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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, March 21, 2013

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. Mr.

7 Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.

15 APPLICATIONS ALONG WITH DECISIONS RENDERED  
16 BY THE ZONING HEARING BOARD ON WEDNESDAY,  
17 MARCH 13, 2013.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
21 FOR THE MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2013.

22 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
23 If not, received and filed. Do we have any  
24 clerk's notes this evening, Mrs. Krake?

25 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

1 (Whereupon during the reading of the  
2 minutes, Mr. Rogan joins the meeting.)

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

6 MR. MCGOFF: Please. Just one  
7 disclaimer, the bandage and the black eye  
8 are not a result of my wife hitting me, I  
9 just want to make that clear. I had a skin  
10 cancer removed from my temple area and it  
11 was rather extensive, so there is an ugly  
12 scar under there, I just covered it up.

13 And, secondly, I'd like to wish --  
14 or congratulate the Holy Cross boys  
15 basketball team and wish them good luck.  
16 They advanced to the PIAA Class 2-A final  
17 this Saturday, great group of kids, so good  
18 luck to Coach Callejas and the Holy Cross  
19 Crusaders.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm just glad it  
22 wasn't from celebrating too hard on St.  
23 Patrick's Day. I'm glad to hear you are  
24 doing good.

25 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I'm very glad to

1 hear at that Mr. McGoff is doing well. I'd  
2 also like to wish Councilman Rogan a very  
3 happy birthday as well.

4 MS. EVANS: Is today your birthday?

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes, it is.

6 MS. EVANS: Happy birthday.

7 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, everyone.

8 MS. EVANS: And many more.

9 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. The  
10 Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 344 located at  
11 493 Meridian Avenue in Scranton will conduct  
12 a purple day epilepsy benefit on March 23,  
13 2013. The benefit includes a free health  
14 fair from 2 to 5 p.m. and a DJ from 5 to 8  
15 p.m., and live music from Earthen from 8 to  
16 11 p.m. A \$5 donation is suggested.  
17 Tickets are available in advance or at the  
18 door. All proceeds benefit the Anita  
19 Foundation for the awareness of epilepsy and  
20 world purple day. For additional  
21 information call the club at 570-961-5495.

22 PPL Corporation is warning customers  
23 to beware of telemarketers or door-to-door  
24 salesmen claiming to be PPL employees. The  
25 corporation said neither PPL electric

1 utilities nor PPL Energy Plus engage in  
2 telemarketing or door-to-door sales for the  
3 purpose of encouraging residential customers  
4 to switch energy suppliers. Customers  
5 should beware of these false claims and  
6 avoid sharing personal information with  
7 these individuals.

8 All PPL electric utilities employees  
9 and contractors carry identification. You  
10 should ask to see identification before  
11 opening your door. If you have doubts about  
12 a caller or a solicitor claiming to  
13 represent PPL call PPL Electric Utilities at  
14 1-800-342-5775. Customers who suspect they  
15 have been the target of a scam should call  
16 their local police department.

17 A Delivering For America rally will  
18 be held this Sunday, March 24, 2013, from  
19 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lackawanna  
20 County Courthouse on the Washington -- the  
21 North Washington Avenue side. Speakers will  
22 include Congressman Matt Cartright, local  
23 and state representatives, local labor  
24 leaders and there will be music, signs, and  
25 chants. We need to keep delivering for

1           America. Please bring your friend and  
2           families and this really is being sponsored  
3           by the postal workers, so please come out  
4           and support our local postal workers on  
5           Sunday, March 14, at 1:00 at the Lackawanna  
6           County courthouse, and that's it.

7                   MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, I think  
8           that was the 24th and not the 14th.

9                   MS. EVANS: You're right. Thank  
10          you. March 24. March 24 this Sunday.  
11          Thank you.

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

14                   MS. EVANS: Our first speaker  
15          tonight is Ron Ellman.

16                   MR. ELLMAN: Bob looks like I did  
17          years ago when my wife introduced me to that  
18          darn Teflon frying pan.

19                   MR. MCGOFF: Ha-ha.

20                   MR. ELLMAN: I know it must hurt.  
21          Well, my topic tonight is the outrageous  
22          waste of our tax dollars or why council  
23          wasted \$10,000 on Joe Burke. This is not an  
24          attack on council, this is my opinion. We  
25          have a difference ever opinion here. I

1 can't understand why there is a study of  
2 this road for \$10,000. We don't have any  
3 money to pay salaries for God's sake. This  
4 is an absolutely waste. It just doesn't  
5 make sense. This is -- I stood here five,  
6 six weeks ago at this very spot I told you  
7 Joe Burke made a very bad house deal, he  
8 must have been dreaming that DeNaples would  
9 buy him out of it. This is why all of this  
10 is going on. He wants out of the house  
11 deal, 40 years nobody is complaining. There  
12 is three, four or six trucks a day. There  
13 is -- there is days and weeks that there is  
14 no trucks whatsoever.

15 Then there was this scenario of  
16 accusing them of having something in the  
17 load of dirt that was an implied implication  
18 that something is going on. That's not  
19 right. Again, I'm standing here as a  
20 homeowner and a taxpayer and nothing else.  
21 I'm not a spokesman, they very a qualified  
22 spokesman these people. I don't know how to  
23 say it, just I have been a friend of the  
24 family and an employee, that's not why I'm  
25 here, I'm here because of a being a taxpayer



1 and nothing else. I got trucks -- I got  
2 hundreds of trucks a day go by house, 60, 80  
3 miles an hour 24/7 and nobody is interested.  
4 I have stood here for years and complained I  
5 can't walk down the sidewalk, nobody is  
6 interested. This man comes one time and  
7 complains and there is all of this to-do.  
8 You know, you are talking about people --  
9 his name is on the library. It's every  
10 place you look in this city, the medical  
11 school, the soup kitchen and the colleges.  
12 They have helped scores and scores of young  
13 people get started in businesses. Now you  
14 have alienated this man with all of this  
15 going on over this Scranton Road. It needs  
16 to stop. You sure don't need young work for  
17 anything. This city needs the DeNaples and,  
18 like I said, the Boluses and the Weinbergs,  
19 we need people like that. We sure don't  
20 need no troublemakers like this man is.

21 You know, to change the subject I  
22 have sat there and watched you all treat  
23 Mr. Washo like he was Jesus Christ or  
24 something last week. Right under his nose  
25 with the meter maids telling him meters

1 aren't working he didn't do nothing. He is  
2 a \$200,000 a year waste of money babysitting  
3 a failed business. What do we need him for?

4 MS. EVANS: Mr. Ellman, Mr. Washo  
5 has nothing to do with the parking meters.  
6 He is managing the garages only. Parking  
7 meters fall under the on-street parking  
8 program, so Mr. Washo has absolutely no  
9 authority or any involvement with that side  
10 of the issue.

11 MR. ELLMAN: He hasn't done \$200,000  
12 worth of value to the city and he never  
13 will, and now the people that want to get a  
14 contract from us the first move they have  
15 they are \$300,000 short, you know, what do  
16 we need people like this for? We can lose  
17 all of our own money it seems, you know? We  
18 got \$1.9 million we owe, now they want  
19 \$300,000. They are is no money -- there is  
20 just no money to pay these people. It  
21 doesn't -- it just doesn't add up what's  
22 happening to the taxpayers of this city.  
23 You know, I know I just harp on it all the  
24 time.

25 I talked to a lady this week at the

1 grocery store when I was waiting outside she  
2 told me she is renting a duplex for \$200  
3 less than she did ten years ago. That's  
4 what's happening to our city, you know?

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 MR. ELLMAN: It's just got -- it's  
7 like the fire and the police they have  
8 priced themselves out of the market.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

10 MR. ELLMAN: That's what's happened  
11 with our tax base. Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is  
13 Gerard Hetman.

14 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.

15 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

16 MR. HETMAN: Gerard Hetman from  
17 Lackawanna County's Community Relations  
18 Department. Good to see you as always. To  
19 begin this evening, the County Arts and  
20 Culture Department is issuing two calls for  
21 artists for upcoming arts and cultural  
22 events taking place in Scranton and  
23 Lackawanna County during the summer months.  
24 The first is the annual Art in the Park  
25 program which sees each Tuesday afternoon

1 during the month of July our programming  
2 taking place free for children and  
3 accompanying adults in the different county  
4 parks, concluding actually at McDade Park in  
5 Scranton on the last Tuesday in July.

6 Artists, both performing artists and visual  
7 artists, sculptures, painters, etcetera are  
8 free to apply. They can do out of the four  
9 sessions during the month. Anyone can  
10 apply. They do need to submit a resume and  
11 some type of portfolio based on their work  
12 and they can contact the Arts and Culture  
13 Department by calling 570-963-6590,  
14 extension 106 or by e-mailing  
15 [Artsculture@LackawannaCounty.org](mailto:Artsculture@LackawannaCounty.org).

16 The second item is new events taking  
17 place in conjunction with the second annual  
18 Peach Music Festival on Montage Mountain.  
19 This is the paint a peach decorating  
20 contest. It's a visual art contest. That's  
21 each participants decorate a four by four  
22 moving peach, painting, sculpting, whatever  
23 they would like. Entries can be picked up  
24 actually three different ways, at each First  
25 Friday leading up to the month of August,

1 April, May, June, July on different  
2 locations according to the First Friday then  
3 the theme is that in conjunction with First  
4 Friday peaches will be displayed and judged  
5 at the August First Friday and then be  
6 displayed at the Peach Festival later that  
7 month at the Toyota Pavilion at Montage  
8 Mountain, so artists can pick one up at any  
9 of the upcoming four First Fridays. They  
10 can also stop at the Toyota Pavilion box  
11 office on Montage Mountain. They can also  
12 contact the program coordinator, Alysia  
13 Scazafabo at ArtsCulture570@gmail.com.

14 This is a new event, built a little  
15 bit of success with the peach festival last  
16 year. We saw a lot of people in town  
17 visiting the festival, and this something to  
18 add to the arts and cultural community in  
19 the area with that in mind.

20 And lastly, the county Parks and  
21 Recreation Department is doing their annual  
22 women's golf clinic and also their junior  
23 golf clinic. The women's golf clinic takes  
24 place from Thursday, April 30, and then  
25 going through the month of May on Thursdays.

1                   The children's golf clinic takes  
2                   place during the months of June and July and  
3                   there is registration and a small fee  
4                   required for both programs. Registration,  
5                   additional information can be obtained by  
6                   calling the Parks and Recreation Department  
7                   at 570-963-6764.

8                   And lastly, I didn't bring one up  
9                   tonight, we do have a new brochure available  
10                  for the building here that advertises a  
11                  little bit about the coal mine tour and also  
12                  the trolley museum, we'll leave some copies  
13                  that you can leave outside or anywhere else  
14                  and we always thank you for publicizing some  
15                  of those activities, programs and events  
16                  that we talked about.

17                  So thank you, ladies and gentlemen,  
18                  and have a great evening.

19                  MS. EVANS: Thank you. No one else  
20                  has signed the speaker sheet. Is there  
21                  anyone else who would like to address  
22                  council?

23                  MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council,  
24                  Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton.

25                  MS. EVANS: Good evening.

1 MR. DOBRZYN: Taxes paid. Once  
2 again I'd like to mention tax exempts and I  
3 had a little idea that possibly they could  
4 cooperate with the city and go to the state.  
5 Currently I read that there is a movement in  
6 the state assembly right now, it's on the  
7 back page of the "A" section of the Times,  
8 about something about property taxes with  
9 Pittsburgh, so I would suggest you try and  
10 read it all and try to keep it maybe and  
11 turn it over if you prefer not to purchase  
12 the Times. Sometimes I am thinking of  
13 laying off my delivery person and paying  
14 them unemployment compensation not to  
15 deliver them already, but we really have to  
16 address this issue and it's currently being  
17 addressed in the state assembly and  
18 hopefully it will get some better attention  
19 because we are going to put them there and  
20 they are going to pay, which is what we get  
21 from our representatives currently right  
22 now.

23 And I brought another print of that  
24 article, Jack, you mentioned you didn't get  
25 it so --

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

2 MR. DOBRZYN: If you could give  
3 Mr. McGoff a copy, he wasn't here, and I  
4 would suggest that you leave one in  
5 council's office for the public employees  
6 because it has a lot to do with public  
7 spending and how with the trade imbalances  
8 it's not as effective anymore and it effects  
9 us all. Even car parts that are made in  
10 China, so if we buy an American made car 90  
11 percent of the labor is Chinese labor.

12 You know, it always amazes me how  
13 well all of these wonderful capitalists get  
14 along with these Chinese government, which  
15 isn't even really associated at government  
16 or basically fascists.

17 Okay, I'd like to also mention that  
18 tires and televisions and so forth are  
19 building up in the courts, and there is a  
20 program that takes some of them down to the  
21 recycling center, I don't know about tires,  
22 but it's getting to be a little bit of a  
23 problem here.

24 And I was also wondering on the  
25 Hilton if you are still charging to park and



1 getting free spaces with the Parking  
2 Authority and receivership. I'll have to  
3 put that in writing for next week, I'll do  
4 that.

5 And on the sequester is that final  
6 now where last week --

7 MS. EVANS: It's on tonight's agenda  
8 for final passage.

9 MR. DOBRZYN: Okay. Good. I might  
10 have -- yeah, that's what I did. Okay, I  
11 was just glossing over it and then I missed  
12 it. And spay and neuter, we also have a lot  
13 of abandoned animals around. People lose  
14 their apartments or whatever and they don't  
15 have the heart to turn them over to the  
16 shelter and a lot of the problem is they are  
17 not neutered to begin with, so you wind up  
18 with five cats, keeping in mind that a cat  
19 is the Egyptian goddess of fertility, so the  
20 number for low cost spay and neuter is  
21 570-994-5846. I'd like to mention that  
22 again because it's also costing the city  
23 money, too, as have been previously  
24 discussed.

25 Okay, we are back to the golden

1 parrot and that goes to Chris Kelly of the  
2 Scranton Times and the editorial section.  
3 Please, please, stop your cartoon characters  
4 and Ed Cole, too. Retire them. We are very  
5 tired of them, and all I can offer them is  
6 the triple super, duper bawk, bawk, bawk  
7 because your history is revisions in your  
8 editorial section, and I am really sick of  
9 it. I'm to a point, like I said, where I'm  
10 ready to pay my carrier unemployment  
11 compensation. His tip, his cut of the  
12 action and don't deliver the Times to me any  
13 more for a period of time.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15 MR. DOBRZYN: Well, thank you and  
16 have a good night, and I'll be listening  
17 into the rest of the meeting.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

19 MR. DOBRZYN: The bell rang, I can't  
20 buy any more time, can I? No? Okay.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
22 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians.  
23 There is a good chance we won't have a  
24 meeting next week, that's Easter week?

25 MS. EVANS: Yes, we'll have a

1 meeting. We have always had our meetings  
2 during Easter week.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, sometimes as  
4 it used to get closer to Easter, you are on  
5 Thursday now you are on --

6 MS. EVANS: Well, we had --  
7 originally when I was first seated on  
8 council for many, many years until probably  
9 2007, maybe 2008, the meetings were always  
10 held on a Thursday evenings and we all  
11 conducted the meetings during Easter week.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, okay, then  
13 I'll be able to wish you happy Easter then.  
14 I don't know, Scranton is the only city I  
15 know of where a man could take a nap and  
16 make \$175,000. I'm not going to get into it  
17 more, it's outrageous and ludicrous there to  
18 say that and we all know it, and there isn't  
19 much we can laugh at the situation. It's  
20 just tragic.

