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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, March 7, 2013

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF
(Not present)

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

15 MS. KRAKE: 3-A. COMPARISON OF CITY
16 FUNDS DISTRIBUTED IN 2012 AND 2013 FROM THE
17 SINGLE TAX OFFICE.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
21 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION MEETING HELD JANUARY
22 23, 2013.

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

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

1 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD'S REGULAR MEETING
2 HELD JANUARY 23, 2013.

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

5 Do we have any clerk's notes
6 tonight?

7 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.
9 Do any council members have announcements at
10 this time?

11 MR. ROGAN: I would just like to
12 mention with the parade coming up I hope
13 that everyone tries to remain safe, don't
14 drink and drive and enjoy yourself downtown
15 for the parade and many festivities
16 throughout the city both this week and for
17 actual St. Patrick's Day coming up. That's
18 all.

19 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?
20 Councilman McGoff is unable to attend
21 tonight's meeting.

22 The Lou Rusby, Jr. Foundation and
23 State Representative Frank Farina will
24 conduct the first annual breakfast of hope
25 on Sunday, March 17, 2013, beginning with

1 registration at 9:30 a.m. at Rossi's
2 Restaurant 1501 Main Street in Archbald.
3 Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$12 for children
4 age 4 to 12, and free for children three and
5 under. Advance ticket purchase is highly
6 recommended. Contact Carla Farina at
7 570-687-3500 or Teresa Stan at 570-840-2680.
8 The LRJ Foundation is dedicated to hope,
9 guidance and education for suicide
10 prevention and mental health awareness and
11 supply schools in Lackawanna County, Wayne,
12 and Pike Counties with educational teaching
13 packets on suicide prevention for staff and
14 students. Please support this very worthy
15 endeavor.

16 And finally, I'd like to recognize
17 the officers of the Scranton Region of the
18 Antique Automobile Club of America,
19 particularly its president and our good
20 friend Michael Passaro, the family of the
21 late James Klee, dedicated former Scranton
22 police chief, as well as acting police chief
23 Carl Graziano and the members of the
24 Scranton Police Department of whom we are so
25 very proud. To my great regret, I was

1 unable to attend last week's presentation of
2 the Chief James Klee memorial plaque by
3 Mr. Passaro and the outstanding Antique Auto
4 Club that Jim Klee so loved and helped to
5 establish, and so tonight I'd like to say to
6 his dear children and family members, Jimmy
7 was a dedicated public servant and a
8 remarkable irreplaceable gentleman who
9 remains well loved, admired and respected by
10 all he knew, served and protected. Many
11 thanks to Mr. Passaro, Chief Graziano and
12 Chief Klee's daughters for sharing this
13 special occasion with our community, and
14 that's it.

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

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

19 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you, Council.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

21 MR. ELLMAN: I'm glad to see a
22 couple of you feeling better.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 MR. ELLMAN: I realize that many
25 people in Scranton don't watch this program

1 because the subject matter means nothing to
2 them, but plenty of others want to be
3 informed. The subject matter I'm speaking
4 of clearly monitors our lives. It affects
5 the way we vote sometimes. You know, for
6 instance, I'm talking about this gun
7 situation that everybody I've talked to
8 seems to think it was a lot more serious
9 than the District Attorney's Office did.
10 I've heard a dozen or 15 people say it just
11 looks like gross favoritism was shown here
12 and an average person wouldn't get such a
13 liberal outcome. I won't keep harping on
14 this, but this wasn't handled right. It
15 just looked like it was swept under the rug,
16 a coverup of a cock and bull story to
17 people.

18 You know, this city government, if I
19 could call it that, it reminds me of like
20 when I watch these Robin Hood movies, the
21 king tells the sheriff of Nottingham the
22 peasants aren't paying enough taxes, they
23 are not taxed enough, go tax them. See,
24 Hesser is leaving town, raise the taxes.
25 Whatever is done that's all that we hear,

1 raise the taxes. The developers have
2 cheated us people out of building permits
3 year after year and nothing is done, just
4 raise the taxes to cover it.

5 The SPA needs \$10 million for the
6 garages, instead of closing two of them,
7 which is the simple best thing to do, raise
8 the taxes so we can repair the garages. Our
9 \$100 an hour man sitting there babysitting
10 for \$40,000 a year doesn't see that there is
11 half the income coming in, who is supposed
12 to suffer the loss, you know, the same
13 thing, raise the taxes.

14 The majority of people in this city
15 are paying 60 percent of the taxes for the
16 schools and don't use them. I don't use
17 them. I haven't used them for 30 or 40
18 years. You have just -- there has got to be
19 a better solution than just borrowing and
20 raising taxes every time we turn around.
21 You know, I realize council has had 10 years
22 of gross incompetence and mismanagement from
23 the Doherty administration and besides
24 bankruptcy I don't what else to advocate,
25 but you cannot keep punishing people that

1 have property like this. These nonprofits
2 have destroyed our tax base and it's
3 shrinking and shrinking all around us.

4 You know, I go out here and I talk
5 to somebody at the grocery store and here
6 and there, I talk to -- like I have
7 mentioned, I talk to a lot of professional
8 people, they're just washed up with the city
9 and it seems like people aren't thinking of
10 the future of this city. You are a teacher.
11 You got -- where are these children supposed
12 to go in 10 or 15 years when they inherit
13 like a half a billion dollars worth of bills
14 and so forth? That's where we are.
15 Something got to be done besides borrow and
16 raise taxes. It's just -- we are not
17 getting nothing for our money. You know, I
18 keep telling you I can't walk down the
19 street because people park on the sidewalk.
20 Every place I got -- I don't have no curbs.
21 My front yard, nothing is ever repaired.
22 Now my taxes are twice what they were when I
23 bought the house. There has just got to be
24 a better solution and I hope one of our new
25 political people come forth. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ozzie Quinn.

2 MR. QUINN: Good evening.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

5 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Scranton
6 Taxpayers' association. First I want to
7 give a commercial that the Taxpayers'
8 Association, thank you, Frank, for
9 announcing this last week, I know Jack was
10 sick, that we held our meeting on Tuesday
11 and if you Google ECTV you will find out the
12 date and the time of when this is going to
13 be replayed. It's very interesting because
14 Representative Kevin Haggerty attended, he
15 is the guest, and he spoke about the many
16 issues prevalent today in the city and
17 statewide and I think it was a good meeting.

18 Next, two things I'm asking you the
19 first one, I'm asking you to consider
20 seriously the last one I want to ask you is
21 to consider as much as you can to enact, the
22 first one is that it came -- I have come to
23 the conclusion that with everything being
24 shot down that you are trying to do, okay,
25 in regards to various payoff of the debt we

1 owe that we have to have a meeting with the
2 state representatives. I mean, the council
3 and the mayor. The state representatives
4 and the state senator. The only way I can
5 see us getting bailed out of a situation is
6 we don't want to go through bankruptcy, but
7 the state, the state are the ones that put
8 the albatross around our neck 21 years ago
9 and they should be able to sit down and talk
10 about this intelligently and try to help the
11 city with their finances, be it a no
12 interest loan or grant or whatever or
13 combination. I ask you to consider that.

