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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, September 19, 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
(Not present)
- ROBERT MCGOFF
- PAT ROGAN
- JOHN LOSCOMBE
- NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK
- JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce. Mrs.

11 Evans.

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

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

15 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON HOUSING AUTHORITY
16 MEETING HELD JULY 1, 2013.

17 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

18 If not, received and filed.

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE
20 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING HELD
21 AUGUST 28, 2013.

22 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

23 If not, received and filed.

24 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE CITY
25 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD AUGUST 28,

1 2013.

2 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

3 If not, received and filed.

4 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. AGENDA FOR THE
5 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER
6 11, 2013.

7 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

8 If not, received and filed.

9 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. APPLICATIONS ALONG
10 WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING
11 HEARING BOARD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2013.

12 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

13 If not, received and filed.

14 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. SUBDIVISION AND
15 LAND DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION FROM THE
16 LACKAWANNA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
17 RECEIVED AUGUST 19, 2013.

18 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

19 If not, received and filed.

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-G. TAX ASSESSOR'S
21 REPORT HEARING DATES HELD AUGUST 14TH AND
22 21ST OF 2013.

23 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

24 If not, received and filed.

25 Do we have any Clerk's notes

1 tonight, Mrs. Krake?

2 MS. KRAKE: Yes, Mrs. Evans. We
3 received another prompt reply, I should say,
4 from Chief Graziano from council's request
5 on September 5. He always promptly responds
6 to our office.

7 He tells us that the stop sign at
8 West Elm Street and Broadway Avenue for
9 pedestrian safety is a concern at this
10 location due to the Heritage Trail. The
11 initial reaction was to place stop signs in
12 these locations. However, after review of
13 the locations of existing traffic patterns
14 and the amount of pedestrian traffic at
15 these locations, it is our opinion that
16 installing stop signs may be a greater
17 safety danger than not installing them.

18 Based on the above-mentioned
19 reviewed factors, it is our opinion that
20 installing mid-block stop signs there would
21 increase rear end collisions and the
22 associated injuries to a greater degree than
23 if they are not installed at all.

24 Officers monitored the vehicle to
25 pedestrian traffic ratios for several hours

1 at these locations over a three-day period
2 and reported observing approximately 25
3 pedestrians and several bicycles attempting
4 to cross the roadway during the times
5 officers were there. While the pedestrians
6 they observed generally had to stop and wait
7 for traffic to pass, one violation of
8 yielding to a pedestrians in crosswalk was
9 observed and traffic citation was issued for
10 that violation.

11 Additional signage has been
12 installed there regarding pedestrians
13 crossings and additional enforcement efforts
14 in these areas will be needed to address
15 this issue in the safest and most effective
16 way.

17 The second part of his response was
18 with regard to trucks in Bellevue. There
19 are eight officers in the department
20 certified and that have access to the
21 required equipment needed to weigh vehicles
22 for truck enforcement purposes. These
23 officers primary duties are patrol functions
24 and are assigned based upon shift management
25 to truck enforcement details several times a

1 year. The most recent detail is occurring
2 today, he refers to 9-18-13. Acting Captain
3 Glen Thomas oversees these details and has
4 informed me that five truck enforcement
5 details have occurred in the city since
6 January of 2013.

7 While officers conduct these details
8 in various parts of the city, they are
9 instructed to spend part of the time on each
10 detail in the Bellevue area. I have been
11 informed that during these details trucks
12 have been stopped in Bellevue and inspected
13 but no violations were discovered on these
14 said trucks nor on other vehicles during the
15 times they were there.

16 Of the trucks they observed and
17 detained, they were either found to be under
18 the weight limit or were making a local
19 delivery, which is an exception to the
20 ordinance. The officers are certainly not
21 stating that no violations are ever
22 occurring there, only that during five times
23 this year that these officers were
24 conducting the details there were no truck
25 ordinance and/or inspection violations.

1 Citations from these five enforcement
2 details were issued in other parts of the
3 city.

4 Additional truck enforcement details
5 manning committee will be conducted in this
6 area will certainly continue to be part of
7 the overall enforcement concerns and
8 directed enforcement efforts.

9 Number three, traffic violations on
10 East Mountain Road. Patrol supervisors and
11 officers assigned to that patrol section
12 have been directed to monitor this location
13 more frequently for violators. And that's
14 it.

15 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you very
16 much, Mrs. Krake, and we thank the chief for
17 his immediate response to our citizen's
18 requests. Do any council members have
19 announcements at this time?

20 MR. ROGAN: Just one. Last summer
21 Michael and Nicholas Goucher decided they
22 wanted to raise money for the Hope for
23 Hannah Rescue Mission. They announced they
24 were going to see lemonade and ice tea for
25 50 cents a cup. Once word about this

1 fundraiser got out, the entire neighborhood
2 and community came together for a very large
3 fundraiser. This year they are continuing
4 this great work by having the second annual
5 Hope for Hannah fundraiser. It's this
6 Sunday, from 12 to 5 p.m. at 356 North
7 Everett Avenue in Scranton, Pennsylvania.
8 Just like last year, there still will be
9 lemonade and ice tea. They will also be
10 hundreds of baskets that have been donated,
11 entertainment, food, and there will also be
12 animals there available for adoption. So
13 this is a definitely a worthwhile cause and
14 I look forward to attending myself and I'd
15 like to invite the rest of the city. It
16 will be a great time. That's all. Thank
17 you.

18 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?
19 Solicitor Hughes is unable to attend
20 tonight's council meeting. In addition,
21 Councilman Joyce isn't feeling well and
22 cannot attend the meeting.

23 Ms. Linda Abeli, OECD director, has
24 informed council's office that the public
25 caucus with representatives of the Steamtown

1 Mall Associates is cancelled for September
2 26, 2013, and will be reschedule within the
3 next several weeks.

4 St. Ann's Marionette Catholic church
5 located at 1320 Price Street in West
6 Scranton will hold it's annual festival this
7 Sunday, September 22, from 12:00 to 7:00
8 p.m. Homemade Lebanese foods and pastries
9 will be featured as well as picnic
10 favorites.

11 Additionally, there will be basket
12 auctions, raffles, children's games, a white
13 elephant sale and much more. Bring your
14 family and friends to this enjoyable event.

15 And finally, we are very glad to
16 hear that Mr. Newcomb, Sr. is recuperating
17 at home at this time and I do hope that he
18 isn't driving his poor wife crazy. And
19 that's it.

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

22 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
23 tonight is Doug Miller.

24 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
25 Doug Miller, Scranton. Over the August

1 recess knowing that when we came back we
2 were going to be getting into the budget
3 season I thought I would take some type to
4 brainstorm some possible revenue
5 enhancements for the city for next year, and
6 I could say recently I have taken the time
7 to explore some innovative ways for the city
8 to generate much needed revenue during our
9 times of serious financial distress.

10 During my hours of research, I did
11 review many revenue generators used by
12 cities struggling financially across the
13 Commonwealth. One particular revenue
14 enhancement that struck me was a 2009
15 proposal by Pittsburgh Mayor Lou Gravenstall
16 to adopt a 1 percent tuition tax on
17 post-secondary education.

18 The purpose was to enact a 1 percent
19 tax on college tuition costs in an attempt
20 to make college students pay their fair
21 share for city services such as roads,
22 police protection and fire protection. I
23 became more curious about this proposal and
24 had a few questions of my own such as the
25 legality of the ordinance, how the fees

1 would be collected, just to name a few.

2 I spoke with Pittsburgh's Deputy
3 City Clerk, Mary Beth Kahaney, who recalls
4 this revenue generator was expected to
5 generate approximately \$16 million that was
6 sorely needed for a city that was facing
7 pension shortfalls and an inability to pay
8 hits bills, all problems that we also here
9 in Scranton now share with Pittsburgh.

10 She graciously provided me a copy of
11 the ordinance, and I do have it with me this
12 evening, and I can supply council's office
13 with it later on. At the conclusion of my
14 conversation with the deputy city clerk, I
15 then had a conversation with the city's law
16 department to ensure that such an ordinance
17 was legal in Pittsburgh. After speaking
18 with the assistant city solicitor, I was
19 informed that the law department spent ample
20 time on this issue and ultimately found it
21 legal to pass in Pittsburgh, which is a
22 Class 2 city.

23 The City of Pittsburgh spent weeks
24 back 2009 debating this proposal. However,
25 the city council saw a change in power in

1 2010 and the ordinance died. Using the
2 information I was provided, I took the time
3 to put a spreadsheet together with the City
4 of Scranton's higher educational
5 institutions. I researched average tuition
6 costs as well as approximate enrollments. I
7 then factored in the 1 percent tax which
8 resulted in an estimated revenue projection
9 of about \$6.5 million annually for the City
10 of Scranton.

11 Without getting too far ahead, there
12 are certainly many questions that we have to
13 ask ourselves here at home, and the most
14 important question tonight is would it be
15 legal for Scranton as a Class 2A city to
16 pass such a fee? And if it does happen to
17 be legal, I would suggest that we seriously
18 consider this proposal and this ordinance
19 and consider including it in our 2014
20 operating budget.

21 For years we have our discussed
22 paying our fair share, and I firmly believe
23 that it's time that everyone, including
24 college students, contribute towards the
25 services this city provides daily.

1 We face tremendous financial
2 challenges today so it's going to take
3 ideas, vision and creativity to overcome
4 them and I truly believe that this plan can
5 be a start.

