22 McGowan and copy Mr. Washo as well and ask  
23 the following questions:

24 One, who is responsible to ensure  
25 that the parking meters are working at all

1 times? Two, if and when the batteries in  
2 the 600 dead meters were replaced? Three,  
3 how will the issue of the dead batteries in  
4 meters be handled going forward; and four, I  
5 see that there was a bunch of transfers on  
6 February 26 to cover costs to Duncan Parking  
7 Technologies. Please describe what the bill  
8 from Duncan Parking Technologies was for and  
9 please only include that in the letter to  
10 Mr. McGowan as he would be the one that  
11 would be able to know that information I'm  
12 assuming.

13 Also, to report tonight the RFP's  
14 for insurance coverage was opened on  
15 Tuesday, February 26. Knowel's Insurance  
16 was the only agency that submitted a  
17 proposal as they were the only insurance  
18 agency that submitted a proposal last year  
19 as well. The total for premiums and fees  
20 that would be due from the city, excluding  
21 the compensation paid to Knowel's  
22 Association is \$746,043. Included in the  
23 \$746,043 is property equipment breakdown,  
24 equipment floater and EB crime as well as  
25 general liability protection which

1 constitutes \$226,936 in the annual premium,  
2 commercial automobile coverage which  
3 constitutes \$121,623 in annual premium, law  
4 enforcement liability which constitutes  
5 \$98,753 of the annual premium, public  
6 official and employment practices coverage  
7 which constitutes \$124,887 of the annual  
8 premium, and excess workers' compensation  
9 coverage which constitutes \$191,094 of the  
10 annual premium.

11 Also, included in the price is \$750  
12 in fees. Since the bid exclude compensation  
13 paid to Knowel's Associates, I'm curious to  
14 know what compensation will be paid to  
15 Knowel's. With this in mind, Mrs. Krake,  
16 please contact Ryan McGowan, our BA, and  
17 inquire what fees will be paid to Knowel's  
18 Associates if they are chosen.

19 To report, Scranton City Council has  
20 received an update from Northeast Revenue  
21 who currently is conducting tax searches on  
22 properties. As one may or may not know, the  
23 city is required to charge for delinquent  
24 tax and/or refuse research fee on a  
25 perspective property that may be sold this



1 year. Revenue that was generated from these  
2 fees in January amount to \$6,450.

3 And over the past week I have  
4 received various complaints regarding the  
5 property at 1406 West Gibson Street.  
6 Residents have informed me that the property  
7 is in serious need of being torn down.  
8 Odors are emerging from the property that  
9 smell like ammonia. There is a tree that  
10 has fallen into the house and before it was  
11 condemned it was the host to violence and  
12 gang activity.

13 Residents do not want to see this  
14 property reopened as they fear it will host  
15 more of the same. The residents have  
16 circulated a petition with a hundred  
17 signatures, or over hundred signatures  
18 actually to have the property torn down. In  
19 addition, there is a record of the 27 police  
20 calls that were made to the property. This  
21 nuisance home -- this is a nuisance home,  
22 rather, and it was previously owned by a  
23 slumlord living out of town who, according  
24 to residents, lost the house which is now  
25 owned by the bank.

1                   Mr. Hughes, I just wanted to ask you  
2                   a quick question, what could be done to see  
3                   that this property is torn down? Residents  
4                   don't want this property in their  
5                   neighborhood anymore as it's been condemned  
6                   for quite some time spanning at least two or  
7                   three years, and furthermore, this property  
8                   is a constant nuisance in their  
9                   neighborhood.

10                   MR. HUGHES: This would have to go  
11                   to LIPS and Mr. Seitzinger. I think he  
12                   controls the demolition list and he would  
13                   have to put that property on the list to be  
14                   bid to be demolished, so I believe that you  
15                   should have Mrs. Krake write a letter to  
16                   Mr. Seitzinger regarding that property, the  
17                   address and everything, and if it's been  
18                   condemned by the city as unfit for human  
19                   habitation, when will it be put onto the  
20                   demolition list to be demolished.