14 The other thing I urge you to
15 consider and that is to ask the District
16 Attorney to do an investigation of
17 Scranton's OECD. What I mean is this here,
18 with all due respect, Mr. Rogan, and this
19 has nothing to do with a reflection on you,
20 this is before you came here, you have been
21 reading off various loans that were paid
22 off, various loans that people are behind on
23 or we don't know where we are going with
24 them and tonight you are supposed to read
25 off another list of deadbeats, okay? If you

1 take that list, those three lists, and take
2 the names over and get the Doherty campaign
3 finance chair books, okay, and compare who
4 got the loan, who gave large donations to
5 Mr. Doherty, you are going to see that they
6 match. That's collusion in my books. That
7 is unequivocally collusion. It's as
8 tantamount as going and saying, "You know,
9 I'll give you \$500 if you give me the bid,
10 or if you give me something or you give me a
11 job, you give my cousin a job," and this is
12 what happened and the DA is sitting down
13 there and he knows and he knows that there
14 is things going on. I have asked him,
15 Blake, he don't even answer with a letter or
16 a reply. Why? Mostly because the DA is so
17 political it's up believable. I don't think
18 that is going to help me very much if I get
19 arrested, but I really hope that.

20 And I know, Mr. Rogan, that you just
21 came on board with the OECD two years ago,
22 but you know a lot of the audit that has \$11
23 million missing and, I mean, that the city
24 has to come up with \$11 million of
25 nonfederal funds, a lot of that audit has to

1 do with these loans and grants that you are
2 talking about, and the fact that they
3 weren't eligible for these loans and grants,
4 and I don't know if you realize that and I
5 don't know if anybody realize that, I
6 realize that because I'm looking into it and
7 they tell me in Washington that they did not
8 meet the criteria of meeting low income
9 jobs, things like that, any criteria that
10 you have to get a loan. So, I mean, it's
11 serious. It's a mess.

12 Now, anybody -- you had to wait how
13 long for this list? Now, and I know they
14 have Excel program down there, if I'm having
15 an Excel program on my computer, which they
16 should have, I would take that loan and I
17 would put it in there and I would put in the
18 number of years and if there is any interest
19 and I would just be able to every payment
20 I'd be able to see who pays every week or
21 every month or whatever the payment would
22 be, what's it's reduced to and find out what
23 the balance is, and I can do that for you, I
24 should be able to do that for you in five
25 minutes, not three weeks, and we are still

1 waiting. Thank you very much.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I'll just
3 add to what Mr. Quinn said with regard to
4 the request for that loan portfolio, we
5 waited over a year to get that response, and
6 I think you had mentioned a meeting between
7 council and state representatives, I can
8 tell you that I've met a number of times
9 with our state senator, John Blake,
10 obviously to know avail. I know he met with
11 the mayor as well, but I would not be
12 adverse to asking state representatives --

13 MR. QUINN: I think if all you got
14 together you might be able to hammer
15 something out. I'm sorry for interrupting,
16 Mrs. Evans.

17 MS. EVANS: State representative
18 Haggerty and Flynn and Senator Balke to a
19 public caucus to discuss the state of the
20 city and what assistance the city -- or the
21 state intends to extend to the city in 2013
22 and going forward as well. Thank you.

23 So, Mrs. Krake, if you would send
24 letters, please, to those three gentlemen
25 requesting that caucus.

1 MS. KRAKE; Yes.

2 MS. EVANS: For the purposes
3 described.

4 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

5 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is Doug
6 Miller.

7 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
8 Doug Miller, Scranton. I'd just like to
9 begin tonight --

10 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

11 MR. MILLER: -- by discussing the
12 request to have the state senators and
13 representatives appear before council and
14 the caucus. I do feel that if these elected
15 leaders do have a sincere interest in moving
16 the city forward and looking out for the
17 taxpayers that they do represent that they
18 would not have any issue with coming forward
19 here in a public setting and discussing the
20 issues that the city currently faces.
21 Certainly at this point in time the city
22 faces tremendous challenges and it requires
23 all of our elected leaders to come together
24 and find solutions to resolve these issues
25 once and for all so that the city of

1 Scranton does have a bright future.

2 In regard to the parking garages, it
3 was reported that there they are in need of
4 \$10 million of repairs, certainly not
5 surprised by that. I know for quite some
6 time that this has been continuing to
7 escalate and that these parking garages have
8 been in disrepair for many years now. We
9 have had many issues with, you know, feces
10 and other inappropriate paraphernalia, you
11 know, homeless people taking shelter, a lot
12 of issues that certainly have been brushed
13 aside and we haven't taken serious.

14 My only question would be, I think
15 it's the most important question here is
16 where do we intend on coming up with any
17 funding that may be necessary to repair these
18 garages? Obviously, we can't let this slip
19 under the cracks. If these garages do need
20 repair, it's something we do need to take
21 serious but at the same time a city that's
22 strapped for cash certainly doesn't have \$10
23 million to come up with, so I guess my
24 question tonight would where do we intend on
25 coming up with any necessary funding that we

1 may need later on down the road?

2 MS. EVANS: In my opinion, there is
3 no source for those repairs. Right now the
4 city is in a position where it certainly
5 must prioritize and in terms of the parking
6 garages the number one priority is repayment
7 of the bond issues, and I know that one
8 payment is forthcoming in March I believe
9 the 15th, and the city will be able to meet
10 that, but there are additional payments
11 coming around in June, September and
12 December, I believe, and it's imperative
13 that the city meet those financial
14 obligations, so there simply is no source of
15 revenue for garage repairs at this time and
16 I don't see that forthcoming in the next
17 year or two as well.

18 MR. MILLER: And it's also just my
19 opinion and belief that there is probably
20 going to be issue later on with coming up
21 with funding to make these bond payments as
22 well, and I think that's a really alarming
23 thing to look at is that we are going to
24 struggle to make these payments and it's
25 once again going to fall on the city's

1 shoulders and certainly the taxpayers of the
2 city and that's why it's so important that
3 we come up with a plan to address this and I
4 think, you know, for the last few weeks we
5 have discussed the idea of Standard Parking
6 when they came in during that caucus they
7 discussed, you know, a street meter program
8 that allows to generate more revenue,
9 whether it's increased rates, I know there
10 were concerns are from businesses in the
11 community, taxpayers as well, there was
12 talks of the Saturday operations and
13 certainly from some of those questions still
14 need to be addressed, but I think the
15 further we continue to just kick this can
16 down the road and allow this to not come
17 into effect, I think we are certainly
18 putting ourselves in a tough spot later on
19 down the road and, obviously, the taxpayers
20 are going to carry the load and I know that
21 this council is committed to putting the
22 program together.

23 You know, I appreciate all of the
24 businesses and residents who have come
25 forward and addressed concerns, but I also

1 think they need to understand, as I have
2 said before, without any action taken the
3 burden is going to be placed on them, and I
4 think these are things that we have to keep
5 in mind. Do we want to look at additional
6 tax increases to come up with the revenue or
7 do we want to implement some sort of
8 innovative plan that allows to generate
9 revenue so that we can meet these
10 obligations so that we can repair our
11 garages. You know, it's pretty embarrassing
12 that we don't even have the money to repair
13 our garages and we have certainly allowed
14 ourselves to become a laughing stock and we
15 have made a mockery of ourselves because
16 this administration has just ignored the
17 essential priorities, and they played a lot
18 of politics and have put us in a really
19 difficult situation.

20 I'd like to move onto another issue,
21 it was brought to my attention that, this
22 was a request that was made by a resident
23 that I talked to, apparently a large pothole
24 has formed on the Harrison Avenue bridge,
25 makes it little difficult to get around and

1 certainly when you are trying to avoid it
2 you can be merging into oncoming traffic and
3 certainly an accident could be in the makes
4 there, so perhaps we can maybe send a letter
5 to Mr. Dougher asking him to maybe take a
6 look at it, I would appreciate that.

7 We talked tonight, it was brought up
8 earlier about regarding bankruptcy and, you
9 know, Mr. Ellman talked about not wanting to
10 punish the residents of this city, and I
11 think while we want to stay out of that
12 subject about punishing we need to
13 understand one thing that bankruptcy is the
14 ultimate punishment, and I have been quite
15 repetitive on this whole bankruptcy issue
16 and my stance that I have taken against it
17 that I do not feel it's the solution to the
18 city's problems, regardless of what others
19 may want to say. If you think bankruptcy is
20 just going to overnight turn our problems
21 around you are wrong. It's not going to.
22 We don't want to see any burden placed on
23 the taxpayers, but that will happen if
24 bankruptcy is filed. The services that we
25 take pride in every day, our police

1 protection, our fire protection, our DPW,
2 all those things that we may take for
3 granted time and time again we won't see
4 because they will be reduced from the
5 bankruptcy.

6 And I'm hopeful that in an effort to
7 generate revenue and to alleviate the burden
8 it was brought up last week that we want to
9 look into a public safety fee on nonprofits
10 and I'm hopeful that we are serious and
11 we'll stay committed to doing that because
12 the taxpayers have been punished enough.
13 Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ms. Carrera,
15 if we could please a send a letter to
16 Mr. Dougher regarding the pothole that
17 Mr. Miller mentioned on Harrison Avenue.

18 MS. CARRERA: Okay.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Our next
20 speaker is Les Spindler.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
22 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
23 homeowner and taxpayer.

24 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Nice to have you

1 back, Mrs. Evans, I hope you are feeling
2 better.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MR. SPINDLER: You know, I usually
5 don't come up here and talk about other
6 speakers, but as Doug said week after week
7 Mr. Ellman comes up here and complains about
8 taxes and in the next breath he said we
9 should file for bankruptcy. Well, I told
10 him before, I said, "Don't you realize if we
11 have a receiver come in you are complaining
12 about taxes now a receiver could come in and
13 raise your taxes 125 percent if not more,"
14 so bankruptcy is not the answer. If are you
15 complaining about paying taxes.

16 Moving on, just a quick question
17 about the mayor's salary, it's going to be
18 \$75,000 after four years, will that be
19 permanent?

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Good. I think
22 that's a good idea, Unlike Mr. McGoff's idea
23 to put it back to 50,000, I thought that was
24 wrong. Okay, thank you. Talking about
25 parking meters, and I have gone by there a

1 bunch of times, the 700 block of Madison
2 Avenue, it's the block up from Regional
3 Hospital, there are two apartment buildings
4 there and a single house and there are
5 meters in front of those buildings. I don't
6 know why there would be meters in front of
7 places where people are living. I know if I
8 lived there I would be furious about that.
9 These people have to pay to park in front of
10 their houses? I think that's ridiculous.

11 MS. EVANS: We can look into it.

12 MR. SPINDLER: It's the 700 block of
13 Madison. There is like those two buildings,
14 a private home, and then the Von Koch
15 building is next to that, why there is
16 meters in front residences is beyond me, and
17 it's been that way for years. I can't
18 believe these people haven't complained.

19 MS. EVANS: Perhaps they are not
20 operating, do you know? But, nevertheless,
21 they can still be removed and placed
22 elsewhere where they will be useful.

23 MR. SPINDLER: Right. Two weeks ago
24 Councilman Rogan commented about responses
25 he got from Director Dougher of the DPW, I

1 guess it's safe to say none of them were
2 requests I put in?

3 MR. ROGAN: No. It was nice to have
4 that stack of about ten responses, but I
5 think there is probably a few hundred or
6 maybe a thousand outstanding over the past
7 few years.

8 MR. SPINDLER: Well, the one request
9 I did make back in November, the street sign
10 that was stolen, two Mondays ago that was
11 replaced, on the corner of Bullsworth Street
12 and North Rebecca Avenue. There is one
13 problem it's North Rebecca Avenue, on the
14 sign it says "North Rebecca Street."

15 That's incorrect. The sign was made
16 incorrectly, and I have these things in
17 writing I'll give them to Ms. Carrera when
18 I'm done. I don't know whoever made that
19 sign it's wrong. And another street sign,
20 the corner of Price Street and North
21 Lincoln, and I have that in writing, that
22 sign has faded to the point where you can't
23 even see it. So that's, like, if an
24 emergency vehicle is looking for that area,
25 and I do have that written down.

1 presenting your requests in writing to our
2 office.

3 MR. SPINDLER: I almost walked away
4 without --

5 MS. EVANS: I appreciate the fact
6 that you comply with the rules and requests
7 made by council.

8 MR. SPINDLER: I forgot to say, it's
9 on there, too, about my corner it's
10 deteriorating more and more.

11 MS. EVANS: Okay.

12 MR. SPINDLER: It has to be fixed.
13 I know many requests have been sent in.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15 MR. SPINDLER: Maybe another one can
16 be sent in. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
18 anyone else who cares to address council?

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
20 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
21 noticed in your legislation "C", I guess its
22 5-C, the establishing of on-street parking
23 requested by the hospital, why would the
24 hospital with three parking garages request
25 on-street parking? And they did the study,

1 of course, when they do a study how is that
2 study going to turn out? I don't quite
3 understand? Why they would want nine
4 on-street parking spaces, and I suspect that
5 if they get them they will be metered, and
6 that would be more of a slap in the face to
7 them than anything else. I don't understand
8 it. They got three garages and yet they
9 want on-street parking. We'll never know.