6 And I would like to pose that
7 question to you, Mrs. Evans, perhaps we can
8 have Attorney Hughes, I know he is not here
9 this evening, look into the legality here in
10 Scranton. It is legal in Pittsburgh, a 2A
11 city, is this something here in Scranton
12 that we can look into and pass?

13 MS. EVANS: I think certainly we can
14 ask our solicitor to take a look at the
15 information that we have gathered and to
16 research it further, and I would also
17 suggest that our Finance Chair for council
18 would become involved in that research as
19 well. Certainly if such a thing were legal
20 for the City of Scranton, you could not
21 expect to realize the dollar amount proposed
22 in Pittsburgh, obviously.

23 MR. MILLER: Of course.

24 MS. EVANS: But it would be
25 important for the Finance Chair to perhaps

1 seek assistance in developing a projection
2 for the City of Scranton. So I'll certainly
3 talk to both of them.

4 MR. MILLER: I appreciate that.
5 Just to relay the information from the
6 officials in Pittsburgh they were very
7 cooperate in providing information and
8 answering questions. I spent probably 40
9 minutes on the phone with a deputy clerk and
10 probably about a half an hour with the
11 assistant city clerk and they were very
12 helpful and informative with the questions
13 that I had and were willing to provide the
14 information, and they did relate to me that
15 if this is something that the city would
16 like to look into that their doors are open,
17 you know, they are a phone call away and
18 they are willing to cooperate with it's Mr.
19 Joyce, the Finance Chair, Attorney Hughes,
20 anybody on council that has questions. You
21 know, they said feel free to contact them
22 and they could share, you know, any
23 information that you do need. I appreciate
24 it. Thank you very much.

25 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is Les

1 Spindler.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
3 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
4 homeowner and taxpayer.

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

6 MR. SPINDLER: Tuesday Bill
7 Courtright was at the Jermyn Apartments
8 taking questions from the residents there, I
9 was also there. The one issue a lot of them
10 brought up was they park in the Electric
11 City garage, a lot of the cars are being
12 vandalized. There is no security there.
13 And they asked -- Mr. Courtright said the
14 city doesn't own the garages anymore. They
15 did get in touch with Mr. Washo, Mr. Washo
16 said there is nothing he can do. For
17 someone who makes \$100 an hour, that's
18 unacceptable. He should hire security, put
19 cameras in it or do something. These people
20 shouldn't have to park there and have their
21 car vandalized. These are low income people
22 that live there. They can't afford to go
23 somewhere else and park. They can't get
24 their cars fixed now. They were really
25 upset about that.

1 I think Mr. Washo should do
2 something about that, so maybe council could
3 send him a letter asking him to try and help
4 these people out.

5 Another issue that the building
6 manager brought up, false alarms. They used
7 to get charged \$250 after three false
8 alarms. Now she said, I don't know if it
9 this was council or a previous council, that
10 they raised from \$250 to \$1,000 only after
11 one false alarm and she showed Bill
12 Courtright the notice that they got. It's
13 \$1,000 after one false alarm. I think
14 that's -- everybody said that's ridiculous.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll check on that,
16 but I don't believe that's correct.

17 MR. SPINDLER: She showed -- Bill
18 saw the notice, that they got a notice about
19 it.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll look into it.

21 MR. SPINDLER: I didn't see it, but
22 he did. The building manager showed it to
23 Bill. I don't know if that was this council
24 or a previous council. That's outrageous.

25 MS. EVANS: It was changed in the

1 2013 budget. It was included by the
2 administration in order to increase revenue.
3 However, I could be wrong, but it was my
4 understanding that there is no fine after
5 the first false alarm.

6 MR. SPINDLER: The building manager
7 said that's how it was. So I'm just going
8 by what she said.

9 MS. EVANS: There is?

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, it goes up.

11 MS. EVANS: Each time.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: But I don't believe
13 it starts a \$1,000.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15 MR. SPINDLER: That's the notice
16 that Bill saw. Moving on from that, I
17 notified council earlier this year, and I
18 had in this writing, about the parking
19 meters in front of residences on the 700
20 block of Madison Avenue, and those meters
21 are still there, so I don't know if anything
22 was done about that. Nobody got -- there
23 was no letter sent or anything?

24 MS. EVANS: Yes, a letter was sent.

25 MR. SPINDLER: The meters are still

1 there. I don't think people that live there
2 should have parking meters in front of their
3 residences.

4 Lastly, yesterday's paper there's a
5 story about possible liquor tax and some
6 people, of course, the establishments were
7 against that, I don't think it's that bad of
8 an idea because people are going out
9 drinking they are going to drink no matter
10 how much tax, how much they pay, and if it
11 does cut down on some people going to the
12 bars maybe we will have less drunk drivers
13 on the road killing people, so I don't think
14 it's that bad of an idea. And that's all I
15 have tonight. Thank you for your time.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Our next
17 speaker is Gerard Hetman.

18 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.

19 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

20 MR. HETMAN: Gerard Hetman from the
21 Lackawanna County Community Relations
22 Department. To begin this evening, I would
23 like to share some details on two upcoming
24 community events that are currently being
25 planned by the Community Relations

1 Department.

2 Our first event actually takes place
3 tomorrow afternoon, and that will be the
4 second annual Lackawanna County Senior
5 Health and Wellness Fair. The Health Fair
6 takes place tomorrow, Friday, September 20,
7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at PNC Field on the
8 Montage Mountain Road in Moosic. The health
9 fair will be held on the upper suite level
10 concourse, so when visitors come to the
11 stadium they will just go up to the front of
12 the building and they will see the double
13 doors, last doors on the right side of the
14 facade, first baseline for us baseball fans,
15 and they can go in there and there's an
16 elevator, if people can't use the stairway
17 to make it up the suite level for the event.

18 In addition, there are free flu
19 shots for anyone over 65 years of age. We
20 will have over 50 health and wellness
21 vendors there offering a variety of
22 services. That will include free health
23 screenings, blood pressure, hearing and
24 vision checks, as well as a variety of
25 giveaways of several items, refreshments,

1 and I'm sure most of them will have
2 chachkies, as we say in general.

3 The event is free and open to the
4 public and we encourage who deals with
5 senior health to come out and enjoy a good
6 afternoon. We did this last year for the
7 first time, it was a great success, we look
8 for hopefully a good turnout for this as
9 well.

10 Our second event, and this is kind
11 of my baby when it comes to planning, is our
12 annual Public Safety Fair, which we refer to
13 it as Hero's Day. Hero's Day this year
14 takes place on Saturday, October 5, from 10
15 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lackawanna County 911
16 Center on Valley View Drive in Jessup.

17 In addition to guided tours of the
18 911 center and facility, we will have an
19 array of vehicles and equipment relating to
20 the fire departments, police department, and
21 emergency medical providers present at the
22 location. So all of us children and
23 children at heart that are present can get
24 in the vehicles and handle the equipment
25 with supervision and get a real firsthand

1 look at what our public safety and
2 professionals and volunteers do on a daily
3 basis in our communities.

4 We will also have some historic
5 emergency vehicles on hand for the first
6 time this year. We will have vendors that
7 relate to public safety, community agencies
8 that provide those services, and we will
9 also have refreshments. And again, the day
10 is free and open to the public. We gear
11 this towards children and, as I said, it's
12 for kids and the kids at heart in all of us,
13 and I'm sure Mr. Loscombe will agree who
14 among us doesn't like to see the fire trucks
15 up close, right? So everyone is invited.
16 Please feel free to let your friends and
17 neighbors know about both events.

18 And secondly, this is always a big
19 hit with municipal and governing bodies and
20 office, the latest edition of Lackawanna
21 County Lines is now in publication. As many
22 of you are familiar, County Lines is a
23 publication that lists statistical and other
24 information related to government offices
25 and services that serve Lackawanna County's

1 population. All of the federal and state
2 agencies that provide services to county
3 residents are listed and each municipal
4 government and school board also has its own
5 page with all of the listings of the elected
6 officials, office staff, as well as contact
7 information and, of course, that does
8 include the City of Scranton municipal
9 government.

10 So we would leave a print copy with
11 Mrs. Krake for council's office, and anyone
12 that wishes to access the information can
13 visit the Lackawanna County home page
14 www.LackawannaCounty.org and there is a big
15 banner in the middle that you can click on
16 and download. A PDF of County Lines runs to
17 your computer or personal device so everyone
18 can access the publication for free, and
19 it's very handy to deal with for anyone that
20 has to contact municipal government for any
21 services. So I'll leave that with Mrs.
22 Krake at the conclusion of the meeting.

23 Thank you, ladies and gentlemen,
24 that's all we have.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Lee Morgan.

3 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

4 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

5 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I have
6 here tonight is, you know, I did listen to
7 what Mr. Miller said about, you know, trying
8 to raise income from college students and I
9 am hopeful that council and the mayor and
10 the administration wouldn't even consider
11 that. There is a reason for that. A lot of
12 the children, young adults that go to
13 college borrow an awful lot of money to go
14 there. I have a son that's a college
15 student, I don't think we should be taxing
16 the students. I think that it sends the
17 wrong message. I think that a lot of the
18 students are struggling to go to college,
19 borrowing money, getting grants. Just
20 because the University of Scranton and, you
21 know, institutions of higher learning won't
22 come forward and pay their share that we
23 feel they should at least contribute to us,
24 I think it's in my opinion wrong to go to
25 somebody that has no defense and who is

1 borrowing the money to try and enrich their
2 lives and become better citizens and tax
3 them for the mistakes of the administration,
4 whether it's this administration, whether
5 it's Harrisburg, whether it's Washington,
6 wherever that is.

7 I mean, I just think it's time for
8 the adults to pay the bills they generated.
9 I think it's time for the people in the
10 neighborhoods who thought that voting was a
11 joke to step forward and start paying. I
12 mean, it may come, you know, we are sitting
13 here and waiting to see if there is going be
14 borrowing as far as paying the debt the city
15 has to the city unions and I just don't see
16 us being able to borrow any money. The city
17 is just completely broke and, you know,
18 listening to these candidates alk about a
19 commuter tax again, to be honest with you I
20 think that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
21 should come here and pay off our debts.
22 They sent the PEL here to come and rescue
23 us, and what happened is the direct opposite
24 because we are in more trouble now than we
25 ever were. And when you sat through the

1 hearings for the two or three days when they
2 were there at the courthouse, the PEL didn't
3 present nip kind much evidence to prove to
4 me that they had the best interest of the
5 city in their mind and when you look at this
6 Commonwealth across this whole commonwealth,
7 I mean, Doug talked about Pittsburgh, but
8 there is tons of community that PEL hasn't
9 helped.

10 So, I mean, if it's not possible for
11 these communities to come out from I
12 underneath this debt, and if we don't have
13 representatives in Harrisburg that are
14 willing to create legislation to help us
15 with our debt then what are we doing? We
16 are going back into our neighborhoods and we
17 are for lack of a better terminology
18 creating the Detroit of Scranton because we
19 can tear down all our homes, we can leverage
20 taxes on everybody until everybody leaves,
21 and then all that will be left in the city
22 are low and maybe some moderate income
23 Scrantonians, but our population base is
24 completely inundated with overtaxation and
25 our population base is dwindling.

1 The people are basically here are
2 seniors and not even their children want to
3 come back here, so we have got to make a
4 very, very stark change in direction and I
5 think that to keep coming up with ways to
6 raise revenue when we can never turn the
7 corner is absolutely ridiculous because we
8 keep going back to the same people for more
9 and more money, they have no more money to
10 give, and we keep just destroying our
11 neighborhoods, destroying our communities
12 with overtaxation, lack of opportunity, but
13 the lack of opportunity is because
14 businesses won't come here. They don't have
15 to, they have capital, they can develop
16 anywhere.

17 We have to get our state legislators
18 and our state senators out there to go to
19 Harrisburg and mix it up with the governor
20 and tell them that our backs are against the
21 wall, and to be quite literally honest, it's
22 much more than. We went all the way through
23 the wall. There is just nothing left and,
24 you know, look it, Mr. Joyce takes a lot of
25 hits for, you know, tax increases and some

1 of the things he has done, but these are
2 some of the things that PEL said were the
3 solution and he stepped up, the council
4 stepped up, and even the mayor stepped up
5 and we agree and where has it taken us. I'm
6 surprised the city isn't completely out of
7 money by now to be quite honest with you
8 because that budget was just so short and
9 the PEL knew it and the Court knew it, but
10 you know what, they put it off for another
11 year and if we keep putting it off, walk
12 through the neighborhoods and there is more
13 "For Sale" signs than ever before, and I
14 know I say that quite often, but they just
15 seem to be growing and we keep talking about
16 demolition, and I don't know just where are
17 we going here in the end? Where is Scranton
18 going?

19 I mean, when I was a child and I
20 played here we are had 101 -- between 101
21 and 1003,000 people and you walked through
22 this city now as a 54-year-old man and I
23 wonder where is the Scranton that used to be
24 here and I just watch more and more of
25 disappear. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Just one thing, a point
3 of clarification, I believe, if I'm not
4 mistaken, the tuition tax in Pittsburgh is
5 not the paid by the individual student, it's
6 paid by the institution, if I'm not
7 mistaken.

8 MS. EVANS: And I know, as was
9 mentioned, it fell by the wayside, but it
10 did seem to open a door to talks with their
11 local colleges and universities because
12 their PILOT contributions increased
13 significantly thereafter.

14 Mr. Dobrzyn?

15 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
16 Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton, no return on
17 my taxes, my federal income taxes from all
18 my property and so forth, I don't fit the
19 bill. Okay. Now, a few weeks ago I
20 mentioned we need to modify the word
21 politics, put an "E" after the "T", separate
22 the tics from it, you would need an extra
23 "T" and you would spell polite tics. Stop
24 making wild accusations and harassing people
25 about one vote, and it's whether you agreed

1 with it or not I wasn't any help either way
2 I stayed neutral on it, but be careful being
3 a little pragmatic because what you get by
4 not being pragmatic might be something you
5 really don't want when somebody packs it in
6 and says, "I'm tired of sailing into the
7 wind."

8 Once again, if there is anything
9 that can be done look into Mulberry Street
10 parking by the University, personally I
11 think the parking spaces should have gone
12 with the project. We narrowed Mulberry
13 Street and now we are putting parking spaces
14 in. We try to put parking meters in and
15 they got taken away, and it's just
16 ridiculous. It's like you are driving drunk
17 down that street. It's a very busy street
18 and it's very dangerous.

19 On the books I brought last week,
20 I'd like to advise the public that knowledge
21 is power, don't be somebody's fool. David
22 K. Johnston, C-A-Y Johnston is an excellent
23 author and investigator. He is also an
24 attorney, economist at a college and he has
25 it together as far as all of the

1 improprieties that are going on.

2 And on taxes, everybody is trying to
3 event new taxes, and last week I disclosed
4 that 2,700 companies around the country,
5 including Chinese and foreign banks, are
6 deducting their income tax for the state
7 income tax and being allowed to keep it in
8 their pocket. So why the hell do we need
9 all of these new taxes when they are giving
10 away the old taxes.

11 That's what happened. We gave it
12 away. We gave everything away, we are
13 allowing these people to keep it as a KOZ or
14 some baloney, money that they deduct out of
15 their employees' checks and then we are
16 talking about new taxes. We don't need any
17 new taxes, just stop giving away the taxes
18 we got and then decide from there.

19 And we heard a little bit about
20 literacy and I might mention that they
21 withdraw the plan in the county jail to
22 provide literacy training and now we are
23 funding it from Scranton, which I am
24 absolutely not against, but I think that a
25 high school diploma would be excellent if a

1 probation officer would oversee it or a
2 parole officer and maybe we could get some
3 retired teacher in there and as tutors and
4 give them a tax break for their time. You
5 know, let them live tax free, I don't know
6 care, but if they will spend ten hours a
7 week or something like that or eight hours a
8 week say training people have been in the
9 prison system then, you know, people just
10 don't think out of the box. It's
11 ridiculous.

12 And East Mountain, now, we have that
13 Scranton Lake issue and you have been
14 hearing it every week about how somebody is
15 a great benefactor and so forth, well, his
16 property adjoins the end of Wheeler Avenue
17 and you can go in there and if you really
18 need there is a Mill Street bridge, which
19 looks kind of decrepit right now, at the end
20 of Mill Street. It's the end the of the old
21 Erie barns, railroad barn, why can't he
22 build a bridge? Build a bridge to his other
23 property and stay out of our upper level
24 neighborhoods. I wouldn't want all of these
25 trucks in my neighborhood either and I don't

1 live in a high class or a low class
2 neighborhood. It's time to use your money
3 to truly benefit the public instead of
4 expand your name and have little brass
5 plates all over the city.

6 And once again, with Congress, we
7 are up for another round of trade packs,
8 they get a bawk, bawk, bawk for that.
9 That's just what we need more unemployment.
10 The Kutch from the attorney general who is
11 running for governor from Virginia, I
12 figured out what his marriage life was and
13 laws and so forth are and they go like this,
14 go home, shut your mouth and worry, we don't
15 have a way to arrest the usual suspects
16 because if you pay attention to our business
17 we'll be hearing -- you'll be hearing from
18 us.

19 And finally, I'll make this quick,
20 food stamps are on the chopping block and 40
21 -- something like 75 percent of the people
22 on food stamps have been in the military, a
23 good portion of them are single mothers and
24 they are working two jobs and so forth, you
25 know, we are so pro life in this country,

1 everybody loves to fed us, but they hate the
2 baby. Thank you have a good night.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MR. DOBRZYN: Don't forget to bawk,
5 bawk, bawk.

6 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
7 cares to address counsel?

8 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
9 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
10 read in the paper 108 loans came up again,
11 are we still paying Boscov's 108 loan from
12 the mall?

13 MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

14 MS. EVAN: When I asked the lawyer
15 that he said no, but yet we are and I know
16 we are and I know you brought it up when
17 they came before us the first time for
18 another loan, when you guaranteed the loan.
19 That was a year ago or something like that.
20 It was 200 and some thousand I think the
21 paper said. I can believe it because we
22 have been going over and over and over with
23 that 108 loan.

24 MR. ROGAN: It has been in the
25 Action Plan every year I have been on

1 council and I believe, I may be wrong, but I
2 do remember voting on legislation, I don't
3 know if it was refinance -- I believe it was
4 refinancing of the loan to reduce the
5 interest rate. This is going back a few
6 years ago, but it is included.

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah. We are still
8 paying it. That's the bottom line. And I
9 thought I heard our lawyer once said that
10 they split off the Scranton Dry and
11 Sampter's from the mall. I hope they
12 didn't. I hope I heard wrong, but if they
13 did them are all warnings signs because them
14 properties are making money. Whether the
15 mall is or not, I have no idea, but I assume
16 since Boscov's sold off the leases at least
17 he ain't -- they are with the leases, but he
18 is does own the building, the Mall
19 Associates I guess they call it.

20 And the Hilton came up again, my
21 great point on that. I remember talking
22 when Mr. DiBileo was sit there in the
23 presidency, I said, "Let them go bankrupt."

24 And he said, "They want to go
25 bankrupt."

1 it, but structural deficits should not be.

2 Every budget that you pass should be
3 balanced and they should be able to be
4 balanced and there should never be a
5 structural deficit. At one time it was only
6 5 1/2 million and we used to close it with
7 our leasing back, buyback leasing.
8 Remember? How we used to sell this, buy it
9 back, sell that, buy it back, but that
10 hasn't solve the problem. So far it has
11 grown to \$15 million the paper says and I
12 can probably believe them. That's a figure
13 I could probably believe. That's one thing
14 you are going to have to really do something
15 with the structural deficit. Everything
16 else, you can't do much about it. They are
17 going to come. People get raises, they come
18 up, you can't do nothing about what the
19 mayor did with the firemen and policemen, we
20 are struck with that. Now that's going to,
21 of course, add to future structural
22 deficits, but it's not quite there, I don't
23 think we borrowed the money yet.

24 This is what's going to happen. Of
25 course, I saw this four years ago, I told

1 you this was going to happen. The writing
2 was on the wall, you didn't need God to come
3 here and write it. It was on the wall this
4 was going to happen. I told the people a
5 long time ago, many times when I was at
6 different benefits they come up to me and
7 they said how beautiful Nay Aug was. I
8 said, "Sure, it is beautiful, no qualms
9 about it," but I said that has to be
10 maintained. When you put anything into the
11 city it has to be maintained. That cost
12 money. I believe that they had to do
13 something with the bridge, coat it or
14 something like that, I don't know if that's
15 in the budget or not, but somewhere along
16 that bridge that nice wooden bridge they
17 built that crosses the creek, that has to be
18 taken care of. You can't just leave it sit
19 there and rot.

20 And this is what's wrong in the
21 city, you let everything sit and rot and
22 only build for something election time and
23 go out and used to -- they used to anyway,
24 they used to go out and pave some roads,
25 that was a great election gimmick, going to

1 pave a lot of roads in Scranton.
2 Unfortunately, they didn't pave them very
3 well because they all pile up anyway. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
6 Council. Marie Schumacher, city resident
7 and taxpayer. I'll probably be a little
8 disjointed because I had a lot for Mr. Joyce
9 tonight and in his absence I'll try to skip
10 over this, but 5-B, who is the grant
11 recipient of that? It does not designate in
12 there who it is so maybe during motions you
13 could tell us.

14 And then on 5-C, I mean, I have no
15 problem with going after grants, I think
16 it's a healthy thing, but I wonder within
17 the last several years we spent \$220,00 on
18 surveillance cameras that I don't know if
19 they have ever been monitored and I don't
20 have any confidence that, you know, throwing
21 \$146,000 is still a lot of money and it
22 could maybe be better used someplace if it's
23 going to down the same rabbit hole that the
24 \$220,000 went a couple of years ago. So I
25 think that one is a worthy of a caucus or

1 something.

2 And then is there anybody who can
3 tell me how property demolitions are
4 prioritized? And, Mr. Rogan, you indicated
5 we have so many, maybe during motions you
6 could tell me how they are prioritized for
7 demolition.

8 And I would like to know if vendors
9 at events such as the Latino festival and La
10 Festa that pay the mercantile tax? I did
11 walk around the square and took the names of
12 as many as I could that were from outside of
13 the city, and I'm sure the committee would
14 probably share them as well, but I would
15 like a couple of those checked. I mean, the
16 local that's part of their business and I'm
17 sure they are paying.

18 And can you tell me if the city's
19 property tax collection company is free to
20 negotiate, reduce or forgive payments?

21 MS. EVANS: The delinquent tax
22 collector are they --

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Whatever they are,
24 the ones who are downstairs, yeah.

25 MS. EVANS: Northeast Revenue

1 Service.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, that's it.

3 MS. EVANS: Are they able to accept
4 a payments or to draw up a payment plan,
5 yes, I believe so.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: But for the total
7 amount or can they actually negotiate a
8 lower amount or forgive an amount?

9 MS. EVANS: That I don't know. I
10 don't know that they would be able to
11 forgive everything.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Could we inquire
13 because I understand that could be an issue
14 and I would like a firm --

15 MS. EVANS: Sure. Mrs. Krake, can
16 we send a letter asking those questions,
17 please?

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: And I'll send them
19 in tomorrow. Again, now, I had a whole
20 bunch of questions on the parking meters
21 because they are a disaster in the city.
22 Some say Monday through Saturday, some say
23 Monday through Friday. They got different
24 times. Some don't have times at all, but
25 now I see in the newspaper that the new

1 meters will be installed downtown, so I
2 would like to know, I know that's a separate
3 expense item, how much those new meters are
4 going to cost us and what the payment plan
5 is, how is -- what is the total amount? How
6 many years is it go to be spread over? Are
7 we going to pay them -- have more payments
8 in 2013 or --

9 MS. EVANS: I believe that the
10 payments are going to be spread over the
11 life of the contract with Republic Parking,
12 but I don't know the monthly amount or the
13 total.

14 So, Mrs. Krake, if you could contact
15 the representative of Republic to ascertain
16 those answers.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: And, in addition,
18 I'm confused, many months ago File of
19 Council 100 of 2009 was tabled and has never
20 been brought back from the table, and I'm
21 wondering now if council has ceded its
22 authority to another entity on setting the
23 days and the times and locations of the
24 parking meters themselves?

25 MS. EVANS: No. I believe that

1 Republic Parking is following the ordinance
2 that was in placed in the City of Scranton.
3 That has not been changed because, as you
4 said, the legislation was tabled because
5 council wanted the management to go out to
6 bid, and so at this time I believe that
7 Republic and the city were adhering to that
8 original ordinance.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Is it going
10 to be come back from the table or where the
11 parking meters are now are -- and I guess I
12 may as well hop over to something I had at
13 the end, but I wanted to just note that
14 awhile back I was assigned the task of
15 reporting to council on the spaces where the
16 parking heads were removed, specifically, at
17 the corner of Penn and Linden, and I'm happy
18 to report there were two "No Parking" signs
19 at Linden and Penn, and very few parkers
20 since those signs went up.

21 Sadly, quite the opposite is true on
22 Mulberry Street. Not only are they parking
23 -- and the meter heads were removed quickly,
24 but there are no "No Parking" signs, not
25 only are people parking in the parking --

1 the rectangles that painted in those spaces,
2 but they are parking behind and in front as
3 well and tonight there are even two in front
4 which reduces visibility, and in the 600 --
5 wait a minute, 300 block of Madison Avenue
6 there are a bunch of parking meter stands
7 with no meter heads on them, and since you
8 haven't amended File of Council 100 of 2009,
9 I am wondering if that's one of the things
10 that made me wonder if you had ceded
11 authority to some other entity.

12 MS. EVANS: No.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Because I would
14 like to know on what basis those meter heads
15 were removed as well.

16 MS. EVANS: Can you forward all of
17 these questions to us, please?

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Absolutely. Okay.
19 Thank you. I'll be back with the rest next
20 week and maybe the following. Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

22 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

23 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do
24 you have any motions or comments tonight?

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Thank you. First

1 of all, just a brief comment on the CDBG
2 funding and what was presented to us. First
3 of all, one of the things that I would like
4 to see done under that is under the HOME
5 funding, there are a number of projects that
6 are listed. What I would like to see is an
7 additional amount of money being spent on
8 owner-occupied homes. The rehabilitation of
9 owner-occupied homes rather than giving the
10 money to acquire, rehab, and then resell a
11 home, I think it would be much better for
12 community development, which is what we are
13 looking at, if people who qualified,
14 economically qualified, were allowed a
15 certain amount of money to make improvements
16 to their home where are raising taxes and
17 things and people -- I know I find it
18 difficult to, you know, do the things that
19 are necessary for the upkeep of my home.

20 I think these programs, the rehab
21 programs, are much better suited to
22 community development that owner-occupied
23 homes so someone can put that new roof on
24 and help save their property. Somebody can
25 have their house rewired so that it's not a

1 fire hazard. I think these are things that
2 really will allow the communities to
3 maintain their stability and to homes where
4 they are in need of demolition so as we go
5 through this I would like to see us perhaps
6 increase some of the amounts in those
7 programs under the HOME part of the funding.

8 And, secondly, when it comes to the
9 CDBG grants, I think one of the things that
10 we look at we are tried to look at it in
11 the, you know, past few years, is try to
12 prioritize the needs. All of these are
13 worthy projects, and as Mrs. Evans said
14 before, it is very difficult to make
15 decisions on some of these, but I think what
16 we need to look at are which ones actually
17 provide community development, which ones of
18 those that are going to enhance the overall
19 community or the small community that, you
20 know, is represented by the application, but
21 with the decrease in funds from the federal
22 government it's going to be very difficult
23 and I'm sure there that a lot of worthy
24 projects are going to be left out or at
25 least the amounts diminished greatly, and

1 that's a sad thing, but, hopefully we can
2 use these funds you know, we can project
3 things that will benefit the overall
4 community of the City of Scranton.

5 Just very quickly, in Mr. Joyce's
6 absence, just some things from the PEL
7 meeting as far as the finances that were
8 discussed at the meeting, we were told that
9 there is -- there was as of Monday \$6.17
10 million in cash available with an accounts
11 payable of \$192,000. The city had made a
12 bond payment for SPA in the amount of about
13 \$64,000 which, you know, diminishes the cash
14 available amount.

15 Also, it was reported that the
16 audit, that the city is up-to-date. The
17 city itself is up-to-date on what it needs
18 for the audit, what they are waiting on is
19 the Scranton Parking Authority and Central
20 Parking that they are the ones that are kind
21 of delaying the process. Getting
22 information from them has become somewhat
23 difficult I'm told, and there is specific
24 information that the auditors were looking
25 for that wasn't being made available.

1 Hopefully --

2 MS. EVANS: Well, perhaps -- well,
3 you were there so have they tried to contact
4 Mr. Washo to obtain that information?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. And it's still
6 becoming -- it's still difficult to get some
7 of the information. I believe it was for
8 the -- revenues for the specific garages I
9 think is what they were looking for -- or
10 the budgets -- revenue and expenditures for
11 each of these specific garages which they
12 are not having success receiving.

13 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, did you want
14 to say something?

15 MS. KRAKE: I believe we brought up
16 the fact that they should contact Mr. Washo,
17 and then the business administrator said she
18 would call him right after the meeting.
19 Now, I haven't heard what became of that, so
20 we are hopeful that she did, indeed, contact
21 the receiver who has direct control over
22 Central Parking, I believe that's what PEL
23 said.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes, and certainly has
25 all of that information.

1 MS. KRAKE: Exactly.

2 MR. MCGOFF: And hopefully it would,
3 you know, be provided so that if nothing
4 else a preliminary audit could be prepared
5 so that it can be used for the preparation
6 of 2013 budget and also in going for a
7 commuter tax or borrowing and all of the
8 other things that we need that audit and
9 people are asking for.

10 The other thing that was mentioned
11 2000 -- I think it was the 2014 RFPs for the
12 2014 TANS were being issued this week, and
13 then one question was brought up by
14 Mr. Cross dealing with the Act 133
15 amendments which were part of the revised
16 recovery plan and whether or not council and
17 the city had taken any action on those, and
18 to be very honest I wasn't quite sure what
19 the Act 133 amendments were so I did go
20 digging and I'm sure it's something we can
21 discuss and also present -- to be presented
22 to the administration as well. And that is
23 it all. Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan, do you
25 have comments or motions tonight?

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I do. Thank you.
2 First, just a few comments regarding the
3 CDBG loans. I think the other members of
4 the council and staff from OECD summed this
5 up pretty well, also, when funds for these
6 programs are very limited, but when council
7 makes a decision we need to look at what
8 programs are going to benefit the most
9 people in the city. The public service
10 allocation is very small. Obviously,
11 funding police patrols in our neighborhood
12 is a top priority. Police patrols, having
13 the beat, police walk the beat, ride their
14 bike, you can't beat that in the
15 neighborhood. They get to know who should
16 be here and who shouldn't be here, and it
17 really does provide that public service to
18 the neighborhood to create safer and nicer
19 neighborhoods to live in.

20 Regarding the general programs, one
21 of the larger ones in that list is paving.
22 Paving has increased every year under this
23 council. It's something that we take in
24 when we look at the streets we get the
25 requests every week, the vast majority of

1 them are about streets because the streets
2 in the city are deplorable. I'm sure
3 everyone on council would agree that that's
4 another item that needs to be funded as much
5 as we can, so when council looks to put
6 these amendments together we have to weigh
7 do we want more social programs or do we
8 want more funding going into the city, which
9 would be paving, police, demolition.

10 On the demolition, I will try to get
11 those answers for you, Mrs. Schumacher, that
12 you requested. I have been very frustrated
13 with Licensing and Inspections on that
14 issue. I know myself, Mr. Joyce, and State
15 Representative Flynn have been working
16 trying to get a home demolished in Tripps
17 Park for many months, and unfortunately, and
18 especially since the election has been over,
19 Mr. Seitzinger has been unresponsive to all
20 parties, and that home is causing a problem
21 in the neighborhood and it needs to be
22 demolished.

23 As far as how they prioritize them,
24 I know after a fire or something when it's
25 in eminent danger of collapse they do get

1 torn down very quickly, but buildings that
2 are lingering and many times vagrants will
3 be in them.

4 There is another property on North
5 Hyde Park where there are two vacant
6 properties right by one another, the
7 vagrants coming in, and again, the same
8 thing no response from that office on those.
9 So there is certainly not a lack of
10 properties that need to be torn down, but we
11 do -- prioritization does need to go based
12 on need not based on who is requesting it or
13 what neighborhood in the city it's in, so
14 that's definitely something that hopefully
15 under the new administration will see that.
16 It will be a lot more transparent on how the
17 homes to be put on the list are selected.

18 Next, I would like to make a couple
19 of comments regarding a letter that was
20 received to city council from OECD
21 requesting increased funding for
22 administration, paving and contingency. The
23 increase in contingency is very, very small,
24 \$211.3, and the administration it's \$75,000
25 and paving \$147,000.

1 If my colleagues would agree, Mrs.
2 Krake, could we please send a letter to Ms.
3 Aebli requesting an itemized list of the
4 administration, the overages and if anything
5 can be done in the budgetary process to
6 correct that for future years. One of the
7 things that's frustrating when it comes to
8 allocating the CDBG funds is that a large
9 portion of it goes to the folks who
10 administer the programs and, obviously, we
11 need those folks, but we would like that to
12 be at the bare minimum, that way we have
13 more funds for paving, more funds for
14 demolition of blight and police patrols and
15 things of that nature, so that's something
16 that, you know, we have to watch every cent.

17 These dollars are tax dollars just
18 as much as the dollars of the city budget.
19 These are your federal tax dollars and when
20 we deal with the budget and in a couple of
21 months they will be your city tax dollars,
22 your city property and wage taxes, so this
23 certainly is something that council can't
24 take lightly, it's not free money by any
25 reasons, they are your tax dollars and we

1 will do our best to make sure that we
2 allocate them the way that can help the most
3 people.

4 Finally, just a couple of comments
5 on the article that was in the paper
6 regarding Act 47 reforms and a possible
7 drink tax in the city, and I'll reiterate a
8 little bit of what I said in the paper and
9 elaborate as well. There is no question
10 that Act 47 in the State of Pennsylvania has
11 been a disaster for Scranton.

12 We see today just breaking now in
13 the Scranton Times that motions are going to
14 be filed to seize that, seize assets of the
15 cities to pay the Court award of \$21
16 million. That's what Act 47 under Mayor
17 Doherty and DCED, Governor Rendell, that's
18 what it's brought us to this point where the
19 city owes out this amount of money, and it's
20 money that is due to the workers. We can't
21 question that. They are due that money.

22 And, unfortunately, Mayor Doherty
23 gambled along with DCED, and they lost and
24 now the city is coming up with a \$21 million
25 hole just for this one item, which it's all

1 back wages. Not one cent of what we spent
2 on that Court award is going to benefit
3 anyone in the city currently. That's money
4 that was due many years ago.

5 Regarding reforms, one of the items
6 that was brought up was the possibility of a
7 10 percent tax on drinks in the City of
8 Scranton, alcoholic drinks. Following that
9 article, my phone, and I'm sure many of us
10 have gotten many of calls from bar and
11 restaurant owners within the City of
12 Scranton and we have spoken to a few
13 advocates who were against drunk driving.

14 And the concern that both groups had
15 was that people instead of eating or
16 drinking at the bar down the corner or the
17 restaurant in the City of Scranton that they
18 would travel to the outskirts of the city,
19 Dunmore, Taylor, Old Forge to eat and drink.

20 And when that happens there are many
21 negative effects. The first one and
22 actually the prime one would be people
23 drinking outside of the city are going to
24 find a way back home, unfortunately, many of
25 them choose to drink and drive.

1 Secondly, the businesses located
2 within the City of Scranton will lose
3 revenue because of those patrons choosing to
4 go somewhere else and with that revenue lost
5 jobs will be cut from those businesses if
6 they are lucky to stay afloat or if they are
7 not able to stay afloat they may board up.

8 You can drive through any
9 neighborhood in the city and you see corner
10 bars, small family-owned establishments.
11 The downtown bars are a little bit
12 different, but I'm looking out for the small
13 neighborhood establishments, and from
14 speaking to them they are afraid that this
15 will cripple them.

16 So remember when the smoking ban was
17 brought up in the City of Scranton
18 specifically, now, statewide I think it's a
19 great thing, it works great, having that
20 statewide, but when it was specifically in
21 the City of Scranton I remember a bar in
22 Minooka right over the line in Moosic had a
23 big sign "Smoking allowed. Come drink
24 here."

25 And people did. The bar and

1 restaurant owners in the City of Scranton
2 hurt because it was specifically to the
3 city, and Scranton isn't large enough like a
4 city like Philadelphia or Pittsburgh where
5 people aren't going to travel. From any
6 point in the city five minutes you would be
7 in another town, so that's something that I
8 am really concerned about on that.

9 And also, one of the things that I
10 really believe will help the city is the
11 passage of the Senate 76 which would
12 eliminate property taxes to fund school
13 districts, and if anyone looks at their
14 property bill in the City of Scranton the
15 school district is by far the largest
16 portion. The city always gets all of the
17 negative publicity, even though the school
18 district is the vast majority of the bill.

19 And especially in a city like
20 Scranton where there are so many senior
21 citizens, if they had children or if their
22 children are still alive in the area, they
23 were educated 10, 20, 30, 40 years ago and
24 they are still paying these taxes. By going
25 to a sale's tax you have the lower income

1 folks who are only buying necessities such
2 as food, clothing, medicine, and those items
3 are already tax exempt. So with that
4 statewide sales tax you are not paying taxes
5 on any of your necessities, so the lower to
6 middle class isn't going to be paying the
7 same way as somebody would be if they are
8 going and buying an iPad or a boat or
9 something of that nature.

10 And by establishing that that gives
11 the city availability to increase the
12 property taxes slightly on our end, and you
13 will still be paying less at the end of the
14 day, and that's a tool that really needs to
15 be embraced at the state level. I know
16 State Rep Marty Flynn is supporting it, I
17 know Senator Blake, unfortunately, is
18 opposing it and I hope that Senator Blake
19 will open his eyes and consider Senate Bill
20 76, and it really will help a city like
21 Scranton where we have so many senior
22 citizens and homeowners who it's the
23 property tax bill at the end of the year
24 that really is difficult for them to pay.

25 And so I will hold the rest of my

1 comments for agenda items and that's all for
2 tonight. Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Just one
4 think I wanted to add to some of the
5 comments that you made regarding OECD.
6 Though out the last four years, Mrs. Krake
7 in particular and myself, have spoken with
8 HUD officials in the Philadelphia office
9 regarding various issues, one of which was
10 administrative costs, and at the time we
11 were told that 20 percent is the ceiling and
12 that it's not essentially for a municipality
13 to designate the full 20 percent, however,
14 they advise strongly against going beneath
15 16 percent, so there is --

16 MR. ROGAN: I believe in past years,
17 and I may be wrong, 18.5 was the level that
18 we funded.

19 MS. EVANS: Right. We decreased it
20 from the 20 percent, I think the office, and
21 you can attest to that, continued to operate
22 very well.

23 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

24 MS. EVANS: And I agree with what
25 you are saying regarding those costs. They

1 have to be closely examined and perhaps if,
2 you know, there are going to be additions
3 made within that office, that might be a
4 decision for the next mayor.

5 MR. ROGAN: Yep.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

7 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

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

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you, just
11 briefly. First of all, during announcements
12 I forget to make an announcement earlier so
13 if you would allow me at this time. This is
14 from Ozzie Quinn, the Taxpayers' Association
15 will meet on this coming Tuesday, September
16 24, at 6:30 p.m. at city council chambers.
17 The candidates for tax collector Frank Joyce
18 and William Fox have been invited to attend
19 and address questions. Please plan to
20 attend. The next couple of months are
21 important to all of those who own property
22 in the county. Ozzie Quinn. Thank you.

23 And just briefly, I would have to
24 agree with my colleagues who spoke prior to
25 me on some different issues on the OECD

1 funding. Paving, as Mr. Rogan said, is
2 always a big thing, and I'm not sure, I
3 mean, we approved the paving, but I don't
4 know if we actually approved the final list.
5 It doesn't -- if they already made their
6 list and it's done. I would like to have a
7 little bit more say on that aspect.

8 MR. ROGAN: Me, too.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Even on the city
10 paving, also.

11 MR. ROGAN: Unfortunately, the DPW
12 director along with OECD sets the list and
13 council hears from more residents than any
14 of them and we get left out of the process.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Correct. I mean, if
16 there was some possibility that we can at
17 least have some, I don't know, if possible,
18 to have some final say of --

19 MS. EVANS: You may find that that
20 occurring under a new administration.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's true.
22 Definitely. So hopefully there is a little
23 bit more open communications as far as that
24 goes.

25 And Mr. McGoff he had mentioned

1 neglected them.

2 The fact is right now, and I believe
3 it was in the capital budget, that they have
4 in the capital budget to demolish all of
5 these bathhouse complexes and stuff in each
6 of those swimming pools. If I'm not
7 mistaken, I don't have it front of me, but
8 that's in the capital budget.

9 First of all, those buildings, they
10 are not 100 years old. I think they were
11 built what, in the 70's, late 70's, early
12 80's, in that range. They are structurally
13 sound. The problem is, you know, maybe they
14 need new fixtures, they need some work and
15 stuff like that, but I think the main
16 problem of all of them is the roof
17 structures. They are built with flat roofs,
18 and we all know what kind of problems flat
19 roofs have. There is nothing to prevent
20 them from putting a new roof on those
21 buildings, a gable roof. Look at the Keyser
22 Valley Community Center. Now, there was a
23 flat roof building that had nothing but
24 problems, look how beautiful it looks with a
25 new roof system on it and stuff. That's

1 something I think can be accomplished
2 economically.

3 And the rest of the work in those
4 complexes I think could be done and donated
5 by the neighbors, by local businesses and
6 stuff like that, but I do think a major
7 problem for those areas would be the roof
8 systems, and I would lean towards, you know,
9 in my mind I'd like to see a project each
10 year. You know, Penn Ridge has been closed
11 the longest. Pen Ridge for next year. The
12 following year maybe Novembrino and then
13 Connell, something like that. Just update
14 the roof system, get the neighborhood
15 association and local businesses to chip in
16 and get them -- I mean, you know, we need a
17 place for the kids to go.

18 In West Side they have been
19 developing things. They have the skate
20 park. They have now they are looking at a
21 youth center, and I think the swimming
22 complex would fall in beautiful with all of
23 that. It's all in the triangle there for
24 West Side, and I believe the neighborhood
25 associations in South Side and Pinebrook

1 have been working hard for the neighborhoods
2 and I think the children in those areas,
3 which are probably some of the lower income
4 areas, who don't have their own access to
5 swimming pools should be the beneficiaries
6 of some of this. That's what this OECD
7 money is supposed to be for.

8 So I would like it see somehow that
9 that project remain in there, and again, we
10 have a small pool of money we have to work
11 with and, you know, hopefully we can
12 accommodate everybody to some degree.

13 And the other thing that disappoints
14 me is the police situation and a few years
15 back, what was it four years back we had 13
16 OECD officers, and I'm not going to go
17 through the whole history of how it
18 happened, but we ended up with none and it
19 appears to me that through the last two
20 years of the communications there was a pot
21 of money side, we are going to be able to
22 build it back up and all of that, now I find
23 out the police chief only applied for five,
24 which was he told us the max he could apply
25 for at this time, but they are only looking

1 at offering three. Just doesn't satisfy me,
2 I don't know if it satisfies my colleagues,
3 but we have to find a way to man these
4 police officers.

5 All we have to do is look at the TV
6 every night. Look what's happening in
7 Wilkes-Barre. Look what's happening in
8 Williamsport and Hazelton. We don't want
9 that element here. You don't see a lot of
10 it in the newspaper, but I meet with our
11 police chief and I know it's going on and I
12 know my colleagues speak to our police chief
13 and he is very forward, but there is lot of
14 things that cannot be let out, but they are
15 proactive. They are out there working hard
16 every night. You don't see all of the
17 arrests in the paper, some of them they have
18 to keep quiet so they can get the bigger
19 dogs, but they are doing a heck of a job.

20 And a true testimonial to that is
21 the -- you know, the forfeiture money, drug
22 forfeiture money which is coming into the
23 city which is helping to fund some of the
24 police projects, and some -- we have two
25 issues on the agenda tonight 5-B and 5-C

1 when they come up I'll be able to give a
2 little bit more information on those through
3 my meetings with the police chief and all,
4 but a big part of these being progressive
5 and everything is the proactivity of our
6 police department and, you know, the benefit
7 of the drug forfeiture money because they
8 are doing such a good job and keeping our
9 city safe.

10 But I don't want to see us go
11 backwards. They are have been doing a heck
12 of a job without the COM-D officers that
13 they had just a few years ago, but it's
14 overtaxing everyone, as one of our speakers
15 mentioned before. I think we deserve more,
16 not less. Crime is a big thing and blight
17 is a big cause of the crime. Broken window
18 theory, you got a broken window, a house
19 with broken windows on your house is going
20 to bring in the crime element.

21 So combined with the public safety
22 and the blight issues and home rehab I think
23 that's a big factor you have to look at.
24 That's a big factor that's going to bring
25 our city back. What's going to sell a

1 property in our city is the public safety
2 and the nicer neighborhoods and then the
3 people will be able to get their prices for
4 their homes. Until we correct that, we are
5 still staying stagnant.

6 But I'll discuss the 5-B and 5-C
7 when we bring them up for a vote, but at
8 this time I believe that's all I have.
9 Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
11 evening. Since Scranton --

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Oh, excuse me, I'm
13 sorry, Mrs. Evans.

14 MS. EVANS: Absolutely.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: The first thing I was
16 going to tell Mr. Rogan though that, you
17 know, if Pete Bordo's was still open we
18 would all be a nemesis and it would be
19 around 10 cents after tax. You are too
20 young to remember that.

21 MR. ROGAN: I little bit.

22 MS. EVANS: Since Scranton's
23 on-street parking program has been a subject
24 of the newspaper articles of late, I wish to
25 provide a financial report for July 2013,

1 the first month of management and operation
2 by the Republic parking system. The report
3 submitted by the Republic is separated into
4 three areas, income, expenses and profit.

5 First, income is broken down to
6 actual budgeted and variance. Actual
7 revenue consists of all monies received,
8 including meter money, bagging money, and
9 citation revenue. Budgeted revenue is taken
10 from historical data provided by the City of
11 Scranton. It is not a projection, rather,
12 it's the actual revenue reported for the
13 Year 2012.

14 Republic reports \$83,894.12 in
15 actual meter revenue for July 2013 and
16 \$66,426.94 for budgeted revenue which
17 represents July 2012 meter revenue.

18 Also, actual citation revenue for
19 July 2013 is \$32,110 while budgeted citation
20 revenue that represents July 2012 is
21 \$27,400. The variance then between 2012 and
22 2013 shows a total increase of \$22,177.18 in
23 revenue.

24 However, this figure does not
25 include magistrate citation income. This

1 information will up obtained from the
2 Treasurer's Office and contained in
3 subsequent Republic reports.

4 Now, the second area, expenses,
5 include payroll, what's called other
6 expenses, which include uniforms,
7 maintenance of meters and operational costs,
8 and capital expenses representing the actual
9 cost of the two vehicles, 750 new parking
10 meters, and software purchased for use by
11 the city. Capital expenses will be a fixed
12 monthly cost for the term of the contract.

13 July 2013, total expenses were
14 \$14,833.45 under what was projected. The
15 projection was based on historical data from
16 other cities and the particular needs of the
17 City of Scranton. The final section or the
18 third section is the net operating surplus
19 or NOS. This is the profit the city
20 realizes after expenses are deducted.

21 Per the management agreement,
22 Republic Parking receives all revenues, pays
23 all expenses, and gives the City of Scranton
24 the check for the difference or profit. In
25 summary, the month of July 2013 was a

1 success. Total revenues increased
2 \$22,177.18 over last year's numbers.
3 Expenses were \$14,833.45 under what was
4 anticipated, and for the first time the
5 City, not the Scranton Parking Authority, is
6 receiving revenue for bagged meters it owns.

7 Also, today I received the August
8 2013 update, and Republic reports another
9 very good month in revenues. Total revenues
10 for the month of August were \$130,000, an
11 increase of \$30,488.74 over August 2012, and
12 over July 2013 revenues as well.

13 In addition, Republic reports it is
14 on schedule to implement the remainder of
15 the meter procedure gram. The license plate
16 recognition or LPR vehicle should be fully
17 operational by October 1. While the 750 new
18 credit card friendly meters are slated to
19 arrive on September 23, that would be this
20 coming Monday, Republic states that
21 installation will require seven to ten days
22 to complete with very little disruption in
23 service.

24 Further, 27 meter polls were
25 identified as missing in high revenue

1 generating areas and they were replaced in
2 the last two weeks. These are all meter
3 polls that are part of the city ordinance,
4 but have vanished for various reasons.

5 In addition, Republic is currently
6 working toward bringing all handicapped
7 meters up to ADA standards as soon as the
8 new meters are installed. Republic's
9 improvements should produce a positive
10 impact on future meter revenue.

11 I am very pleased not only by
12 Republic Parking's management and operation
13 of our city's parking meter program, but
14 also by it's demonstrated level of financial
15 accountability and transparency neither of
16 which were provided by the previous
17 operator, the Scranton Parking Authority.

18 Next, when reviewing the ordinance,
19 which is applicable to the Historical and
20 Architectural Review Board or HARB. It
21 seemed that in addition to Section 4-B,
22 appointment in terms of membership,
23 additional sections of this ordinance were
24 not followed in the case of the HARB's
25 recommendation to demolish the former YWCA

1 building. Specifically, Section 5-A, advice
2 to governing body of the City of Scranton,
3 which states: "The commission shall
4 recommend to the governing body of the City
5 of Scranton whether or not application for a
6 certificate of appropriateness should be
7 approved."

8 However, a certificate of
9 appropriateness was already issued to the
10 University of Scranton in May 2013, prior to
11 the introduction of the legislation by city
12 council, in June of 2013.

13 In addition, Section 5-B, use of
14 criteria, states, "The criteria to be used
15 by the commission in making it's reports and
16 recommendations to the governing body of the
17 City of Scranton concerning their issuance
18 of certificates of appropriateness, shall
19 include the effect of the proposed changes
20 on each of the following of six criteria,"
21 which were not provided to city council.

22 Also, city council has not received
23 an annual report from HARB as required by
24 ordinance. Although, council did receive
25 some 2013 HARB meeting minutes, half of the

1 information on each page was missing or
2 obscured.

3 Therefore, Mrs. Krake, I ask you to
4 please provide a copy of this ordinance to
5 all qualified HARB members so that each may
6 reference our city code when facing future
7 decisions to demolish, preserve or restore
8 historic city structures and when developing
9 and submitting bylaws to Scranton City
10 Council for it's approval.

11 And finally, the mayor informed me
12 recently that street paving should begin at
13 end of this month, which is a good news.
14 And that's it.

15 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING THE
16 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
17 TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION
18 AND IF SUCCESSFUL A GRANT AGREEMENT AND
19 ACCEPT THE FUNDS RELATED THERETO THROUGH THE
20 BJA FY 13 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE
21 GRANT ("JAG") PROGRAM LOCAL SOLICITATION IN
22 THE AMOUNT OF \$23,391.00.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

3 MS. EVANS: On the question?

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just on the question,
5 as I stated earlier, I would explain when it
6 came up to vote on these here. I think
7 Mrs. Schumacher asked the question. This is
8 for the police department through this grant
9 they will be able to purchase two police
10 cruisers, two equipped police cruisers to
11 enhance their police force. And this is a
12 grant that I think they have received
13 annually for the past few years.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: That they have been
16 very successful at writing for so I think
17 it's another asset for us and for the public
18 safety. Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the
20 question?

21 All those in favor signify by saying
22 aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

1 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
2 have it and so moved.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, before we
4 move along, I just noticed that we do need a
5 temporary chair for Finance.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes.

7 MR. MCGOFF: I'd like to make a
8 motion that Mr. Rogan be the temporary chair
9 for Finance.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

18 Thank you, Councilman McGoff.

19 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. RATIFYING AND
20 APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
21 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
22 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO THE
23 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
24 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED) FOR A LOCAL
25 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING FUNDS) MONROE

1 COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$146,467.00 FOR THE
2 CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE
3 ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF THE
4 COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE NETWORK SYSTEM AT
5 SCRANTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS TO ENABLE THE
6 POLICE TO MONITOR CAMERAS TWENTY-FOUR (24)
7 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN (7) DAYS A WEEK AND
8 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
9 CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF
10 SUCCESSFUL, AND DISBURSE THE GRANT FUNDS FOR
11 THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
12 ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF THE
13 COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE NETWORK SYSTEM.

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 MS. LOSCOMBE: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: On the question?

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, on the question.
21 This program here the police department has
22 applied for a grant through the Local Shares
23 Gaming Funds Monroe County, and what this
24 would do Scranton Police Department would
25 implement the community surveillance network

1 through the funding provided by the Local
2 Share Account Fund Monroe County grant.
3 Community surveillance network will consist
4 of the 32 monitor video, while it will be
5 located at the Scranton Police Department
6 headquarters. The purpose of this project
7 is to create a system which all surveillance
8 from cooperating agencies is connected in a
9 closed circuit feed to the 32 monitors
10 located at the Scranton Police Department.
11 The police would then be able to monitor
12 these cameras 24 hours a day, seven days a
13 week.

14 Now, I have heard questions about
15 who would be monitoring it. They do have
16 people at the desk there who, you know,
17 obviously, work the desk and turn around and
18 look at the existing cameras. This is going
19 to be a whole wall full of cameras, and for
20 those who are afraid of Big Brother
21 watching, it's not basically that.

22 What this is a businesses, like
23 banks, that already have public cameras in
24 their parking lots or outside the University
25 of Scranton, any of these commercial

1 businesses, and I guess it would even down
2 the road entail if you have one in your home
3 and wanted to tie in with this here, it's no
4 cost to the business or homeowner. It's a
5 great program. Again, it's not going to
6 infer on anybody's privacy because it's
7 already existing cameras in public areas.
8 What it will do enhance the whole --
9 actually, it's like putting more police on
10 the street.

11 Just say, for instance, on North
12 Main Avenue or North Penn bank was held up,
13 and they made their getaway. Suppose
14 Catalano's or Keystone Lunch had cameras or
15 Fidelity Bank on Luzerne Street all tied
16 into this system, right off the bat they get
17 the call which way the vehicle goes, whether
18 it's north or south, direct the police that
19 way, and follow their cameras that they have
20 in different locations.

21 MR. MCGOFF: So this program
22 integrates private surveillance with public
23 surveillance into one system?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Correct. And it's
25 easier for them rather than going and

1 reviewing tapes they have the system right
2 there.

3 MR. MCGOFF: That's very nice.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: It's a live feed and
5 it could be expanded. You know, this is set
6 up so it could be expanded. And again, any
7 updates or anything the chief had told me
8 that a lot of that would be helped with the
9 drug forfeiture money, but it does -- with
10 today's technology and everything I think
11 it's definitely going to help us with crime
12 in the city, too.

13 MR. ROGAN: This sounds great.
14 Mr. Loscombe, does it record as well?

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: I don't believe it
16 records at the police station, but the
17 individuals record. I'm not sure, I can
18 check that out.