21                   MR. JOYCE: Okay. Mrs. Krake, if  
22                   you could please forward a copy of the  
23                   residents concerns that I just mentioned to  
24                   Mr. Seitzinger and ask him if this property,  
25                   in fact, could be demolished. And I'm not

1           sure, Mrs. Krake, if you copied down the  
2           request from Mr. Archer during citizens'  
3           participation, but I'd also like to remind  
4           if we could send a request to Mr. McGowan  
5           asking how many of the parking tax fee  
6           recipients have been responsive so far and  
7           as Ms. Schumacher requested, and if we would  
8           also send a letter to the county  
9           commissioners as per Mr. Dobrzyn's request  
10          asking why they aren't interested in a  
11          health care consortium, and that's all I  
12          have for tonight.

13                        MS. KRAKE: I would kindly like to  
14                        request, Mr. Joyce, that the people that ask  
15                        questions submit them in writing to our  
16                        office so that we are able to construct  
17                        letters in a much more professional nature.  
18                        Thank you.

19                        MR. JOYCE: Thank you. I'll remind  
20                        them of that next time, and for those who  
21                        did make requests during citizens'  
22                        participation, if you are still in the  
23                        audience or if you are now watching at home  
24                        if you could submit requests in writing via  
25                        e-mail to our office that would be greatly

1 appreciated. Mrs. Krake?

2 MR. HUGHES: If I could, Mr. Joyce?

3 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

4 MR. HUGHES: The questions have come  
5 up regarding the parking meter and it's  
6 tabled and what has happened. I think  
7 everybody has to understand the fact that  
8 council does not negotiate contracts, that's  
9 not a legislative function, that's an  
10 executive function, that's done by the  
11 administration. When the parking meter  
12 contract was negotiated it was submitted to  
13 council for approval with enabling  
14 legislation, I do believe there was an  
15 emergency certificate, but council decided  
16 not to pass it that night because I believe  
17 that we had just received it on Wednesday.

18 I reviewed it. Within the contract  
19 itself it's stated that proposals -- that  
20 this proposal had been accepted or that the  
21 bid had been accepted by the city. Council  
22 was under the impression, I was under the  
23 impression in reviewing the contract that  
24 this had been bid and that Standard  
25 Parking-- or that Central parking had

1 submitted the bid that had been accepted by  
2 the administration.

3 After the first reading, you know,  
4 we looked into that and I specifically  
5 requested that before the second reading  
6 from -- Mrs. Krake and I had discussed with  
7 Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Krake wrote a letter to  
8 Ryan McGowan regarding that we wanted copies  
9 of the bids, analysis of the bid and why it  
10 was awarded to Central Parking. The next  
11 morning, the day of council meeting on  
12 Thursday, I forget, probably about three  
13 weeks ago, it was determined that this  
14 contract had not been bid and in accordance  
15 with the amendment to the Administrative  
16 Code this council had adopted all  
17 professional services on contracts in excess  
18 of \$10,000 must go to public bid.

19 It was determined at that point that  
20 we would table the legislation. There is  
21 two pieces of legislation. One is the award  
22 of the contract of Central Parking and the  
23 second is to establish the meter rates and  
24 the citation for violations, both of those  
25 were tabled. The mayor has stated that the

1 contract would then be submitted for bid.  
2 That's the problem of Mr. McGowan, the  
3 Business Administrator or the Solicitor's  
4 Department to submit that for bid. It's my  
5 understanding that from I understand that  
6 the bids are currently -- the bid  
7 specifications are currently being drafted  
8 for the management contract of the parking  
9 meters to be bid and that's why both the  
10 ordinance for the award of the contract is  
11 tabled and until that is bid and a new piece  
12 of legislation will come down then that will  
13 be withdrawn because if Central Parking  
14 would be the successful bidder the second  
15 time around, if this legislation is defeated  
16 it could not be put back, a new ordinance  
17 could not be introduced for the same purpose  
18 within this year.

19 So that's why these are on the  
20 table. Hopefully by the next meeting the  
21 bid specifications will be submitted and  
22 will be advertised for public bid for the  
23 award of the management of the parking meter  
24 contract.

25 One other thing I'd like to state,

1 and I forget what speaker it was, Mr. Washo  
2 has nothing do with the parking meters. He  
3 is solely with the garages, has nothing to  
4 do with the parking meters. That's not his  
5 province.

6 Secondly, the reports that -- and I  
7 have been on vacation, but I didn't read  
8 everything that in was the paper regarding  
9 the Parking Authority and the revenue, there  
10 is a difference between the budget and the  
11 revenues that Central Parking has for the  
12 garages and that which the Scranton Parking  
13 Authority had. The Scranton Parking  
14 Authority in 2012, I believe they received  
15 \$565,000 from the City of Scranton as an  
16 allocation for the parking meter personnel.  
17 Now, the six people that came to over  
18 \$90,000 a year which, of course, they didn't  
19 have. I mean, that is not their salaries  
20 and their benefits.

21 When you take what their salaries  
22 and benefits were the rest of the money was  
23 to go for expenses, but I believe that we  
24 have never received an accounting, that's  
25 one thing we wanted from the Parking

1 Authority, so that what the Parking  
2 Authority received they, in effect, are  
3 being subsidized by other salaries to try to  
4 find the \$562,000. I have no idea what it  
5 was for the parking meter people, I think  
6 that their probably salary and benefits,  
7 just a rough calculation, was probably  
8 around \$350,000, so the rest of that money  
9 would have gone to the Parking Authority.  
10 Plus, the Parking Authority also received 10  
11 percent of all of the revenues generated  
12 from the parking meters. In 2012, that was  
13 a little bit over \$900,000, so that would be  
14 another \$90,000, so when you put that in  
15 that's money that Central Parking does not  
16 have and from a budget analysis standpoint  
17 you are really not comparing revenues of the  
18 Parking Authority to Central Parking, it's a  
19 little bit more than comparing apples and  
20 oranges, and I just want to get that  
21 straight and get that out so that there is a  
22 difference on that. If council has any  
23 questions, I would be glad to answer.

24 MR. JOYCE: And, Mrs. Krake, I am  
25 sorry, I apologize, if we could scrap the



1 letter to Mr. Washo that would be greatly  
2 appreciated. That was my mistake, I realize  
3 now that he doesn't have anything to do with  
4 the parking meters, it's just the garages.  
5 Okay, Mrs. Krake.

6 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. ACCEPTING A  
7 DONATION OF ONE HUNDRED (\$100.00) DOLLARS  
8 FROM ANTHRACITE HERITAGE MUSEUM AND IRON  
9 FURNACES ASSOCIATION PRESENTED TO THE CITY  
10 OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

16 MR. JOYCE: On the question? All  
17 those in favor of introduction signify by  
18 saying aye.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
22 have it and so moved.

23 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.  
24 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 8,  
25 2013 - AN ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING A "NO

1 PARKING" ZONE ALONG THE EASTERLY SIDE OF  
2 WYOMING AVENUE (S.R.3025) FROM SEGMENT 0030  
3 OFFSET 2190 TO SEGMENT 0030 OFFSET 2410 AND  
4 ALONG THE SOUTHERLY CURB LINE OF LARCH  
5 STREET 175 FEET EAST FROM ITS INTERSECTION  
6 WITH WYOMING AVENUE TO ALLOW FOR SAFE SIGHT  
7 DISTANCES FOR A PROPOSED MCDONALDS  
8 RESTAURANT AT WYOMING AVENUE AND LARCH  
9 STREET.

10 MR. JOYCE: You've heard reading by  
11 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

12 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A  
13 pass reading by title.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

15 MR JOYCE: On the question? All  
16 those in favor signify by saying aye.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
20 have it and so moved.

21 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. NO  
22 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

23 MR. JOYCE: If there is no other  
24 business at this time, I'll entertain a  
25 motion to adjourn.

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MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. JOYCE: This meeting is  
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  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER