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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, March 28, 2013

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan. Mr.

7 Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

14 (Whereupon Mr. Rogan joined the meeting.)

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

16 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION
17 FROM THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY PLANNING
18 COMMISSION RECEIVED MARCH 21, 2013.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AUDIT STATUS FROM
22 ROBERT ROSSI & CO. RECEIVED MARCH 21, 2013.

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

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

1 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD
2 JANUARY 23, 2013.

3 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
4 If not, received and filed. Do we have any
5 clerk's notes tonight, Mrs. Krake?

6 MS. KRAKE: No Mrs. Evans.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any
8 council members have announcements at this
9 time? The Office of Representative Flynn
10 contacted council today to inform us that
11 that the Linden Street bridge excavating
12 will start on Monday, no utility work will
13 be started yet. The finish date is
14 tentatively by December 31, 2013.

15 Also, I believe there will be
16 garbage collections tomorrow Friday, Good
17 Friday, however, there will be no
18 collections on Monday, and I'd like to wish
19 everyone a very blessed and happy Easter and
20 a Jewish Passover. And that's it.

21 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
22 PARTICIPATION.

23 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
24 tonight is Ron Ellman.

25 MR ELLMAN: Hello, Ms. Janet.

1 MS. EVANS: Hello.

2 MR. ELLMAN: You might be mad at me.

3 MS. EVANS: Never. No matter what
4 you do.

5 MR. ELLMAN: I want to reiterate --
6 how do you like that word?

7 MS. EVANS: Impressive.

8 MR. ELLMAN: My position from last
9 week that I am before you people as a
10 taxpayer and a homeowner and nothing else.
11 No spokesman for anybody. You know, there
12 is -- I just have a vast difference of
13 opinion with council on this matter and
14 nothing else than that. I've had
15 differences of opinion with you people in
16 the past a lot of times. Now, I'm in no way
17 whatsoever opposed to anybody on council
18 running for reelection or running for
19 another office, these things were brought to
20 my attention this week. That's why I
21 mentioned it, because if I was I should
22 wouldn't be fearful of saying it.

23 And as I said last week, I don't see
24 spending \$10,000 on a study to see if we are
25 going to pave the street when we need money

1 so bad because there is 350 miles of streets
2 in town and I never heard of a study to pave
3 any of them before.

4 You know, council is going against
5 the DeNaple's Corporation over truck traffic
6 out of this street and this is suicide for
7 the city really. You are opposing the
8 largest taxpayer in the city, in the county,
9 probably one of them in the state. They
10 write over 2,000 checks a week, over 2,000
11 employees a week spending money in grocery
12 stores and department stores and so on.

13 I don't know. You know, what if you
14 landlocked them and three or four hundred
15 people are laid off even temporarily and
16 furloughed. You're not thinking of the
17 consequences of closing the street for one
18 man's complaint and he hasn't come back in
19 here to confront me about it. You know, I
20 think you people have awoken a sleeping
21 giant really.

22 I was given a message last week to
23 bring to council, I won't say it, but it was
24 unpleasant. I guess they'd have to bleep it
25 out if I said what it was, you know.

1 MS. EVANS: Well, then please don't.

2 MR. ELLMAN: You know, this is a
3 same thing a couple of years ago council
4 wouldn't stop truck traffic from Daron
5 Industries, they didn't want to interfere.
6 They had overweight trucks going 24/7 in
7 that neighborhood and there was complaint
8 after complaint and nothing was done. I
9 just wish you people would stop this
10 insidious obsession tonight about closing
11 the street and land locking had business. I
12 think your question was a very poor
13 endeavor. They will be an attorney here for
14 Pittsburgh so fast our heads will be
15 spinning. We lost another lawsuit just like
16 the mayor has done year after year after
17 year I got to tell you.

18 You know, I noticed in the paper
19 this week in the editorial page finally
20 recognized the fact that the University and
21 colleges have just destroyed downtown and
22 our tax base, but there was a little --
23 there is a little article there that said
24 their state aid for cities that have lost 20
25 percent of their tax base. Why aren't we on

1 it? It was in the paper this week, and
2 there is also an article about Mr. Volpe t
3 the Lackawanna College he wants to spend \$15
4 million on Capouse Avenue for an athletic
5 field and another \$500,000 on Paul Ross
6 field, but he tells council and the people
7 of this city to drop dead when you ask for a
8 contribution. There is something wrong with
9 those people, there is just something wrong.

10 And in closing, this is not
11 political, I just want to say Friday night
12 at Doug Miller's event the congeniality and
13 the respect that Brother Jack mentioned of
14 everybody there, even people running against
15 each other was such -- so refreshing after
16 years of Doherty's filth and, you know, what
17 I mean?

18 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you.