19 MR. ROGAN: I remember awhile back,
20 it was actually a friend of mine they had a
21 car broken into an area, they were checking
22 to see if there were cameras and I know a
23 lot of business that have them on their own,
24 especially the older system, I guess the
25 tapes -- they only save for so long and the

1 city would have it also backed up, after
2 all, so that would solve a lot of the --

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: And I may be wrong on
4 that, that's one of the questions I didn't
5 ask so, you know, with the technology and
6 that I'm sure that's something that they
7 could save it for a certain period of time.

8 But, you know, again, for those who
9 are worried about Big Brother watching,
10 well, it's here. Everybody has cell phones
11 with videos, everybody, you know, our
12 privacy was gone a long time ago, but these
13 are basically existing or, you know, maybe
14 new businesses that would add to this public
15 cameras that would help our police
16 department solve some crimes, and it's a
17 great benefit. And that's all I have to say
18 on that.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Anyone else?

20 All those in favor of introduction
21 signify by saying aye.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

1 have it and so moved.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: And not to go on, but
3 there are some other things coming up that
4 the police chief had advised me on that are
5 going to be very good for the city, so once
6 they are presented to us then I'll be able
7 to elaborate on them a little bit more, but
8 I'm very proud of our police department and
9 the aggressiveness that they are, again, we
10 just have to look at our neighboring cities
11 and we have to keep providing them with the
12 tools to keep us safe, and I think we have
13 been also proactive with that because that's
14 one of our goals public safety here, and so
15 I thank my colleagues on that, too. Thank
16 you.

17 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
18 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 47,
19 2013 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
20 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY
21 OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
22 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
23 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
24 TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
25 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT

1 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
2 SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE
3 PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2014.

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

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

8 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to table
17 Item 6-A per the public 30-day comment
18 period for the action plan.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

20 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
21 those in favor of tabling Item 6-A signify
22 by saying aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

1 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
2 have it and so moved.

3 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
4 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
5 FINANCE- FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 45, 2013 -
6 APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE UPDATED CITY OF
7 SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2014
8 THE FIRST-YEAR REVISION AND EXTENSION OF THE
9 2013 FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

10 MS. EVANS: What is the
11 recommendation of the acting Chair for the
12 Committee on Finance?

13 MR. ROGAN: As acting Chair for the
14 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
15 passage of Item 7-A.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE- FILE OF COUNCIL
5 NO. 46, 2013 - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
6 A NEW ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S
7 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
8 ("OECD") TITLED PA DCED HOUSING AND
9 REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HRA)
10 REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS ACCOUNT NO. 19A0101 FOR
11 THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS
12 ("DCED HRA GRANT FUNDS") RECEIVED FROM THE
13 SCRANTON-CONNELL, LLC.

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

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

20 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
8 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- RESOLUTION NO.
9 39, 2013 - APPOINTMENT OF THELMA WHEELER,
10 1001 JACKSON STREET, APARTMENT 303,
11 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER
12 OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON HOUSING
13 AUTHORITY FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR
14 TERM. MS. WHEELER'S CURRENT TERM EXPIRES ON
15 SEPTEMBER 27, 2013 AND HER NEW TERM WILL
16 EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2018.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
8 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- RESOLUTION NO.
9 40, 2013 - REPEALING RESOLUTION NO.
10 50, 2012 APPOINTING JOHN MOORE, 315
11 THIRTEENTH AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA
12 18504, AS A MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL
13 ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD FOR AN ADDITIONAL
14 FIVE (5) YEAR TERM WHOSE CURRENT TERM
15 EXPIRED ON OCTOBER 11, 2012, AND WHOSE NEW
16 TERM WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 11, 2017.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

21 MS. EVANS: On the question?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just on the question,
23 just since I wasn't here last week and I'm
24 not quite up-to-date on this other than the
25 memo and that, but a "yes" vote would repeal

1 the resolution?

2 MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Nullifying that
4 appointment and a "no" vote will be to keep
5 the appointment?

6 MS. EVANS: Well, right. A "no"
7 vote would be against repealing the
8 ordinance, and I had asked at last week's
9 meeting that our solicitor would draft a
10 letter to the mayor requesting that he ask
11 for the resignation of Mr. Moore based on
12 the violation of the ordinance and I believe
13 our solicitor has done that.

14 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I'm sorry.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, that's all I have
17 to say.

18 MR. MCGOFF: I have spoken to a
19 number of members of HARB and from that what
20 they said they were as surprised as we were
21 last week -- as I was, I should say, with
22 the legislation that would essentially
23 remove Mr. Moore from the committee.

24 Mr. Moore has devoted quite a few
25 years to HARB and I believe that what we are

1 doing is a rather unceremonious way of
2 removing a man who has done a great deal of
3 work for HARB and as chairman has done I
4 would say from what I'm told the majority of
5 the work for HARB.

6 I wish -- I understand the legal
7 aspects of it, I wish that we had perhaps
8 pursued some other avenues for dealing with
9 this problem. Although, I do understand
10 that in bylaws that they are -- that HARB is
11 now adopting that they are including in
12 these term limits in their own bylaws. So
13 it would at some point in time effect all of
14 the members of HARB, but even in 2017 Mr.
15 Moore would have been forced out of the
16 committee, out of the board.

17 Like I said, I just feel that in
18 some way we are doing a disservice to
19 Mr. Moore for all of the years that he has
20 served as the chairman of HARB.

21 MR. ROGAN: I would just make a
22 brief comment. When this -- and I want to
23 thank Attorney Hughes, I know he not here
24 today, I did speak to him a little bit more
25 about this issue today, and just a comment

1 actually on the newspaper article last week
2 following the initial vote. Do I believe
3 that this may be retaliation or this was
4 brought up because of Mr. Moore's vote on
5 Leahy Hall, yes, I do. I agree with
6 Mr. Moore on Leahy Hall, but in this -- when
7 you are a council person or a legislature on
8 any level somebody who you agree with
9 yesterday you may disagree with today, and
10 in this instance I do believe per Attorney
11 Hughes' explanation and speaking to HARB
12 members myself that a "yes" vote is the
13 proper thing to do here.

14 Although I do appreciate Mr. Moore's
15 and his stance on the past issues that was
16 very controversial, but I do believe that
17 after reading what was provided by our
18 solicitor and in speaking to HARB members
19 that a "yes" vote is the right vote here.

20 MS. EVANS: And I just wanted to add
21 that this is not a matter of retribution in
22 any way. As I mentioned I think at last
23 week's meeting, it was brought to my
24 attention by city residents. I was not
25 familiar with the ordinance. Obviously, the

1 administration was not familiar with the
2 ordinance, and so I asked our solicitor to
3 do the research and when he came back to me
4 with his findings I asked our office staff
5 to research all of the members, the terms of
6 all of the members of HARB, to be certain
7 that it wasn't just one individual. You
8 know, if there were more than one, all would
9 be included, but the fact of the matter was
10 Mr. Moore was the only one in violation.

11 Now, I'm sure that was not done
12 intentionally by Mr. Moore, by the mayor or
13 by this council, it was done I believe
14 unknowingly, but HARB is at a point now
15 where it has admitted publically it has
16 operated with no bylaws, it very often does
17 not even conduct monthly meetings. When it
18 does, it appears that, you know, very, very
19 seldom, if ever, members of the public are
20 in attendance at those meetings.

21 And as I mentioned earlier tonight,
22 there are other provisions of that ordinance
23 that have not been met by HARB in all of the
24 years, in all of the ten years that I have
25 been seated on city council, and I think

1 it's important for them now because they
2 have -- all of this has come to light
3 through their facing the most important
4 issue since the initiation of HARB that, you
5 know, as a board they haven't always, you
6 know, despite the best intentions haven't
7 always operated appropriately. Meaning, for
8 example, they haven't had bylaws to refer
9 to, they haven't presented annual reports to
10 the governing body of the City of Scranton,
11 etcetera. So I'd like to see them now start
12 a clean slate.

13 I do recognize that they are working
14 on bylaws and I hope they recognize and I'm
15 sure they will when Mrs. Krake sends them
16 copies of the ordinance which is a part of
17 this city code, so it is a city law, that
18 the bylaws that they would approve and
19 present to city council have to be approved
20 by this council, well, or another council
21 perhaps, because I don't know that their
22 bylaws are even going to be ready by the end
23 of this year. It very likely could happen
24 in 2014 with the next council. But council,
25 nevertheless, must approve that.

1 And, as I said, I think it is the
2 best decision to start all of this process
3 with a clean slate so that in the future for
4 every issue that arises, but most
5 particularly for those very, very important
6 issues that arise such as, you know, what we
7 currently are -- what we recently faced,
8 that board is well aware of its duties and
9 responsibilities and that all of its members
10 are, indeed, qualified to be seated on that
11 board.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I may just add
13 quickly, I don't want to elaborate, but the
14 first time I met Mr. Moore was that night at
15 our caucus here. I don't know him
16 personally, again, as Mr. McGoff did say I
17 do appreciate Mr. Moore's service to this
18 board. Over the years, I'm sure he spent
19 many, many years hours. It's a volunteer
20 board and lot of dedication and I appreciate
21 the dedication of anyone that takes those
22 positions.

23 But, you know, I mean, it's in black
24 and white here. As Mr. Rogan said, that's
25 something we have to follow, but I do want

1 to thank him for his service and, you know,
2 our vote is based on what we have in front
3 of us. Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please. Roll
5 call, please?

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: A symbolic no.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

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

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.

18 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
19 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