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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, April 18, 2013

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

- JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT
- FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT
- ROBERT MCGOFF
- PAT ROGAN
- JOHN LOSCOMBE
- NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK
- KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff. 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. CITY
15 OF SCRANTON 2012 AUDIT STATUS UPDATE DATED
16 APRIL 11, 2013.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE
20 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING HELD ON
21 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013.

22 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff. Mr.
24 Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Here.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

4 MR. JOYCE: Here.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with the
7 reading of the minutes, please.

8 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. APPLICATIONS ALONG
9 WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING
10 HEARING BOARD FROM THE MEETING HELD
11 ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013.

12 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff. Mr.
14 Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Here.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

19 MR. JOYCE: Here.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

21 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with the
22 reading of the minutes, please.

23 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S
24 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD ON MARCH 27,
25 2013.

1 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff. Mr.

3 Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Here.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

8 MR. JOYCE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with the
11 reading of the minutes, please.

12 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. TAX ASSESSOR'S
13 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD ON MAY 1,
14 2013.

15 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff. Mr.

17 Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Here.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

22 MR. JOYCE: Here.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with the
25 reading of the minutes, please.

1 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. LACKAWANNA COUNTY
2 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND
3 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION DATED APRIL 11, 2013.

4 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

15 Ms KRAKE: 3-G. BREAKDOWN OF THE
16 ELIGIBLE SALARIES FOR THE LIQUID FUELS
17 ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY
18 AND MARCH 2013.

19 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff. Mr.
21 Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Here.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

1 MR. JOYCE: Here.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

3 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with the
4 reading of the minutes, please.

5 Do we any clerk's notes tonight,
6 Mrs. Krake?

7 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

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

11 MR. JOYCE: I have one. St.
12 Joseph's Malachite Catholic Church located
13 at 130 North St. Francis Cabrini Avenue in
14 West Scranton will hold it's annual
15 breakfast fundraiser this coming Sunday,
16 April 21, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets can
17 be purchased at the door. Adult tickets
18 cost \$7.50 each, and tickets for children
19 under the age of ten cost \$4 each.

20 MS. EVANS: Anyone else?

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. I have a couple
22 of here. There will be fundraiser to
23 benefit the United Neighborhood Centers of
24 Northeast PA. It's titled Beatles and
25 Burgers and Brews, and it's to be held at

1 Morgan's Pub and Eatery, 315 Greenridge
2 Street. That will be Tuesday, April 23,
3 from 5 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person.
4 Burgers, vegi-burgers, hot dogs and draft
5 beer included with the ticket from 6 to 8
6 p.m. Again, that's Tuesday, April 23, from 5
7 to 8.

8 The West Side Falcons are announcing
9 their signups for their players. They are
10 Pennsylvania NEPA 2012 organization of the
11 year. 2012 A and C team, Pennsylvania state
12 and MHAFL Superbowl champions and 2012, A, B
13 and C team national championship qualifier.
14 This scout earlier registration will be
15 held, Friday April 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. and
16 Saturday, April 20, from 11 to 1 p.m.,
17 Friday, April 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. and
18 Saturday, April 27, from 11 to 1 p.m. Price
19 is \$75 for one child, and \$50 for the second
20 and \$40 for each additional child residing
21 in the same home. These rates are open for
22 the early registration in April, and you
23 must be paid in full at the time of the
24 registration. And Coach Kenny Martin gave
25 me a hat for Chrissy, but I don't see him

1 here tonight so I'll have to hold it for you
2 him. He is one of the honorary players.

3 Next, the Cockerill award
4 presentation to the EB Jermyrn Lodge No. 2,
5 FOP, Robert Martin. Our award recipient for
6 this year is an example of the partnership
7 with organized labor and the United Way of
8 Lackawanna County have for the people of our
9 community. The recipient is EB Jermyrn Lodge
10 No. 2, Fraternal Order of Police, presented
11 by Robert Martin -- represented by Robert
12 Martin, President. President Martin and the
13 FOP have taken a leading role in the
14 community through the crises intervention
15 team and the critical incident stress
16 management team. These teams became
17 important community partners as a result of
18 the mental health cry in our city.

19 Both the CTI and the CISM teams work
20 to ensure the City of Scranton and
21 surrounding communities have compassion and
22 understanding and counseling for our
23 citizens and responding law enforcement
24 officers. Because of their years of support
25 to the United Way, it's member agencies and

1 because of their community involvement it
2 gives me great pleasure to add to our list
3 of the distinguished labor unions and
4 volunteers the Fraternal Order of Police EB
5 Jermyn Lodge No. 2, represented by their
6 president, Robert Martin.

7 And that's all I have. Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

9 MR. ROGAN: Just one tonight, at the
10 home show that I spoke about the last few
11 weeks it will be held the Marion Catholic
12 School at 638 Hemlock Street. It's April 29
13 from noon to six. The city will be
14 participating and is sponsoring the great
15 town giveaway where Scranton homeowners can
16 receive up to \$21,500 towards the down
17 payment of a home in this city. And in
18 order to be eligible there are upcoming
19 guidelines that have to be met. For
20 instance, one person \$33,150; two people,
21 \$37,900, and it gradually goes up.
22 Residents and anyone applying must be 18
23 years or older and must be a citizen, so
24 people could pick up copies in the city
25 council office to fill out, just a very

1 short form to fill out to put in to be an
2 applicant for that program or you could do
3 it at the home show. And that's all. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. EVANS: The Scranton/Lackawanna
6 County Taxpayers' Association will meet this
7 Tuesday, April 23, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. in
8 Scranton City Council chambers. Interviews
9 of the four Democratic candidates seeking
10 the Office of the Mayor of the City of
11 Scranton will be conducted.

12 The Fraternal Order of Eagles No.
13 314 in Scranton will conduct it's annual
14 spring craft fair this Saturday, April 20,
15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Expect to find all
16 manner of handmade goods, including items
17 from Pampered Chef, Avon and Mia Bella
18 candles among others. Food will be
19 available for purchase. For further
20 information call the club at 961-5495.

21 Earth Day 2013 will be celebrated in
22 downtown Clarks Summit this Saturday, April
23 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. rain or shine.
24 The event includes indoor flea markets,
25 sidewalk sales and artisans. Recycling

1 stations, exhibits, and entertainment. What
2 a better way to enjoy Earth Day than by
3 taking the family to this fun filled
4 celebration. And that's it.

5 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
6 PARTICIPATION.

7 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
8 tonight is Bill Jackowitz.

9 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
10 Scranton City Council. Last week Ms. Franus
11 misrepresented my comments. I never stated
12 that council blamed the Republicans. As a
13 matter of fact, I commended council for
14 holding the caucus with the state
15 representatives and senators, it was only
16 ten or 15 late. The representatives were
17 the ones that blamed the Republicans. I
18 blamed the Democrats, Republicans and the
19 Independents so let's set the record
20 straight, and you can look at the last
21 week's record or the tape of the meeting and
22 it will show that.

23 How about the local officials
24 working on solving the problems that
25 Scranton has such as high unemployment, low

1 wages, terrible roads and bridges, high wage
2 tax, parking meters that are broken, parking
3 garages that are in need of repair, \$17
4 million Supreme Court award that needs to be
5 paid, \$5 1/2 million needed to make the
6 retirement and health care system solvent.
7 Money to pay the landfill bill on time not
8 making double payments after you leave
9 office, finding tenants for the \$31 million
10 taxpayer funded project called the 500
11 Renaissance, balancing the city budget
12 actually writing and approving a legitimate
13 Recovery Plan that would work, stopping
14 borrowing money and actually raise revenue.
15 Stop raising taxes and blaming the other
16 guy, collecting money in lieu of taxes from
17 nonprofits, reducing the biweekly city
18 payroll, currently used not affordable or
19 sustainable of over a million dollars every
20 two weeks.

21 Why not invite the mayor back to
22 council chambers to answer questions
23 regarding the above mentioned problems?
24 Just a reminder, the 2013 budget recovery
25 plan that council and the mayor worked on

1 was a total failure, in other words, it did
2 not save any of Scranton's -- solve any of
3 Scranton's financial problems, although it
4 did allow the city to borrow another \$14
5 million which was the plan all along anyway
6 and had nothing to do with recovery for
7 Scranton.

8 As far as needing time to work on
9 the financial situation of Scranton, may I
10 remind the residents and taxpayers that
11 Scranton has been distressed for 21 years,
12 98 days, that's 255 months. The
13 supermajority has been in office for three
14 years, 103 days. That's 40 months. Surely
15 that is enough time to work out a solution.
16 Under the watch of Mayor Doherty and city
17 council the debt has grown, taxes has raised
18 and the city credit rating has dropped to
19 junk bonds. The three judge panel stated in
20 Court that Scranton has a problem with
21 numbers. Oh, how so true.

22 Could this be the reason why no
23 financial institution is willing to take a
24 chance on Scranton?

25 Why are visitors at CMC Hospital

1 receiving parking tickets after being called
2 and informed that their loved ones are
3 having a heart attack and they were
4 requested to be there? Why were the parking
5 meters on Mulberry Street removed and the
6 University of Scranton given free parking,
7 but yet visitors at CMC and other hospitals
8 get \$25 parking tickets while going in and
9 visiting their sick relatives and University
10 faculty and students park for free on
11 Mulberry Street. That's not right.

12 As far as running for office, I
13 consider myself to be a fairly honest person
14 who tells it the way I see it in daily
15 reality. A politician, on the other hand,
16 deals with fantasy and illusions. They will
17 tell you what you want to hear and get your
18 votes. Your number one job is to get
19 reelected. Everything else is secondary.

20 I would like to remind the residents
21 and taxpayers that it was not the
22 politicians that gave you freedom, this was
23 the warfighters in the United States
24 military, first responders, firefighters
25 police officers and medical technicians,

1 brave citizens react when disasters happen.
2 They go out and do a service when the
3 citizen is injured and calm a situation.
4 Politicians give speeches and make more
5 promises.

6 For the most part, the politicians
7 have caused our problems, just look at
8 Washington D.C., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania,
9 County courthouse and Scranton City Hall.
10 There are several prior elected officials
11 county commissioners, state senators,
12 elected judges, Congressmen, governor,
13 mayor, state representatives who are now
14 referred to as inmates in federal prisons.
15 These are facts. You cannot make this stuff
16 up. Nobody would believe you. Prisons
17 nationwide are being to fill up with elected
18 officials who are now called inmates.

19 The clock is ticking as city
20 administration elected officials have until
21 30 June to come up with solutions to solve
22 the financial crises the taxpayers of
23 Scranton find themselves in. This is why
24 you were elected to be leaders of the city.
25 Once you solve the police and fire awards

1 then you must start on the pension fund to
2 pay the retirees and their families health
3 care that is until 30 October.

4 You wanted the job now do the job.
5 Come up with solutions and solve the
6 problems that you, the elected officials,
7 caused and you were elected to solve.

8 Neighbors dodge stray bullets in
9 South Side. Gunfire. Where is Mayor
10 Doherty? The initial shooting took place
11 one block from my residence. The second
12 shooting happened eight blocks from my
13 residence. Where are the elected officials
14 of Scranton? I have yet to see the mayor or
15 anybody else coming out and talking about
16 this incident to reassure the citizens of
17 Scranton that we have safe neighborhoods and
18 that they are doing all they can to keep us
19 safe. If this would have happened in any
20 other city in the United States, the mayor
21 and the elected officials would be out there
22 calming the nerves of the residents and
23 neighborhoods. Why doesn't it not happen in
24 Scranton? Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Before we

1 continue, I just wanted to comment very
2 briefly on three issues raised by
3 Mr. Jackowitz.

4 First of all, the pension dollars
5 that are needed will be combined with the
6 Supreme Court award so they won't be two
7 separate financial transactions, all will be
8 done at one time.

9 Secondly, regarding the
10 unconscionable shooting in South Side, I
11 spoke with the mayor about that just today
12 and there is a very intense investigation
13 that is ongoing. It may take a bit longer
14 than was originally thought because it
15 appears that it's going to be much bigger
16 than what was originally -- well, what was
17 originally thought to be the case, so please
18 know that the Scranton police and other
19 sources are very active on this case and
20 that's all I can comment on regarding that
21 issue at this time.

22 And then I know that Mr. Jackowitz
23 had said that, well, you know, we have
24 borrowed, we have raised taxes, yes, that's
25 true, but I think we are all well aware of

1 what lead up to that for many, many, many
2 years and no one could stop it. None of the
3 speakers, not myself, the financial house of
4 cards collapsed and we had a decision to
5 make. Were we going to stand by and allow
6 the City of Scranton to collapse, and that
7 means your public services, no garbage
8 pickups, no snow removal, no police, no fire
9 services, we would just come to a grinding
10 halt or we could try to get the city through
11 in order that the residents would continue
12 to receive their public services that their
13 taxes pay for.

14 And I frankly believe that the right
15 things were done and that this city should
16 never be allowed to collapse and that this
17 city should never be allowed to be taken
18 over by legislators in Harrisburg who are
19 going to appoint a receiver to come in here
20 and make all of the decisions for this city
21 rather than elected officials or any input
22 from the public. That is -- that's the
23 case. Those were the choices.

24 And, as I said, I firmly believe
25 that by keeping the city alive and by

1 keeping those public services going to each
2 and every one that lives in this city,
3 council and the mayor did the right thing.

4 And our next speaker is Joe Gilroy.

5 MR. GILROY: Good evening, Council.
6 Madam President of Council.

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8 MR. GILROY: My name is Joe Gilroy.
9 I'm chairman of the Board of Electric City
10 Television. On behalf of the board, which
11 are also all volunteers like myself, I came
12 here tonight to thank the council for their
13 support for allowing ECTV to continue the
14 public service that we offer the community.
15 The citizens of Scranton, many of them, as
16 you know, are elderly and depend on our
17 service to view these types of meetings as
18 well as taxpayer meetings and other types of
19 meetings as well and your generosity is
20 going to allow us to continue for the
21 distant future and I wanted to come in
22 personally and thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: You are very welcome and
24 we thank you for the excellent services that
25 have been provided and for serving the needs

1 of all of those who for whatever their
2 reasons are homebound.

3 MR. GILROY: And that is our core,
4 that is our mission that we will continue
5 and thank you very much, and I'll turn it
6 over to the rest of the speakers.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Les
8 Spindler.

9 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
10 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
11 homeowner and taxpayer. First off, my
12 thoughts and prayers go out to all the
13 victims of this heinous crime committed on
14 the City of Boston on Monday. I hope they
15 catch the people responsible for that and
16 punish them to the fullest extent. It was
17 in my eyes a very cowardly act for people to
18 do something like and pick on innocent
19 people.

20 First off I want to talk about a
21 story that was on the news Sunday. To me
22 this is something good for the University of
23 Scranton, 300 students came into the city
24 and helped plant flowers in all of the
25 flower pots throughout the city. I think it

1 was a great thing they did, now if the
2 school would only follow their lead and
3 contribute their fair share to the city like
4 people have been asking for years that would
5 be another good thing that the school to do.
6 Just as the students set an example, they
7 should take that example and follow through
8 on it.

9 The next thing, I had heard you talk
10 last week a little bit these food trucks,
11 one of the biggest opponents of the food
12 trucks is Carl Von Lugar Steakhouse, people
13 that go to these food trucks most of them
14 have a half an hour lunch and they go pick
15 up their lunch and go back to work. To go
16 to Carl Von Lugars are there well over an
17 hour so these food trucks don't even effect
18 Carl Von Lugar's Steakhouse, and the people
19 that shop at these trucks probably can't
20 afford to go to Von Lugar's because their
21 prices are outrageous in there. You have to
22 be a doctor or a lawyer to go eat in that
23 place. So for them to complain about the
24 food trucks I think its totally out of order
25 and they are not hurting their business at

1 all.

2 Lastly, a resident that lives near
3 the -- by the Tripp School and Tripp Park
4 and Dorothy Street approached me over the
5 weekend last week and said cars that are
6 going north on Everett are speeding on that
7 street. There is no stop sign. There is a
8 three-way stop sign and that block of
9 Everett is the only one without a stop sign.
10 He said there is speeding and children are
11 walking and getting out of school and I
12 could see he says cars are bobbing in and
13 out going up the hill and you can see the
14 gouges that were put in the pavement from
15 these cars bottoming out. They are
16 speeding, the residents fear for the safety
17 of the children walking there and they are
18 asking for a stop sign to be put there and I
19 have it in writing.

20 MS. EVANS: Very good. And I
21 believe that everyone on council likely
22 received an e-mail or maybe it came through
23 our office in our mail regarding that
24 existing situation.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah, I told him to

1 call city council's office and I said at
2 council I will speak about it.

3 MS. EVANS: We are aware of it and
4 that will be forwarded to the proper
5 parties.

6 MR. SPINDLER: I think it's a very
7 dangerous situation.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MR. SPINDLER: And I could see the
10 proof they are speeding up there because
11 those gouges taken out of the pavement where
12 they are bottoming out, so hopefully, that
13 can be done sooner than later.

14 That's all I have tonight. Thank
15 you for your time.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Our next
17 speaker is Ozzie Quinn.

18 MR. QUINN: Good evening. Ozzie
19 Quinn, Taxpayers' Association. I want to
20 thank Mrs. Evans for announcing that the
21 taxpayers will interview the four Democratic
22 mayoral candidates next Tuesday beginning at
23 6:30. It will be live on ECTV. Hoping that
24 the watchers out there of ECTV will pay
25 attention to this and to these interviews

1 and to educate themselves to what their
2 plans or platforms and their solutions to
3 the city. The city is in shambles
4 financially. The blight that's starting to
5 spread into the neighborhoods, it's already
6 spread into the neighborhoods, and it's
7 important that the people know who they
8 elect is crucial, that the people know who
9 they elect for mayor, that they just don't
10 go and do the same thing that they have done
11 for the last decade and voted for the guy
12 who is giving all of the cronies the jobs
13 and whatnot.

14 It's very important because this
15 city for the next four years can go down the
16 tubes or it can get back up on its feet and
17 I really think it can get back on its feet
18 with a good administrator.

19 I want to point out, also, that on
20 May 14, tentatively May 14 we'll have the
21 Republican mayoral candidates here for
22 interviews, okay? But, again, I'm hoping
23 that the people out there will watch this
24 show on Tuesday, next Tuesday, 6:30, each
25 candidate will be given a half hour to be

1 answering questions and they are not getting
2 the questions beforehand. We want
3 spontaneous replies and we want to know what
4 they are thinking and have they been
5 thinking or are they just out there to show
6 face. Thank you very much.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Our next
8 speaker is Gerard Hetman.

9 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.

10 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

12 MR. HETMAN: Gerard Hetman from
13 Lackawanna County Community Relations
14 Department. Two events I'd like to make
15 council aware of this evening, both of them
16 are warm weather events with spring coming
17 up here and hopefully here to stay.

18 First, next Saturday afternoon,
19 April 27, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McDade
20 Park, the Lackawanna County Commissioners in
21 conjunction with the Lackawanna County
22 Community Relations Department, the Scranton
23 Police Department and the Lackawanna
24 Heritage Valley will host a free bicycle
25 safety fair for children. The event will

1 take place again at McDade Park. It's free
2 and open to the public. Children can come
3 and parents also will have a refreshments
4 for everybody. The event is funded through
5 the sponsorships and partners. There is no
6 expenses from the taxpayers, and it's funded
7 through the community partnerships.

8 Children that attend will go through
9 a brief, about 30 to 45 minute bicycle
10 safety course presented by the Scranton
11 Police Department and Cathy Fox from the
12 Lackawanna County Highway Safety Program,
13 they will get a wrist band that will get
14 them first a free bicycle helmet fitted to
15 their size, again, donated through the
16 community partners.

17 And secondly, the children will be
18 entered to win a free bicycle that will
19 given away by Cedar Bike Shops. There will
20 be one male and one female winner for the
21 free bicycles. So, again, we encourage all
22 the kids in the city to come out and have
23 some fun at McDade Park and learn how to
24 ride their bike safely for the upcoming
25 season, and everybody gets a free bike

1 helmet and all those who participate will be
2 entered to win a brand new bicycle.

3 And I think I can sympathize, and
4 all of council members can sympathize and I
5 think we can all speak that riding bicycles
6 around the neighborhoods of Scranton was
7 kind of a right of passage when you grew up
8 in the city, so we want to help children do
9 that safely and have fun with it, so we
10 invite everybody to come out again next
11 Saturday, April 27, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at
12 McDade Park in Scranton, and you are all
13 welcome to come also, and we hope to see
14 everybody out for that.

15 Secondly, just to remind you that
16 the Lackawanna County Parks and Recreation
17 Department will be holding its annual
18 fishing derby for children coming up on
19 Saturday, May 4. It's open to children ages
20 four to 12 and there is two different
21 registration times. Children ages four to
22 eight fishing at 11:00 to 12:45 in the
23 morning, and the children ages 9 to 12
24 fishing 1:15 to 3:00. The cost is \$5 to
25 register per child. Spinners cannot be used

1 for those who are fishing.

2 So to register just go to the
3 Lackawanna County website at
4 LackawannaCounty.org and download a
5 registration form on the Parks and
6 Recreation section of the website.

7 So, again, thank you for your time
8 and we hope to see out for the bike safety
9 fair. Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Terry Sussex.

11 MS. SUSSEX: Good evening, Council.

12 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

13 MS. SUSSEX: This is my fourth time
14 attending the meeting in I guess a period of
15 four years now and I'm still with the same
16 complaint. Frank Joyce is well aware that I
17 have sent several e-mails regarding Hilltop
18 manor, the trash problem there, tenants
19 putting the trash out in plastic bags
20 instead of containment, and that they are in
21 need of, Scranton Housing Authority needs to
22 put screened in dumpsters in that complex.
23 I mean, you have like 200 apartments and
24 people just put trash bags out. It's
25 blowing all over my property as well as the

1 neighboring properties and it's a mess.

2 I had rats in my house this past
3 winter and I have really about had it with
4 the city not doing anything about this.
5 This is the same problem over and over
6 again.

7 MS. EVANS: Were you to any of the
8 Scranton Housing Authority meetings to
9 inform the board of what's happening and
10 what is needed?

11 MS. SUSSEX: I spoke to
12 Mr. Pelicacci himself and the last time he
13 spoke to me he said, "Oh, I don't think
14 there is enough property, land to put the
15 dumpsters on."

16 Which there is. There is a whole --
17 down Saginaw Street the last apartment there
18 is whole big piece of empty land that
19 belongs to them and it's fenced in so there
20 is no reason why they can't put dumpsters in
21 there as well as inside of the complex, and
22 the last think Mr. Pelicacci said to me was,
23 "I'll look into it."

24 And that's years ago. Never got a
25 call back. Nothing.

1 MS. EVANS: Well, we can certainly
2 send another request on your behalf, but
3 please understand that Scranton City Council
4 has absolutely no control over the Scranton
5 Housing Authority and it's actions. They
6 are outside of our scope of authority, so
7 the best we can do is to ask them once
8 again, you know, every time you have come, I
9 do remember you, and your problems are
10 legitimate and council has sent request
11 after request to the Housing Authority to
12 resolve this problem and, obviously, we have
13 been ignored as well.

14 MS. SUSSEX: Well, I'm told it is
15 city-owned housing; is that not correct?

16 MS. EVANS: No.

17 MS. SUSSEX: It's not correct?

18 MS. EVANS: The Housing Authority
19 would own that. I believe the only housing
20 project owned by the City of Scranton is
21 Park Gardens.

22 MS. SUSSEX: So what you are saying
23 is the city doesn't get any funding from
24 that or anything else?

25 MS. EVANS: No.

1 MS. SUSSEX: Because I'm aware that
2 they got \$6 million and all from the Feds
3 and all they spent it on, what I have seen,
4 is toilets put in the place, and I don't
5 think that constitutes \$6 million.

6 MS. EVANS: Well, that money was
7 applied for by the Housing Authority and
8 then received by the Housing Authority, so
9 the city would have no involvement in that
10 whatsoever.

11 MS. SUSSEX: Okay. The second thing
12 I wanted to address is the shooting at
13 Hilltop Manor, and that's another Housing
14 Authority problem. They have very poor
15 management there. There is no on-site
16 management. You have got businesses running
17 from those apartments instead of tenants
18 living there. You have gangs in there.
19 There is people going in and out. At one
20 point I saw 12 people living in a
21 two-bedroom apartment, and this is before
22 they were -- after they finally just left
23 because I had complained so many times.

24 And you have gangs in there, I have
25 seen gang activity, drug activity. One

1 person that I did report, and I thought
2 something was going to be done about, the
3 only thing I saw there is a police officers
4 go there and talk to the person on the porch
5 when they answered the door and that was it.
6 Never saw anything and meanwhile the guy is
7 going around dealing drugs. I don't get it.
8 I don't understand.

9 As far as that shootout is
10 concerned, there is gangs in there. That's
11 why you are having a shootout and that's why
12 you are having drug activity. There is
13 nobody checking. Why aren't they doing drug
14 testing for tenants, first of all? That's
15 what I'd like to know. Why aren't they
16 getting the license plates and registrations
17 of the vehicles and making sure that they
18 are insured because they are parking
19 unregistered vehicles, uninsured vehicles on
20 the street, on the public streets of
21 Scranton. Nobody is checking the cars that
22 park every which way.

23 You guys have ordinances in this
24 city and nobody is abiding by them and
25 police don't ticket them because they told

1 me are afraid they are going to be sued from
2 the ACLU. So meanwhile these people run
3 rampant and do what the heck they want.
4 It's like a free for all in there and I want
5 to know why the city isn't enforcing its
6 ordinances.

7 MS. EVANS: Well, we certainly speak
8 with Chief Graziano about that particular
9 issue, but I think for everything else that
10 you have described, and they are serious
11 problems, your best bet, frankly, is to
12 attend a Scranton Housing Authority meeting
13 and speak before its board of directors and
14 demand answers from them.

15 MS. SUSSEX: Okay. Another problem,
16 too, I had called the zoning and permits
17 department. I was instructed by the mayor's
18 office to call regarding a neighbor's
19 property. It's a vacant property next to
20 731 Saginaw Street, which is Design Prints.
21 It's land that's owned -- I was told it was
22 owned by a developer, and that land is
23 littered with trash, looks like something
24 from the South Bronx. Tires, plastic bags,
25 balls, everything is over there that's been

1 blowing from the Housing and they do not cut
2 their lawn. They don't cut it in the curb
3 and it grows like three feet high. I want
4 to know why the city does nothing? I called
5 and I left my phone number and zoning and
6 permits never called me back. Nobody called
7 me back on it.

8 MS. EVANS: Well, we are very
9 familiar with that situation, unfortunately,
10 we're all too often trying to get answers
11 ourselves from the director of that
12 department and --

13 MS. SUSSEX: Well, what's up with
14 the person not going down there and fining
15 them for this, fining the owner of the
16 property? They know darn right --

17 MS. EVANS: Yes.

18 MS. SUSSEX: -- who owns that
19 property.

20 MS. EVANS: LIPS has the
21 responsibility to contact the owner, I
22 believe, and to instruct the owner and give
23 them a certain period of time in which to do
24 the clean up, to cut the grass and that
25 should be done.

1 MS. SUSSEX: I mean, you have city
2 department heads here that don't answer,
3 don't return calls. I have never seen
4 nothing like this in a city with 70 some
5 thousand people, whatever is here, that
6 their department heads don't do their jobs,
7 don't return calls, and yet they are working
8 their jobs. I mean, if it was my company
9 and I had people that wouldn't answer calls,
10 you know, within 24 hours they would be out
11 and yet everybody does it. This is the only
12 thing I have seen go on in Scranton.

13 MS. EVANS: I agree with you, but
14 again, the labor force -- or let's say the
15 city employees are beyond the scope of city
16 council because they are hired and fired by
17 only the mayor, so the mayor is their boss.
18 But, you know, we certainly will do what we
19 can and I thank you very much for your
20 comments.

21 MR. JOYCE: Can I just follow-up
22 real quickly? What type of businesses are
23 being run out of Hilltop manner, if you
24 don't mind me asking?

25 MS. SUSSEX: There is one man that's

1 in there and he has a truck that comes
2 several times a week and he repairs
3 furniture. At one point he had saws out on
4 his porch and everything else because he
5 saws the wood and fixes the furniture and
6 somebody is picking up the furniture and
7 this is somebody that is supposed to be
8 disabled that's doing all of this work.
9 Carrying things off the truck, a friend's
10 truck. It's a weekly basis a couple times a
11 week. He is running an actual furniture
12 repair shop from his apartment.

13 And then there was babysitting, what
14 I saw babysitting services being run out of
15 there, but those were actually babysitting
16 for the dealers' kids so they could go
17 around and deal because that was that \$1.4
18 million ring that got caught awhile ago.
19 That was part of it. They had kids in the
20 one apartment, somebody, a couple of women
21 would babysit and the rest of them would go
22 out and deal the drugs.

23 So this is like an ongoing thing
24 with stuff that's going on in there with the
25 gang activity. They need somebody to go --

1 proper management to go around and go to
2 those apartments once a year, at least to
3 check and see who is living there, that the
4 person that's living there is the one that
5 is assigned on the lease.

6 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I agree.

7 MS. SUSSEX: You know, I talked to
8 somebody from Housing, too, about that and
9 garbage cans because none of the tenants
10 hardly have garbage cans, she goes,
11 "Well --" her answer was, "Well, the tenants
12 steal them."

13 Well, if the tenants are stealing
14 them when you go and rent an apartment and
15 they are going to vacate you go with a
16 checklist and you check off if they steal
17 the cans they don't get to rent another
18 welfare subsidized apartment. It gets
19 reported. So I don't know why all of this
20 stuff is being allowed to go on, and this is
21 the woman that was managing those apartments
22 I spoke to. I mean, it's just excuse after
23 excuse.

24 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is Dave

1 Dobrzyn.

2 MS. KRAKE: Mrs. Evans, may I say
3 something? Excuse me.

4 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

5 MS. KRAKE: Thank you. That happens
6 to be my neighborhood, also, and I know that
7 the other department heads work for the
8 mayor, but we are all supportive of council
9 and on your behalf we had sent many letters,
10 called Mr. Peliccaci over and over and
11 basically got the same answers as
12 Mrs. Sussex. However, we would be glad to
13 follow up on that. I would recommend that
14 they call the police every time. I
15 personally see the garbage out there many
16 days prior to the pickup. It's blowing into
17 everyone's yard and all of those lots,
18 everything that she brings to the council is
19 exactly true, and I understand their
20 frustration.

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I understand Ms.
22 Sussex's frustration as well. Mrs. Krake,
23 if you could please follow-up with
24 Mr. Peliccai that would be greatly
25 appreciated, and also just remind him that

1 we have followed up with him many times
2 before about the same issue and it's very
3 problematic.

4 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

5 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

6 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
7 Dave Dobrzyn.

8 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

9 MR. DOBRZYN: Resident of Scranton.
10 On once again, that county -- suggested
11 county sales tax, I'd like to caution
12 everybody here and out in TV land they plan
13 to split it up and all you are doing is
14 paying your own bills, so sooner to have me
15 pay 1 percent more sale's tax so I can go to
16 other places in the county I'd rather pay
17 4/10 of a percent and have it stay in
18 Scranton. Cheaper all around. I'm tired of
19 the 58 and 60 percent property tax rises out
20 of everybody.

21 I understand what you people, and I
22 understand you have to do what you have to
23 do, we could do what a lot of people were
24 suggesting the bankruptcy and all of that
25 baloney, the last thing I want to see is it

1 in the hand of the state. I agree totally
2 with your comments, Janet.

3 And on the Penn meters, I guess I
4 misspoke a little bit. I guess that guy is
5 paying property tax and all. Last week I
6 watched the caucus and I'd say give him a
7 pass.

8 And Fay Franus is right last week on
9 one thing that these people didn't even
10 agree to speak up from that caucus on the
11 plight of Scranton. Understandable if you
12 are outnumbered and people are lined up
13 against you you can't get something done,
14 but to stand there and say I'm not even
15 going to mention it is wrong, and that's
16 what I got from the whole situation from
17 watching that caucus. I got here a little
18 late and I didn't hear all of the comments
19 that day, but I did watch it on ECTV later.

20 And last night in West Texas there
21 is a couple of volunteer firemen missing
22 from a huge explosion from a chemical plant,
23 and I might mention they are volunteer
24 firemen fighting an industrial fire of a
25 large industry, a fertilizer industry, they

1 are probably making ammonium nitrate, the
2 same thing that's been used in a lot of the
3 Merck building in Oklahoma City, and these
4 are things that are just being ignored by a
5 federal government, affordable health care
6 act.

7 Now, \$7,500 was the last price
8 deductible -- was the last price my wife was
9 quoted and, you know, it's just right down
10 the line. Wall Street lost \$25 million on
11 the city, but that's where your pension
12 requirements are going up. It's just
13 ridiculous. A lot of these aren't federal
14 issues because we are getting steamrolled.
15 We are just a microcosm of the whole
16 situation and they took \$25,000 and wasted
17 it out of the police and firemen pension and
18 now we have to make it up at what \$5 million
19 a year or something like that? It's really
20 ashamed and nobody got prosecuted.

21 And once again, the sequester, all
22 future property if possible and we should
23 hold a caucus with zoning and planning board
24 to see with the attorneys present to see
25 what we could do to get this sequester

1 because I don't want to see in five or ten
2 more years 50 percent on tax exempt, it's
3 just we have too many tax exempt properties
4 and that's all there is to it and even in a
5 case of the "U" they are back suing over the
6 parking fees.

7 I talked to somebody at a rally
8 Friday night, talk about changing CPI for
9 social security, I mentioned that last week,
10 his mother is living on \$600 a month and
11 this guy is taking money out of his pocket
12 and paying his mother's bills and, I mean,
13 you know, if you change the CPI that makes
14 it all of the more harder for these people
15 to pay their bills, their property taxes and
16 so forth, and these should be happy times
17 for people that get elected to office and
18 then you got the whole town's approval on
19 everything and instead you are struggling
20 with situations like this, like, what is it
21 13 percent doesn't get paid every year,
22 property taxes don't get collected in the
23 city, right?

24 MS. EVANS: Over 30 percent?

25 MR. DOBRZYN: 13 percent; right?

1 Something like that, only 87.

2 MR. JOYCE: 89

3 MR. DOBRZYN: 89. So that's where
4 these people they just can't even afford to
5 pay the bills and it's really ashamed.

6 And have you received any financial
7 reports like you were supposed to? I think
8 you mentioned you didn't get anything from
9 the mayor's office or the administration.

10 MR. JOYCE: I received one for the
11 first two months of the year. I'm still
12 waiting to receive the cash flow report as
13 of the end of March.

14 MR. DOBRZYN: What can you do, the
15 harder they try to congregate us. Thank you
16 and have good night and don't forget to
17 bawk, bawk, bawk.

18 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
19 cares to address council?

20 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I
21 could?

22 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

23 MR. HUGHES: Oh, I'm sorry, Andy,
24 after you. I'll let you speak.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: Go right ahead. Go

1 ahead. It gives me time to puts my thoughts
2 in order.

3 MR. HUGHES: I just wanted to
4 comment on Mr. Zumo last week.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes.

6 MR. HUGHES: What happened, we
7 investigated that. When he referred to a
8 Mr. Campbell, he was really referring to Don
9 King. Don King had previously met with
10 Mr. Zumo and he said there is two issues,
11 one is the neighbors on the left-hand side,
12 Bob Mendola, who is a registered surveyor
13 surveyed the property and found out that
14 where the wall is constructed is accurate.
15 It sat on Mr. Zumo's property. Mr. Zumo
16 hired John Hennemuth to do a survey and he
17 confirmed the pins that Mr. Mendola put in,
18 so where the wall is actually located is
19 located on his neighbor's property and not
20 on his property.

21 Secondly, on the right-hand side
22 where the neighbor's fence is, Mr. Zumo had
23 hired an attorney, James Zaydon, who entered
24 into a license agreement with the neighbor,
25 between the neighbor and Mr. Zumo, and the

1 license agreement it's not an easement, it's
2 the lowest form of permission, and pursuant
3 to the license agreement Mr. Zumo can tell
4 him to remove the fence at any time. So
5 where he was complaining about the fence
6 there is an agreement, there is a license
7 agreement there and Mr. Zumo pursuant to a
8 license agreement can have the neighbor
9 remove that fence from his property at any
10 time.

11 As to Fabcor, what happened with
12 that he gave an easement to go through the
13 yard for that easement. The consideration
14 was that he had the option to have his
15 driveway replaced or take money. From what
16 I understand, the easement was through the
17 driveway and that's where the pipe went and
18 he had the option of either have his
19 driveway replaced or to take a monetary
20 consideration and what he did he took the
21 money instead of having his driveway
22 repaved, but what they did was that they
23 replaced the driveway in the front where
24 there is the pave cut, where the pave cut is
25 to go into for the driveway, they did

1 replace that part of the curb and they also
2 put in new concrete sidewalks there for
3 where the driveway was on each side of the
4 driveway. He wanted them to replace all of
5 the -- all of the sidewalks, he had slate
6 sidewalks there. They said they couldn't do
7 that in accordance with the settlement
8 agreement and he accepted the money, but
9 they were responsible to put in the new pave
10 cut and the new curb and the new sidewalk
11 for the driveway because that's where they
12 put the pipe through.

13 So I just wanted to report to
14 council that, you know, Mr. King had worked
15 with him and investigated it and they were
16 the results of Mr. Zumo, you know, of what
17 his comments were. I just wanted to get
18 that clarified with council.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much,
20 Attorney Hughes.

21 MR. HUGHES: I'm sorry for
22 interrupting. I thought the public portion
23 was over, I'm sorry.

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: When it's on the
25 mind it's best to let it come out. Andy

1 Sbaraglia, citizen of Scranton, fellow
2 Scrantonians.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: Your 5-B, that's not
5 a tit for tat deal, was it, where you are
6 taking the money from Security Bank and
7 Fidelity Bank and moving it to PNC Bank.
8 I'll assume it's not a tit for tat? I hope
9 it's not anyway. When you start moving
10 funds around sometimes there is lot of other
11 things that are in there that's not coming
12 out. But anyway, because they did give us
13 the TAN even though they did put us in a
14 lockbox.

15 Okay, "D", I don't quite understand
16 that "D". When we put the meters on that
17 the street down there, I don't remember
18 anybody going to the Army and saying,
19 "That's our street, we want to put our
20 meters there, we don't have to care."

21 Now we got a moratorium here --
22 memorandum of agreement with the Army that
23 they can park where they always did park
24 before. I mean, this is bad. We are a
25 laughing stock. I don't know who in their

1 right mind decided they wanted to put meters
2 there. Well, you were on council then, so
3 ou might not have voted for it or anything
4 like that.

5 MS. EVANS: Well, the legislation
6 came down to us, but I have no idea how all
7 of that originated, whose brainstorm that
8 was.

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: You know, this is
10 the problem with Scranton, we have too many
11 people with brainstorms instead of common
12 sense. Now it's in there we are going back,
13 and not only that, the coverup, the
14 moratorium with the Army so they can park
15 there. How stupid do they think the people
16 are of Scranton? They made an idiotic
17 decision and now they are trying to cover up
18 the moratorium or --

19 MS. EVANS: I think if I could just
20 add to that quickly, only the employees will
21 be allowed to park there. Anyone else will
22 not be permitted. They are going to be
23 issued some type of identification for their
24 cars so that the police will be aware and if
25 the car isn't identifiable as a General

1 Dynamics' employees then the police can
2 ticket the car.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: How much money are
4 they giving us?

5 MS. EVANS: Pardon?

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: How much money are
7 they giving the city?

8 MS. EVANS: Oh, I'm sure nothing.

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: That's what I mean.
10 This is one ridiculous thing after another
11 ridiculous plan. I don't know how many
12 people in the city would actually use that
13 because, you know, it's a God forsaken place
14 down there, but even to say, well, if you
15 don't work in the plant here you can't park
16 in public streets that we own.

17 MS. EVANS: Well, actually, I had
18 contacted the vice president of General
19 Dynamics, oh, this was probably two years
20 ago asking him for a PILOT and his response
21 to me was generally just about parking the
22 situation, what were we going to do about
23 that and, you know, I reminded him that the
24 purpose of the call was really to say what
25 they would be able to provide and his answer

1 was he would have to check with
2 headquarters, which is located, I forget
3 where, out of state, and he would get back
4 to me. To this day he never got back to me.

5 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, anyway. I'd
6 like to see them get their parking spots
7 back, but let's just say we made a mistake
8 and should never have done it to begin with
9 and get away with that and just say this is
10 how government works. Sometimes we have
11 good ideas and sometimes we have bad ideas
12 and that was a bad idea.

13 Okay, let's move on. I'm not going
14 to get into that and I'm not going to get
15 into that. I will say something about our
16 dear, dear county government and the South
17 Side Complex, I would be remiss if I didn't
18 mention that again. As you know, that's
19 right next to a housing project. The kids
20 used to play there, there was tennis courts,
21 I know they are not in good repair. Nay Aug
22 they're good, but they're not, but that's
23 where the money went to Nay Aug and not to
24 anything by the housing project.

25 But anyway, to ask us to fix that

1 piece of parcel after, I won't say it was
2 stolen from us, but that's pretty close to
3 how to describe how the people of Scranton
4 feel. I wish Mr. Phillips would still come
5 around. He spoke eloquently on that parcel
6 of land at that time and Mayor Connor said,
7 "Don't worry about it, I'm going to give you
8 another field with lights and all of that.
9 Don't worry about that. We'll take care of
10 that for you," but you know and I know they
11 never got the field and now the University
12 wants us, the people of Pennsylvania,
13 actually all of us, to pay for upgrading
14 that field and that's not quite right
15 either, but, unfortunately, nobody does
16 anything about it. Nobody sends a letter
17 down to the state saying you oppose this
18 grant and the reason why you oppose it.

19 This is the reason -- I don't
20 usually oppose grants, some I don't like,
21 but with this grant it should be opposed.
22 They can't and do have the funding
23 themselves to do whatever they want to do
24 being that they took that thing, they give
25 us like a million point some for it, but

1 they replaced the field, probably costs
2 about three.

3 So anyway, I would like to see
4 council do something like that and pools in
5 Scranton. That's the only thing you can do.
6 Saying "no" doesn't matter. I would say
7 this agreement does not matter, you got to
8 take action. You might not get nothing with
9 your action, but at least you tried and
10 that's -- like I say, you got the Parking
11 Authority down there still sitting, you
12 didn't ask for the resignation. We got to
13 wait for another mayor to come in and
14 replace them, but you could have. They
15 might not have done it, but doing what we
16 did didn't help the city much. In fact, it
17 made it harder for us to get loans. Well,
18 thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
20 anyone else?

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
22 Council. Marie Schumacher, city resident
23 and taxpayer. I had planned this evening to
24 talk about several properties, but in
25 attempting to do the research I had similar

1 problems as this woman, I have been calling
2 for weeks and not getting a telephone even
3 answered or a voicemail, and so today, this
4 morning fairly early I thought I really
5 lucked out because I was put into the office
6 and I thought, oh, finally, at which time I
7 received a message, a voice message, I was
8 asked to leave a voice message. The only
9 problem was the voice message box was also
10 filled, so it was nothing. So I may just
11 bring it back here because it's somewhat
12 time critical, but not tonight because I do
13 want to do a little bit more research.

14 So I'm going to revert back to
15 seeking answers to some questions already
16 asked and some new ones for tonight.

17 First of all, with respect to 7-B
18 the budget, as I recall, said the repayment
19 would be without interest. Is that what the
20 agreement says on 7-B?

21 MR. JOYCE: I believe so, but let me
22 make sure. Yes, there is nothing is
23 mentioned about interest.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Not even that there
25 is none, okay. Thank you. With respect to

1 5-D, I don't understand why an agreement is
2 even required and one of the questions
3 Mrs. Evans just answered on whether or not
4 parking would be restricted to the employees
5 only, I'm not sure that we really need --

6 MR. MCGOFF: There seems to be a
7 little bit of miss understanding on what
8 this is about. I don't know if anybody
9 actually ready the memorandum of
10 understanding.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: I didn't get here
12 in time, I'm sorry.

13 MR. MCGOFF: What it states is that
14 during forced protection condition Delta,
15 which is the highest personnel readiness
16 level for the Department of Defense all
17 vehicles entering the installation must
18 receive a comprehensive and time consuming
19 inspection. Because of that, the Scranton
20 Army Ammunition plant is asking that in
21 order to facilitate their workday at the
22 plant and not have a lineup of cars outside
23 waiting for inspections that they be allowed
24 to park along the plant where there are
25 currently "No Parking" signs.

1 They are requesting from the city to
2 use that -- those spaces during this
3 particular status, alert status, and that's
4 all it is.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. How will --
6 if the general public were to park there how
7 would they know --

8 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know how it
9 would be implemented, but what I'm saying is
10 that this is under certain conditions and
11 it's a request being made by the Defense
12 Department, not something that the city is
13 requesting, you know, doing.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And then on
15 a segue on that, Mr. Joyce, I brought
16 several times, at least twice to my
17 recollection, the case law saying that
18 commercial operators of government-owned
19 contractor operated facilities were to pay
20 property taxes, and I asked if you were
21 going to do that before the last budget and
22 you said you would, I don't know. Did you
23 do it and find that because that's a half a
24 million dollars on that property a year?
25 Did you seek that out or did you find out

1 that that was not possible or?

2 MR. JOYCE: I did do some research
3 into it, I'm not 100 percent sure if it's
4 possible or not.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: \$500,000 is a lot of
6 money. I would think that we would pursue
7 it through legal means. You do have a copy
8 of the case law that I gave you?

9 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay.

11 MR. JOYCE: I don't have it with me
12 right now.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, I wouldn't
14 expect that, but you do have a copy. Okay,
15 maybe within the next several weeks you
16 could complete that and get --

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And then on
19 5-E St. Mary's Villa is not within the city
20 boundaries, why are we concerning ourselves
21 with that issue and is it a resolution or I
22 don't understand why it's even on the agenda
23 since it's not city business.

24 MS. EVANS: I believe the loan is
25 run through the city, but the city has no

1 financial obligation and the city provides
2 no financial guarantee for it.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: But why wouldn't
4 they go through their own municipality?

5 MS. EVANS: I don't know. I imagine
6 they could have gone through Lackawanna
7 County perhaps, but --

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: It just seems very
9 strange and like we have got enough with our
10 own. And then, Mr. Joyce, last week I asked
11 if you agree with my calculation that our
12 current real estate taxes are lagging by
13 about \$375,000 through I guess it was
14 February? No, I guess whatever figures you
15 had, if you adjusted for the 22 percent
16 increase differential.

17 MR. JOYCE: I know that we did
18 finish a little bit behind last year as far
19 as real estate taxes are concerned and I'm
20 waiting for our business administrator's
21 most recent projection as of the end of
22 March as to what he thinks we are going to
23 receive by the end the year based on what we
24 have seen so far.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I really

1 think when you do make the comparisons you
2 shouldn't say we are ahead of last year
3 because we are only ahead of last year
4 because of the 22 percent increase.

5 MR. JOYCE: Because of the tax
6 increase. I did mention that.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: And I think you
8 should put them on an apples to apples basis
9 in the future when you report them, if you
10 would, or at least qualify it. Thank you.

11 And, Mr. McGoff, is the location on
12 Hemlock Street where the fire was a
13 registered rental property where the 12
14 persons were evacuated? I asked you to
15 check that out.

16 MR. MCGOFF: I did not.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: And as long as I
18 have got your attention I got one more for
19 you and that is how many of the properties
20 that have paid the rental registration have
21 had the inspections performed?

22 MR. MCGOFF: I do not know.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Could you find out?

24 MR. MCGOFF: I will try.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. And

1 again, I asked last week how much will
2 remain in the RE-RE account after --

3 MS. EVANS: I actually have that and
4 I was going to address it under motions
5 tonight.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Who is
7 paying the matching fund for the Nay Aug
8 do-over for the RCP?

9 MS. EVANS: There are none. There
10 are no matching funds required. I asked
11 that question specifically --

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: That's not what the
13 legislation says. I mean, I went to Blake's
14 office and they say there are, but --

15 MS. EVANS: Well, it was applied for
16 by the Scranton Recreation Authority so if,
17 indeed, there are any matching funds
18 required that is their responsibility, but
19 we did speak with Ryan McGowan and others to
20 check this out because my concern was that
21 the city would be on the hook for matching
22 funds and I was told unequivocally no.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, and that was
24 my first concern then I would imagine the
25 municipal authority has it because I do know

1 that when Mr. Smith, the former
2 representative, when inquiring why he
3 managed to give so many millions of dollars
4 to the University for the Mulberry Street
5 project said because they had the matching
6 funds and the city didn't have any matching
7 funds so he couldn't do anything for any
8 city projects, so just so it's not -- okay.
9 See you next week, thank you, good Lord
10 willing.

11 MR. ROGAN: Just to answer your
12 question regarding 5-E, and I don't know for
13 sure but just reading in the backup, it
14 appears because the Scranton/Lackawanna
15 Health and Welfare Authority they are the
16 applicants, so because of Scranton -- it
17 might be something the city and Lackawanna
18 County has to approve. I can provide you
19 the backup.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: That's a might be.

21 MR. ROGAN: That's how it reads, but
22 I'll give it to you after the meeting.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.

24 MR. ROGAN: You're welcome.

25 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who

1 cares to address council? Mrs. Krake.

2 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. Motions.

3 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do
4 you have any comments or motions?

5 MR. MCGOFF: A couple of follow ups.
6 First of all, on the parking at the Scranton
7 Army Ammunition Plant, in the backup it says
8 "Responsibilities from the Scranton Army
9 Ammunition plant: Number one, immediately
10 notify the Scranton Police Department in the
11 event of an elevated forced protection
12 condition level to Delta."

13 So, parking would only take place
14 during that alert status.

15 "Second. Designee authorized SCAAP
16 vehicles with the sticker clearly visible in
17 the windshield."

18 So that apparently any vehicle not
19 having an appropriate sticker would be
20 deemed to be in violation of the "No
21 Parking" ordinance.

22 And the responsibilities of the
23 Scranton Police Department allow for the
24 parking during this conditions and ensure
25 that citations are not issued to the

1 vehicles authorized to park there as
2 determined by paragraph or AT, which is the
3 stickers.

4 So to me it's, you know, it's a
5 reasonable request and certainly
6 understandable on the part of the Scranton
7 Army Ammunition Plant.

8 Second, in response to a letter that
9 was received by city council apparently and
10 sent to Mr. Santoli, the forester who is in
11 charge of the Forestry Department I guess
12 under the Scranton Department of Public
13 Works, I guess there was a concern about the
14 tree population in Nay Aug and throughout
15 the City of Scranton and Mr. Santoli
16 responded, as he usually does. He is very
17 protective of what he perceives to be his
18 trees and his response was that our
19 population of 1.1 million trees contained in
20 our 20 plus square mile city are not in any
21 serious danger of widespread dying by any
22 cause and that this study was accomplished
23 from the work of the US Forest Service and
24 he further states, "There is no urgency for
25 any immediate action except what I have been

1 doing so proudly for the last 12 years and
2 hope to continue for several more years."

3 I would think that if there were a
4 problem with any of the forestry areas
5 throughout the city, any trees, that
6 Mr. Santoli would be the first to respond.
7 As I said, he has a great love for the city
8 and especially for forest stations
9 throughout this city.

10 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, I agree with
11 what you are saying, I actually was the
12 council person who received the e-mail from
13 a resident who lives very near Nay Aug Park
14 and his e-mail was quite knowledgeable of
15 forestry matters and so I had asked Mrs.
16 Krake if she would please forward this to
17 Mr. Santoli, so I'll see that this gentleman
18 gets a copy of that.

19 MR. MCGOFF: And as you probably saw
20 in the response, Mr. Santoli is more than
21 happy to discuss the tree situation with
22 anyone and I'm sure that whoever sent the
23 e-mail if they are interested in speaking
24 with Mr. Santoli there is a contact number
25 which can be provided to that person.

1 I didn't know if I was going to
2 mention anything about this, but I guess
3 having participated in a number of running
4 events I guess I feel a little bit obligated
5 to at least mention the occurrences in
6 Boston.

7 For anyone who has never attended a
8 road race, the finish line is filled with
9 spectators. It's designed so that the last
10 hundred yards, 200 yards of the finish
11 spectators, which is usually comprised of
12 families, friends of the participants so
13 that they can get a close look at their
14 loved ones finishing an event that I think
15 something like 2 percent of the population
16 has done. Knowing, you know, just from
17 Steamtown, I have never had the honor of
18 running in Boston, but just from running in
19 Steamtown there are two things that you look
20 at or look for when you get towards the
21 finish, one is the clock and the other is
22 for the people that you know are there, and
23 the only thing that the people that are
24 there are there to cheer on the activity, to
25 be involved in the euphoria that surrounds

1 this event.

2 These bombs that went off targeted
3 innocent spectators. It had nothing to do
4 with the participants in the race, this
5 was -- these spectators are government
6 officials, they are not military people,
7 they are just ordinary citizens who want to
8 enjoy the day and this was nothing more than
9 a premeditated cowardly act by someone or
10 persons that really needs a strong and
11 definitive response.

12 My thoughts are with all of the
13 participants in the race in the recent
14 Boston marathon and the spectators and the
15 families that were effected by this. I'm
16 sure that the City of Boston will survive
17 and I'm pretty sure that the Boston marathon
18 itself will survive, but this was a heinous
19 act and just something that effected me
20 knowing some of the people that were there
21 and thankfully all of the local participants
22 were safe and unaffected, physically
23 unaffected by the events. And that's all I
24 have. Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,

1 Councilman Rogan, do you have comments or
2 motions?

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. As
4 Mr. McGoff so eloquently said, my heart also
5 goes out to those, the runners in Boston,
6 spectators, and hopefully those responsible
7 will be brought to justice in the very near
8 future.

9 Just a couple of issues I would like
10 to talk about tonight. The first thing is I
11 would like to thank three members from the
12 DPW for their great work over the last week,
13 Larry Berlin, Mike Forgione Joe Haggerty,
14 the great work that they did in West Side
15 following a storm clearing out from debris
16 from sewers in the side -- and grids on the
17 side of the road and potholes and a few
18 issues in a few neighborhoods in West
19 Scranton that people have contacted me
20 about.

21 Next, I just wanted to address an
22 issue that's been brought up to me a lot and
23 going through the community and it's
24 regarding vacant lots throughout the city.
25 Traveling through the city it's no secret

1 neighbors can make that part of their
2 property and take care of it and maintain
3 it.

4 Next, one issue, and I try not to
5 bring up zoning issues too often on council
6 meetings, it is another separate body, but a
7 few neighbors brought this up to me. This
8 one is right in the neighborhood where I
9 just recently purchased a home, this is on
10 the agenda that we received for the zoning
11 board on Wednesday, April 10. The first
12 item on the agenda is regarding the old John
13 Marshal School, and it states, "Arthur Russo
14 in Scranton, 124 North Main Avenue,
15 applicant, seeks use and parking variance
16 for an elementary school building at the
17 corner of Oram Street and North Lincoln
18 Avenue, residential apartments, R1A zone.

19 Now, I know myself and other
20 neighbors are staunchly opposed to this.
21 This was supposed to be on the agenda for
22 zoning last week, but I believe the
23 application was withdrawn, so I'd just like
24 to make that announcement so everyone who
25 would like to address the zoning board. I'm

1 going to try to make it to the meeting
2 myself to voice my opposition.

3 And anyone not from the area, the
4 Oram Street area of West Scranton is very
5 nice, a very nice, quiet neighborhood and
6 certainly the last thing that's needed
7 there, and the city council fought against
8 the apartments in Minooka, it's a large
9 apartment building without parking. So I
10 just wanted to get that out there as well.

11 Finally, a few citizens' requests,
12 I'm not going to read all of these off, but
13 we received a memo that a resident called to
14 report a long list of potholes, most of them
15 seem to be in South Scranton, Minooka area,
16 so if we could please forward that to DPW.

17 And also one other issue, apparently
18 I guess about a week or so ago a stop sign
19 was placed on the corner of North Bromley
20 and Swetland Street, also my neighborhood.
21 I don't know who put the request in, I'm not
22 disagreeing with the stop sign being put in,
23 but there is no notification. There is
24 about a block back a little sign that has,
25 you know, the picture of the stop sign, I

1 know in the past that I think the state what
2 they do is put a little flashing light on a
3 new stop sign for the first 30 days to
4 notify drivers because when are in the habit
5 of traveling a road for how many years and a
6 new stop sign or traffic light is put up
7 many, many people don't notice it and they
8 go right through it and it's creating a very
9 dangerous situation at that intersection.
10 And I'll be honest, I didn't even know it
11 was put up until a friend said, "Hey, when
12 was that stop sign put up?"

13 And I said, "What stop sign?"

14 Until I went out and looked because
15 you are used to going through your daily
16 commute and you don't notice things like
17 that unless there is a light or something to
18 notify, you know. So, please, can we
19 request that the DPW to put a flashing light
20 on the two new stop signs at the corner of
21 North Bromley and Swetland for maybe 30 days
22 or, you know, some period of time that they
23 find to be acceptable.

24 MR. MCGOFF: I was just going to, if
25 you don't mind, on the way over I noticed

1 that the traffic lights at the intersection
2 of Orchard Street and Cedar Avenue and the
3 entrance and exit from 81 -- or from the
4 Expressway are now in a flashing status
5 which I think we found out that they are
6 supposed to go on that for a number of days,
7 which I would think that those lights will
8 then be operational in the very near future.

9 So, again, you know, people who are
10 used to traveling in that area please be
11 aware that lights they may be functioning
12 traffic signals within the next week or so.

13 MR. ROGAN: I travel that way to
14 work every day and I know there was a police
15 officer there monitoring the situation the
16 other morning when they had the flashing
17 lights on. You know, that's exactly what
18 I'm going to say with the situation with the
19 stop sign at least, you know, they put the
20 flashing reds up first to you let people
21 know that there is a new device going in and
22 it does take time to get use to it, and I
23 know you mentioned the new stop sign was put
24 in -- the new light was put in the corner of
25 River and Meadow, you know, it takes a

1 little bit of getting used to and we
2 certainly wouldn't want people, one person
3 to stop with the new sign, the other to keep
4 going and rear end them or some sort of
5 accident, so if the DPW could put that up
6 for a short period of time that would
7 definitely help the safety of that
8 neighborhood.

9 And regarding 5-B, with General
10 Dynamics, I will be voting "yes" for the
11 legislation, but I actually think the better
12 solution is just to take the "No Parking"
13 signs and remove them and let the workers
14 park there. The idea of putting those
15 meters up to begin with was terrible, you
16 know, you can't -- they basically were
17 asking the workers to give up a dollar an
18 hour of their pay with the rates of the
19 meters and possibly getting a fine if they
20 are not able to run out in the middle of the
21 day and feed the meter again. You know,
22 meters are made for turnover in a business
23 district, they are not made to extract extra
24 money out of workers, you know, from any
25 type of plant, and that it seems that the

1 "No Parking" signs were just put up to be
2 vindictive after the workers wouldn't park
3 there.

4 So if we can also send a request to
5 the administration, if everyone agrees just
6 to remove those "No Parking" signs
7 altogether, and I know there is a shortage
8 of signs in the city, I'm sure there is
9 areas where they could be used where they
10 could be much more beneficial besides that
11 street. And that is all I have for tonight.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. JOYCE: I definitely agree with
14 that.

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

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, just a few
18 things. First, my heart and prayers go out
19 to the victims of the Boston marathon last
20 and also in my heart and prayers to the
21 first responders and victims of the
22 explosion in West Texas because they are
23 still continuing to, you know, dig through
24 the remnants for victims and hopefully, you
25 know, they will find more people alive

1 there. But, you know, it's just seems like
2 a lot has happened in the last week, but we
3 are strong nation and we will pull together
4 and we all work together to do it.

5 There were issues brought up at the
6 meeting here, but I had spoken to Chief
7 Graziano and the Pinebrook Neighborhood
8 Association, I am scheduled to be meeting
9 with him on several issues and some of the
10 things that were brought up tonight I will
11 address with him, also.

12 He is one of the few department
13 heads that is very responsive in answering
14 our questions through letters and meetings,
15 so I do commend the chief on that.

16 Let's see here, and just finally,
17 Mr. Rogan stole my thunder on that
18 ammunition plant parking, did you get my
19 note on that one, too?

20 MR. ROGAN: It's good that we agree.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: But I think I have
22 stated before and it's been stated here
23 previously, you know, that that was an issue
24 that should never have started in the first
25 place, however, you know, I don't know what

1 the proper way to go about it is, do we have
2 to repeal that legislation that was put in
3 there because they haven't even abided by
4 the legislation -- the parking ordinance
5 there. They took the meters without
6 notifying city council and planted "No
7 Parking" signs there, I don't think that was
8 done legally.

9 MR. ROGAN: We have discussed this
10 before, if somebody were to park there and
11 receive a ticket they could challenge it in
12 Court because those "No Parking" signs are
13 not legal. They were never approved by city
14 council or signed by the mayor.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Right, I think the
16 meters were part of an ordinance where they
17 took the meters from CMC with that deal and
18 moved them down there, in the mean time now
19 they have taken them back out of there and
20 moved them up to CMC and planted "No
21 Parking" signs. But I do think -- I mean,
22 I agree with this legislation tonight, I
23 will be voting on it, but I think it should
24 be expanded even more, as Mr. Rogan stated,
25 to allow parking for everyone there, back to

1 where it was at one point. So whatever
2 method we have available to try and rectify
3 that I would be in favor of researching it.
4 And that's all I have. Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.
6 Mr. Joyce, do you have any comments or
7 motions tonight?

8 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I do have some
9 comments. First, I want to remind everyone
10 again to remember in your thoughts and
11 prayers the victims of the tragedies that
12 happened in Boston recently during the
13 Boston marathon. It's just terrible to see
14 the way some events get ruined by senseless
15 acts of terror and it's just really ashamed
16 that we have seen such things happen.

17 Secondly, just to give a quick
18 snapshot of where the city is at, our
19 current cash balance is \$10.9 million and we
20 have \$315,000 in accounts payable.

21 As a second order of business
22 tonight, Mrs. Schumacher asked I believe it
23 was a few weeks ago about the RE-RE account
24 in regard to how much money would remain in
25 the RE-RE account after we provided ECTV

1 with \$20,000 being that we vote to provide
2 them with the \$20,000. We have received a
3 response from Ms. Aebli on that and she sent
4 a letter saying that she is in receipt of
5 the letter that we sent to her on April 15,
6 it was received on April 16, requesting the
7 information as to how much would be in the
8 RE-RE account after \$20,000 was taken out of
9 it.

10 And she replied that the balance in
11 the last bank statements that received by
12 this office, being OECD, on March 31, 2013,
13 was \$61,696.96, and please be aware that
14 balance continuously changes due to deposits
15 made from loan repayments received by the
16 office. And she also mentioned that a
17 repayment in the RE-RE account in the amount
18 of \$63,360.89 is anticipated from the
19 Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency,
20 PEMA, for the reimbursement for the Crisp
21 Avenue bridge project, so that's just a
22 quick update as to where we are with the
23 RE-RE account.

24 Next, I wanted to speak a little bit
25 about the audit and a lot of people come up

1 and question, you know, will the audit be
2 done on time, and I'm sure those questions
3 will start to come up more and more as we
4 approach May 31, which is the deadline
5 specified in the Home Rule Charter, and I
6 will comment that Mr. McGowan did provide us
7 with a status update, and the audit is
8 running a little bit behind according to the
9 status update. He projects that it will be
10 done in June, but what I will do is I just
11 wanted to give a brief snapshot of what must
12 be done in order to complete the audit. I
13 know a lot of people may think that the BA's
14 Office simply just needs to send them a
15 bunch of information, but there are a number
16 of steps that the BA's Office must take and
17 must be done on a certain timeline, which
18 has been lagging over the recent years.

19 First, all bank accounts must be
20 reconciled to its appropriate general ledger
21 account, and also the BA's Office needs to
22 provide supporting documentation for any
23 deposits and transfers and any outstanding
24 checks that are over 60 days old at the end
25 of December 31, 2012. This has been

1 completed.

2 Also the BA's Office has to provide
3 a cash transfer schedule for all December
4 deposits and transfers and the outstanding
5 checks between city bank accounts. This has
6 been completed.

7 The BA's Office also has to report
8 current and delinquent taxes receivable.
9 The receivables should be completed by the
10 April 30, 2013.

11 Investments are to be segregated
12 from cash accounts on trial balances. This
13 has been completed.

14 Investments are to be reported at
15 fair market value. This has been completed.

16 Interest receivable on investments
17 needs to be reported. This has been
18 completed.

19 Innerfund receivable and payables
20 must be reconciled, and this is expected to
21 be done by April 30.

22 Operating transfers in and out must
23 be reconciled. This has been completed.

24 Accounts receivable and accounts
25 payable need to be recorded on each fund.

1 This has been completed.

2 Wage accruals need be reported on
3 each funds. This has been completed.

4 Appropriate receivables must be
5 reported on special city's fund for
6 expenditures made and approved. This has
7 been completed.

8 The BA's Office also needs to
9 provide analysis or explanations for any
10 budgetary areas that exceed \$50,000, either
11 positive or negative in an overall 10
12 percent change in accounts. This should be
13 completed by April 30.

14 The BA's Office also needs to
15 provide analysis for any prior year
16 variances that exceed \$50,000 either
17 positive or negative in an overall 10
18 percent change in the account. This should
19 be completed by April 30 as well according
20 to Mr. McGowan.

21 A list of any few federal grants
22 received in the calendar year of 2012 has to
23 be provided. This has been completed.

24 An explanation on any special cities
25 accounts that has no -- that had no activity

1 in 2012 as of the status of those deferred
2 revenues. That needs to be provided and
3 that's been completed.

4 Council resolutions for opening of
5 new bank accounts or special city's general
6 ledger accounts. That's been completed.

7 Receipt of confirmations from the
8 Single Tax Office and Northeast Revenue
9 Services. That hasn't been completed yet
10 and there is -- and its not been received by
11 the city yet, so once that's received by the
12 city that will be sent to Rossi & Rossi.

13 Health care analysis work papers and
14 reconciliation of city billings to school
15 district for the Single Tax Office health
16 care expenditures needs to be sent to the
17 auditor. This should be completed by April
18 30th of 2013.

19 Reconciliation of parking meters
20 collected and management fee paid to the
21 Parking Authority to the Parking Authority
22 records. This has been completed.

23 Copies of any federal or state
24 auditor reports issued in 2012 or 2013 needs
25 to be sent in. This has been completed.

1 Final trial balances of December 30,
2 2012, and copies of supporting work papers
3 and all balance sheet accounts. This will
4 be completed by April 30.

5 Final 2012 calendar year general
6 ledger needs to be sent in. This is to be
7 completed by April 30 as well.

8 Reconciliation of the city pension
9 records and financial statements prepared by
10 Thomas Anderson. This has been completed.

11 Reclassification of revenues and
12 expenditures and special city's fund for
13 financial statement purposes. This has been
14 completed.

15 Finalized and fixed asset schedules
16 and entries necessary to record activity for
17 GASB 34 conversion, including an
18 infrastructure report. This should be
19 completed by May 15.

20 GASB 47 post-employment termination
21 benefit calculations needs to be performed/
22 this should be done by May 15.

23 Compensated absentee calculations.
24 This should be completed by May 15.

25 Actuarial calculation of GASB 45

1 post-employment benefits needs to be
2 completed. This should be done by May 15.

3 Receive all attorney correspondence.
4 This should done by June 1st of 2013.

5 Management discussions analysis
6 section of the audit report needs to be
7 completed. This should be done by June 1.

8 Signed management representation
9 letter. This should be completed on June 1.

10 And an exit conference held. This
11 should be done during the last week of June
12 of 2013, according to our BA.

13 So that's a quick snapshot of what
14 the Business Administrator's Office has to
15 provide as far as the audit is concerned and
16 as far as also where we were as far as those
17 topics are specified.

18 I'm very pleased to also see that
19 departments heads have been responding to
20 requests made by council. One of the recent
21 requests that was made dealt with a property
22 on 712 Eynon Street and I would like to
23 applaud Mr. Dougher, Director of Public
24 Works, for responding. The City of Scranton
25 DPW had the Department of Agriculture Office

1 of Surface Mining go to the 712 Eynon Street
2 on April 11 and determine that it was not a
3 mine-related hole that was in the person's
4 backyard and subsequently the owner was
5 notified. I'm very glad that he gave us an
6 update on that.

7 And also regarding the speeding and
8 the ATV traffic on Sloan Street, we received
9 a letter back from acting Chief Graziano
10 which is entitled to Mrs. Krake actually, in
11 regards to the complaints received regarding
12 speeding motorists on Sloan Street. Chief
13 Graziano directed the as patrol captain and
14 notified patrols to monitor this location
15 with regard to the ATVs on city streets.
16 It's illegal for ATVs to travel on city
17 streets. The exception would be if the ATV
18 rider is a crossing the city street.
19 Officers will enforce ATVs traveling on city
20 streets, however, they must exercise caution
21 in their methods to apprehend these riders.

22 And he also gives us a note to
23 contact his office if we have any further
24 questions, so I'm very glad to see that
25 department heads are responding to our

1 requests.

2 And finally, Mrs. Krake, I have one
3 request and it's dealing with the vacant
4 property next to 731 Saginaw Street that
5 Mrs. Sussex brought up, obviously the
6 property is littered with trash and the lawn
7 is not taken care of, grass is never cut and
8 it's a nuisance to the neighborhood so if we
9 could send that request into Mr. Seitzinger
10 it would be greatly appreciated. And that's
11 all.

12 MS. EVANS: Good evening. The
13 office of City Council received a response
14 recently from Chief Graziano to Ms.
15 Schumacher's request with the number of
16 arrests during the past year for buying
17 illegal drugs. In 2-11, the Scranton Police
18 Department arrested 250 individuals for
19 possessing a controlled substance and in
20 2012 the department arrested 192
21 individuals.

22 Chief Graziano adds, "It should be
23 noted that statistics do not specifically
24 track buying illegal drugs, but would fall
25 under the category of possessing a

1 controlled substance."

2 In addition, as Councilman Joyce
3 mentioned, council's office received a
4 response on April 16 from OECD Director
5 Linda Aebli to Ms. Schumacher's request, and
6 I'll just speak on that a bit further. As a
7 result of the facts that were announced by
8 Councilman Joyce, the RE-RE account will
9 have total funds of \$125,057.85. Since the
10 legislation to approve the ECTV grant did
11 not reach council until April it appears
12 that \$20,000 will be deducted from that
13 total.

14 Also, in response to a request from
15 Mr. Spindler I'd like to read what Chief
16 Graziano had to say. "In regards to the
17 complaint received regarding the traffic
18 light synchronization in downtown Scranton,
19 I have been advised that the initial
20 synchronization of the new downtown traffic
21 lights is tentatively scheduled for next
22 week. Our agency will contact PennDOT if
23 the final traffic light synchronization does
24 not improve any downtown traffic light
25 issues. "

1 I know that one of our council
2 speakers had also asked for information from
3 the Single Tax Office, I can't recall which
4 one of you it was. Nevertheless, I'll read
5 the response that we received from
6 Mr. Courtright, tax collector. "This letter
7 is in response to your letter dated March 5,
8 2013, whereby you inquired as to whether or
9 not our office could determine the number of
10 people working downtown. We would not be
11 able to give you an accurate number for
12 several reasons:

13 For instance, there would be some
14 people that work in two places. There would
15 be some people who may earn less than
16 \$12,000 who don't pay the LST tax; and
17 lastly, the LST tax is paid at multiple
18 times throughout the year."

19 And I just wanted to report those
20 responses for the individuals who posed the
21 inquiries.

22 Also, in response to a request made
23 by the West Scranton Hyde Park Neighborhood
24 Watch and Mrs. Karen Foster to both Mayor
25 Doherty and me, the Jackson Street skate

1 park will seek installation of a new fence
2 this year. A mandatory prebid field
3 inspection conference will be held on
4 Thursday, May 2, at 10 a.m., and proposals
5 for this project will be opened in council
6 chambers on Friday, May 17, at 10 a.m.

7 Mrs. Foster made me aware of the
8 urgent need for a new fence on March 22, and
9 the following week the mayor and I discussed
10 her request and agreed to move forward
11 quickly. I'm very pleased that the skate
12 park will be taken care of for the
13 residents, teens and children of the West
14 Scranton Hyde Park neighborhood.

15 Next, I was extremely disappointed
16 and concerned for the taxpayers by the
17 county's refusal to review the status of
18 nonprofits to examine whether they meet the
19 criteria for property tax exemption. Just
20 as Allegheny County has aggressively pursued
21 it's nonprofit review, which I have
22 frequently discussed during our council
23 meetings, so too does Lackawanna County need
24 to ensure that all properties off the tax
25 rolls deserve to remain so.

1 Since the City of Scranton has no
2 authority over the surrounding communities
3 of Lackawanna County and the commissioners
4 have chosen not to help them, we will not
5 include them in our actions. However, it is
6 important to the city's case for a commuter
7 tax this year that the city takes every
8 possible measure to obtain revenue from tax
9 exempts.

10 Thus, I will be asking our council
11 solicitor and city clerk for their
12 assistance in further pursuing this matter
13 as soon as possible.

14 Next, I would like to read an e-mail
15 from the Pinebrook Neighborhood Association
16 regarding rooming house inspections and this
17 was not sent to directly to council's
18 office, but rather to Mr. Seitzinger with
19 copies to council's office.

20 "Thank you for the incomplete
21 inspection of the rooming houses at 312-314
22 New Street and 824-826 Capouse Avenue. At
23 first, the neighbors who were observing
24 called it a farce, but then we realized that
25 a complete group of inspectors was not

1 available. We were under the impression
2 that an electrical inspector and third party
3 inspector were on scene. We will await a
4 date or dates for a health inspection, fire
5 department inspection, etcetera. Your
6 department was mentioned by someone in the
7 standing room only crowd at our PBNA meeting
8 last night and a quote was made from a
9 partial observer from outside of the
10 neighborhood that "It is not just in
11 Pinebrook that we hear these complaints
12 about LIPS and its director," we hear the
13 same complaints all over the city.

14 The PBNA is working to toward a
15 clean and safe environment for all of it's
16 residence. We expect the city to do the
17 same. We would also request inspection
18 information on a property located at 1201
19 Capouse Avenue.

20 And it's signed by the members and
21 officers of the Pinebrook Neighborhood
22 Association.

23 So, Mrs. Krake, if we could please
24 send a letter to Mr. Seitzinger asking what
25 inspections remain to be completed for the

1 rooming houses at 312-314 New Street and
2 824-826 Capouse Avenue and on what dated
3 inspections will occur.

4 Also, the Pinebrook Neighborhood
5 Association requests inspection information
6 for the 1201 Capouse Avenue property. And I
7 believe that's it.

8 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. TRANSFERRING FUNDS
9 FROM FUND 01 CITY OF SCRANTON PENN SECURITY
10 TAN A AND FIDELITY BANK 2012 TAN ACCOUNTS
11 WHICH PROJECTS ARE COMPLETED AND NO LONGER
12 NEEDED FOR THE CONDUCT OF CITY BUSINESS, AND
13 ABOLISHING AND CLOSING SAID ACCOUNTS AND
14 TRANSFERRING THE FUNDS REMAINING IN SAID
15 ACCOUNTS TO THE PNC GENERAL FUNDING CHECKING
16 ACCOUNT LISTED BELOW.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

2 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. ESTABLISHING A "NO
6 PARKING ZONE" ALONG THE WESTERLY SIDE OF THE
7 1700 BLOCK OF NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE
8 BEGINNING FROM THE END LINE OF PIN
9 13518-030-019 NORTHWARD TO THE CORNER OF THE
10 1100 BLOCK OF ELECTRIC STREET WESTWARD AND
11 SOUTHWARD ENDING AT THE END LINE OF PIN
12 13518-030-017 ON THE 1800 BLOCK OF WYOMING
13 AVENUE.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

24 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. AUTHORIZING THE
3 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
4 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF
5 UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE
6 ARMY SCRANTON ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT (SCAAP)
7 AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON ("CITY") TO ALLOW
8 PARKING ALONG MATTES AVENUE AND RIVER STREET
9 WHERE "NO PARKING" SIGNS ARE PRESENT.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. JOYCE: Second.

15 MS. EVANS: On the question?

16 MR. MCGOFF: Just one comment, I
17 didn't want to respond before, rather than
18 making that whole parking, it might be
19 worthwhile to look into permit parking for
20 that area so that the employees of the
21 General Dynamics can use it all the time --

22 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

23 MR. MCGOFF: -- as part of the
24 parking program.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McGoff.

1 Is there anyone else? All those in favor
2 signify by saying aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. APPROVING THE
10 FINANCING BY THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA
11 HEALTH AND WELFARE AUTHORITY OF A CERTAIN
12 CAPITAL PROJECT FOR THE BENEFIT OF ST.
13 MARY'S VILLA NURSING HOME, INC., A
14 PENNSYLVANIA NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION;
15 DECLARING THAT IT IS DESIRABLE FOR THE
16 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF
17 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
18 PENNSYLVANIA, AND THE AREA SERVED BY ST.
19 MARY'S VILLA NURSING HOME, INC. TO HAVE THE
20 PROJECT PROVIDED BY AND FINANCED THROUGH
21 THE AUTHORITY; DESIGNATING THE MAYOR OF THE
22 CITY, OR, IN HIS ABSENCE, THE PRESIDENT OR
23 VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL, AS THE
24 PERSON TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL
25 AS THE "APPLICABLE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE"

1 WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE
2 CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED; AUTHORIZING SUCH
3 MAYOR OF THE CITY OR THE PRESIDENT OR VICE
4 PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY TO
5 TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE
6 CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY AS SUCH "APPLICABLE
7 ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE"; AND AUTHORIZING
8 OTHER NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE ACTION.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

22 MS. KRAKE: 5-F. ACCEPTING THE
23 RECOMMENDATION OF THE HISTORICAL
24 ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD ("HARB") AND
25 APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

1 FOR POCONO SIGN & GRAPHIC, 1147 THE HIDEOUT,
2 LAKE ARIEL, PENNSYLVANIA FOR REMOVAL OF
3 EXISTING SIGNAGE LOCATED ON LEFT-SIDE
4 FAÇADE; REPLACE WITH NEW SIGNAGE OF THE SAME
5 DIMENSIONS; BLACK & WHITE COLOR SCHEME AND
6 CHANGE BUSINESS NAME ON EXISTING AWNING TO
7 MATCH DIMENSION OF 10"H X 7'W AT 414 SPRUCE
8 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

22 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO
23 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

24 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
25 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -

1 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 17, 2013
2 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
3 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO DISBURSE
4 \$20,000.00 FROM THE ACCOUNT INTO WHICH
5 REPAYMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION
6 GRANTS (UDAG) ARE DEPOSITED (UDAG REPAYMENT
7 ACCOUNT), FOR AN OPERATING GRANT TO ECTV,
8 THE CITY'S PEG CHANNEL OPERATOR.

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

12 MR. JOYCE: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
14 call, please?

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

22 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

1 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
2 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
3 RESOLUTION NO. 14, 2013 - AUTHORIZING
4 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY
5 OFFICIALS TO PROCURE A FORBEARANCE ON
6 PAYMENTS TO THE KEYSTONE SANITARY LANDFILL
7 IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS
8 (\$1,000,000.00) FOR YEAR 2013 AND TO REPAY
9 SAID AMOUNT IN THIRTY SIX (36) CONSECUTIVE
10 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND
11 SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN DOLLARS AND
12 SEVENTY-EIGHT CENTS (\$27,777.78) PER MONTH
13 BEGINNING JANUARY 15, 2014 AND ENDING ON
14 DECEMBER 15, 2016.

15 MS. EVANS: What is the
16 recommendation of the Chair for the
17 Committee on Finance?

18 MR. JOYCE: As Chair for the
19 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
20 passage of Item 7-B.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

6 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

10 MS. EVANS: If there is no further
11 business, I'll entertain a motion to
12 adjourn.

13 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

14 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
15 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