19 MR. ELLMAN: It's so nice to see
20 people that are even opposing each other
21 shaking hands and so forth. You did a good
22 job, Brother Jack. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.
24 Les Spindler.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,

1 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
2 homeowner and taxpayer. I walked in tonight
3 and saw these new lights. It's the first
4 time I have been here since we put them up.
5 I don't know if it was the new lights or my
6 new eye. I just had cataract surgery on
7 Tuesday.

8 MS. EVANS: Oh.

9 MR. SPINDLER: I do want to wish
10 everyone observing the Passover holiday a
11 happy Passover and everyone observing Easter
12 have a very Happy Easter.

13 Mrs. Evans, I am disappointed to
14 hear that you are not running for reelection
15 for I think it's ten years now you have been
16 up there. You have done a great service to
17 this city and the residents no matter what
18 Chris Kelly and John Cole or the editorial
19 or anybody else in the Doherty newsletter
20 that is to say. It's easy for them to sit
21 behind their computers and type away, let
22 them go up there and sit up there for ten
23 years and trying to straighten out a city
24 that an incompetent mayor tore down. I give
25 you all the credit in the world and you will

1 be missed.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you so much,
3 Mr. Spindler.

4 MR. SPINDLER: You are welcome. I
5 don't have too much to say. You answered my
6 question about the Linden Street bridge, so
7 that's good news. I hope it is fixed by the
8 end of the year.

9 MS. EVANS: So do we.

10 MR. SPINDLER: It's long overdue.

11 MS. EVANS: Absolutely.

12 MR. SPINDLER: And I was surprised
13 to see, luckily I was -- lucky for me I have
14 been parking at one of the dead meters, but
15 much to my surprise I went out for work one
16 day last week to find the meter was working
17 and I walked around and see a few others in
18 the area that weren't dead and they are
19 working so I guess would be -- is the
20 Parking Authority go around and taking care
21 of them now?

22 MS. EVANS: It's probably Standard
23 Parking that has been taking care of that
24 after all of the new pieces of equipment
25 they purchased by the city.

1 MS. SPINDLER: Then they were four
2 or five in like a one to two block area and
3 they were working. Like I said, for awhile
4 we have been getting free parking, now I
5 have to park a little further away and walk,
6 but at least city will be getting that
7 revenue and that's a good thing.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MS. SPINDLER: And I have to take
10 council's part for what Mr. Ellman was
11 saying, I think that Lake Scranton Road
12 should be -- the truck traffic should be
13 banned. Those residents deserve to have
14 quiet on that street and not to have the
15 trucks go back and forth all day and just
16 hope that problem gets resolved for those
17 people. They pay taxes, too. Well, that's
18 all I have. Thank you for your time.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
20 anyone else who would like to address
21 council?

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia.
23 Fellow Scrantonians --

24 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

25 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: -- all I was going to
2 do is wish our Jewish friends a joyous
3 Passover and our Christian friends, of
4 course, Happy Easter and there is no since
5 making anybody made everybody this mad this
6 close to the season. Enjoy yourselves.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: You, too.

9 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
10 Dave Dobrzyn.

11 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

12 MR. DOBRZYN: Resident of Scranton.
13 I have here I promised to cut this out for
14 you people. It's an article, Senate
15 debating tax exempt status, there is a new
16 article, I'll bring that next week. It's
17 something that probably should concern you
18 because we are at 33 or 35 percent, who
19 knows. I just don't want to see it 50. As
20 far as I'm concerned, the rest is water over
21 the dam. Whatever we can get out of them we
22 can get out of them.

23 And, okay, on new candidates for
24 council, now different people have come here
25 to complain that they were campaigning from

1 the podium, but in some respects I don't see
2 that as all that bad and I would prefer that
3 from a personal perspective they do show up
4 at council meetings so they could become
5 familiarized with the activities of council
6 and what's working and what's not working.
7 Some comments have been made that they might
8 be able to get along much better with the
9 administration or whatever, well, that's
10 debatable, you don't even know who that is
11 going to be at this time, and I'd love to
12 see council take them under their wing for a
13 couple of months and just so that it's left
14 with somebody that's knowledgeable, that the
15 town is left with somebody that is
16 knowledgeable or up to speed with what's
17 going on around them instead of getting
18 handed a parking contract with more holes
19 than a piece of the swiss cheese. I always
20 complain at the grocery store, "They are
21 weighing the swiss cheese holes, I want my
22 rebate." I pull that on all the managers.

23 And okay, I'll probably put this in
24 writing, but I was wondering if from over
25 the years we heard a lot about the Kanjorski

1 bridge at Nay Aug Park, the bridge over the
2 gorge, and I was wondering if that was
3 totally paid for by the state or if we had
4 to kick in on it and I'll maybe sit down at
5 the computer and get a -- it would be
6 interesting to know.

7 And once again, the city and the
8 animal shelters are having one heck of a
9 time keeping up with the load of cats
10 especially, dogs are pretty much under
11 control, but not entirely, and there is a
12 spay and neuter 570-994-5846. Have your pet
13 spayed because anybody that has a cat
14 doesn't need a second one, that's all there
15 is to it, and a third and fourth and it will
16 probably be more like a fourth and a fifth,
17 and not too long so if the cat gets out the
18 door if he is not neutered or she they will
19 dirty your house up something awful and they
20 are not a good pet in the first place and if
21 they are they won't necessarily try to get
22 out the door so much.

23 Well, also, I'd like to comment on
24 the sequester decision, I think that was
25 just dandy with me and some people in

1 Congress are trying to -- it seems like they
2 are trying to make the administration own --
3 in Washington own the social security cuts,
4 so it's nice to see your mother or your
5 father or your in-laws live independently if
6 they want to or at least that they have a
7 choice some day because currently if they
8 change down the CPI it's something like a
9 \$1,000 a year after about 12 years, so
10 that's almost like missing a check, one
11 check out of the year for the average
12 Scrantonian and it's -- might not be able to
13 pay the property tax some day, who knows.

14 You know, and finally, the golden
15 parrot once again goes to the Scranton
16 Times, I am sure you people are tired of
17 hearing about it, but you were mentioned
18 with Senator Mellow, who is currently in
19 jail, and if anybody should be in jail it
20 should be the editorial board for the
21 Scranton Times. Thank you and have a good
22 night and don't forget to bawk, bawk, bawk,
23 bawk.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
25 anyone else?

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

2 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, Do you have
3 any comments or motions?

4 MR. MCGOFF: Just very quickly a
5 couple of things that were in our mail that
6 had been talked about, I don't know if
7 anybody else was going to address these.
8 There ws a citizen's comment about the fact
9 that Meadow Avenue was not on the paving
10 list that was submitted to us. I believe
11 that that area would not be available for
12 paving under the CDBG funding which I
13 believe is what we received, a list that
14 was -- that those streets were fundable
15 under CDBG, however, we also received a
16 response that Meadow Avenue is on a city
17 paving list that there is an intention to
18 pave Meadow Avenue, also to reline it so
19 that the flow of traffic on Meadow Avenue
20 would be facilitated. I know there are some
21 problems, especially with the service
22 station at the corner of River and Meadow,
23 and hopefully that with the realigning and
24 the repaving there will be some resolution
25 to that problem.

1 I must admit that I am probably part
2 of the problem. I use that service station
3 and I do make left hand turns onto Meadow
4 Avenue out of there and it is a very
5 difficult situation. Hopefully it will be
6 resolved.

7 The other thing that I brought up
8 last week, and has been brought up by other
9 members of council was the food trucks that
10 were parking on particularly courthouse
11 square and there was questions as to whether
12 that was permissible? We received a
13 response from Chief Graziano that the food
14 venders are paying the full daily rates to
15 Standard Parking to be able to park at these
16 meters during business days and it was then
17 stated that this has been a practice of
18 Standard Parking and also from -- practice
19 of the Scranton Parking Authority going back
20 however many years and it just says for/TP-R
21 some time. But in the last line of the
22 letter from chief Graziano it says that
23 although this has been a standing practice
24 it may be in conflict with city ordinance
25 and I would believe that maybe that is

1 something that we should look into is is
2 there an ordinance that prevents that from
3 happening, and also I don't know that we
4 received any response from licensing as to
5 whether or not those food trucks pay the
6 same fees and taxes and that the established
7 businesses do. That's another thing that we
8 should look into, but there has been some
9 action on this just to let people that are
10 concerned know that there is -- we are doing
11 something to look into the situation.

12 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, I think Mrs.
13 Krake some information for us.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

15 MS. KRAKE: Mr. McGoff, we don't
16 normally give you the letters that we
17 requested at what point, but in the letters
18 that we sent to the Chief and Standard
19 Parking we actually cited the ordinances
20 that they are violating.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

22 MS. KRAKE: And having worked in
23 that department for part of my career here
24 at city hall that those are two hour meters,
25 so they are most definitely in violation;

1 and there is another ordinance that pertains
2 to parking overnight on any city street
3 which would also be in violation and that is
4 something that the police would enforce, so
5 just wanted to bring that up. Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Yes, I
8 think there does need to be some supervision
9 and some changes as far as the food trucks
10 are concerned and hopefully we can move
11 forward on that.

12 And then the last thing I'm happy to
13 see that there is a I guess just a proposal
14 for the parking management services will be
15 held Monday, May 6. I know that's still a
16 long way off, but we hope that that was
17 done.

18 MS. EVANS: Is that the prebid
19 conference?

20 MR. MCGOFF: It says that proposals
21 will be opened in council chambers Monday,
22 May 6, for the following: The City of
23 Scranton Parking Management Services.

24 MS. EVANS: Okay. So I was going to
25 talk a little bit about this later, but

1 Solicitor Hughes had told me this week this
2 a prebid conference -- I have the date in my
3 motions tonight, will be held on April 12,
4 so that will get, I believe, everything --

5 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. And again,
6 Happy Easter and Passover to all. And
7 that's all.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
9 Rogan, do you have comments or motions?

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. First,
11 just to talk a little bit more about the
12 items that Mr. McGoff brought up, I know a
13 lot of residents contacted me about it over
14 the last week was, as Mr. McGoff mentioned,
15 the paving list that was published in the
16 paper was through the federal funds and
17 these funds could only be used in low to
18 moderate income ears. I know some residents
19 who have contacted us and members of council
20 have been pushing for other streets to be
21 paved that simply just couldn't because of
22 the federal guidelines I do believe they are
23 mention that it is true that there is about
24 half a million dollars of other money that
25 can be used for paving anywhere in the city.

1 And that being said, I do have a
2 list that I will read off later that some
3 residents brought up to me so hopefully some
4 of those will be put on the list.

5 Next, just another comment about an
6 article that was in the Scranton Times this
7 week. I was very frustrated, and I know
8 many of you were, too, to read that former
9 city employee Carl Greco has tax liens on
10 him for nearly a million dollars, and I know
11 going back before this council took power he
12 was making very large amounts of money
13 through OECD, other agencies, being billed
14 an hourly rate and he was, you know, it
15 seems the bid specs were set that only he
16 could apply.

17 What's done is done and it's
18 unfortunate that he made over a million
19 dollars from taxpayers and now he owes over
20 a million in federal taxes, and that's not a
21 city issue, but what is, and with my
22 colleague's agreement, I would like us to
23 send a letter to Berkheimer asking if there
24 are any taxes owed to the city from Attorney
25 Greco. With everyone's agreement I do have

1 that in writing, I definitely think that's
2 something we should look into because it's a
3 very hefty sum that's owed to the federal
4 government so one would assume likely he
5 owes the city as well.

6 Next, I would --

7 MR. JOYCE: If I could interrupt for
8 a second, I think it would be good to send
9 something maybe to Tax Collector Courtright
10 since he collected income taxes for some of
11 these years as well.

12 MR. ROGAN: Sure. Absolutely. And
13 I'll add that. Actually, I do that have
14 that there, also.

15 Next, I would just like to thank Pat
16 McMullen from the DPW and our Clerk Nancy
17 Krake for helping with the situation for a
18 handicap sign. There was a resident who
19 contacted me stating he went down to the DPW
20 to get a handicap sign and somebody at DPW
21 told him, "We don't do them anymore."

22 And from the response that I
23 received today this should be taken care of
24 within the week. And also I would request
25 that we send a letter to Chief Graziano to

1 look into areas where people have had
2 handicapped signs and have passed away. I
3 know, for instance, just a block away from
4 me, the 300 block of Hyde Park Avenue if you
5 drive down a block or walk down to block
6 there are probably at least 30 handicapped
7 signs.

8 MS. EVANS: I've seen that.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, and I think it's
10 safe to say that many of those signs were
11 there and somebody would move or possibly
12 pass away and the sign would just stay there
13 so instead of having to print new signs
14 every time somebody requested one if we
15 could start recycling them and save the city
16 some money and give the people a quicker
17 turn around, so if we could do that as well,
18 Mrs. Krake. Thank you again for working so
19 quickly on that.

20 And finally, just a list of the few
21 streets that we received requests on and
22 that I also had and most of these are
23 repetitive, but we'll mention them again.
24 Mr. McGoff mentioned the 200 block of
25 Meadow. Also, and Mr. Joyce has mentioned

1 this before, Greenbush, Reese and Rockwell.
2 The 300 block of South Edwards Court. The
3 1400 block of South Irving, and the 400
4 block of Orchard Street where Rosen Court
5 and Meanderling Court intersect to be
6 repaired in the meantime and hopefully put
7 on the paving list.

8 And I would also hope that the city
9 paving list will be spread out amongst the
10 entire city, not just focused on one
11 neighborhood or another, it should be spread
12 equally to the road that needs the most
13 repair.

14 And actually one more response I
15 forgot to mention, Chief Graziano has been
16 absolutely great with getting back to city
17 council with questions that we have put in
18 and sometimes the answer isn't what you want
19 or what you like, but he always replies and
20 he is one of the few department heads that
21 really on the ball with that and he deserves
22 a thanks. This is regarding the people
23 parking in the fire lane at the Keyser Oak
24 Shopping Center, I brought this up a couple
25 of weeks ago, sent it to Chief Davis. He

1 responded quickly and said it was a police
2 issue, he sent it to Chief Graziano and he
3 replied that they will be upping patrols,
4 patrolling efforts in that to monitor this
5 issue, so this is how it's supposed to work
6 between the residents, the council and, you
7 know, department heads, so hopefully we will
8 see more of that cooperation moving forward
9 in the future and thanks to everyone that
10 did reply to council.

11 And finally, I would like to wish
12 everyone a Happy Passover and a very Happy
13 Easter. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
15 Loscombe, do you have any comments or
16 motions tonight?

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, just a few item
18 items. I, too, would like to wish everyone
19 a happy Passover, a happy Easter, and just
20 to touch on two subjects that we discussed
21 here tonight already, as Mr. McGoff
22 mentioned Meadow Avenue there is a lot of
23 complaints as we know, safety problems up in
24 that intersection, so we had a meeting
25 yesterday with our city engineer, our DPW

1 director, our chief of police, and some
2 PennDOT executives and Mrs. Krake happened
3 to be there with me, also, but we had
4 discussed the situation and pulling out of
5 that gas station and the worse is pulling
6 out onto River Street and going across the
7 median there, it seems people are still
8 doing that, believe it or not, hopping on 81
9 and going over the bump. They have knocked
10 over some markers there, but it was a pretty
11 good meeting and it appears that all of
12 Meadow Avenue there will be blacktopped.
13 There will be new lines and a considerable
14 amount of signage that should help
15 out-of-towners to show them where 81 is.

16 That big yellow sign at the end,
17 which is off the right, is going to be moved
18 into the center, and there will be curbing
19 placed on the River Street side there were
20 they always have garbage dumped and the
21 flower tents and stuff like that, so there
22 should be significant changes there that
23 will help with the safety aspect and
24 hopefully that will answer all of the
25 questions.

1 But it was a pretty informative
2 meeting, it was a good meeting and there was
3 a lot of corporation all around, so I think
4 that would be a big improvement for that
5 area.

6 And another area that we have a
7 problem, and again, I happened to take a
8 ride by afterwards and ironically in my mail
9 this evening there was a letter from a
10 person who wrote me stating a couple of
11 months ago they requested information about
12 the traffic light at Lackawanna and North
13 Main. I thought that was corrected because
14 it seemed to be okay, I will go by that
15 again and check it, complaining about the
16 timing on it, but the big factor is the West
17 Lackawanna Avenue bridge, the West
18 Lackawanna Avenue bridge, if you remember,
19 the news media I was there with the news
20 media and this was back in July of 2011, and
21 the next day Director Brazil stated he was
22 going to take care of the sidewalks and
23 level them off. It was requested at that
24 time by the PennDOT engineer who was there
25 with me that the north side of the West

1 Lackawanna Avenue bridge, the sidewalks, be
2 closed off because of that section that is
3 moving.

4 Right now that section is literally
5 hanging by a wire. I have pictures that I
6 took yesterday compared to the pictures I
7 took the other day. I don't know how it's
8 still hanging on there, but it's going to go
9 down any day and hopefully someone is not
10 walking on those sidewalks when it goes
11 down, so before we get into a lawsuit from
12 somebody getting hurt, I will forward the
13 pictures to Mrs. Krake and perhaps we can
14 get an updated set of photos and
15 recommendations to our city engineer and our
16 Public Works director.

17 I think at the very least, we don't
18 have the money to repair it at this point,
19 we do have to close those sidewalks off.
20 It's a very dangerous situation and, like I
21 said, there is significant movement from the
22 time I took a pictures originally until now
23 and, like I said, literally, it's us -- I
24 think those two wires are holding that
25 section from dropping, and the same person

1 wrote me the letter mentioned about the
2 lights on the bridge. Now, it appears a
3 couple of months ago they were able to get
4 the lights working on the south side of the
5 bridge, but until that bridge is repaired
6 the wires that are literally holding that
7 piece of the concrete are the wires for the
8 lights on the north side of the bridge and
9 they are basically pinched off. That whole
10 conduit is shot. The only way they could
11 redo those lights is if they fixed that and
12 run a new conduit or a whole new outside
13 wire, which I don't even know if it's legal
14 at this point.

15 But, you know, I know we have a lot
16 of bridge problems in this city, but I would
17 hate to see another bridge from west side go
18 down and be closed or at least cause bodily
19 harm to someone before something could be
20 done about it. We have had significant time
21 and warnings about it and nothing has been
22 done and that seems to be the problem here.
23 We wait until things are crumbling before
24 they are taken care of and then they end up
25 costing two or three times as much to repair

1 so, you know, knowing, you know, it's in our
2 best interest to do something about this
3 situation now. And I will forward the
4 photographs and everything at this point,
5 any information I have along with -- I mean,
6 we do have bridge inspections reports and
7 stuff like that.

8 But I just wanted to mention that
9 because ironically, you know, I received a
10 letter on that and just to that person who
11 sent me this letter I have been following up
12 on this for quite some time. We have had
13 promises that things were going to be done,
14 we can only request it be done, we could
15 send it to the proper channels, but those in
16 authority they are the only ones that can
17 make the decision to do it and they have
18 neglected to do it so far and I just hope
19 that they won't neglect the taxpayers any
20 more before someone gets hurt here.

21 And I believe that's all I have this
22 evening. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And I'd also
24 like to extend my thanks to you and Mrs.
25 Krake for attending that meeting at Meadow

1 Avenue yesterday with Chief Graziano and the
2 PennDOT representatives. I believe that,
3 you know, we are on our way now to getting
4 things done and it's because the two of you
5 took the time and put the efforts in to
6 really address this personally and get it
7 done. So thank you both.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: You're welcome.

9 MS. EVANS: And, Councilman Joyce,
10 do you have any comments or motions tonight?

11 MR. JOYCE: Yes, just a few
12 comments. First tonight, we received a
13 report from the Single Tax Office controller
14 regarding the city fund distributed
15 comparison from 2013 compared to 2012, and
16 I'll just give everyone a brief update where
17 we are.

18 As everyone knows, the Single Tax
19 Office collects real estate, delinquent real
20 estate taxes as well as the LST and business
21 privilege and mercantile taxes. So far for
22 this year, the Single Tax Office has
23 collected and distributed \$10,179,920.10.
24 In comparison to last year, the Tax Office
25 collected \$8,315,658.61 in the same time

1 frame.

2 This is an approximate increase of
3 \$1,864,261.49 which is a 22.42 percent
4 increase which is in alignment with the
5 overall tax increase that was passed earlier
6 this year.

7 Moving onto delinquent real estate
8 taxes, so far the Tax Office has collected
9 \$243,812.26 in prior years delinquent real
10 estate taxes only. In the same period last
11 year, the Tax Office collected \$184,684.81.
12 This is an increase of \$59,127.45 or 32.02
13 percent.

14 In regard to the LST, the local
15 services tax, which is the \$52 per year tax
16 that workers pay, the tax office collected
17 \$375,445.30 so far. During the same time
18 period last year the Tax Office collected
19 \$391,380.11. This is a slight decrease of
20 4.07 percent.

21 And in regard to the business
22 privilege and mercantile taxes so far this
23 year the Tax Office has selected
24 \$219,103.25. During the same period last
25 year the Tax Office collected \$87,416.62.

1 This is an increase of \$131,686.63 or an
2 increase of 15.64 percent.

3 I do have a few requests that I
4 would like our city clerk to forward as
5 well, the one is dealing with rental
6 registration. I was contacted by a resident
7 and I did actually go see the property. The
8 resident stated that she received a rental
9 registration bill, however, it's a single
10 family home and not being used for a rental
11 property, and she said that she contacted
12 LIPS to have the property removed but she
13 was told that they cannot remove it from the
14 database. I did actually go out and see the
15 property and view this for myself just to
16 make sure it wasn't a duplex as she state it
17 was saying, she was being told on the form,
18 but I'll give you the address and it's 635
19 Breck Street.

20 Also, residents of the 500 and 600
21 block of O'Hara Street have informed me
22 there are numerous potholes along the road
23 making travel conditions difficult and they
24 would like to see these potholes patched at
25 least if not their streets added to the

1 paving list so if we could contact Director
2 Dougher and see if there is anything that he
3 could do to get these potholes patched.

4 Also, we received a report from one
5 of our clerks in council's office from the
6 animal control officer that this month there
7 was 60 animals brought to the Griffin Pond
8 Animal Shelter, six of our furry friends
9 were reclaimed so we were charged for 54.
10 And the total number of animals brought this
11 year without the animals that were reclaimed
12 is 83, so we are on line with the amount of
13 animals that we're allotted to bring to the
14 shelter in accordance with the \$35,000
15 dollars payment.

16 And I would like to wish all of our
17 Jewish friends a very happy Passover and all
18 of our Catholic and Christian friends a very
19 happy Easter and that's all for tonight's.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
21 evening. I have only a few items to discuss
22 briefly. First, the bid for management of
23 the on-street parking program was completed
24 and should be advertised in the newspaper in
25 the next several days. According to Council

1 Solicitor Hughes a prebid conference will be
2 held on April 12, 2013.

3 Second, council is very pleased by
4 the announcement that paving of 52 city
5 blocks will begin on April 1. This project
6 is funded by CDBG monies and these paving
7 allocations were increased in 2010, 2011,
8 and 2012 by the members of this council in
9 fulfillment of our goal and pledge to you to
10 increase paving, blight removal and public
11 safety. The city blocks selected by the
12 administration are located in low to
13 moderate income areas. Additional paving
14 outside of those areas shall, as Councilman
15 Rogan noted earlier, will be funded by a
16 \$500,000 grant.

17 Next, on June 13, 2012, city council
18 forwarded a letter to the Chairman of the
19 Pennsylvania House Urban and Affairs
20 Committee in support of House Bills 89 and
21 90, which will allow municipal public safety
22 employees to purchase military time toward
23 retirement. And so again tonight, with my
24 colleagues' agreement, I ask Mrs. Krake to
25 send letters on behalf of Scranton City

1 Council to State Representatives Flynn and
2 Haggerty and the Chair of Urban Affairs
3 Committee with a copy to State Senator Blake
4 in support of the reintroduction of House
5 Bills 128 and 131, formerly titled House
6 Bills 89 and 90, which were referred to the
7 House Urban Affairs Committee on January 16,
8 2013.

9 While the City of Scranton remains a
10 Class 2A municipality, it's public safety
11 employees are not afforded the ability to
12 purchase military time toward retirement.
13 The council of the City of Scranton
14 respectfully requests that House Bills 128
15 and 131 be brought to a vote by the House
16 Urban Affairs Committee as soon as possible.

17 And there is another response that
18 council received from Chief Graziano and
19 this involves a property, an abandoned
20 property at 1406 West Gibson Street and the
21 chief says, "We," meaning the SPD, "Were
22 originally involved in the process to have
23 the property evaluated and ultimately
24 condemned by Licensing and Inspections. I
25 spoke with Director Mark Seitzinger

1 regarding this property and he confirmed
2 that the property is still currently
3 condemned and will be on the list for
4 demolition. His department would be
5 responsible for any compliance issues with
6 this property until it is actually
7 demolished."

8 In response to the second part of
9 council's letter, "The police department
10 does not have a dedicated blight officer who
11 routinely handles such complaints. The
12 sector officers and housing inspectors would
13 respond to blight issues in their respective
14 areas, blight enforcement in low to moderate
15 income areas will be one function of the two
16 proposed OECD beat officers once those
17 positions are able to be filled. Police and
18 entry level civil service testing process is
19 ongoing and once there is a certified police
20 hiring or hiring list, those two positions
21 will be filled."

22 And I thank Chief Graziano for his
23 prompt response.

24 And finally, I will submit my
25 citizens' requests for East Mountain to our

1 office for notification of the appropriate
2 parties, and that's it.

3 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING
4 EXCAVATIONS ON THE 200 BLOCK OF PENN
5 AVENUE AND 300 BLOCK OF LINDEN STREET TO
6 PERMIT MOTOR VEHICLE INGRESS, EGRESS AND
7 REGRESS INTO A PARKING LOT AT THE CORNER OF
8 PENN AVENUE AND LINDEN STREET FOR NGP
9 ENTERPRISES, LLC.

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. MCGOFF: Second.

15 MS. EVANS: On the question?

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, on the question,
17 I just happened to see this afternoon and I
18 did take a ride by, this is where the old
19 Pub Charles building was. You know, I will
20 be voting to introduce, but it's a bit of a
21 disappointment. That whole block is going
22 to be a parking lot. I mean, this was
23 supposed to be St. Peter's Square, a big
24 development at one time, now it's all black
25 top. I thought part of the Rich report

1 asked for a moratorium on downtown parking
2 lots because of our situation with the
3 parking garages and that.

4 So, I mean, I have mixed feelings on
5 this here at this point, but I will vote to
6 introduce it and I will have a comment on
7 "C", also.

8 MS. EVANS: Anyone else? All those
9 in favor of introduction signify by saying
10 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-C. AUTHORIZING THE
18 REMOVAL OF PARKING METERS ON PENN AVENUE
19 (200 BLOCK) AND LINDEN STREET (300 BLOCK) IN
20 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO PROVIDE AN INGRESS
21 AND EGRESS FROM PENN AVENUE AND LINDEN
22 STREET TO A PARKING LOT FOR NGP ENTERPRISES,
23 LLC.

24 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

4 MS. EVANS: On the question?

5 MR. MCGOFF: I didn't look there, I
6 haven't found how many meters are we talking
7 about?

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: There is actually
9 five meter heads it appears to be.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Is it five?

11 MS. EVANS: I thought it was three.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Three meters, two are
13 double heads by the meter numbers.

14 MR. MCGOFF: And will the property
15 owner make up the lost revenue?

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: That was going to be
17 my question.

18 MR. JOYCE: That was going to be a
19 question I had, also.

20 MS. EVANS: That we don't know.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Again, this is probably
22 something, you know, I'll probably vote
23 "yes" to introduce, but I think we should
24 find out if there is, you know -- if they
25 are going to pay for the removal of the

1 meters and over and, you know, the revenue
2 that would be made from them over time
3 because it is -- that area is, you know,
4 heavily traveled and those meters are used.

5 And I should go back, and one other
6 thing, actually if they would actually pave
7 them it would be a great improvement or
8 what's there, not that we need more parking
9 lots, but that corner something needs to be
10 done to make that more presentable, and so
11 is the parking lot a good idea, I don't know
12 if it's a good idea, but it's better than
13 what is there, but I think we do need to
14 find out about the removal of the meters.

15 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake -- I agree.
16 Mrs. Krake --

17 MR. JOYCE: I do, too.

18 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, could we
19 perhaps have our solicitor contact the owner
20 and inquire if there will be payment for
21 many revenues loss due to the removal of the
22 three parking meters, as Councilman Loscombe
23 said, to our double headed meters, so --

24 MR. ROGAN: I would -- and I agree
25 with everything that was said and maybe, I

1 know it's very short notice, but maybe, you
2 know, the individuals who are willing to
3 build the lot maybe come in and speak to us
4 at a meeting. I don't know if we would have
5 to do a caucus or just have them even at the
6 podium and, you know, ask some questions. I
7 have some additional questions as well and,
8 obviously, we want the city to, you know,
9 get our fair share and we don't want to, you
10 know, stop somebody from improving a piece
11 of land that I think everyone agrees is an
12 eyesore right now, so hopefully something
13 could be worked out or works for everyone
14 involved.

15 MS. EVANS: So if we could include
16 that request to our solicitor that, you
17 know, when he is discussing the previous
18 issue he can also raise that issue of an
19 invitation to come to council whether during
20 a public caucus or during citizens'
21 participation so that we might receive a
22 more thorough update on exactly what is
23 being planned. Anyone else? All those in
24 favor signify by saying aye.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

4 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
5 have it and so moved.

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

7 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 13,
8 2013 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE
9 COUNCIL NUMBER 17, 2012, (AS AMENDED)
10 ENTITLED "ESTABLISHING A REGISTRATION
11 PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES;
12 REQUIRING ALL OWNERS OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL
13 PROPERTIES TO DESIGNATE AN AGENT FOR SERVICE
14 OF PROCESS; AND PRESCRIBING DUTIES OF
15 OWNERS, AGENTS AND OCCUPANTS; DIRECTING THE
16 DESIGNATION OF AGENTS; ESTABLISHING FEES FOR
17 THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REGISTRATION
18 OF RENTAL PROPERTY; AND PRESCRIBING
19 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS" BY AMENDING
20 SECTION 1 X SAFETY INSPECTION BY DELETING
21 THE PHRASE "BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO".

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

24 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
25 pass reading by title.

1 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

10 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
11 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 14, 2013 - AN ORDINANCE
12 (AS AMENDED) - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
13 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
14 SCRANTON TO EXECUTE A DEED CONVEYING
15 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE COLUMN EASEMENTS LOCATED
16 IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ON THE 300 BLOCK
17 OF COLFAX AVENUE AND CONVEYING AN AERIAL
18 EASEMENT IN THE AIR SPACE LOCATED ON THE 300
19 BLOCK OF COLFAX AVENUE WHERE THE PEDESTRIAN
20 BRIDGE IS ERECTED AND FURTHER TO EXECUTE
21 AN AIR RIGHTS AGREEMENT BETWEEN GEISINGER
22 COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER AND THE CITY OF
23 SCRANTON.

24 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by
25 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

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

3 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

9 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

12 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
13 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
14 - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 12,
15 2013 - ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
16 LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING
17 CIVIL CROSSROADS CONSULTING ENGINEERS AS
18 SPECIAL CITY ENGINEERS TO THE CITY OF
19 SCRANTON, DUE TO A CONFLICT OF INTEREST
20 OF CECO ASSOCIATES, INC., THE CITY OF
21 SCRANTON'S ENGINEER, TO INVESTIGATE AND
22 PERFORM ENGINEERING STUDIES REGARDING THE
23 CONDITION AND DETERIORATION OF LAKE SCRANTON
24 ROAD, FROM ROUTE 307 TO ELMHURST BOULEVARD,
25 ISSUE OPINIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND

1 SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE REQUIRED
2 REHABILITATION AND RESURFACING OF ALL OR
3 PORTIONS OF LAKE SCRANTON ROAD, AUTHORIZING
4 THE PAYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL FEES UP TO TEN
5 THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) DOLLARS TO BE PAID
6 FROM THE CITY'S REPAYMENTS OF URBAN
7 DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANTS ACCOUNT AND
8 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
9 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH
10 CIVIL CROSSROADS CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

11 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the
12 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
13 passage of Item 7-A.

14 MR. ROGAN: Second.

15 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
16 call, please?

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION -
5 RESOLUTION NO. 13, 2013 - APPOINTMENT OF
6 WILLIAM LESNIAK, 314 PITTSTON AVENUE,
7 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS A MEMBER
8 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD.
9 MR. LESNIAK WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF
10 NANCY BISIGNANI, WHO PASSED AWAY. MR.
11 LESNIAK'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER
12 11, 2017.

13 MS. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
14 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
15 passage of Item 7-B.

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

17 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
18 call, please?

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

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MR. JOYCE: Yes.

MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted. If
there is no further business, I'll entertain
a motion to adjourn.

MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVANS: This meeting is
adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER