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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, April 4, 2013

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

- JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT
- FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT
- ROBERT MCGOFF
(Not present)
- PAT ROGAN
- JOHN LOSCOMBE
- NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK
- KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff. Mr.
5 Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. 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 MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD
16 MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 27, 2013.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
20 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION MEETING HELD
21 FEBRUARY 27, 2013.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
25 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD

1 FEBRUARY 27, 2013.

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

4 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. AGENDA FOR THE
5 ZONING HEARING BOARD TO BE HELD APRIL 10,
6 2013.

7 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
8 If not, received and filed. Are there any
9 clerk's notes tonight, Mrs. Krake?

10 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any
12 council members have announcements at this
13 time?

14 MR. ROGAN: Just one. I received
15 this just a few minutes -- or a few hours
16 ago from Linda Aebli. OECD will be
17 participating in the Home Show in South
18 Scranton. It will take place Monday, April
19 29, from noon to six at 638 Hemlock Street.
20 The Office of Community Development will
21 participate and you can learn more about the
22 city's homebuyer's program and how you could
23 become a homeowner in the city if you meet
24 certain guidelines. There are programs
25 available so the city will be there and it's

1 called the South Scranton Homeownership
2 fair, but it's for the entire city. It's
3 for all Scrantonians, not just those in
4 South Scranton, so I just wanted to announce
5 that.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Anyone else?

7 MR. JOYCE: Yes. The Pinebrook
8 Neighborhood Association will be having a
9 meeting Tuesday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. at
10 Antonio's Pizza at 930 Capouse Avenue.

11 MS. EVANS: Nothing further? Mrs.
12 Krake?

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

15 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
16 tonight is Ozzie Quinn.

17 MR. QUINN: Good evening.

18 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

19 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Taxpayers'
20 Association. I want to thank Mrs. Evans and
21 this council for bringing forth the
22 legislators tonight. Hopefully it will be
23 the first of many, many meetings like
24 Mr. Rowing said. My only problem they are
25 talking sale's tax and talking about the

1 personnel tax, and you know what, there
2 is approximately taxpayers groups across the
3 state we formed, okay, and I'm well aware of
4 House Bill 76 and Senate Bill 76. None of
5 them have signed it, so they are telling
6 you, yeah, we'll go 1 percent sales tax,
7 we'll go along, and yet they have failed to
8 sign it.

9 So in the future if they are giving
10 you lip service just tell them, okay, no
11 more lip service, you know? They must think
12 we fell off a banana truck down there in
13 Lackawanna Avenue or something. God, that
14 burns me up. The other thing is this here,
15 you know, that Sandy Hook that really it did
16 a lot of people in the United States, you
17 know, and Colorado and everything like that
18 there and the guns and magazines over ten
19 bullets and so on. Well, you know what, I'm
20 asking the city council to look into this
21 matter here locally, okay, and see if they
22 can't get some legislation together, all
23 right?

24 MS. EVANS: Actually, Mr. Quinn, I
25 have been working on that. My first order

1 of business was addressing sequestration and
2 the next legislation that we'll put forth
3 will be regarding the gun control.

4 MR. QUINN: Good. Good. The reason
5 I say that is because of the fact that I get
6 up here and you people get used by the
7 Scranton Times, there is no doubt about it,
8 okay, I picked up the paper today on one of
9 the inserts eight pages. I'm not going to
10 mention the stores name of guns and gun
11 paraphernalia, 25 round clips up in the
12 Viewmont Mall, okay? They are advertising.
13 They are making money on this and they don't
14 care what the circumstances may be. It may
15 be dire circumstances and, you know, you
16 just don't like hypocritical things like
17 that and I hope you look at that, Mrs.
18 Evans, when you to start to get involved
19 with, you know what we are dealing with. We
20 are getting people with give you a lot of
21 editorial, a lot of saying yes, but when it
22 comes to really doing it they care for the
23 buck and that's all they care about. Thank
24 you very much.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

1 MR. ELLMAN: I would like to
2 compliment council on their words before,
3 but you're years and years too late, you
4 know? I think they have fell on deaf ears
5 like I sit here all the time complaining
6 that you are don't listen to me.

7 And I'd like to ask your leisure
8 with me tonight, I had a spinal tap and I
9 think my mouth goes off about ten minutes
10 before my brain gets engaged. You know, as
11 I look at council once more I can just
12 imagine all of you thinking and saying,
13 "Here we go again." You are partially right
14 and partially wrong. Last Friday morning
15 before 6:00 I was having coffee with
16 Mr. DeNaples, and you probably don't believe
17 that, but I get up that early. Sometimes he
18 especially when you get the calling like
19 that, you know. And as I have said when you
20 mess with someone's pocketbook it makes it
21 most irritable and so he was. I don't know
22 if the mayor is going to sign this into law
23 or not, but our city is like humpty-dumpty.
24 There is no way tax wise of putting it back
25 together again and this would just be, I

1 don't know, just one more burden on the
2 taxpayers if you guys lose in Court, which
3 there is no doubt. If this goes to Court
4 it's going to be a disaster for the
5 taxpayers.

6 You know, you are going against all
7 odds, but maybe you got some support from
8 Les Spindler, but the one man who knows
9 about lawsuits that's Attorney Kelly, has
10 advised against this to drop it. I just
11 don't know why you are pursuing this avenue
12 about this road, this hundred-year-old road
13 you know where it used to lead to? It used
14 to be a meat processing plant down there 70,
15 80 years ago. It had truck traffic before
16 90 percent of these houses were built. It's
17 oppressive as it is set. It's in stone.

18 I don't know. I'm trying to be
19 diplomatic with people and not get somebody
20 mad. We, the taxpayers, put you guys in
21 those seats to help us and to lead. I'm
22 talking about the little people in this city
23 and the big people, everybody. The people
24 that sent the man to the moon and brought
25 him back, those people, and now you are

1 expecting -- you are expecting a tax
2 increase, if you lose this it will be
3 monumental. I know who the -- who you are
4 going to go against in Court if it goes that
5 far. It's a losing proposition for the
6 taxpayers, and I'm one of them. That's why
7 I'm standing here crying about it. I don't
8 think this is very good way to win voters
9 and influence bankers myself and sooner or
10 later we are going to run out of bankers to
11 borrow from so then you fall back on the
12 tax -- you know, just we have to raise taxes
13 again people, I'm sorry. Last Sunday in the
14 letters to the editor Mr. Tara I believe
15 wrote in three years it will be 78 percent
16 tax increase and if you lose a lawsuit like
17 this 78 percent people will be wishing it
18 was just 78 percent. It would be -- it
19 would just be -- it's just an unneeded
20 unnecessary occurrence to push this so much.

21 You know, we have these problems
22 with the schools and the colleges and
23 nothing is done. We got these unscrupulous
24 bunch of developers that everybody just
25 bends backwards to help them and they beat

1 us out of millions and millions of dollars
2 left and right, we got the charlatan like
3 the school and here you are worrying about a
4 road. It's just got to stop.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 MR. ELLMAN: I thank you for letting
7 me speak.

8 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is Doug
9 Miller.

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

12 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

13 MR. MILLER: Before I get into the
14 main issue tonight I just would like to
15 address an issue that was a concern brought
16 up by a taxpayer that I happen to come
17 across a few days ago over in West Scranton
18 on St. Ann's Street. In the 1300 block a
19 resident expressed much concern over large
20 cracks and potholes that have caused many
21 problems for vehicles commuting through that
22 part of that lot daily. This resident did
23 express to me the fact that the biggest
24 problem they have is in the late evening
25 hours or, you know, when they finally do go

1 to sleep for the night they have noticed
2 that many vehicles that do travel over that
3 road it does cause a disturbance and wakes
4 up a few of the neighbors during the night.

5 I was told that numerous requests
6 were sent to Mr. Dougher at DPW, obviously
7 fallen on deaf ears. I did promise her that
8 I would raise this issue tonight at council
9 and hopefully we can have it resolved once
10 and for all. I won't announce the address
11 over the air just out of respect of this
12 individual, I will leave it in the office
13 tonight after the meeting and hopefully
14 somebody from -- a representative from DPW
15 can travel over and take a look at it and
16 try to clarify this issue once and for all.

17 Onto the main issue tonight in
18 regards to the caucus we had to here tonight
19 with a few of our elected legislative
20 leaders, Mr. Blake, Mr. Haggerty, Mr. Welby
21 who represented Mr. Flynn tonight, certainly
22 a productive caucus, I think we are able to
23 discuss a lot of the issues and concerns we
24 have had that certainly a distressed city
25 for nearly 20 years has had to face, but as

1 I sat back and listened to these individual
2 speak tonight I was somewhat concerned by a
3 few of the answers and certainly the
4 direction that we are headed in. I
5 personally don't feel that the Pennsylvania
6 Economy League or DCED, the Department of
7 Community and Economic Development of
8 Pennsylvania has served a positive purpose.
9 I think they have done nothing more than
10 cause more burdens, particularly on the
11 residents of this city through massive tax
12 increases through the years, and I don't
13 think they have lead us down the right path.
14 I think they have caused more headaches than
15 anything else. That's my belief, and I know
16 that's the belief of many residents of this
17 city because they felt it when they get
18 their tax bills each year.

19 I think that PEL has made a lot of
20 unrealistic expectations of us through the
21 recommendations of, as I have said, tax
22 increases and a lot of the public safety
23 cuts they proposed and that certainly have
24 even gone into effect by this administration
25 and their actions. I think a lot of the

1 problems we currently faced could have been
2 avoided had PEL and DCED had our interests
3 truly in mind and perhaps if they advised
4 the administration properly they would have
5 been willing to sit down with the unions ten
6 years ago and we wouldn't be looking at this
7 \$17 million Supreme Court ruling that was
8 cut in half, let's not forget that, by the
9 unions because they knew that it was going
10 to place quite a burden on the residents of
11 this city.

12 Another point was brought up, we
13 discussed, can the state come in and somehow
14 bail out the city, so to speak, and we
15 couldn't get a direct assurance that was the
16 case. We seem to want to discuss what other
17 communities are going through and a good
18 point was brought up that Scranton's
19 problems are quite unique compared to
20 similar cities such as Harrisburg and
21 Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and other
22 municipalities, Reading and the
23 Commonwealth. We face challenges that many
24 of these other municipalities haven't faced
25 in the last 20 years. You know, you would

1 think when you are in distressed status for
2 over 20 years and you have these overseers
3 advising you that you would think you would
4 be able to turn this around and move
5 forward. We seem to continue to just go
6 backwards and we haven't solved any of our
7 problems. We have placed many Band-Aids and
8 just one-time fixes on our yearly problems
9 and it doesn't address the long-term
10 solution and that is how do we get out of
11 debt? Where is the money going to come
12 from? I mean, how much more are we going to
13 take on the taxpayers, and that's why it's
14 important to have our elected leaders and
15 state -- and coming in and asking questions
16 and trying to figure out on their end what
17 they can do in the legislature to try and
18 bring money into the city.

19 You know, many people may say, well,
20 you caused the problems, it's your
21 obligation to fix them, well, these are
22 three individuals that represent a lot
23 broader base of people in the community and
24 they have an obligation to look out for the
25 taxpayers of this city and they have an

1 obligation to ensure that this city turns
2 around, and it's my hope that by having this
3 discussion tonight these individuals will
4 leave here, go back to Harrisburg and start
5 having discussions with their fellow
6 colleagues and the governor and the
7 Republicans and putting politics aside
8 because it's been proven that when you do
9 that good things can happen. You know, if
10 we take a trip back to last summer many
11 people didn't think that we could get this
12 council and the administration to come
13 together, but it was council who took the
14 initiative to put politics aside and egos
15 aside and work and cooperate with the mayor
16 and that's why we were able to come up with
17 a recovery plan and we were able to help
18 alleviate the burden on the taxpayers.
19 Remember, that recovery plan wanted to see
20 nearly an 80 percent tax increase, and I
21 remember that and I'm sure the residents do,
22 but this council cut that down to 22 percent
23 tax increase because they knew the residents
24 couldn't afford it and that we needed other
25 alternative revenue sources and hopefully it

1 will all come into fruition, a few of them
2 we discussed tonight, the sales tax and a
3 few of the others.

4 You know, Mr. Blake brought up a
5 point that the state didn't give the city \$3
6 million. Well, if we are going to come up
7 and we're going to gloat about \$3 million,
8 which most of it was loans that we have to
9 pay back, that's not something we should be
10 bragging about within 20 years. We need
11 answers and we needed solutions and we need
12 our state officials to step up. They have
13 an obligation to help turn the city around.
14 Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Dave
16 Dobrzyn.

17 MS. KRAKE: Mrs. Evans, if I may
18 interrupt for one moment?

19 MS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MS. KRAKE: Thank you kindly.
21 Earlier before the meeting started someone
22 had pointed out to me that one of the
23 participants -- or one of the people in the
24 audience had a pin on and asked them to
25 remove it and they were gracious enough to

1 remove it, so I just wanted you to alert
2 that to you. They were very kind and didn't
3 question that I asked them to and I'm hoping
4 it was okay with council.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes.

6 MS. KRAKE: And that I assured him
7 that if anybody else was seen with a pin or
8 any type of button I would ask them also to
9 do it, also.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. KRAKE: Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Absolutely and you
13 informed me of that. Thank you.

14 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council,
15 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton. Okay,
16 now I have been railing for weeks and months
17 and years about trade packs and one of the
18 things that I feel a lot of candidates and
19 people currently serving are guilty of is
20 eternal optimism. The reason our country is
21 in the trash bag and our city is in the
22 trash bag we are a microcosm of that is
23 trade packs. For instance, we have a NAFTA
24 trade pack. Well, in Canada, they bought
25 the German leper tanks instead of the A1

1 Abrahams tank even though they have a trade
2 agreement, and they put their military with
3 that, so where is the reciprocation, and
4 that's a big reason why we are in the tank
5 is because of the trade packs that have no
6 obligation to each other or the next person.

7 And last week St. Peter's Square was
8 a parking lot, I would please, please plead
9 with you people to nix that. We don't need
10 another parking lot in this town. That man
11 came up with a big story as a developer,
12 even a developer just pay taxes on an empty
13 lot and please plant some grass before we
14 arrest you for blight.

15 The lamps in the chamber, I had
16 problems when I did the taxpayers with both
17 of these side lights creating a nasty buzz,
18 so you seem to have solved that so I'll move
19 on. Don't turn those lights on, but we have
20 enough light in here now.

21 And I gave a few articles to Frank
22 Joyce from the Times so you might want to
23 look at them, they are different things that
24 are aforementioned, there is lot of things
25 going back and forth about taxes in the

1 legislature and in reality from the common
2 plan working class point they are really not
3 a lot of our better interests, so you might
4 even want to make copies of it. For
5 instance, they have to get the state tax,
6 wage tax, up to four and a quarter percent,
7 Well, now I have been hearing on a left wing
8 radio station that there is also some kind
9 of plan on the back burner to allow
10 employers to keep 95 percent of that tax
11 deduction. Why are you raising my taxes to
12 allow an employer to turn around and pocket
13 95 percent under the guise of creating jobs?
14 Why would you do that other than it's just a
15 ploy to take care of your friends, and there
16 is a lot of different things. A lot of
17 these taxes that I'm hearing about, sales
18 taxes and property taxes, they're all
19 regressive, none of them are progressive.
20 You owe them irregardless of whether or not
21 you are even homeless with a sales tax. You
22 could be buying something that you need and
23 you don't even own property in the town, so,
24 I mean, that's something we just want to
25 consider before we have them slip the same

1 ole', same ole' in the back door.

2 And I'd like to mention to our Times
3 reporter that the real tax rate in Scranton
4 is 3.4 percent; am I correct?

5 MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

6 MR. DOBRZYN: Wage tax, I think I
7 read in the article that he used 2.4, it's
8 probably --

9 MR. JOYCE: 2.4 percent goes to the
10 city, 1.0 goes to us.

11 MS. EVANS: So I think he was
12 probably just referring to the city's
13 portion.

14 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah. Yeah. So it's
15 something we want to correct if it needs to
16 be corrected. Now, under golden parrot
17 North Carolina the state is establishing a
18 state religion. Now, that's in opposition
19 to the 1st and 14th Amendment and the
20 supremacy clause of the constitution and
21 it's a damn good reason for taxing the
22 churches that are pushing it.

23 And there is a Shapiro in the FC --
24 federal SEC and security and exchange - SEC,
25 security and exchange, and she has taken a

1 job now with the law firm that's specialized
2 in helping people like Bernie Madoff avoid
3 the radar, so thanks a lot, Mrs. Shapiro,
4 and good riddance, I hope you don't ever run
5 for government again or get appointed to
6 government. We need a law that states that
7 people need five years off if they want to
8 go into government outside of -- or into a
9 private institution outside of government.
10 Thank you and have a good night.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. That
12 concludes the sign-in sheet, is there anyone
13 else who cares to address council.

14 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
15 I'd like to ask Mr. Joyce a question, if I
16 could. May I please?

17 MR. JOYCE: Sure.

18 MR. MORGAN: I'd just like to ask
19 since you are the Finance Chair, what is the
20 shortfall in the budget going to be by the
21 end of the year, do you have any idea?

22 MR. JOYCE: I actually wanted to
23 address this during motions, we haven't
24 received a cash flow report from our
25 Business Administrator's Office with all of

1 the latest projections, so I will request
2 that this week and hopefully report on it
3 next week.

4 MR. MORGAN: I appreciate that.

5 MR. JOYCE: Of what's currently over
6 performing and under performing as far as
7 revenues and expenditures.

8 MR. MORGAN: Okay. The first thing
9 I have is I got here a little late, I had a
10 flat tire, but I listened to what our state
11 representatives had to say and our state
12 senator. I really don't plan on any help
13 coming from the state to the city. I think
14 that the legislature is just a mess. I
15 think the city has some very, very hard
16 times ahead of it. I think the worst is
17 still in front of us. I don't know what the
18 tax increases will be, but I think that
19 council needs to realize a couple of facts
20 that are really starting to come forward,
21 not citywide because, I mean, they hit on
22 the 9.8 percent unemployment here and the
23 high poverty levels, I guess they were kind
24 of leading us to that, but nationally this
25 country has the highest poverty level since

1 Johnson's great society and I think that's a
2 very troubling thing, and I believe that
3 today is the anniversary of Martin Luther
4 King's assassination, I believe, I could be
5 wrong on that, but I thought it happened in
6 Memphis today but in the 60's and, you know,
7 I think that that man had it absolutely
8 right because empowerment has to do with
9 wages and the ability to earn money and to
10 take money home.

11 And I'm really troubled by the shift
12 that our state legislators have come here
13 and talked about because the real problem in
14 America, Mr. Dobrzyn hit some of it, are the
15 trade agreements that this country signed
16 and the lack of employment that is in this
17 country. There has been massive drain of
18 revenue from this country because employers
19 have outsourced their work.

20 Now, there needs to be some
21 decisions made elsewhere, but in the
22 short-term this city needs to enact some
23 legislation which is going to make it
24 possible for this city to turn around, and I
25 have a different opinion probably than most

1 people all the time have, but I have studied
2 government all my life, well, not all my
3 life, since I was about 16 when I was in
4 Mr. Festus' class and he was a really,
5 really gifted history teacher, to be quite
6 honest, and really a credit to educators,
7 and I just think our answers are right here.
8 When you can use the city's Class 2A status
9 and ask the legislature to allow us to
10 become an enterprise zone, the whole city,
11 we need to enact SAPA even though no one
12 wants to hear that word because we need to
13 fill Scranton's industrial parks with jobs
14 and we need to tie that and hold so the
15 people can get the work.

16 Look it, this isn't about Democrats
17 and Republicans, this is about people and I
18 have to say that I doubt the legislature is
19 going to come here and help us because the
20 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has no money.
21 We are in very serious trouble here. Our
22 solutions are simple, we need jobs, we need
23 cooperation and we need leadership. That's
24 what we need, but when you listen to what
25 our legislators say to us about what's

1 happening somewhere else. Look it, we need
2 to discuss what's happening here and we need
3 solutions here and we don't need them
4 tomorrow, we need them today.

5 In my opinion, with all due respect
6 to this council and you, Mr. Joyce, our
7 budget hole is huge. It's just unbelievable
8 and in my own personal opinion if I could
9 have a say I would tell the legislature to
10 come here since they created Act 47 and they
11 allowed the PEL to run this city, yes, there
12 have been problems with leadership by
13 councils and mayors in this city for a long
14 time, but our major problems are in my
15 humble opinion the people outside of the
16 city have used the city to try to
17 manipulate, smashing of municipal unions
18 under Act 47 and I think that when you
19 really take a good hard look at what's
20 happened here it's only come to hurt
21 Scrantonians and then when the governor
22 says, "Don't look it us for help," we fought
23 their battle and we lost and now what we
24 need the legislature to do is to pick up
25 something and fight some of our battle.

1 heck of a lot more than that 1 percent and
2 the governor is on board to do it, but yet I
3 don't think he is on board with it, your
4 legislature, your senator. I hear him say
5 he has reservations. That's another word
6 for saying I don't like it, okay? That
7 would help out more people throughout the
8 Commonwealth than anything else. You have
9 said he was on the DEC, was he on that?

10 MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Do you remember when
12 he pushed this Act 11, it was to prevent the
13 firemen and the policemen from striking.

14 MS. EVANS: Right.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: Now, why would you
16 assume that Act 47 would overturn that
17 right? If they wanted Act 47 overturned 111
18 they should have negatived 111 and let the
19 police and firemen strike again, but they
20 didn't do it. And I heard him say he
21 disagreed with the Supreme Court decision on
22 that. True, he has a right to disagree, but
23 it makes me worried about his thinking
24 because anybody with common sense would
25 realize you gave people a right to so you

1 wouldn't strike and then you tried to take
2 away with another act and the Supreme Court
3 said, no, you gave them that right, and you
4 have to abide by it. So I thought about a
5 lot of things he said and I'm sorry to say
6 he is our senator.

7 There is lot of things he may be
8 able to do, the governor is on board with
9 the taxes for the schools. Now, the
10 governor said, "I'd like it because it helps
11 business. And by doing that, you would need
12 all of these other acts to help business
13 because they wouldn't be paying the real
14 estate tax in the school district and all of
15 us are, of course, would have to but they
16 would not do it and maybe they would come
17 out lot better, they probably would, because
18 we still have to pay increase in our taxes
19 when we buy stuff or in our wage tax or
20 whatever it is, we would take the burden,
21 but overturning it would help more people
22 than it would harm because we don't all --
23 unless they put a big bite on the food that,
24 of course, would be hurt everybody in
25 business, but we have to look at that, but

1 he didn't look at it. He just says, "I
2 don't like it."

3 And that's not right, too, from the
4 senator. He should really look at it
5 in-depth. I don't look at it because it's
6 in the progress of being changed in that and
7 everybody everywhere, but somewhere along
8 the line it seemed to have ironed out some
9 problems with it. Now, whether or not they
10 jump on board with it I don't know.

11 Now, you know they are doing
12 nonprofits down there, now, why should not
13 nonprofits be immune from service tax and
14 just like I pay for firemen and policemen,
15 they use the firemen and policemen, too, if
16 they are exempt they should only be from
17 real estate tax and not from city services
18 tax.

19 Now, when they may correct it down
20 there or not, I don't know. Maybe you
21 should all write a letter to all of the
22 legislators like the mayor did when he
23 wanted to sell his South Side Complex. He
24 went out there and they lobbied, of course,
25 I don't expect you to go lobby.

1 MS. EVANS: Actually, they hired a
2 lobbying firm, was it Wolblock or something
3 like that?

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: No, I remember that.

5 MS. EVANS: But the city hired an
6 actual lobbyist to work on the state
7 legislators so that they would be able to
8 sell the South Side Complex and that's what
9 actually happened, our money was used
10 against us.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: I know that. Like I
12 said, maybe you should lobby it and not by
13 letter writing rather than hiring and be
14 lobbying like he did. But these are things
15 that you should do regardless of what they
16 do, because really you ain't going to e
17 expect too much else from them. Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: I agree with you,
19 Mr. Sbaraglia. I did appreciate the
20 participation of Senator Blake and
21 Representative Haggerty and Mr. Welby, but
22 and I did learn much from tonight's
23 discussion, but I didn't receive answers
24 to-- direct answers to questions that I
25 posed, and I noted that none of the three

1 provided a commitment to any legislation.
2 None agreed, "Yes, I will do this."

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: Thank you.

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

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: First I'd like to
9 thank Mrs. Krake for the answers she
10 provided from two weeks ago on what Civil
11 Crossroad Consulting and Engineering is
12 going to do for us with the \$10,000, will be
13 up to \$10,000 we'll be paying for them.

14 Next, I'd like to read two
15 paragraphs from Scranton Times-Tribune
16 papers within the last week, the first is
17 from last Saturday. "A search of the halfway
18 home Mr. Gonzalez was staying in at 1512
19 Olive Street, Scranton, revealed 555 bags of
20 heroine and nearly 36 grams of the cocaine
21 police said."

22 The next one is from this past
23 Monday, it says, "Shawn Bouldin, 37, 537-539
24 Linden Street was selling heroine as J-Rock
25 while living at a halfway house in Scranton

1 until two controlled purchases at two
2 locations Monday around noon police said."

3 You know, you can't hardly pick up
4 the paper these days without drug dealers
5 being busted, and I'll get back to that in a
6 minute, but I know there is no ordinance
7 specifically addressing halfway houses and I
8 wonder, Mr. Rogan, and I believe you work
9 closely with Mr. McGoff will that be
10 reviewed -- will the halfway houses be
11 reviewed by the rental registration program?

12 MR. ROGAN: Sure, I'll speak with
13 Mr. McGoff on that and I definitely think it
14 should be. One exemption that I know was in
15 there that I brought up was a concern that I
16 had was hotels were exempt and my concern
17 was that, quite frankly, a building like
18 that and there is lot of them amendments
19 that need to be made, the first one has been
20 made and we need to keep working to make
21 that all better.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I really
23 think that it needs to be addressed. That
24 these halfway houses should have some adult
25 supervision.

1 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Something needs to
3 be done, but the other component is while I
4 continue to read about these large dealers
5 being shut down the thing that I don't ever
6 see in the paper is a drug customer, a drug
7 dealer's customer being arrested.
8 Mr. Loscombe, do you know anything about how
9 many drug users have been arrested over the
10 past even just 12 months?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'd have to get that
12 information for you, but I don't have a
13 specific.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: It seems to me that
15 the drug dealers wouldn't be here at all if
16 we didn't have a market and it's about as
17 scary wondering who are all of these users
18 that we are interfacing with on a regular
19 basis, and I was wondering who that police
20 officer that was busted for doing something
21 and demoted. You just can't have any
22 confidence in any transactions when you
23 don't know who is outside of the fence.

24 The next issue -- so I would
25 appreciate that.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: The next issue is
3 why is File of Council 100 2009 still on the
4 table? As I recall that just deals with
5 where the parking meters are placed within
6 the city and I don't know why that is
7 dependent on any other piece of legislation?
8 Is that -- will that -- why is it still on
9 the table and whether will it be brought
10 back?

11 MR. ROGAN: I don't know. I think
12 everything should receive an up or down vote
13 at some point.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: And I think,
15 Mr. Joyce, you are going to investigate on
16 that too, to see if there is some kind of
17 study that was done that says where these
18 should be placed or is it just haphazard and
19 taking it and plopping and exempting block C
20 and tax them.

21 MR. JOYCE: I'll see looking to the
22 answer for that.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, but, I mean,
24 I think that's of interest to a lot of
25 people and I hope you will follow through

1 and have a public hearing on that when it
2 does -- when you do decide what's going to
3 be in that revised file of council.

4 I did notice that last Saturday the
5 legal notices contained an RFP for the new
6 parking meter management, but did anybody
7 read the RFP? Okay. My concern is that the
8 meters that were to be purchased by Standard
9 Parking were meters that you all didn't
10 want. You wanted ones that went back to
11 zero and I would assume those orders haven't
12 been placed because they don't have the
13 five-year contract and maybe won't, maybe
14 somebody else will underbid them when the
15 bids are open on April 12, but will that --
16 I would like to know if that will be a
17 separate RFP that's yet to come.

18 MR. HUGHES: Yes, it will be a study
19 for 90 days after the contract is awarded to
20 determine what type of upgrades will be done
21 that's taken out of this contract. This is
22 only the management.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay.

24 MR. HUGHES: Then there is going to
25 be a separate -- and it states specifically.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: You have seen it,
2 thank you.

3 MR. HUGHES: Totally different than
4 the original one. It was all preselected as
5 to what kind of meter it was going to be. I
6 reviewed that, I had 13 comments that ended
7 up being all incorporated into the RFP, one
8 of which was that and what was to be
9 included. There is even technology now
10 instead of using a credit card but there is
11 an app for a cell phone --

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: I know.

13 MR. HUGHES: -- you can use and it
14 can do that. There is so much technology
15 it's that beyond what was going to be
16 previously bid. That's all going to be
17 looked into.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. With that, I
19 would just caution though that people can,
20 again, lift your charge card when you do it
21 on the cell phone.

22 MR. HUGHES: I wouldn't know how to
23 do it. I'm a quarter guy.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, the bell has
25 rung, but next week I will be back to talk

1 about the delinquent OECD loans, and maybe
2 if you can indulge me for just a minute I'll
3 read the status of the loan portfolio right
4 now. Commercial/industrial, there are 24
5 active loans, 13 of which are default, which
6 is over half. UDAG there are five active,
7 three of them are in default. CDBG, there
8 are ten and six are in default. Enterprise
9 Home Loans, five active, and three in
10 default. Economic Development EDA Program
11 there are three in the population and two of
12 the three are in default. So I will have
13 some figures on that next week unless
14 something else motivates me more than that.
15 Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

17 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Hello, Janet.

18 MS. EVANS: Hi, Chris.

19 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Jack, you handsome
20 devil you.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chris is back to the
22 podium.

23 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Hello, Jack. This
24 is a new team this year, the railroad guys,
25 good luck tonight, you guys. Win tonight.

1 Good luck.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good luck you are
3 right.

4 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?
5 Mrs. Krake?

6 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

7 MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan, do you
8 haven any comments or motions tonight?

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I'll be very brief
10 tonight, I just want to talk a little bit
11 more about the caucus with the state
12 representatives and state senator and to
13 reiterate my position against Senator
14 Blake's additional sales tax. I did speak
15 on this issue during the recovery plan
16 process and previous my concern with the
17 Senator's proposal is that what it would be
18 the additional tax instead of a change of
19 the tax structure a tax reform. I know the
20 Senator's proposals compared revenue to the
21 city coffers, but it would be an additional
22 tax on the voters in the county and the
23 city. By switching to a sale's tax system
24 or a hybrid between sales tax and other
25 taxes to fund education that would reduce or

1 preferably completely eliminate school
2 property taxes, and if the school -- if the
3 school district portion of the property
4 taxes were eliminated throughout the state
5 when the cities and boroughs fall on tough
6 times if their taxes go up it wouldn't hurt
7 people as much as when you have three taxing
8 bodies raising property taxes within a
9 couple of year period.

10 As Mrs. Evans mentioned, the county
11 tax increases have crippled the people of
12 the county. The city taxes are hurting
13 people. The school taxes are hurting people
14 and there needs to be a change in how the
15 taxes are paid. The senior citizens and
16 working people can't keep footing all of the
17 of bills and, you know, they keep the city
18 and school district and counties afloat.

19 By switching to a sale's tax system
20 most of your basic purchases are tax exempt
21 so the person who is living on a smaller
22 income who is buying food, medicine,
23 shelter, those items you don't pay sales tax
24 on when you go to the Rite Aid to purchase
25 your prescriptions you don't pay a sale's

1 tax. If you go to the grocery store unless
2 you buy prepared food you won't be paying a
3 sale's tax and these items I firmly believe
4 must remain tax exempt. That's one of the
5 advantages that Pennsylvania does have over
6 other states.

7 I know the Crossings Outlets are
8 very popular with people from New York
9 because they come because New York clothes
10 are taxed so those clothes they will come
11 into Pennsylvania to buy their clothes tax
12 free and that's part of my fear with if
13 Lackawanna County imposed a 1 percent taxes
14 and, for instance, Luzerne and Wyoming and
15 the surrounding counties didn't, for big
16 ticket purchases people would certainly
17 cross the county boundaries to make those
18 purchases and I know, and I mentioned it to
19 the Senator, that they do put a provision in
20 there that you would still have to pay, but
21 that would be just like the when you buy
22 something on Amazon.com before the tax was
23 at the point of sale you are technically
24 required to pay that tax at the end of the
25 year, but people didn't know about it and it

1 wasn't enforced for the most part.

2 So I hope we will continue meeting
3 with our legislatures, hopefully the mayor,
4 the current mayor and the new mayor will get
5 involved or we could sit down on at least a
6 monthly or a quarterly basis and, like I
7 said, we could rotate and obviously if
8 council is involved only two of us can get
9 together at a time, but there is two
10 representatives and a senator, so if two of
11 us met with Representative Flynn and two
12 with Representative Haggerty and one with
13 Senator Blake and mixed it up we could
14 accomplish a lot by having those meetings on
15 a very regular basis.

16 Just a couple of things that were
17 mentioned, Mrs. Schumacher brought up the
18 halfway houses and this is a very good
19 point. That is a problem that needs to be
20 addressed throughout the city. Halfway
21 houses and rooming houses are a problem in
22 the city. They need inspections, they need
23 to be checked up on more than the average
24 single family home or duplex throughout the
25 city when you have people live in many cases

1 have a history of committing crimes these
2 people need a lot more supervision than law
3 abiding citizens throughout the community.
4 And the drug problem in the community I
5 agree that it needs to be addressed on both
6 the supply and the demand end and I will
7 bring that up next time I see Chief
8 Graziano. I actually have to call him on a
9 couple of other issues, so I will bring that
10 up with him tomorrow, and that is all I have
11 for tonight.

12 Oh, actually two citizens' requests,
13 Mrs. Krake, I will e-mail these in, one is
14 actually a school district issue, residents
15 from the Tripp Park area brought to my
16 attention that there are two retention ponds
17 near the school and last year this was a
18 large problem with frogs around Scranton
19 where there were hundreds and hundreds of
20 frogs. First I've heard of it, but a lot of
21 frogs in these ponds that were going into
22 the neighborhood and running across the
23 street and they were a nuisance so if we
24 could let Mr. King and the directors at the
25 school district know about that issue and

1 also --

2 MS. EVANS: I hope they aren't going
3 to call animal control office to take them
4 to Griffin Pond, we are going to owe about
5 \$100,000 for the frogs.

6 MR. ROGAN: Well, I figure right
7 now, because it is strange, although it is
8 the spring, and maybe a chemical can be
9 placed in the water to deter the tad polls
10 from, you know, from procreating in the
11 pool.

12 And also, Mr. Joyce brought up the
13 issue of a blighted property that was on the
14 list to be demolished and there was an issue
15 of sale. I spoke to probably the same
16 resident that you did on that issue and I
17 did speak to Mr. Seitzinger and Mrs. Aebli
18 about it, Mark Seitzinger did get back to me
19 very quick and he said he is still looking
20 into it so hopefully we will have a firm
21 answer on that and there were one or two
22 others I actually left in my car, but that's
23 all I have for tonight. Thank you.

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

1 comments or motions this evening?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you.

3 Just briefly, I would like to again
4 reiterate my thanks to our representatives
5 and I'm looking forward to continued
6 dialogue between us and those bodies. It's
7 definitely, definitely needed and we have to
8 stay on them. They say a squeaky wheel gets
9 the grease, well, I understand as Mrs. Evans
10 kept implicating that we are concerned with
11 our area right now. We do realize that
12 there are situations across the state and
13 perhaps some of those other areas, you know,
14 we could work with too, with our
15 representatives to get, you know, more
16 combined effort to get some of these
17 problems resolved, but we are on the right
18 step and we just have to stay each our pedal
19 to the metal.

20 MS. EVANS: And I'm sorry to jump
21 in, but just very quickly, I know that
22 Senator Blake holds legislative breakfast
23 every few months to which everyone is
24 invited so, you know, there has been access
25 to him in that manner, but beyond that I

1 know I have met with him and a state
2 representative many times in the last four
3 years at times I know Councilman Joyce has
4 met with them, met with him before, and I
5 know that you were frequently in
6 communication with former Representative
7 Murphy's office over, you know, a myriad of
8 problems in the city and I think Councilman
9 Rogan was as well.

10 So, you know, I don't want the
11 public to misunderstand that tonight was the
12 first time there was any meeting of this
13 sort, that's not accurate. There have been
14 public meetings, public caucuses previously,
15 but in addition to that there have been
16 regular meetings held with state legislators
17 in council's office and, you know, although
18 we learn a great deal, and I'd like to
19 consider them productive, I have to say that
20 not once, and I'll include tonight's
21 discussion in this, not once did I ever
22 receive a commitment from them that they
23 were going to absolutely draft any
24 legislation, absolutely pursue, you know,
25 this, whatever the topic might be in order

1 to fight for the people, in order to fight
2 for the city. I can't seem to be able to
3 pin them down on any commitments whatsoever.

4 They do share our concerns I'm sure
5 for the people, but again, as you said, our
6 interest lies here within the City of
7 Scranton and Scranton is a child in critical
8 condition and everyone needs to be
9 addressing that child, everyone who
10 represents that child and, you know, I think
11 we have many, many discussions but not
12 nearly enough action. I'm sorry.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, that's fine, I
14 agree with that totally and I think possibly
15 due to the fact that our two representatives
16 were freshmen, you know, they may be a
17 little bit leary on committing to something
18 at this point and hopefully they will, you
19 know, heed our word and our advice and take
20 the bull by the horns and, you know, they do
21 seem interested like you said so I hope it's
22 just, you know, the freshman in them that
23 kept them from making a commitment at this
24 point because, you know, politicians have
25 made commitments before and weren't able to

1 follow-up on them and it came back and bit
2 them, so I would just hope that, you know, a
3 few months we are sitting here and they
4 already have legislation that's going to
5 benefit us and so that's the way I take it
6 at this point, so hopefully it will work out
7 that way.

8 And just the last thing, I just want
9 to read, it's more of a public service
10 announcement. As you are aware, in regard
11 to the fire department smoke detector
12 program, as you are aware we are continuing
13 our very successful smoke alarm installation
14 program. We have recently received a new
15 shipment of alarms and would like to make
16 the public aware that they are available.
17 There is no charge for the smoke alarms and
18 city firefighters will install them for
19 free. The alarms were made available by
20 WNEP TV's save a life program and a
21 successful grant written by the fire
22 department.

23 The only restrictions to this grant
24 are as follows: The alarms must be
25 installed by fire department personnel. I

1 know there have been people requesting, you
2 know, drop off three alarms and stuff they
3 have to be done by the fire department for
4 liability purposes and they are experienced
5 into where the best locations are to put the
6 smoke detectors because there are dead
7 spaces where if you stuck a detector it
8 would be ineffective anyway, so it is very -
9 and they have put up -- I did have a list,
10 and forgive me I'll try to get it for next
11 meeting, the hundreds of alarms they have
12 already installed so far so. It is a great
13 public service and they are out there every
14 day putting them in the house for you, so
15 take advantage of it if you need it.

16 The secondary restriction is that
17 landlords or commercial building owners do
18 not qualify to receive the alarms. However,
19 the tenants do qualify, so if you are living
20 in the apartment building, apartment house,
21 and you feel you are inadequately served by
22 fire protection don't hesitate at this time
23 to call and request a smoke detector and to
24 receive the alarms. The city residents
25 simply need to call the fire prevention

1 officer, Sean Flynn, at 348-4164 and hit
2 option one to setup an appointment for the
3 installation, and this letter was written
4 "Respectfully," by Dave Gervasi,
5 administrative captain on behalf of Al
6 Lucas, our deputy chief on the fire
7 department.

8 So, please, folks take advantage of
9 this program, you know, it only takes a
10 short while for the firefighters to install
11 these in your property, but you will be able
12 to sleep safe at night and the last thing
13 they want to do is have a tragedy or someone
14 didn't make it out and it's not costing you
15 anything. So again, call Sean Flynn's
16 number at 348-4164, and press option one and
17 then you can leave your information and they
18 will setup an appointment when it is
19 convenient for you to have them stop by.
20 Thank you very much.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
22 Councilman Joyce, do you have any comments
23 or motions tonight?

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes. As we all know
25 it's very important that the audit this year

1 is completed in a timely fashion. We have
2 received correspondence from Rossi & Rossi
3 that the city is to complete 32 different
4 tasks before the audit can be issued and
5 then exit conference can be held. I won't
6 name off each task that needs to be
7 completed at this task, however, in Rossi &
8 Rossi's initial correspondence to the
9 business administrator there was a timeline
10 that was specified that must be adhered to
11 in order to complete the audit in the timely
12 manner. Some of these tasks were due to be
13 completed on March 31.

14 With this in mind, Mrs. Krake,
15 please contact our BA Ryan McGowan asking
16 him to specify what tasks were completed by
17 March 31. Typically the Business
18 Administrator's Office also submits a cash
19 flow report to the state and city council's
20 office on a periodic basis outlining revenue
21 and expenditure categories each month. To
22 this date, we have not received any such
23 reports for the Year of 2013. I'm
24 interested in seeing what revenue categories
25 were underperforming and over performing as

1 well as how the city is performing in regard
2 to expenditures.

3 Also, with this in mind, Mrs. Krake,
4 please add this the list of items to contact
5 Ryan McGowan about.

6 And I do have some requests.
7 Several West Scranton residents have voiced
8 their concern about speeding on Sloan Street
9 as well as altering vehicle traffic.
10 Residents, especially those with small
11 children, fear that the reckless driving on
12 the street will result in an accident.
13 Residents also have concerns that ATV
14 traffic is illegal and should be stopped.

15 Mrs. Krake, please forward this
16 information to Chief Graziano and ask that
17 he sent a patrolman to this area to monitor
18 the situation.

19 Several West Scranton residents
20 living on Rundell Street have voiced their
21 concerns about Albert Place, which is
22 currently -- which is currently the court
23 directly behind Rundell Street. There are
24 various potholes located in the court in the
25 1100, 1200 and 1300 and 1400 blocks. The

1 potholes that are contained throughout the
2 court are making travel conditions very
3 difficult for residents.

4 Mrs. Krake, please forward this to
5 Director Dougher and ask him to handle the
6 best way that he sees fit. A portion of
7 this court may be in Taylor since it's close
8 in proximity to the Taylor/Scranton border.
9 If it is part of Taylor, please instruct
10 Director Dougher to contact the Taylor DPW
11 for action.

12 West Scranton residents have voiced
13 their concerns about potholes located in the
14 lower portion of West Elm Street where West
15 Elm and Meridian Avenue meet. Potholes are
16 making travel conditions difficult and
17 residents are becoming very frustrated.

18 Mrs. Krake, please add that to the
19 list of the issues to contact Director
20 Dougher about.

21 Also, various South Scranton
22 residents have voiced their concerns to me
23 about a possibly suspicious activity taking
24 place on the 1500 block of Prospect Avenue.
25 Residents have concerns that have witnessed

1 possible drug deals and that the block is
2 becoming a haven for crime.

3 Mrs. Krake, please add this to the
4 list of issues to contact Chief Graziano
5 about and that's all for tonight.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
7 evening. Recently, I received inquiries
8 from city residents regarding the 2013
9 garbage fee. The bills should be mailed out
10 next week and the deadline for the first
11 payment will be extended to May 31, 2013.
12 While the deadline for the second and final
13 payment will remain the same as in previous
14 years, July 31.

15 I discussed the need for increased
16 revenue sources during the March 2013
17 council meeting and one of the solutions
18 offered by the Doherty administration and
19 included in the 2013 budget was increased
20 fees for false alarms. Between January and
21 mid-March of this year four false alarms
22 were documented by the fire department at
23 the University of the Scranton, however,
24 during that same time period it seems that
25 the Scranton Fire Department was called to

1 respond to fire alarms at the University on
2 15 occasions for the following reasons:

3 In the month of January, seven
4 calls, including activation of the automatic
5 fire alarm system caused by making toast,
6 students set off alarm by cooking, alarm
7 accidentally tripped by cooking. Report of
8 burned foot. Full station activation by
9 persons unknown, several individuals stuck
10 in elevator which was stalled between
11 floors. Firefighters gained access to the
12 car from the floor above and removed one is
13 students via the emergency hatch located on
14 top of car. No injuries or damage. And two
15 days later again 12 people stuck in
16 elevator.

17 In February three alarms, including
18 cooking set off alarm, alarm accidentally
19 tripped and five students extricated from
20 elevator through the ceiling hatch of the
21 elevator.

22 March 1 to 17 -- or excuse me, to
23 the 9th, five alarms including a call
24 cancelled on route, activation of fire alarm
25 system hallway detector for unknown reasons,

1 burned popcorn, cooking set off fire alarm,
2 and finally then on March 9 parade day there
3 were additional nuisance calls.

4 Certainly, like most of my
5 colleagues and all of you, I'm not qualified
6 to determine which calls constitute a false
7 alarm and require a payment of fees and
8 which do not. However, fuel costs and wear
9 and tear on vehicles and equipment incurred
10 when responding to nuisance calls such as
11 burned popcorn, a beeping smoke alarm and
12 charred toast merit consideration even as
13 the city continues to be a good and faithful
14 neighbor. More importantly, some must count
15 themselves fortunate that true fire
16 emergencies have not occurred at the same
17 time firefighters responded to nuisance
18 calls.

19 We are grateful to the Scranton Fire
20 Department for keeping the University
21 students safe during any and all
22 circumstances for which they are called out
23 to duty and we hope that the good fortune of
24 other areas of our city will continue as our
25 fire department responds to the needs of our

1 colleges and universities.

2 Next, Chief Graziano contacted Mrs.
3 Krake in council's office this week to
4 respond to our concerns regarding handicap
5 parking. The chief indicated that all
6 locations on North Hyde Park Avenue was
7 that --

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes, the 300 of North
9 Hyde Park.

10 MS. EVANS: That all locations on
11 that block were checked and only one among
12 them had unnecessary signage. The
13 handicapped sign was removed and returned to
14 the DPW. Also, Chief Graziano stated that
15 he is in process of developing a possible
16 handicap parking program which would require
17 annual registration with the Scranton Police
18 Department and that way they would be able
19 to recycle signs as suggested.

20 Further, we learned recently that
21 there is a very long waiting list for
22 handicapped signs which should not occur.
23 Since the elimination of the traffic
24 maintenance department the DPW no longer
25 produces signs as once it did. At the same

1 time, it appears the DPW has not ordered
2 handicapped sign to address the needs of
3 those individuals who have been waiting for
4 quite awhile on that list.

5 Therefore, Mrs. Krake, please send
6 letters to the mayor and DPW Director
7 requesting the purchase of handicapped signs
8 should the DPW budget not allow for this
9 purchase. City council will provide funding
10 from the UDAG RE-RE account. Provide a
11 response on or about before April 15 in
12 order that council may take action promptly
13 if necessary.

14 And then finally, I have citizens'
15 requests for the week: Please include the
16 1500 block of Von Storch Avenue on the 2013
17 paving list. If for any reason the block
18 cannot be paved this year, please fill all
19 potholes. Residents report that this street
20 hasn't been paved in decades. Also, repair
21 holes in the 1300 block of St. Ann's Street,
22 and that's it.

23 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING THE
24 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
25 TO DISBURSE \$20,000.00 FROM THE ACCOUNT

1 INTO WHICH REPAYMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
2 ACTION GRANTS (UDAG) ARE DEPOSITED (UDAG
3 REPAYMENT ACCOUNT), FOR AN OPERATING GRANT
4 TO ECTV, THE CITY'S PEG CHANNEL OPERATOR.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. JOYCE: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question? I
11 don't believe, unless Councilman Joyce would
12 know additional information on it, if any
13 funding was provided in the 2013 operating
14 budget for ECTV?

15 MR. JOYCE: I don't believe there
16 was.

17 MS. EVANS: And last year I believe
18 we provided \$10,000, I have learned that the
19 school district makes no contributions,
20 financial contributions to ECTV, although
21 they have full use of one of our two peg
22 channels, that would be channel 21, and I
23 believe the county commissioners contribute
24 \$25,000 annually on behalf of the county. I
25 did speak with the mayor about this issue,

1 he was in agreement.

2 And in addition to that there has
3 been work on the part of the administration
4 on revisiting the Comcast contract that was
5 tabled probably at least two years ago and
6 from what I'm hearing both sides are getting
7 very close to settling that contract and, of
8 course, it will provide funding to the peg
9 channel operator, that is, to ECTV not only
10 this year, but in forthcoming years as well.
11 However, I don't know, I can't put a
12 timeline on the successful conclusion of
13 that contract and we felt that it was
14 important that ECTV would have funds to be
15 able to continue operating and so I will be
16 voting to approve it tonight.

17 Is there anyone else on the
18 question? All those in favor signify by
19 saying aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

22 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
24 have it and so moved.

25 MS. KRAKE: 6-A. READING BY TITLE -

1 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 15, 2013 - AN ORDINANCE
2 - AUTHORIZING EXCAVATIONS ON THE 200 BLOCK
3 OF PENN AVENUE AND 300 BLOCK OF LINDEN
4 STREET TO PERMIT MOTOR VEHICLE INGRESS,
5 EGRESS AND REGRESS INTO A PARKING LOT AT THE
6 CORNER OF PENN AVENUE AND LINDEN STREET FOR
7 NGP ENTERPRISES, LLC.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
11 pass reading by title.

12 MR. JOYCE: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: On the question? I know
14 that we received, each of us on council,
15 information from Attorney Pascale and in
16 order that he can provide this information
17 to the public as well, I have asked that he
18 might come in next week for a public caucus
19 beginning at 5:30 and at the time the
20 parking lot and it's uses, which I believe
21 are for his employees and his clients, will
22 be discussed as well as the potential meter
23 removal.

24 All those in favor signify by saying
25 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: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
7 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 16, 2013 - AN ORDINANCE
8 - AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF PARKING METERS
9 ON PENN AVENUE (200 BLOCK) AND LINDEN STREET
10 (300 BLOCK) IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
11 PROVIDE AN INGRESS AND EGRESS FROM PENN
12 AVENUE AND LINDEN STREET TO A PARKING LOT
13 FOR NGP ENTERPRISES, LLC.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
17 pass reading by title.

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

23 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
25 have it and so moved.

1 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
2 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
3 - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 13,
4 2013 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NUMBER
5 17, 2012, (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED
6 "ESTABLISHING A REGISTRATION PROGRAM FOR
7 RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES; REQUIRING ALL
8 OWNERS OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES TO
9 DESIGNATE AN AGENT FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS;
10 AND PRESCRIBING DUTIES OF OWNERS, AGENTS AND
11 OCCUPANTS; DIRECTING THE DESIGNATION OF
12 AGENTS; ESTABLISHING FEES FOR THE COSTS
13 ASSOCIATED WITH THE REGISTRATION OF
14 RENTAL PROPERTY; AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES
15 FOR VIOLATIONS" BY AMENDING SECTION 1 X
16 SAFETY INSPECTION BY DELETING THE PHRASE
17 "BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO".

18 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the
19 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
20 passage of Item 7-A.

21 MR. JOYCE: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
23 call, please?

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

4 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
7 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted. And
8 I think we can all say that one was for you,
9 Bob McGoff. And, Mrs. Krake?

10 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
11 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION
12 -FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 14, 2013 (AS AMENDED)-
13 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
14 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE
15 A DEED CONVEYING PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE COLUMN
16 EASEMENTS LOCATED IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY
17 ON THE 300 BLOCK OF COLFAX AVENUE AND
18 CONVEYING AN AERIAL EASEMENT IN THE AIR
19 SPACE LOCATED ON THE 300 BLOCK OF COLFAX
20 AVENUE WHERE THE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE IS
21 ERECTED AND FURTHER TO EXECUTE AN AIR RIGHTS
22 AGREEMENT BETWEEN GEISINGER COMMUNITY
23 MEDICAL CENTER AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

24 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the
25 Committee on Rules, I recommend final

1 passage of Item 7-B.

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

3 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
4 call, please?

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-B 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.

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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