21 Let's get back to the Parking  
22 Authority because that's going to be really  
23 hurting us. That study that they made on  
24 the parking in Scranton, what was that  
25 study, if you remember? When was with

1                   actually put out? Where I guess they did  
2                   it, they made a request for a study, how old  
3                   was that study, do you know offhand? I  
4                   remember you saying it once in awhile, but  
5                   you never said how old it was.

6                   MS. EVANS: I don't know.

7                   MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, anyway,  
8                   obviously there was a flawed study. What  
9                   you should do is ask Billy really to get a  
10                  handle on this, ask Billy, you know,  
11                  everybody pays \$52 that works in the city.  
12                  According to some years there was what,  
13                  26,000 people that work from out of town  
14                  inside of the city? With a figure like  
15                  that, I know it was a huge.

16                 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

17                 MR. SBARAGLIA: Ask Billy to sort of  
18                 zero down how many of these people actually  
19                 live within central city and then you can  
20                 take the state workers, because they have  
21                 their own parking, and some of these other  
22                 places have their own parking, too. And  
23                 when you finally get how many people  
24                 actually need that parking you get a picture  
25                 of that parking. 30 percent is ridiculous,

1 but the City of Scranton taxpayers have to  
2 pay for it and what did we get for it? We  
3 get nothing for it. So if we are going  
4 to -- Billy makes the study and we find out  
5 that thing could never get more than 40  
6 percent or something like that occupancy  
7 maybe we can offer the City of Scranton,  
8 some of the people out there good deals to  
9 get that parking, actually people in that  
10 parking garage maybe up to 70 or 80 percent.  
11 We are stuck anyway or we are going to be  
12 stuck until I die and probably my son, well,  
13 he don't live here, thank God, so it won't  
14 be him, but I know I will. I'll die long  
15 before that parking garage is ever  
16 straightened out.

17 So let's get a good study and Billy  
18 could do most of it because he knows where  
19 the money is coming from. He knows how many  
20 people this the state is paying us \$52  
21 bucks, how many people -- well, Sampters  
22 probably uses the state parking lot and some  
23 of these other places, like, I can see only  
24 three major things, the post office, federal  
25 building, the courthouse, and actually city

1           hall that would be the people that could use  
2           this parking. People coming into the city  
3           are happy with the meters here because they  
4           are coming to the doctor's office, if they  
5           could find a spot, but if we make the rates  
6           at that parking garage a little cheaper than  
7           the meter rate maybe more people would use  
8           the parking. I know he addressed it, but he  
9           said we couldn't do it, but we are stuck for  
10          the money any way. I don't care, whatever  
11          he does we are stuck for it and we are going  
12          to be stuck for it.

13                        So let's take a little loss on the  
14          revenue and that, of course, we don't have  
15          nothing to do with it. Now it is in the  
16          hands of somebody else, but anyway, ask  
17          Billy maybe to do a little study on that so  
18          we get a true picture of how many people  
19          actually would want to use the garage and  
20          then that effort could be made trying to get  
21          them people to use the garage and at what  
22          rate they would be happy to use the garage  
23          at because, like I said before, we are going  
24          to pay and pay and pay and the more they try  
25          to raise the rates the less people are going

1 to use the garage or raise the parking  
2 meters people ain't going to want to come  
3 into the city.

4 Somewhere along the line we have to  
5 go off on that tangent and actually get a  
6 realistic idea of how many people really  
7 want to use the parking garages. Nobody in  
8 their right mind would buy them, and to  
9 close them all it does is add to the burden  
10 anyway. We close the garage down it's still  
11 going to deteriorate, maybe even faster.  
12 Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And I'd just  
14 add that I think the great problem there is  
15 there are garages that should not have been  
16 built and they were a mistake at the time,  
17 they proved now to be a mistake, but it's  
18 what the Parking Authority wanted, what the  
19 mayor wanted and what everyone on council at  
20 the time wanted, with the exception of me.

21 But, Mrs. Krake, if you could send a  
22 letter to Tax Collector Courtright regarding  
23 the LST as a follow-up on Mr. Sbaraglia's  
24 request, if we can try to determine the  
25 number of people working downtown and from

1           that we are looking for a determination of  
2           those who can possibly utilize the garages  
3           on a daily basis for parking. Thank you.

4                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.  
5           Marie Schumacher, city resident and  
6           taxpayer.

7                   MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Back to last week's  
9           caucus, given the content of the condition  
10          of parking garages section of the Rich  
11          Report wouldn't it have been appropriate,  
12          perhaps even of the utmost importance, to  
13          inquire whether the required maintenance  
14          will be performed? If a structural  
15          engineering firm such a DRC Associates  
16          states the, "Electric City and Linden Street  
17          parking garages are in need of immediate  
18          repairs to maintain the integrity of the  
19          building, vehicles, and occupant does that  
20          not leave the city incredibly vulnerable  
21          should something happen if these repairs are  
22          not made?"

23                   And now one single question, did any  
24          of you actually read the Rich Report?  
25          Anyone? If I get time at the end I'll read



1 a couple of paragraphs from that section  
2 then. These two parking garages contributed  
3 51 percent of the operating revenues for the  
4 year 2011. If one or both of these  
5 facilities has to be closed or the use  
6 restricted it would have a great impact on  
7 the revenue and require that much more  
8 support from the operating budget.

9 Now onto Agenda Item C. What will  
10 be the product of the engineering study of  
11 Civil Crossroads Consulting Engineers and  
12 how will what they produce impact the use of  
13 Lake Scranton? You can answer that in Fifth  
14 Order. If I don't get an answer I'll submit  
15 it tomorrow in writing.

16 Agenda Item 6-B, what will be the  
17 source of payment to Abstract Enterprises?  
18 Is this an unbudgeted operating expense or  
19 will HUD funds be used to pay abstract?  
20 Anybody know?

21 Now, in August 2011 a deal was  
22 reached to grant President Obama -- to grant  
23 President Obama's request to raise the debt  
24 ceiling by \$2.1 million. In the exchange  
25 for the debt ceiling increase, Republicans

1 and Congress demanded spending cuts. The  
2 result was the Budget Control Act. The  
3 Budget Control Act included budget caps to  
4 cut about \$900 billion in spending and a  
5 super committee was created to find at least  
6 \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction. A  
7 bipartisan majority in the Senate and House  
8 passed and President Obama signed a bill to  
9 bring about \$2.1 billion in spending cuts.  
10 This president suggested the sequestration.  
11 The Republican lead house of representatives  
12 passed two bills last year to reorganize the  
13 cuts. Did the Senate consider these two  
14 bills? Not at all. Has the Democrat-lead  
15 Senate produced or considered a bill prior  
16 to the March 1 deadline to avert the  
17 sequester? No.

18 The Democrat Senate has been missing  
19 in action yet tonight you are scheduled to  
20 vote on a resolution, Item 7-D, to which I  
21 am strongly opposed. The views expressed by  
22 the chair last week and incorporated into  
23 each of the three whereas clauses put blame  
24 on Republicans only for sequestration and  
25 the presumption of economic equality are

1 both divisive and about as accurate as the  
2 first whereas in the tabled legislation to  
3 enter into a management agreement with  
4 Standard Parking. This resolution will have  
5 little to no influence on the outcome of  
6 federal legislation, but I would grade it an  
7 A-plus for grandstanding.

8 However, in the interest of accuracy  
9 we certainly should not, not be putting all  
10 of the blame on Republicans. I think this  
11 resolution should be defeated.

12 And now I'll read a couple of the  
13 paragraphs from the condition of parking  
14 garage section of the Rich Report. "A  
15 service life cycle cost assessment for the  
16 Scranton Parking garages was completed in  
17 the Spring of 2012. The assessment  
18 completed by DRC Associates looked at the  
19 condition of the parking garages and then  
20 projected repairs that were necessary to  
21 maintain the structural integrity and  
22 usability of the parking garages. The  
23 report found the Electric City and Linden  
24 Parking garages are in need of immediate  
25 repairs to maintain the integrity of the

1 building, the vehicles and the occupants.

2 The report identified projected  
3 costs to repair the parking garages. The  
4 total cost projected from 2013 to 2017 was  
5 \$10,353,400. The report identified that  
6 there is an immediate need for work on the  
7 Linden, Casey and the Electric City garages  
8 in 2012 to 2013 and that was estimated at  
9 \$2,636,235."

10 In addition, the report identified  
11 additional work that would be completed in  
12 2014 at projected costs of \$2,807,732 and I  
13 would suggest you would also all read that  
14 section of the report.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And whatever  
16 questions that you had you can submit to Ms.  
17 Carrera and we will forward them to the  
18 appropriate departments for their answers.

19 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

21 MS. FRANUS: Good evening. I'm a  
22 Republican, but I hope you pass this  
23 ordinance about the sequester. I think the  
24 Republicans are really doing a number on  
25 this country and they are at fault of us

1           being in debt. They don't want to give any  
2           rich people, higher income people, they  
3           don't want them paying any taxes, they don't  
4           want to raise their taxes at all. They are  
5           taking care of them. They just want to hurt  
6           the senior citizens, Medicare, all of the  
7           poor, all of the agencies, the president has  
8           nothing do with this. The president of the  
9           United States is fighting for the people.  
10          It's not a case of Democrat or Republican  
11          here but as far as this sequester, in my  
12          opinion the Republicans are horrible and I'm  
13          a Republican and I was a Republican all my  
14          life, and I've seen what they have done  
15          through the years. You saw Mitt Romney  
16          didn't get elected because he showed -- what  
17          did he say, 47 percent of these people don't  
18          vote or something? They are very elitists.  
19          They are snobs, they elitists, they take  
20          care of their own. They don't care about  
21          the middle class, they don't care about the  
22          poor and they don't care about senior  
23          citizens, so, please pass this, please.

24                   MS. EVANS: Thank you.

25                   MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

1 I'd hope we had half of these lights in the  
2 hallway downstairs, but I guess we don't.  
3 The first thing I have here is, you know,  
4 I'd just like to say that, you know, some  
5 council members have decided not to run and  
6 one has determined to run for something else  
7 and even though at times I have disagreed  
8 with this council I would like to say here  
9 today that I have a lot of respect for  
10 anybody who puts their name on the ballot  
11 and tried to do the best they can, whether I  
12 agree with them or not.

13 I came here tonight because -- a  
14 little late, had a meeting with the realtors  
15 of the Century Club, but that was whatever  
16 that was, but there is an important issue  
17 that has got me focus at this time and I  
18 think it's an important issue for all of the  
19 residents of this city and it has to do with  
20 the guardian program because the county  
21 commissioners want to basically starve the  
22 program out and then appoint two part-time  
23 guardians and I guess Judge Corbett is  
24 trying to determine what she is going to do  
25 and that's -- today I'm hoping that Judge

1 Corbett will stand up for the children in  
2 the community who are stuck in a terrible  
3 situation with divorce where parents are  
4 arguing and fighting and I think that  
5 whether you agree with the man or the woman  
6 of the marriage or however I mean the  
7 marriage is, I mean, somebody has to protect  
8 the interest of children, and I think it's a  
9 very vital program and it's my hope that the  
10 Court will not buckle to the county  
11 commissioners and allow politics to override  
12 the needs for the most vulnerable individual  
13 in the system, which is the child. People  
14 are entitled to their opinions, but that's  
15 mine.

16 And the other issue I would like to  
17 present tonight is there is some talk of --  
18 and I use the law library a lot in the  
19 county courthouse and they are thinking of  
20 either downsizing it or moving it and that's  
21 a decision I think that Judge Munley is  
22 going to make and I think that it's  
23 important to maintain this and I would just  
24 hope that the bar association in Scranton  
25 would protect the law library because I

1 think citizens in this country have a right  
2 to have access to the laws that have  
3 standing in their lives and basically that's  
4 about all I have tonight. Thank you.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

7 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

9 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Janet

10 MS. EVANS: Hey, Chrissy.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chris, you're topless  
12 tonight.

13 MR. SLEDENZSKI: I know, I'm topless  
14 tonight, Jack. Mr. McGoff, good luck to  
15 Holy Cross Saturday. Good luck to the team  
16 up there. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
18 anyone else?

19 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

20 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do  
21 you have any comments or motions this  
22 evening?

23 MR. MCGOFF: Very briefly. First,  
24 I'm glad to see that the amendment to the  
25 rental registration is on the agenda for



1           this evening. It's something that we talked  
2           about and needed to be done and hopefully it  
3           will pass through sixth. It seemed to pass  
4           with everyone, council agreed to the change.

5                        Second, the resolution that we have  
6           on, I'm not even sure how to pronounce the  
7           word, the sequestration; is that correct?

8                        MS. EVANS: Sequestration.

9                        MR. MCGOFF: Sequestration. It's a  
10          pretty complex issue granted, and it's not  
11          something that a resolution from -- or a  
12          letter from Scranton City Council will have  
13          a dramatic effect upon anybody's beliefs,  
14          but it is an issue that does directly effect  
15          the City of Scranton and I do believe that  
16          we should at least voice our opinion on how  
17          we feel as a city about what is going on in  
18          Washington. Is the total blame to the  
19          Republican party? No, not by a long shot,  
20          and I would probably be more than happy to  
21          approve the resolution to send a letter to  
22          the Democratic administration and voice our  
23          opinion on what they have done or not done  
24          to bring about some resolution to the  
25          problems that are occurring in Washington,

1 but I think it's something that we should do  
2 as a city, as a council, at least to voice  
3 or opinion on those -- on that issue.

4 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, this will be  
5 sent to Democrats and Republicans in  
6 Congress and the Senate.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. And, you  
8 know, hopefully within the coming weeks  
9 something will be done in the federal  
10 government to bring about a change in policy  
11 hopefully, and that's all I have for this  
12 evening.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman  
14 Rogan, do you have any comments or motions  
15 tonight on your birthday?

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Thank you. I'll  
17 try to be brief as well. I agree with  
18 Mr. McGoff on both points actually. I am  
19 glad to see the change in the rental  
20 registration, it's more of a legality, just  
21 a legal change, but it is something that  
22 everyone had agree on; and also on the  
23 sequester, and I stated this in the paper,  
24 you know, I think some of the language, in  
25 the backup and the back of the legislation

1 was far too harsh placing blame, but I think  
2 everyone agreed that the sequester needs to  
3 be replaced with more responsible cuts that  
4 don't weigh as heavily on the one for an  
5 area that I was feel as strong as national  
6 defense, so that's why I supported the  
7 motion.

8 Moving onto two responses, this  
9 first one is from Chief Davis, and I thank  
10 him for getting back to us so quick, last  
11 week I inquired on behalf of a resident who  
12 wanted to know become cars parking in the  
13 fire lane of the Keyser Oak Shopping Center  
14 and the chief replied it's actually the  
15 property owner would have to make that  
16 request, so I will forward this to the  
17 resident that contacted me.

18 And, Mrs. Schumaker, on your  
19 question regarding the Caper, I did speak to  
20 Ms. Aebli and she is going to be sending a  
21 copy down to city council's next week for us  
22 to review, so after I review it and I will  
23 address your concerns.

24 Finally, well, not finally, onto  
25 some non-responses, which has been very

1           frustrating, these are some citizens'  
2           requests, but I want to elaborate on it a  
3           little bit more, I would like to send a  
4           second request to LIPS asking when the 2013  
5           rooming inspections will be conducted, and  
6           if the deadline of March 31 is not met for  
7           the renewal of these yearly inspections what  
8           recourse would neighbors have if the city  
9           does not complete these inspections on time?

10                       And I have been contacted by  
11           numerous residents who live near or next to  
12           a rooming house and they are very concerned,  
13           unlike having a neighbor like most of us  
14           have or where you have a single family home  
15           or a duplex or a triplex, a rooming house is  
16           a whole another ball game. Basically you  
17           have a communal living area and multiple  
18           individual rooms that people rent whether,  
19           you know, what the price point is that  
20           doesn't matter, but you have a large amount  
21           of people living in a very small space, so  
22           safety is always something that, you know,  
23           comes to mind not only for the neighbors but  
24           for the residents in the rooming house as  
25           well. There have been reports on some of

1           these properties that, you know, things  
2           haven't been up to code, there has been  
3           infestations that have been reported and  
4           these issues need to be checked out.

5                         Now, I know council sent a letter to  
6           Mr. Seitzinger on this issue, we haven't  
7           received a response.

8                         MS. EVANS: We sent more than one.

9                         MR. ROGAN: Multiple, and I know  
10          neighborhood leaders have called and  
11          e-mailed and haven't received a response.

12                         Also, another issue which involves  
13          LIPS that there hasn't been a response on  
14          this is regarding the 1300 block of  
15          Sanderson Avenue. A resident contacted me  
16          and Mr. Joyce, we were talking about it  
17          earlier in the week that they have, you  
18          know, basically a junk yard and they have  
19          contacted LIPS numerous times, haven't had  
20          phone calls back, haven't had any action,  
21          and that's not right. Any citizen who calls  
22          their government, whether it be council,  
23          whether it be a department head or whether  
24          it be an employee should have some  
25          satisfaction at least to say, you know, this

1 is the process or we can do something to  
2 help you or we can't do something to help  
3 you. These people deserve answers.

4 And I'm hopeful that the department  
5 head aren't checking out because their term  
6 is coming likely coming to an end with the  
7 new administration taking over next year.  
8 Myself and many members of council have it  
9 seems like we say this every week there has  
10 been a lack of response from some department  
11 heads, not all, some have been great at  
12 getting back to us. Chief Graziano is one  
13 of them, Linda Aebli usually gets back to  
14 us, a few others, Chief Davis has been  
15 pretty good at getting back to us, but  
16 certain department heads it just seems week  
17 after week we have a stack of concerns and  
18 we don't get anything back and now with some  
19 of them seeing the writing on the wall they  
20 may be out of a job next year with the new  
21 administration it seems it's gotten even  
22 worst.

23 So hopefully something will be done.  
24 I know Mr. Joyce maybe speaking on this  
25 issue as well requesting a caucus with

1 Mr. Seitzinger on some of these issues so  
2 that's something I would fully support as  
3 well.

4 Finally, a few requests to the DPW,  
5 some of them are first requests, some of  
6 them second requests. Could we also request  
7 that the potholes at the end of North  
8 Washington Avenue near D & S Auto and the  
9 railroad tracks are repaired. The road down  
10 there is actually in very good condition  
11 except for one little area right around the  
12 railroad tracks and a couple of residents  
13 actually told me that they're worried there  
14 is going to be an accident. One car or a  
15 group of cars traveling in one direction  
16 swerve one way, the others swerve the other  
17 to avoid the potholes, so can we please send  
18 that request in again.

19 Also, one that myself and  
20 Mr. Loscombe addressed numerous times which  
21 is Pike Street. Potholes still haven't been  
22 filled and the road we still haven't heard  
23 anything whether it will be placed on a  
24 paving list for this year. Could we also  
25 request once again that the road is repaired

1 in the mean time and hopefully placed on a  
2 paving list for 2013. This is one of the  
3 worst roads in the city.

4 Also, on East Mountain please repair  
5 potholes in the 1400 block of Fig Street.  
6 Also, the streetlight on the corner of Fig  
7 Street and Froud Avenue has been out for two  
8 months. I don't have the number, but I am  
9 going to up there and try to get that  
10 number, and also the Fig Street sign on the  
11 corner of Fig and Froud needs to be  
12 replaced, so there is quite a few issues up  
13 on just that one block, and that is all I  
14 have for tonight. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Could I interject one,  
17 when you were talking of LIPS it reminded  
18 me, could we also inquire about the  
19 operation of the food trucks downtown?

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. MCGOFF: I know we probably all  
22 have received an e-mail from one of the  
23 property owners, one of the business owners  
24 downtown questioning how food trucks could  
25 park for extended periods of time,



1 especially around the courthouse, and under  
2 what do they operate under the same rules  
3 and regulations as would an established  
4 business. I think that's a legitimate  
5 concern for businesses owners.

6 MS. EVANS: I agree very much so.

7 MR. MCGOFF: And restaurant owners  
8 downtown.

9 MS. EVANS: The only other thing I  
10 would like to add is I believe our last  
11 letter to LIPS would have gone out quite  
12 recently, in the last week, and that was a  
13 request for a meeting in our office among  
14 Mr. Seitzinger, officers of the Pinebrook  
15 Neighborhood Association, our city clerk and  
16 anyone on council who would wish to attend.  
17 To date, we haven't received a response, but  
18 I don't know that the deadline for a  
19 response was yet reached. I know that --

20 MR. ROGAN: Well, I did meet with  
21 Mr. Seitzinger and members of the  
22 neighborhood association, this is maybe six  
23 months ago, sounds about right? About six  
24 months ago and I don't want to bash the guy,  
25 I like Mr. Seitzinger, he is a nice man,

1 but, you know, he told he was going to do  
2 these things and they haven't been  
3 corrected.

4 MS. EVANS: Oh, I agree. I talked  
5 to him on February 14 after the council  
6 meeting. I had made some statements during  
7 the meeting and it caused him to want to  
8 speak to me immediately and it was during  
9 that conversation that he assured me the  
10 following day, Friday, February 15, this  
11 would be taken care of and he would be in  
12 touch with the president of the neighborhood  
13 association and have everything taken care  
14 of. Nothing has happened other than a few  
15 apologetic e-mails, so it's still my hope, I  
16 think to have everyone into council's  
17 office, could work all of this out amicably  
18 and get those rooming houses inspected, and  
19 it's like you said, it's not just the matter  
20 of Pinebrook, it's citywide, but Pinebrook  
21 has been most vocal about it, so that's  
22 probably where they should start and then  
23 they can pursue everything else.

24 And I think if that doesn't occur we  
25 can certainly ask for a public caucus with

1 Mr. Seitzinger, but I know that we have many  
2 times in the past and here we are in 2013  
3 still waiting for those caucuses with him  
4 from years ago, so that's why I'm hoping  
5 that perhaps he might be more agreeable to  
6 having this meeting in our office.

7 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely, and whether  
8 he meets with us or not if he gets the job  
9 done that's all that the neighbors care  
10 about and there is only ten days left.  
11 Today is the 21st, the deadline is the 31st  
12 for these inspections, so we are running out  
13 of time here and I imagine that it's not  
14 something that's done overnight, you know,  
15 it is a process and it's something that  
16 takes time, so hopefully we will get a  
17 response.

18 MS. EVANS: I agree.

19 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Councilman Loscombe, do  
21 you have any comments or motions tonight?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, just briefly.  
23 First of all, Mr. Rogan, since it's your  
24 birthday did you take the day off and steal  
25 my notes, because what you stated was pretty

1 much what I was going to say so we are on  
2 the same wave length. So not to elaborate  
3 any longer, but that is the high priority,  
4 the rooming house inspections and stuff like  
5 that. And another opportunity it provides  
6 the firefighters in those locations to go on  
7 those inspections with them and familiarize  
8 themselves with the high risk properties  
9 should there be any situations there.

10 And, you know, it's just ashame that  
11 we are down to ten days and nothing has been  
12 done and I would hope, as Mr. Rogan stated,  
13 that, you know, they are not just dropping  
14 the ball because it might be their last year  
15 in service. If that's the case, if they  
16 don't want to do the job, you know, get out  
17 now and let somebody take over that will do  
18 it. I mean, like you said, I have nothing  
19 against Mr. Seitzinger, I think he is a very  
20 nice gentleman, but a job has to be done.  
21 If you are being paid to do the job it has  
22 to be accomplished and I would just hope  
23 that the case isn't -- that they are just  
24 dropping the ball.

25 But, you know, again, everything was

1           stated by Mrs. Evans and Mr. Rogan just now  
2           and right on the money, so I would just hope  
3           some people are listening. Thank you.

4                     MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,  
5           Councilman Joyce, do you have any comments  
6           or motions tonight?

7                     MR. JOYCE: Yes. I'm going to be  
8           very brief I'm a little bit under the  
9           weather and my voice is kind of hoarse, so  
10          I'm going to keep it short tonight. First  
11          off, I just wanted to thank the DPW for some  
12          of the work they have been doing around the  
13          city, especially on the 100 and 200 block of  
14          North Everett Avenue and I noticed I  
15          mentioned that there were potholes that  
16          needed to be patched along these streets and  
17          I'm very pleased to say I did notice that  
18          they were patched and I noticed some  
19          patching of road around the cities, so I'm  
20          glad that the DPW is working hard out there.

21                     Second, we had a speaker tonight  
22          asking a question about Item 6-B and whether  
23          this was a budgeted expense or not, the  
24          \$10,000 for the study on Lake Scranton Road  
25          where the money would be coming from, and as

1           it does state in the agenda item, the money  
2           will come from the RE-RE account.

3                     And I do have a few citizens'  
4           requests. As Councilman Rogan stated, one  
5           of the problematic properties in the city is  
6           1346 Sanderson Avenue. It's in deplorable  
7           condition and basically the yard is a junk  
8           yard. We have voiced our concerns on  
9           numerous times about this and I believe our  
10          office has sent at least two requests in the  
11          past regarding this property, so if we could  
12          resubmit that request to Mr. Seitzinger and  
13          ask him to respond by next week and if we  
14          don't hear a response by next week maybe it  
15          is time to have a public caucus.

16                    And my last request is another one  
17          that's been repetitive, and it has to do  
18          with 1406 West Gibson Street. It's a  
19          property that's in the Tripp Park section of  
20          West Side. It's been condemned twice, there  
21          are over 100 signatures from neighboring  
22          residents that I have in front of me to have  
23          the property torn down, and a resident  
24          contacted me and told me that they heard the  
25          property was going to be torn down in the

1           spring, but a week later there was a "For  
2           Sale" sign on the property, so I'm  
3           wondering, Attorney Hughes, if you know how  
4           this could be possible?

5                     MR. HUGHES: I'm sorry, what could  
6           be possible?

7                     MR. JOYCE: I was basically told by  
8           a resident that a property was being placed  
9           on the demolition list, however, a week  
10          later there was a "For Sale" sign on the  
11          condemned property and I was wondering how  
12          this could be possible in your legal  
13          opinion.

14                    MR. HUGHES: Without knowing all of  
15          the facts as to how it's been put on the  
16          demolition list, there is a procedure that  
17          has to go through, assuming that that  
18          procedure was followed even though it could  
19          be on the demolition list the person could  
20          still sell the house and the buyer, of  
21          course, would be buying it with notice that  
22          it is condemned and then come in with a  
23          petition to rehab it. They could make the  
24          sale's contract contingent on them getting  
25          approval from the city to take out building

1           permits in order to rehabilitate the  
2           structure according to code. I mean, that's  
3           about the only way that I could explain it.  
4           I mean, could the city come in, list it and  
5           condemn the property unfit for human  
6           habitation because of the code violation,  
7           I'm aware of one situation I heard of this  
8           week where it's a -- it's a duplex. The  
9           first floor is condemned, which was an  
10          apartment, but the owner of the property is  
11          living in the second floor. So, I mean, I  
12          don't quite -- I could see where the city  
13          comes in and says, here, the first floor is  
14          condemned, that has to be brought up to code  
15          from the standpoint that no one could live  
16          there, but the second floor could be up to  
17          code or at least not be condemned.

18                    Just based on those facts I would  
19                    think that the fact that the city has  
20                    condemned it the owner could try to sell it.  
21                    If they have somebody that's knowledgeable  
22                    as to how to write the sale's agreement and  
23                    make it contingent on them getting permits  
24                    from the city to rehabilitate the structure  
25                    and take it out of the sale, that's the way



1 it could be done.

2 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

3 MR. HUGHES: Until the property is  
4 finally demolished and on the demolition  
5 list. I mean, it could be put on the  
6 demolition list and the city might not have  
7 the money to demolish it. Actually, when  
8 you look around there should be more of  
9 this. You know, if there is buyers that  
10 could buy a house, you know, the handyman  
11 special and get it back on the tax rolls  
12 instead of knocking all these properties  
13 down. I mean, I think that should be  
14 something that's my opinion that should be  
15 encouraged.

16 MR. JOYCE: Okay. Thanks for your  
17 comments. Mrs. Krake, what I want to do is  
18 research this situation a little bit more  
19 and find out if this property is on the  
20 demolition list or not so can we please send  
21 a request to Mr. Seitzinger inquiring  
22 whether the property at 1406 West Gibson  
23 Street is on the demolition list or not.  
24 This has been a very problematic property.  
25 There have been over 25 police calls to the

1 property in the past few years and the  
2 residents would very much like to see this  
3 property torn down and it's a constant  
4 eyesore in the neighborhood, so the  
5 neighbors are really against reopening the  
6 property at this point.

7 And finally, just to give everyone a  
8 brief update where we are, we don't have a  
9 full cash flow report yet, however, the cash  
10 balance of the city as of 3-20 is \$12.1  
11 million and we have \$89,945.98 in accounts  
12 payable. And that's all I have for tonight.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Evans?

15 MS. EVANS: Yes.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: There is one thing I  
17 forgot to mention if it's okay.

18 MS. EVANS: Sure.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: It's something that  
20 may effect our residents down the road, but  
21 I was made aware yesterday by a family  
22 member that they were traveling Keyser  
23 Avenue where the construction is starting,  
24 right now it's actually across the Scranton  
25 line by the bottom of Snake Road there and

1           it's going to continue through Scranton, but  
2           they sat at a dead stop for 22 minutes  
3           headed west on Keyser Avenue yesterday, the  
4           eastbound traffic came in dribs and drabs  
5           but it came several times. It seems like  
6           they have the whole road closed at times. I  
7           don't understand, I thought when they worked  
8           on a main artery like they can only do one  
9           half at a time, but God forbid if an  
10          ambulance or a fire truck had to respond at  
11          that amount of the time, but I'm just --  
12          maybe we could send Mr. Talutto a letter  
13          asking if this is going to be more of a  
14          habit than what happened there, but  
15          basically if it's going to continue that a  
16          way through the city it's going to cause --  
17          I know we are in for some major traffic  
18          problems on the Keyser Avenue with this  
19          project and it's all for the better,  
20          however, the main artery is supposed to  
21          continuously be opened at least one lane  
22          from what I understand, and that wasn't the  
23          case and I think the contractor there was  
24          Kreiger, so I don't know if, you know, they  
25          are not following the recommendations or

1           what, but I would like to see -- I wouldn't  
2           want to see that happen to our residents  
3           down the road. But 22 minutes was clocked  
4           sitting at a dead stop that's, you know,  
5           beyond what it should be. So.

6                       MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good  
7           evening. I wish to begin by reading a  
8           response city council received from Marie  
9           Elkins, Chief of Staff for the county  
10          commissioners regarding their decision  
11          against participation in a health care  
12          consortium among the city, school district  
13          and county, and I believe the question was  
14          raised by Mr. Dobrzyn, a city council  
15          speaker. According to Ms. Elkins, the  
16          County of Lackawanna has decided not to  
17          participate in the health care consortium at  
18          this time. This decision is based on the  
19          strategy that we have developed in  
20          conjunction with our health care consultant  
21          and plan to implement in 2014. This may be  
22          a consideration in the future.

23                      Again, it must be emphasized that  
24          the county commissioners' decision not to  
25          participate in a potential consortium may

1 well jeopardize it's success and, thus, any  
2 and all health care savings that could being  
3 realized by the taxpayers of Scranton and  
4 Lackawanna County as a result.

5 In addition, city council received a  
6 response to a request from a citizen for an  
7 update on the former North Scranton Junior  
8 High School building. Mr. Gerald Langan,  
9 president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of  
10 Northeastern Pennsylvania states, "In answer  
11 to council's request, please be advised we  
12 are on a path to a closing in April with a  
13 construction start in May."

14 Next, it has come to my attention  
15 that revenue generators whose success or  
16 failure will impact the 2013 budget as well  
17 as future budgets have been neglected by the  
18 administration, particularly payments in  
19 lieu of taxes from tax exempts, the  
20 amusement tax and the on-street parking  
21 program. It doesn't appear that the mayor  
22 made any requests for PILOT payments. As a  
23 result, I believe that all city nonprofits  
24 should provide documentation to the County  
25 Tax Assessor's Office that they deserve the

1 tax breaks they receive. A review to  
2 examine whether all Scranton nonprofits meet  
3 the criteria for property tax exempts must  
4 be performed to ensure that all properties  
5 off the tax rolls deserve to remain so.

6 In addition, a review of tax exempt  
7 properties should be conducted every three  
8 years as is the procedure in Allegheny  
9 County where 2,800 letters were mailed by  
10 the Office of Property Assessment in March  
11 to nonprofits asking each to complete a  
12 three-page application and explain why the  
13 property meets a 2012 State Supreme Court  
14 decision that qualifies them for tax exempts  
15 as a public charity.

16 Therefore, Mrs. Krake, please send a  
17 letter to the Lackawanna County  
18 Commissioners on behalf of Scranton City  
19 Council respectfully requesting them to have  
20 the Tax Assessor's Office review the status  
21 of all nonprofits with particular emphasis  
22 on any and all located in the City of  
23 Scranton. Such a measure is equally fair to  
24 all tax exempts and will benefit not only  
25 the taxpayers of Scranton but also those of

1 Lackawanna County. Request a response on or  
2 before April 9, 2013.

3 Next, please forward letters to  
4 Mr. Gerald Cross of the PEL, Mayor Doherty,  
5 and Business Administrator McGowan regarding  
6 the amusement tax. Although legislation  
7 enacting this tax was legally and lawfully  
8 adopted by Scranton City Council, the  
9 administration is not collecting this  
10 revenue. What is the reason for this delay?  
11 On what date will the administration enforce  
12 the tax? Will the amusements be billed  
13 retroactively to receive full payment that  
14 the administration has overlooked for the  
15 months of January, February and March 2013?  
16 Request a response on or about April 2,  
17 2013.

18 And despite the pleadings of the  
19 receiver for the Scranton Parking Authority  
20 voiced during a March 14, 2013, public  
21 caucus and my continuous request to Mayor  
22 Doherty, the bids for an on-street parking  
23 manager and for a parking enhancement  
24 program still have not been advertised in  
25 the newspaper.

1                   Now, when speaking with our  
2                   solicitor late this afternoon, during the  
3                   time we were on the phone he received  
4                   information I believe from Solicitor Kelly  
5                   that the bid specs were going to be sent to  
6                   him for his review, so at least there has  
7                   been movement, but, of course, this still  
8                   requires the examination of our solicitor to  
9                   make sure that the specs are correct and  
10                  what they need to be. And then, of course,  
11                  the time period of advertising, then another  
12                  time period required for the selection, so,  
13                  you know, again, we have been waiting since  
14                  February 7 and the clock continues to tick  
15                  while on-street parking revenues decrease,  
16                  so if the administration continues to drag  
17                  its feet on these and other revenue  
18                  generators then it may be difficult for  
19                  council to support any additional borrowing,  
20                  any borrowing that was to occur  
21                  simultaneously with enforcement of all new  
22                  and traditional revenue generators and,  
23                  unfortunately, I do not see that occurring  
24                  to date. Revenue sources such as those I  
25                  have discussed support payment of the city's



1 financial obligations and lessen the burden  
2 and taxpayers. Borrowing will not work  
3 without aggressive implementation of the  
4 revenue generators.

5 Simply stated, borrowing alone will  
6 not solve the city's financial problems and  
7 it shouldn't occur absent aggressive and  
8 immediate enforcement of all revenue  
9 generators included in the budget with, of  
10 course, the temporary exception of the  
11 commuter tax.

12 Now, I've also heard, I haven't  
13 spoken with either the BA or the mayor about  
14 this directly, but I have heard that some of  
15 our revenues are up currently, I don't know  
16 specifically which ones they are, but it's  
17 my hope that if, indeed, that's the case the  
18 administration is not looking at that and  
19 saying, well, that's up, so that means we  
20 don't really need to pursue an amusement  
21 tax. We don't really need to be aggressive  
22 about a parking tax, we don't have to hurry  
23 about the on-street parking program,  
24 etcetera. Every single revenue generator is  
25 crucial and they all deserve immediate

1 attention.

2 Next, Mrs. Krake, please forward a  
3 copy of the proposed amendment titled Item  
4 6-A on tonight's agenda to the County  
5 Planning Commission and the City Planning  
6 Commission for their review and  
7 recommendation in compliance with the  
8 requirements of the zoning ordinance  
9 amendment procedures.

10 And finally, I have several requests  
11 from East Mountain residents regarding  
12 paving, lane painting and traffic signage  
13 which I'll submit to Mrs. Krake following  
14 our meeting and letters will be sent to all  
15 appropriate department heads and parties,  
16 and that's it.

17 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AMENDING FILE OF  
18 THE COUNCIL NUMBER 17, 2012, (AS AMENDED)  
19 ENTITLED "ESTABLISHING A REGISTRATION  
20 PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES;  
21 REQUIRING ALL OWNERS OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL  
22 PROPERTIES TO DESIGNATE AN AGENT FOR SERVICE  
23 OF PROCESS; AND PRESCRIBING DUTIES OF  
24 OWNERS, AGENTS AND OCCUPANTS; DIRECTING THE  
25 DESIGNATION OF AGENTS; ESTABLISHING FEES FOR

1 THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REGISTRATION  
2 OF RENTAL PROPERTY; AND PRESCRIBING  
3 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS" BY AMENDING  
4 SECTION 1 X SAFETY INSPECTION BY DELETING  
5 THE PHRASE "BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO".

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

14 MR. MCGOFF: 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-C. AUTHORIZING THE  
21 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE  
22 CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE A DEED CONVEYING  
23 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE COLUMN EASEMENTS LOCATED  
24 IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ON THE 300 BLOCK  
25 OF COLFAX AVENUE AND CONVEYING AN AERIAL

1 EASEMENT IN THE AIR SPACE LOCATED ON THE 300  
2 BLOCK OF COLFAX AVENUE WHERE THE PEDESTRIAN  
3 BRIDGE IS ERECTED AND FURTHER TO EXECUTE AN  
4 AIR RIGHTS AGREEMENT BETWEEN GEISINGER  
5 COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER AND THE CITY OF  
6 SCRANTON.

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?

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would like to make  
14 a motion to amend Item 5-C, delete the  
15 entire summary title as read by Mrs. Krake  
16 and insert the following: "Authorizing the  
17 mayor and other appropriate officials of the  
18 City of Scranton to execute a deed conveying  
19 pedestrian bridge column parcels containing  
20 nine square feet each located in the public  
21 right-of-way on the 300 block of Colfax  
22 Avenue and conveying an aerial dead for the  
23 air space located on the 300 block of Colfax  
24 Avenue where the pedestrian bridge is  
25 erected subject to a reverter clause and to

1 execute an air rights agreement between  
2 Geisinger Community Medical Center and the  
3 City of Scranton."

4 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the  
5 floor, do we have a second?

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

7 MS. EVANS: On the question? I  
8 believe what was submitted by the legal  
9 department was incorrect and as our  
10 solicitor reviewed it he brought that to the  
11 attention of the law department and he was  
12 able to rewrite it and make the necessary  
13 corrections.

14 All those in favor of introduction  
15 signify by saying aye.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
21 have it and so moved. At this time I'll  
22 entertain a motion -- do you need to read  
23 that again as a new title, Mrs. Krake?

24 MS. KRAKE: I don't believe so,  
25 Mrs. Evans, and I believe you would

1 entertain a motion that Item 5-C, as  
2 amended --

3 MS. EVANS: As amended, okay. I'll  
4 entertain a motion that Item 5-C, as  
5 amended, be introduced into its proper  
6 committee.

7 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

9 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
10 those in favor signify by saying aye.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

15 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
16 have it and so moved.

17 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. APPOINTMENT OF  
18 WILLIAM LESNIAK, 314 PITTSTON AVENUE,  
19 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS A MEMBER  
20 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD.  
21 MR. LESNIAK WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF  
22 NANCY BISIGNANI, WHO PASSED AWAY. MR.  
23 LESNIAK'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 11,  
24 2017.

25 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll

1 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be  
2 introduced into its proper committee.

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. JOYCE: Second.

5 MS. EVANS: On the question?

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I would just like  
7 to thank Mr. Lesniak for sending in a  
8 resume.

9 MS. EVANS: Anyone else? All those  
10 in favor of introduction signify by saying  
11 aye.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

16 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
17 have it and so moved.

18 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

19 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 11,  
20 2013 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE  
21 COUNCIL NO. 74, 1993, (AS AMENDED), ENTITLED  
22 "THE ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF  
23 SCRANTON" BY REPEALING SECTION 516 ENTITLED  
24 FLOOD-PRONE AREAS AND ENACTING SECTION 516  
25 ENTITLED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS.

1 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by  
2 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

3 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A  
4 pass reading by title.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

6 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
7 those in favor signify by saying aye.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

12 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
13 have it and so moved.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would like to make  
15 a motion to table Item 6-A.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question?

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: I think you explained  
18 it before.

19 MS. EVANS: Yes. All those in favor  
20 of the motion signify by saying aye.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

24 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes



1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
3 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 12, 2013 - AN  
4 ORDINANCE - ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF  
5 SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,  
6 APPOINTING CIVIL CROSSROADS CONSULTING  
7 ENGINEERS AS SPECIAL CITY ENGINEERS TO THE  
8 CITY OF SCRANTON, DUE TO A CONFLICT OF  
9 INTEREST OF CECO ASSOCIATES, INC., THE  
10 CITY OF SCRANTON'S ENGINEER, TO INVESTIGATE  
11 AND PERFORM ENGINEERING STUDIES REGARDING  
12 THE CONDITION AND DETERIORATION OF LAKE  
13 SCRANTON ROAD, FROM ROUTE 307 TO ELMHURST  
14 BOULEVARD, ISSUE OPINIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS  
15 AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE REQUIRED  
16 REHABILITATION AND RESURFACING OF ALL OR  
17 PORTIONS OF LAKE SCRANTON ROAD, AUTHORIZING  
18 THE PAYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL FEES UP TO TEN  
19 THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) DOLLARS TO BE PAID  
20 FROM THE CITY'S REPAYMENTS OF URBAN  
21 DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANTS ACCOUNT AND  
22 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
23 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH  
24 CIVIL CROSSROADS CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

25 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by

1 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

2 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B  
3 pass reading by title.

4 MR. JOYCE: Second.

5 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
6 those in favor signify by saying aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
12 have it and so moved.

13 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.  
14 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
15 - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 9, 2013  
16 - GRANTING A SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO  
17 REGIONAL HOSPITAL OF SCRANTON, OF 700  
18 JEFFERSON AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,  
19 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A CANOPY EXTENDING  
20 FROM THE APPLICANT'S BUILDING 21 FEET, 0  
21 INCHES, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS.

22 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the  
23 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
24 passage of Item 7-A.

25 MR. ROGAN: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
2 call, please?

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
15 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR  
16 ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 10, 2013 -  
17 ESTABLISHING NINE (9) ON-STREET PARKING  
18 SPACES IN THE 700 BLOCK OF JEFFERSON AVENUE  
19 FROM THE INTERSECTION OF JEFFERSON AND PINE  
20 STREET NORTH ALONG JEFFERSON AVENUE THROUGH  
21 AND INCLUDING THE INTERSECTION OF JEFFERSON  
22 AVENUE AND GIBSON STREET IN THE CITY OF  
23 SCRANTON, AND REPEALING INCONSISTENT  
24 ORDINANCES.

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. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
21 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
22 FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 11, 2013 -  
23 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
24 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
25 CONTRACT WITH MICHAEL BAKER, JR., INC., 100

1 AIRSIDE DRIVE, MOON TOWNSHIP, PA TO PROVIDE  
2 PRE-DEMOLITION ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS FOR  
3 APPROXIMATELY 20-50 PROPERTIES SCHEDULED FOR  
4 DEMOLITION OF HAZARDOUS STRUCTURES THROUGH  
5 SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY  
6 DEVELOPMENT (OECD).

7 MS. EVANS: What is the  
8 recommendation of the Chair for the  
9 Committee on Community Development?

10 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
11 Committee on Community Development, I  
12 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

14 MS. EVANS: On the question?

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Am I to -- I'm  
16 assuming that this would be paid through  
17 CDBG funding set aside from paving?

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes, and it was also,  
19 I'm not sure if it's the backup this week,  
20 but it was also the lowest bidder, too,  
21 mentioned last week.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: You're welcome. Anyone  
24 else? Roll call, please?

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

7 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

9 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
10 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

11 MS. KRAKE: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION  
13 -RESOLUTION NO. 12, 2013 - AUTHORIZING THE  
14 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE A  
15 RESOLUTION OF OPPOSITION TO ACROSS-THE-BOARD  
16 BUDGET CUTS REQUIRED BY THE BUDGET CONTROL  
17 ACT OF 2011, CALLED "SEQUESTRATION" AND  
18 REJECTION OF ANY AND ALL APPROACHES THAT  
19 EXPAND ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND SHIFT  
20 INCREASED BURDENS TO THOSE WHO CAN LEAST  
21 AFFORD IT.

22 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the  
23 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
24 passage of Item 7-D.

25 MR. ROGAN: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
2 call, please?

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
13 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

14 If there is no further business,  
15 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

16 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

17 MS. EVANS: This meeting is  
18 adjourned.

19

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25

C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2  
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the  
5 notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the  
6 above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true  
7 and correct transcript of the same to the best of my  
8 ability.

9  
10  
11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
13 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER  
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