10 Okay, we don't have much
11 responsibility with the Scranton Lackawanna
12 Health and Welfare Authority, do we really?

13 MS. EVANS: No. No. I believe that
14 the mayor makes appointments to that
15 committee, but I know often times the city
16 or the county would be used as a passthrough
17 for loans that they are obtaining for
18 various organizations, so that's what's
19 occurring on tonight's agenda and the city
20 does not guarantee that.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: No, it's 2 1/2
22 million, I just was worried about the
23 Authority. Who guarantees the Authority?

24 MS. EVANS: I don't know.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: I don't care what

1 they do, the question is if they are
2 guaranteeing loans how does that reflect on
3 the city. I know the people that get the
4 loans are supposed to be responsible for the
5 loans, but I just wonder how that works
6 because, you know, Lackawanna College they
7 will get into that many, many times, that
8 fund, and you got money for them for various
9 projects and I just wonder as they keep
10 getting into these, you know, these projects
11 what is the legal responsibility of either
12 Lackawanna County or the City of Scranton
13 should any of these projects fall through
14 being that they were out there recommended?
15 I just wondered. It was a curiosity.

16 MS. EVANS: Would you like us to
17 make that request of the Authority for you
18 to respond to it?

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, you could it's
20 for everybody in the city and Lackawanna
21 County, not just for me. Should there be
22 any way around the thing that we could be
23 hit for some of these things that are being
24 done then I would like to know about it and
25 I would like council to know about it. In

1 fact, it's more important for you to know
2 about it than for me because you are there
3 for the future, I'm in there for present for
4 how long I don't know, but I'm here at
5 present, but council will be there in the
6 future, long after I'm in the ground, so the
7 more they learn about anything with these
8 different authorities or anything that may
9 even slip in, is a bonus. They should know
10 it. Well, that's all I'm going to talk
11 about. Everything else is fairly good.
12 Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mrs. Krake,
14 if we could send a letter to the
15 organizational group asking what their
16 responsibilities in terms of the debt. I
17 know that the city is not responsible, that
18 is a matter of fact, but we certainly can
19 ask what their responsibilities would be.
20 Is there anyone else who -- oh.

21 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
22 Dobrzyn, I have some articles that I
23 reprinted, I'm going to give them to two
24 people.

25 MS. EVANS: State your name, please.

1 MR. DOBRZYN: What's that?

2 MS. EVANS: State your name, please.

3 MR. DOBRZYN: Oh, my name is Dave
4 Dobrzyn. Resident of Scranton, taxes paid.
5 Now, they're on economics, so it might be
6 something that you are interested in. It
7 has something to do with the trade deficit
8 and why government spending doesn't always
9 help to increase. I'm sorry, Pat, I ran out
10 of ink, so if you really hassle me when I
11 get a new cartridge or maybe some can pass
12 it along.

13 MR. ROGAN: I'll make a copy after
14 the meeting.

15 MR. DOBRZYN: What that?

16 MR. ROGAN: I'll make a copy after
17 the meeting.

18 MR. DOBRZYN: All right. Thank you.
19 Now, I have two questions here, and I
20 decided to be a gentleman and put them in
21 writing for a change, why did the county
22 commissioners decline insurance
23 consolidation of the city and county
24 consortium, and is it possible to study tax
25 exempt percentages and find ways of locking

1 out further erosion of our tax base and does
2 it -- does council think it's prudent to
3 answer this question before we find even
4 higher amounts of city properties become
5 exempt?

6 Currently, we are at 33 percent and
7 our hole in the budget is about 33 percent
8 of property taxes. If we had 150 percent or
9 more property taxes we would wouldn't have a
10 hole in the budget, so I'll give this to Ms.
11 Carrera.

12 MS. EVANS: I know that we have
13 already sent the letter to the commissioners
14 regarding the issue of their declining to
15 participate in a health care consortium.
16 They have not responded as of yet.

17 With regard to the second issue, you
18 know, it's unfortunate, but even the state
19 seems to be taking increased measures, I
20 know that our state senator, John Blake, is
21 involved in this, taking increased measures
22 to protect the nonprofit --

23 MR. DOBRZYN: Right.

24 MS. EVANS: -- standing of tax
25 exempts. And also, you know, while we are

1 on the topic of the county, the county
2 commissioners were not -- now, not all three
3 but two of three, were not terribly
4 interested in joining efforts with the city
5 and the school district in terms of pursuing
6 PILOTS from tax exempts.

7 So it's a very difficult situation
8 when you have elements of government that
9 appear to be working against the citizens to
10 the benefit of the nonprofit community.

11 MR. DOBRZYN: We are about 30
12 percent of the population of the county and
13 so we have two to one lined up against us,
14 but I think what would be interesting to
15 look into the feasibility of a study, I have
16 gotten involved with the Taxpayers'
17 Association again and maybe we could get
18 some legal advice on that and it's almost a
19 deal for the Supreme Court because it has
20 gone too far. Everybody is putting us here
21 and just pay us, you know.

22 And last week there was an article
23 on dead meters, and I notice quite a few of
24 them when I parked downtown, and Mr. Joyce
25 commented on it and I would say it was

1 around the 14th of February, I think it was
2 the second week, the meeting of February,
3 that I parked in front of a dead meter,
4 which I didn't owe anything at that time,
5 but, you know, I noticed the whole row in
6 front of the Guild Studies was dead and it's
7 ashame that these corporations want us to
8 trust them when they are doing such shoddy
9 work. I mean, somebody -- they are supposed
10 to be taking care of it and they are not, so
11 how do we sign off on the deal with them? I
12 think they have undermined their trust quite
13 a bit and they have some answering to do.
14 Lucy, you got some explaining to do.

15 There is a low cost neuter clinic,
16 the number is 570-994-5846, it's EPAA, it's
17 \$60 for a cat, we have some terrible animal
18 problems in the city, and some people are
19 moving out of the apartments and they just
20 push the cat out the door and unneutered and
21 we have a problem.

22 I'd like to express support for the
23 current council and I hope it will remain
24 similar. I hope you people will run again
25 and I'm sorry for all of the harassment you

1 have got out of the Times and so forth, but
2 we need you. Uncle Sam needs you.

3 And, also, I'd like to see -- look
4 into for the new mayor a term limit of two
5 terms, so we don't get anymore entrenched
6 than we already have had. After the second
7 term I think whoever is in there kind of
8 wears it out there, but legislators are
9 different because you have people coming in
10 and out, there is nobody up there than has
11 maybe more than 20 percent control of things
12 anyway.

13 And the golden parrot goes to
14 Congress. Now, we have a sequester and they
15 are looking at -- they are looking at social
16 security, but one of my neighbors has 20
17 cents a week left over after her insurance
18 premium increased and they want to chase
19 down -- chain down the CPI and so forth, 20
20 cents a week. I mean, that's mighty
21 generous of them you know. So unless you
22 want your mother-in-law dropped off on your
23 front doorstep some day by a couple of
24 orderlies you better think about it even
25 young and old. Have a good day. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
2 anyone else?

3 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

4 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

5 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

6 MS. EVANS: Your name?

7 MR. MORGAN: My name is Lee Morgan.
8 I generally forget to say that all the time.

9 MS. EVANS: Well, we all know, but
10 so that the people at home just in case you
11 get new viewers.

12 MR. MORGAN: Okay. You know,
13 listening to prior speakers you know, speak
14 about the state of the city I think it's
15 important to realize that what's really
16 happened here is so many voters have walked
17 away from the polls and so many voters vote
18 without knowing what they are voting for
19 that I'm not surprised that we find
20 ourselves where we are. My opinion is that,
21 you know, people need to really be informed
22 before they make a vote. I don't think the
23 city is that much different than the county
24 or the state or the federal government, 0but
25 the federal government is the lucky party

1 because they can print money.

2 With that said, I'd like to say, and
3 I don't know if Mr. Rogan is allowed to
4 respond or not, but, Mr. Rogan, from what I
5 have been lead to believe, and I could be
6 wrong, but I believe I read in the newspaper
7 that you are for a partial privatization of
8 the DPW.

9 MR. ROGAN: You want me to respond
10 now?

11 MR. MORGAN: Sure.

12 MR. ROGAN: Sure. I think something
13 has to be done in our Department of Public
14 Works to save money. I would prefer to
15 privatize and collect garbage in four days
16 and have a fifth day for maintenance and
17 repairs. If that cannot be negotiated then
18 privatization is an option.

19 MR. MORGAN: Now, I don't retract
20 last week's statement in regard to the
21 city's unions picking bad candidates and
22 backing candidates for public office, I
23 think that's taken us the wrong way, but I
24 would like to say something about
25 privatization. Now, I don't know if you

1 know anything about Carbondale, but they
2 privatized their trash collection and I'm
3 just curious what you believe a living wage
4 to be because their drivers make \$11 and the
5 people putting the garbage in the back of
6 the truck make minimum wage, and I just
7 think that communities can't balance their
8 budgets on the back of the people who work
9 in their cities.

10 I don't see a big difference between
11 myself and any employee in this city because
12 we all go to work to do one thing, to earn a
13 living and do the best job we can possibly
14 do when we are at work, and I just think
15 that we keep listening to the federal
16 government and government on every level
17 saying that the solutions to our problems
18 are that we have got to privatize, and we
19 can't run like the governor said we can't
20 run the lottery now and they want to sell
21 the liquor stores, well, in the end the
22 people aren't going to have anything about
23 massive debt, no assets and the company is
24 going to own everything and this country is
25 in really bad shape. We have a lack of

1 leadership in the unions because too many
2 times they go off on tangents that they are
3 very destructive, but when you listen to
4 what's taking place in the federal
5 government in regard to trade and in regard
6 to Western Pennsylvania and in regard to our
7 natural gas boom, I mean, they are saying
8 that we have got to keep Chinese people
9 working making products for us because they
10 work so cheap, and I just think that if we
11 keep going to the lowest common denominator
12 we are going to have a society of people
13 that just make no wages and we are going to
14 become a two class society with no blue
15 collar middle class, just the surfs and the
16 leaders.

17 And, I mean, you know, you sit here
18 and listen to people discuss issues and
19 everybody is afraid of the word bankruptcy,
20 but when you go and you talk to the people
21 who live in the city they can't pay anymore
22 so what's the solution? We are talking
23 about the parking garages. I talked to
24 Mr. Scopelliti about the condition of the
25 parking garages, the people that he had

1 working for him were doing all they could
2 with their limited abilities. Everybody
3 knew where the Parking Authority was.

4 And I'm just saying that, you know,
5 maybe it's time for the voters to wake up
6 because you can use see the way things are
7 taking place here. Look at the
8 investigation by the FBI of the Court
9 system, they are going after the assistant
10 court administrator and the guardian. No
11 judges. I think Ozzie brought up about an
12 investigation about the district attorney, I
13 think the FBI needs to go in and investigate
14 the district attorney and the things he
15 does, okay, because I wouldn't ask the
16 district attorney to do an investigation for
17 me because I'm fairly versed in his office
18 and I have no faith in him or his office.

19 I have been out here a long time, I
20 have studied a lot of things and I have paid
21 a lot of attention, and I just am very
22 troubled by where we find ourselves, but I
23 think that -- I don't know where the
24 residents of this city are going to get the
25 money to meet these city's debts, but it's

1 not a big secret where we find ourselves
2 because over 20 years something could have
3 been done and it's wasn't. Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
5 anyone else?

6 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8 MS. FRANUS: Hi. Welcome back, Mrs.
9 Evans, I open you feel better.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MS. FRANUS: A couple of weeks ago
12 when Judy Amora (phonetic) was on as a guest
13 and they were asking her if she was going to
14 run for office because she was a big
15 supporter of President Obama, she helped him
16 with his campaign, and she said the
17 following: "The most power is for the
18 citizen. With everyone who is not a
19 politician you can effect the policy."

20 Which brings me to my point, I
21 believe it's every person's right to come in
22 front of city council or wherever else they
23 may be able to speak and voice their opinion
24 about people that are running for office,
25 any office, whether it be in Scranton, city

1 council, school board, whatever, mayor, and
2 express how they feel and shed some light on
3 what they know or what they feel they know
4 about the candidates that are running.

5 Now, a couple of weeks ago I came
6 here and I spoke about Bill Courtright and
7 some of the things he was doing in his
8 campaign for Mr. Mayor and, Mr. Joyce, I
9 spoke with you later and you told me that
10 you felt it was okay that I said what I said
11 after you thought about it; is that right?

12 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

13 MS. FRANUS: And I just wanted to
14 make it clear that a person does have a
15 right to come to this podium and say what
16 they choose about a candidate because I
17 think it's very important that the people in
18 this city know the qualities, the character
19 of the people that are going to be running
20 this city so I definitely think speaking
21 about someone running for office is very
22 much city business. I mean, they are going
23 to be handling all our finances. They are
24 the ones who are going to raise our taxes.
25 They are the ones who are going to pass the

1 buck onto us. I think it's very imperative
2 that we know everything we can about these
3 people, and I share some of my views, just
4 like everybody has a right to express their
5 views, but I think it's important that the
6 electorate is informed.

7 I'll give you an example, maybe
8 people didn't see this, but I saw it and it
9 never left my mind, a couple of months ago
10 Gary Lewis spoke, and while he was at the
11 podium he really lost it. He started
12 banging things around and he got huffy. He
13 was really out of control and all I could
14 think of, "This is the man that's running
15 for mayor?"

16 And another thing I'm not really
17 crazy about, I'm not crazy about some people
18 who never come to council ever, but when
19 they run for office they all of a sudden
20 show up and they speak. Now, Doug Miller
21 has been coming to council for years, so he
22 is interested in the city, but like Gary
23 Lewis comes all of a sudden, now we find out
24 he is running for mayor. Well, there's why,
25 there's the agenda. This is what I'm

1 speaking about. People have to know.

2 And I'm looking to forward to
3 checking into the voting record of Bill
4 Courtright to express what he voted for, I
5 could give you another thing he voted for.
6 There was a loan for \$35 million that
7 Mr. Doherty -- Mayor Doherty wanted, Billy
8 voted for it. That's just one of many loans
9 that Bill Courtright voted for that we, the
10 taxpayers, have to pay. People don't
11 realize this about it him, and I think it's
12 very important to know and I'm going to
13 check into the voting record and I'm going
14 to come back to council and say whatever it
15 is about anybody.

16 Mr. Rogan, if I agree with you I'll
17 say it, if I don't I won't, just an example.
18 And, Mr. Joyce, you, for example, I think
19 you are brilliant. I think that this city
20 would be in the best financial position with
21 you as tax collector and they couldn't ask
22 for a more brilliant man.

23 And that's all I have to say. I
24 just wanted to make it clear that people do
25 have a right to come here and I know you

1 don't like half the stuff that people say
2 but I do believe you feel they have a right
3 to say it; am I right, Mrs. Evans? How do
4 you feel about that?

5 MS. EVANS: You know, I would agree
6 with that. There are many, many statements
7 that have been made from that podium with
8 which I do not agree, many that I knew to be
9 quite misleading, but on the other hand,
10 everyone has First Amendment right to free
11 speech and every human being should be
12 respected and as long as the individual is
13 not threatening violence and slaying
14 violence or using obscene inappropriate
15 language they have the right to speak at
16 that podium whether we agree with them or
17 not, whether we like it or not, but they
18 deserve the respect of our listen.

19 MS. FRANUS: Thank you very much,
20 all of you. Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
22 anyone else? Mrs. Krake?

23 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.

24 MOTIONS.

25 MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan, do you

1 have any comments or motions tonight?

2 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Just picking
3 up where I left off on the loan portfolio
4 the last few weeks, I'll address the loans
5 that are currently in litigation, and as I
6 mentioned numerous times that amount totals
7 over \$2 million of taxpayer dollars, so I'll
8 read off, these are all currently in
9 litigation. We have Danielle & Company for
10 \$25,000; Fitness 53, Incorporated for
11 \$25,000; Gleeson Custom Kitchens for
12 \$50,000; Impanema Grill, \$40,000; Paul M.
13 Nardone, D/B/A \$65,000; Scranton Downtown,
14 LLC, \$143,000; actually, I apologize, that
15 one is not in litigation, that one is open.
16 Whistle's, \$64,634.13; Paperless Practice,
17 Incorporated, \$250,000; Cartagena Wine
18 Families, LLC, \$35,000; Vida Tapas Bar and
19 Grill, \$20,000; Cache Super Limited,
20 \$60,000; Everest Furniture, \$110,000; 408
21 Cedar, LLC, \$250,000; Castle Deli Outlet,
22 LLC, \$25,000; and the biggest of all loans
23 in the entire portfolio, I think everyone
24 knows what one this is, Molly Brannigans,
25 Scranton Irish Pubs, \$650,000 of taxpayer

1 dollars. So that is the list of all of
2 loans listed on the portfolio that are
3 satisfied, open and in litigation.

4 And since I finished with Molly
5 Brannigans I do want to once again bring up
6 the parade, it was brought to my attention
7 that there are two bars in the city that
8 have been closed for quite some time that
9 the city might be allowing them to open
10 specifically for parade day. You know,
11 obviously if you're a business owner
12 downtown parade day is probably one of their
13 most profitable days of the year, and I
14 certainly wouldn't want to hurt a business
15 owner, but with these two businesses that
16 they may be opening I do have some
17 questions. Are they approved by the Liquor
18 Control Board? Is there still an active
19 liquor license? Will they be paying
20 mercantile taxes to the city on those sales?
21 Will all proper procedures be followed? And
22 I really do think it would be unfair for the
23 city to allow businesses to practice -- to
24 open for a day or two while you have
25 businesses in the downtown that are open to

1 serve the residents of Scranton 365 days a
2 year or five days a week at least and then
3 to allow two other businesses just open for
4 one day. It does seem a little bit unfair.

5 Also on the parade, a couple of
6 residents sent me messages today asking what
7 the cost of the parade is to the taxpayers
8 and also if the city will be sending any
9 portion of the bill to the parade committee,
10 so I will send those in to you, Nancy, once
11 I get those typed up.

12 So that's obviously an issue and I'm
13 a supporter of the parade, I think it does
14 bring business to the city as long as
15 everything is maintained, but it is a strain
16 on the downtown, obviously, with added
17 police, and blocking off the roads, so I
18 hope once again that it will be a very safe
19 and enjoyable festivity.

20 Two other issues that I wanted to
21 bring up, one that is a good issue and, you
22 know, a positive story and one that is very
23 saddening. I was contacted by residents in
24 Pinebrook during the week and there was a
25 missing person in the neighborhood. They

1 contacted myself, Chief Graziano and
2 dispatcher, I know I'm pronouncing his name
3 wrong Alusio from the Pennsylvania State
4 Police and the man who lives in Pine Brook
5 wandered and walked all the way up two
6 counties away in Honesdale, one county away,
7 up in Honesdale, which I'm in my 20's, I
8 don't know if I could make that walk and
9 through the hard work of the Pennsylvania
10 State Police and Chief Graziano and everyone
11 involved the man was found and returned home
12 safely, so that's a very good story and they
13 deserve a job well done for that.

14 And finally, I would just hope that
15 everyone would keep in their prayers the two
16 prison guards at the federal prison, one who
17 was stabbed by an inmate and one who
18 actually committed suicide following that.
19 It's a terrible situation that happened and
20 hopefully the justice system will prevail
21 for the person that committed this terrible
22 act. So I hope everyone keeps them in their
23 prayers and that is all I have for tonight.
24 Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,

1 Mr. Rogan, I was thinking as you were
2 speaking about the parade and the costs
3 involved, very likely the greatest cost
4 would be those incurred through DPW
5 services.

6 MR. ROGAN: Clean up as well.

7 MS. EVANS: Tremendous clean up and
8 it would seem that perhaps the businesses
9 who, you know, enjoy a great financial boost
10 that day might consider contributing to the
11 cost of the DPW overtime clean up that
12 occurs on Sunday and, you know, I know that
13 this wouldn't apply to every business, but I
14 think, you know, the restaurants and the
15 bars, etcetera, there is inordinate amount
16 of work that goes on afterward and that's
17 the taxpayers absorbing those costs and it
18 would be very nice if the businesses would
19 be helpful in sharing those costs, so if you
20 want to include that?

21 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely. I'm going
22 to type everything up and I'll send that in
23 tomorrow morning.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
25 Loscombe, do you have any comments or

1 motions tonight?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll pass on comments
3 this evening. Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
5 Joyce, comments or motions?

6 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I'm going to be
7 rather brief tonight. Scranton City Council
8 has received information from the Single Tax
9 Office regarding the funds distributed to
10 the city as of the end of February.

11 In regard to current real estate tax
12 collections, the Single Tax Office had
13 collected and distributed \$4,893,392.08 to
14 the city. During the same period last year,
15 the office collected and distributed
16 \$3,760,304.08. This is an overall increase
17 of \$1,133,088 more, a 30.13 percent increase
18 in the current real estate tax collections.

19 Along with current real estate taxes
20 the Single Tax Office also collects prior
21 year delinquent real estate taxes. As of
22 the end of February, the Single Tax Office
23 collected and distributed \$72,072.35. In
24 the prior year delinquent real estate taxes
25 to the city -- during the same period last

1 year the office had collected and
2 distributed \$112,351.95. This is an overall
3 decrease of \$40,279.60.

4 In addition, the Single Tax Office
5 also collects the Local Service Tax. As of
6 the end of February, the Single Tax Office
7 collected and distributed \$367,399.40 in LST
8 revenue to the city. During the same period
9 last year the office collected and
10 distributed \$391,380.11. This is an overall
11 decrease of \$23,980.64.

12 Finally, the tax office collects the
13 business privilege and mercantile taxes. As
14 of the end of February, the office collected
15 and distributed \$32,231.31 in business
16 privilege and mercantile tax revenue to the
17 city. During the same period last year the
18 Single Tax Office had collected and
19 distributed \$20,026.35. This is an overall
20 increase of \$12,204.96.

21 In other news tonight, Northeast
22 Revenue has submitted two reports to
23 Scranton City Council. One report concerns
24 delinquent refuse fees and the other report
25 concerns delinquent real estate taxes. Both

1 reports provide data for the period
2 beginning on February 1 and ending on
3 February 28. In regard to delinquent refuse
4 fees, Northeast Revenue had collected and
5 distributed \$23,300.90 in delinquent refuse
6 fees and they also collected \$17,920.26 in
7 interest associated with those fees. This
8 amounts to a grand total of \$41,221.16 in
9 delinquent refuse fees and interest
10 collected and distributed.

11 As one knows, Northeast Revenue
12 collects and distributes delinquent real
13 estate taxes, with the exception of the
14 prior year, which is handled by the Single
15 Tax Office. During the month of February,
16 Northeast Revenue collected and distributed
17 \$53,856.77 in delinquent real estate taxes.

18 I do have a few citizens' requests
19 tonight. First is concerning the 100 and
20 200 block of North Everett Avenue. Various
21 residents living on the 100 and 200 block of
22 North Everett Avenue had contacted me
23 regarding the condition of the road. Upon
24 visiting these blocks, it can be seen that
25 there are numerous potholes in both blocks

1 scattered throughout the street which are
2 making travel conditions very difficult for
3 residents. Mrs. Krake, please contact
4 Director Dougher and inform him about the
5 situation and ask him to handle the
6 situation promptly.

7 As per Mr. Miller's request, during
8 the meeting earlier there are large potholes
9 on the Harrison Avenue bridge. If we can
10 please add that to the issues to contact
11 Director Dougher about, and as per
12 Mr. Spindler's request please contact
13 Mr. Dougher and inform him that the street
14 sign on the corner of Price Street and North
15 Lincoln is faded and need replaced.

16 And finally, with the parade day in
17 Scranton coming up this Saturday, I'd like
18 to remind all patrons of the parade to be
19 safe, don't drink and drive, and if you do
20 drink at the parade please invest in a taxi
21 cab for a ride home and insure safety to all
22 of the patrons of the parade. And that's
23 all I have for tonight.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
25 evening. I wish to apologize for my

1 absences from the last two city council
2 meetings because of illness. I have never
3 taken my duties and responsibilities lightly
4 and as a result I continued my work from
5 home because the job of a president is more
6 demanding and extensive than what occurs on
7 Thursday evenings.

8 Also, I'd like to sincerely thank
9 everyone who sent get well cards and
10 flowers. Your good wishes and support were
11 deeply appreciated and inspired me to keep
12 on top of the people's work.

13 I have only a few issues to briefly
14 discuss tonight. First, Mrs. Krake, please
15 send a letter to the mayor and the BA
16 requesting of date when the RFP for parking
17 meter management will be advertised and a
18 response on or before March 12, 2013. I had
19 expected management to be advertised for bid
20 two weeks ago and spoke the mayor about such
21 again last week.

22 In addition, city council strongly
23 recommends that the parking meter
24 enhancement program is rebid, particularly
25 in light of the fact that the last bid

1 occurred in 2012 and no contract was award.
2 Council prefers that meeting resetting or
3 zeroing out at time expiration is included
4 in the bid specs.

5 Second, Mrs. Krake, please send a
6 letter to the Griffen Pond Animal Shelter
7 requesting responses to questions and
8 related data regarding the number of the
9 animals delivered by the city's animal
10 control officer and associated costs. I'll
11 provide questions and related information to
12 our office following tonight's meeting.

13 Third, please schedule a meeting
14 with Mr. Seitzinger and Pinebrook
15 Neighborhood Association officers in
16 council's office ASAP, Mrs. Krake, to settle
17 rooming house inspections in Pinebrook.
18 Although I spoke with Mr. Seitzinger on
19 February 14 regarding this issue, it appears
20 that he has assigned neither an inspector
21 nor an inspection date. However, in
22 response to questions regarding garbage fees
23 for properties in the Pinebrook that were
24 posed by the Neighborhood's Association
25 officers there are two garbage fees and both

1 were paid timely in 2012.

2 Finally, I received a response from
3 Civil Crossroad Consulting Engineers
4 regarding Lake Scranton Road residential
5 concerns which recommends that four actions
6 are taken at a total cost of \$9,800.

7 In addition, any tasks outside the
8 scope of work, for example, meetings, cost
9 estimates, bid packaging, etcetera, will be
10 build in accordance with the 2013 fee
11 schedule of Civil Crossroads Consulting
12 Engineers in which hourly rates range from
13 30 to 75 dollars.

14 Now, if my colleagues agree, I will
15 direct Solicitor Hughes to draft a
16 appropriate legislation to provide funding
17 from the UDAG account for payment to Civil
18 Crossroads to perform its recommendations.
19 Since the administration has refused to post
20 signage in compliance with the legally and
21 lawfully adopted ordinance of 2012, it
22 clearly would not draft such legislation.
23 If the residents are to be represented and
24 their quality of life protected, council
25 should pursue its own legislation and

1 prepare to override the mayor's veto of such
2 in the future, and that's it.

3 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. GRANTING A SPECIAL
4 ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO REGIONAL HOSPITAL OF
5 SCRANTON, OF 700 JEFFERSON AVENUE, SCRANTON,
6 PENNSYLVANIA, FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A
7 CANOPY EXTENDING FROM THE APPLICANT'S
8 BUILDING 21 FEET, 0 INCHES, SUBJECT TO
9 CONDITIONS.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. JOYCE: Second.

15 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
16 those in favor of introduction signify by
17 saying aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

20 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

21 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
22 have it and so moved.

23 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. ESTABLISHING NINE
24 (9) ON-STREET PARKING SPACES IN THE 700
25 BLOCK OF JEFFERSON AVENUE FROM THE

1 INTERSECTION OF JEFFERSON AND PINE STREET
2 NORTH ALONG JEFFERSON AVENUE THROUGH AND
3 INCLUDING THE INTERSECTION OF JEFFERSON
4 AVENUE AND GIBSON STREET IN THE CITY OF
5 SCRANTON, AND REPEALING INCONSISTENT
6 ORDINANCES.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

11 MR. JOYCE: Second.

12 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
13 those in favor of introduction signify by
14 saying aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

18 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
19 have it and so moved.

20 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. APPROVING THE
21 FINANCING BY THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA
22 HEALTH AND WELFARE AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN
23 CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF
24 COMMUNITY LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS, INC., A
25 PENNSYLVANIA NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION;

1 DECLARING THAT IT IS DESIRABLE FOR THE
2 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF
3 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
4 PENNSYLVANIA, AND THE AREA SERVED BY
5 COMMUNITY LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS, INC. TO HAVE
6 THE PROJECTS PROVIDED BY AND FINANCED
7 THROUGH THE AUTHORITY; DESIGNATING THE MAYOR
8 OF THE CITY, OR, IN HIS ABSENCE, THE
9 PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY
10 COUNCIL, AS THE PERSON TO ACT ON BEHALF OF
11 THE CITY COUNCIL AS THE "APPLICABLE ELECTED
12 REPRESENTATIVE" WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE
13 INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED;
14 AUTHORIZING SUCH MAYOR OF THE CITY OR THE
15 PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY
16 COUNCIL OF THE CITY TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS
17 ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY AS
18 SUCH "APPLICABLE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE";
19 AND AUTHORIZING OTHER NECESSARY AND
20 APPROPRIATE ACTION.

21 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
22 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be
23 introduced into its proper committee.

24 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

25 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. AUTHORIZING THE
10 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
11 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH
12 ABSTRACT ENTERPRISES INC., 628 SPRUCE
13 STREET, SCRANTON, PA 18503 TO PROVIDE REAL
14 ESTATE TITLE SEARCHES FOR APPROXIMATELY
15 TWENTY (20) TO SIXTY (60) PROPERTIES
16 SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION OF HAZARDOUS
17 STRUCTURES THROUGH SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF
18 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (OECD)
19 DEPARTMENT.

20 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
21 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be
22 introduced into its proper committee.

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. JOYCE: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: On the question? I just

1 wanted to add that this contract was put out
2 to bid and the selection made was the lowest
3 responsible bidder.

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

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

11 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO
12 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

13 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
14 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
15 SAFETY FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 8,
16 2013 - ESTABLISHING A "NO PARKING" ZONE
17 ALONG THE EASTERLY SIDE OF WYOMING AVENUE
18 (S.R.3025) FROM SEGMENT 0030 OFFSET 2190 TO
19 SEGMENT 0030 OFFSET 2410 AND ALONG THE
20 SOUTHERLY CURB LINE OF LARCH STREET 175 FEET
21 EAST FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH WYOMING
22 AVENUE TO ALLOW FOR SAFE SIGHT DISTANCES FOR
23 A PROPOSED MCDONALDS RESTAURANT AT WYOMING
24 AVENUE AND LARCH STREET.

25 MS. EVANS: What is the

1 recommendation of the Chair for the
2 Committee on Public Safety?

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: As Chairperson for
4 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
5 final passage of Item 7-A.

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
19 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY FOR
20 ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 8, 2013 - ACCEPTING
21 A DONATION OF ONE HUNDRED (\$100.00) DOLLARS
22 FROM ANTHRACITE HERITAGE MUSEUM AND IRON
23 FURNACES ASSOCIATION PRESENTED TO THE CITY
24 OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

25 MS. EVANS: What is the

1 recommendation of the Chair for the
2 Committee on Public Safety?

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: As Chairperson for
4 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
5 final passage of Item 7-B.

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

18 Mrs. Krake, before we adjourn, if we
19 can contact someone in the maintenance
20 department --

21 MS. KRAKE: I think I know what you
22 are going to say. It's funny you mentioned
23 that. I was actually in the mayor's office
24 to sign contracts two days ago, and I asked
25 the mayor's secretary Stephanie to leave a

1 note for the mayor that five of our lights
2 were out and that are meetings are in the
3 evening and it's very dark. I also noticed
4 last week after the meeting the emergency
5 lighting was out so Mark Seitzinger had told
6 me that was possibly that was due to, you
7 know, maybe just a fuse, so that's okay,
8 well know tonight on our way out, but he
9 told me here that he was waiting to find a
10 lift, so I expressed my sentiments to the
11 mayor's secretary that I don't think it's
12 all that hard to find a lift or I'm sure we
13 could use scaffolding. There is also polls
14 you can use. So if you would like though I
15 had the same thought as you, I will
16 definitely mention it again.

17 MS. EVANS: Yes, please tomorrow and
18 then, you know, if need be I'll call the
19 mayor and tell him myself because, you know,
20 this is really inexcusable. If there is no
21 further business --

22 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I
23 could, just one issue that came up about the
24 Scranton Lackawanna Health and Welfare
25 Authority tonight?

1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2 MR. HUGHES: Item 5-D, which is
3 approving at least the ordinance for the
4 financing by Community Life Support Systems,
5 by the Scranton Lackawanna Health and
6 Welfare Authority, if you would look at
7 Section 3 of the ordinance, it states, "The
8 approval granted hereby shall not in any way
9 pledge or obligate the creditor taxing power
10 of the city nor shall the city be liable for
11 the payment of the principal of or interest
12 on any obligation issued by the Authority in
13 connection with the 2013 project."

14 So that issue came up with the
15 Scranton Lackawanna County health and
16 Welfare Authority. At least as to this
17 issue there is no guarantee.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. HUGHES: It's just my general
20 understanding that that the city does not
21 guarantee any obligations of the Scranton
22 Lackawanna Health and Welfare Authority, but
23 at least on this issue tonight on this
24 ordinance, this specifically states that the
25 City of Scranton has no obligation.

1 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you.

2 MR. HUGHES: There is no guarantee
3 of the city of this financial obligation.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. That
5 validates what I said earlier.

6 And if there is no further business,
7 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

8 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

9 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
10 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER