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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, October 10, 2013

LOCATION:

Council Chambers  
Scranton City Hall  
340 North Washington Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

- JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT
- FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT
- ROBERT MCGOFF  
(Not present)
- PAT ROGAN
- JOHN LOSCOMBE
- NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK
- 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.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

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

16 AUDIT STATUS REPORT RECEIVED FROM ROBERT  
17 ROSSI

18 & COMPANY DATED OCTOBER 3, 2013.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. BREAKDOWN OF THE  
22 ELIGIBLE SALARIES FOR THE LIQUID FUELS  
23 ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY, AUGUST, AND  
24 SEPTEMBER, 2013 IN A REPORT RECEIVED FROM  
25 THE CONTROLLER'S OFFICE.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. REPORT RESULTS OF  
4 TAX ASSESSOR'S HEARING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18,  
5 2013.

6 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
7 If not, received and filed.

8 Do we have any Clerk's notes  
9 tonight, Mrs. Krake?

10 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

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

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: I do have -- I guess  
15 I'll read it now rather than during motions.  
16 This is for immediate release, and this is  
17 the Firefighters Coats for Kids Foundation.  
18 The Scranton Firefighters in each community  
19 to warm the hearts of children. The  
20 Scranton Firefighters' Association invites  
21 the community to join them to help provide  
22 new winter coats to warm the hearts, minds  
23 and bodies of children in need. The  
24 fundraising campaign is lead by Scranton  
25 Firefighters Local 60 to provide at risk

1 children in Scranton with brand new American  
2 made coats for the winter.

3 This is the first year the Scranton  
4 Firefighters have joined forces with  
5 national nonprofit operation WARM to launch  
6 the program Firefighters Coats for Kids, a  
7 movement lead by firefighters across the  
8 United States to combat the effect of  
9 childhood poverty while saving American  
10 jobs. Each \$32 donation will provide a  
11 brand new American made winter coat for a  
12 child at John Adams Elementary in Scranton  
13 where nearly 90 percent of the students live  
14 at a degree of federal poverty level.

15 Local 60 has been working hard to  
16 give back to these children said Chuck  
17 Bartola, secretary of Local 60. We hope to  
18 gain support from everyone in the community  
19 to make this winter a special one. Scranton  
20 Firefighters hope to continue collecting  
21 donations through Friday, October 4. By  
22 nature of our service to the community we  
23 see how poverty effects these children,  
24 stated Bartola. Keeping them warm and safe  
25 throughout the winter is the least we can

1 do.

2 Scranton firefighters hope to raise  
3 at least \$6,400 to provide new winter coats  
4 to over 200 children. Just before the  
5 Pennsylvania cold sets in firefighters will  
6 surprise the students at John Adams  
7 Elementary with their bright new coats  
8 personally fitting each child and helping  
9 them to write their names in the interior  
10 tag that reads "Made Especially for You."

11 This is a program that strengthens  
12 communities and the overall well-being of  
13 the children stated Carie Poliquet,  
14 executive director of Operation Warm. A new  
15 coat boosts a child self-esteem and allows  
16 families to stretch limited financial  
17 resources to other basic necessities such as  
18 food and shelter.

19 To donate to the Scranton  
20 Firefighter Coats for Kids the website is  
21 [www.operationwarm.org/Scranton](http://www.operationwarm.org/Scranton). Operation  
22 Warm is dedicated to provide new winter  
23 coats to US children in need and has reached  
24 more than 1.2 million children since 1998.  
25 The International Association of

1 Firefighters represents over 300,000  
2 professional firefighters who are dedicated  
3 to serving their communities beyond their  
4 traditional call of duty.

5 In 2012, Operation Warm joined  
6 together with the International Association  
7 of Firefighters to form a widespread high  
8 impact program called Firefighters Coats for  
9 Kids. The collaboration of these two  
10 organizations deepens the reach in support  
11 of our efforts as firefighters protecting  
12 those in need and protecting the communities  
13 across the U.S.A. and has become the face of  
14 this mission and a catalyst for a  
15 multi-dimensional program that not only  
16 provides coats to impoverished children, but  
17 also helps Americans get back to work and  
18 out of poverty.

19 So anyone that's interested in  
20 helping with this program or making a  
21 donation, I'll give you the websites again,  
22 [www.operationwarm.org](http://www.operationwarm.org);  
23 [www.firefighterscoatsforkids.org](http://www.firefighterscoatsforkids.org), and I  
24 believe that's it. So I would hope your  
25 generosity will show for our children in

1 Scranton and help the firefighters. Thank  
2 you.

3 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff is  
4 unable to attend tonight's meeting and we  
5 hope he has a speedy and full recovery.  
6 Mrs. Krake?

7 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
8 PARTICIPATION.

9 MS. EVANS: No one has signed our  
10 speaker sheet this evening. Is there anyone  
11 who cares to address council?

12 MR. DOBRZYN: Dave Dobrzyn, resident  
13 of the Scranton. Good evening, members of  
14 council.

15 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

17 Mr. DOBRZYN: Today in the paper  
18 they had more of our problems with our  
19 finances and I know that PEL seems to think  
20 it's a good idea to sell the Sewer Authority  
21 and seeing that they think it's a good idea  
22 maybe it's not. It's something that is just  
23 some food for thought. An excellent  
24 documentary is available at the Scranton  
25 Library, it's called the corporation and it



1 outlines all of the various dirty deeds that  
2 corporations pull and water companies is one  
3 of them.

4 And, for instance, during World War  
5 II, IBM Corporation calibrated on a monthly  
6 basis the punch cards machines at the  
7 concentration camps as the who was to be  
8 terminated. Exxon Mobile or Standard Oil  
9 sold oil supplies to the Wehrmacht German  
10 Army up until 1944. After that they started  
11 asking for gold as payment. Several  
12 automotive companies manufactured half  
13 tracks. It was impossible for them to  
14 invade certain countries because of the mud  
15 in Germany and they were stalled in '41 and  
16 '42 and this way they could get around  
17 instead of sinking into a mud bog.

18 So, I mean, corporations are good  
19 for one thing and that's taken care of  
20 themselves, so it's really something to  
21 consider.

22 And I was very curious, I have  
23 noticed that our school district is leasing  
24 St. Mary's School on Pittston Avenue I guess  
25 it is, and I wonder if there is any taxes

1           due on that seeing that they're getting  
2           financial compensation for the school? And  
3           it's just -- it would seem to me that if  
4           somebody is turning money on rents they  
5           should pay some taxes on it, the county.

6                         Once again, I'd like to thank them,  
7           and I have to get down to a meeting because  
8           I'm going to have to have something to say  
9           about -- at the commissioners' meeting about  
10          their treatment of the city and the council.  
11          It's just ashame. They should come here  
12          once in awhile and face the beat of the  
13          drum.

14                        We are getting close to November so  
15          I'd like to remind everybody to get out and  
16          vote and inform yourself and remind them  
17          also that most officials in this city are  
18          elected by an extreme minority that  
19          sometimes it's a little as 20 percent turn  
20          out, so don't complain later and because  
21          it's already getting to the point with all  
22          of these like PEL proposing 117 percent  
23          property tax increases and so forth, if you  
24          don't start somewhere it's going to get  
25          awfully bad some day. It's just 100 percent

1 of a 100 percent or 48 percent, 50 percent  
2 or whatever and it keeps rolling over and  
3 it's getting more and more expensive.

4 And I'd also like to remind various  
5 speakers here that come to the podium that  
6 there has been some mention of the college  
7 students and so forth, they do have the  
8 right by Supreme Court decision to vote in  
9 the city that they attend college in so if  
10 they are living in a dormitory they do have  
11 the right to vote and I have seen it at  
12 polls, various -- not necessarily Scranton  
13 University, but a religious school in my  
14 neighborhood and they ship the bus down, bus  
15 loads of people down, so they do have the  
16 right to vote where they are attending  
17 schools and in the dormitories, so it's  
18 something that could consider if nothing is  
19 being contributed to the city upkeep then  
20 it's ashame.

21 And I'll give the golden parrot to  
22 our Congress, I wish they they'd just start  
23 to agree that children need to be fed. Once  
24 again, everybody loves to feed us but they  
25 absolutely hate the baby. Don't feed it,

1 don't educate it, don't do anything. Thank  
2 you and have a good night. Don't forget to  
3 bawk, bawk.

4 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

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

8 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'll start off  
10 tonight with 6-A. I don't know if you have  
11 the legal authority to do that, but I'm sure  
12 the solicitor either knows or could find  
13 out, I would ask that you would amend that  
14 before final passage to require that the  
15 payment be made. I know there's a lot of  
16 paperwork after your approval, but there are  
17 properties, as I have brought up here  
18 before, that have not paid in over three  
19 years and not only have they not paid the  
20 purchase price that you have so kindly  
21 approved for them, but they have not paid  
22 their taxes either on those properties and  
23 we are losing a lot of money.

24 And so I would like that you would  
25 say maybe if the property -- if the title

1 has not been filed and the taxes paid and  
2 within a year that it goes back and becomes  
3 eligible for sale to some other person.

4 And then now back on parking meters,  
5 I guess. Next week I promise to have a new  
6 subject, but, did notice last night, I went  
7 to the -- I was sort of disappointed nobody  
8 from council came last night to the Study  
9 Commission for the county government. It  
10 was an interesting meeting. There will be  
11 another interesting meeting I think Monday  
12 night, but it will be in Moscow.

13 But I did park on those parking  
14 meters where the head were taken off and  
15 they are now back on so, in fact, Republic  
16 is apparently installing the meter heads per  
17 File of Council 100 of 2009, which I might  
18 add I never made a copy of it because when  
19 the Redevelopment -- or yeah, Redevelopment,  
20 the Parking Authority had it on their  
21 website and they always updated it and I  
22 just always went there because it was easier  
23 to have it electronically than copied it,  
24 but I also believe that the fee was \$20 and  
25 I don't and if it was statute that if you

1           paid in the first 24 hours it was \$10 and  
2           then after the first day it was \$20, but  
3           again, last week I spoke with a woman who  
4           wrote the letter that received the ticket on  
5           Labor Day weekend and she said she paid \$25,  
6           so I know you asked Mrs. Krake to check into  
7           that, so did we get an answer on what the  
8           fee is for?

9                        MS. KRAKE: Excuse me, Mrs. Evans.  
10           In order to know what the fee is we need to  
11           know what the ticket was for. There is, in  
12           fact, a fine of \$25 if you are in permit  
13           parking so if we know what the person  
14           received the fine for we could absolutely  
15           verify that.

16                       MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Well, thank  
17           you. And then the revenue from those, last  
18           month on the 19th, Mrs. Evans, you gave a  
19           report for the month of the July, did you  
20           ever get the magistrate citation revenue for  
21           that month?

22                       MS. EVANS: I don't believe so, but  
23           we can certainly ask.

24                       MS. SCHUMACHER: And the revenue,  
25           the expenses that were taken out did they

1 include the percentage that goes to Pango  
2 and the percentage that they get back as for  
3 the operation?

4 MS. EVANS: I don't want to answer  
5 that because I don't have the information in  
6 front of me and I don't want to say  
7 something that could be incorrect, so I'll  
8 bring all of that with me for next week.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Next week.

10 MS. EVANS: And I would be happy to  
11 share it with you.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. And  
13 will you be doing that monthly? I mean, I  
14 know you said you are reporting monthly?

15 MS. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: So they should have  
17 August and probably September by now I would  
18 think as well.

19 Mr. Loscombe, did you get the  
20 breakdown of the firemen -- of the fire and  
21 firefighters and the police?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Actually, I'm still  
23 working on it. I don't have a good ---

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, where is the  
25 document? Who has the document, the court





1 50 to 70 percent, I don't understand what  
2 you mean, the pension is 50 percent.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: But I spoke about  
4 this last week. One of the articles in the  
5 paper last week said --

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's something they  
7 were looking for that has nothing to do with  
8 this award at this point.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Are you positive?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm positive. That's  
11 not even an agreement this point. This is  
12 something they are -- the current  
13 firefighters are looking for the increased  
14 pension just like teachers or state troopers  
15 or whatever, but currently firefighters'  
16 pension and police officers' pension is 50  
17 percent. There was a handful years ago that  
18 received a 10 percent incentive from the  
19 city, that's the only additional, but there  
20 is no 70 percent.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'll dig that out  
22 of my file and bring it next week.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure. I'm just  
24 trying to get as much specific information  
25 as I can and relay them back and forth.

1 It's been --

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Everything that  
3 adds up to the 22 million. Thank you.

4 MR. JOYCE: Let me just chime in and  
5 say something quick because I know  
6 Mrs. Schumacher asked me last week about  
7 fees associated with the borrowing for the  
8 police and fireman's awards as well as the  
9 MMO and any possible other package that was  
10 being put together. I did speak with Mike  
11 Judge from CaseCon, and I specifically asked  
12 him about fees, and he replied to me that it  
13 would be tough to estimate what the fee  
14 would actually be without a finalized  
15 package or a finalized deal and all.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: But we will know  
17 before it's executed?

18 MR. JOYCE: Pardon?

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: We will know before  
20 it's executed what that fee would be?

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: It has to come  
23 through council.

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Is Janney

1           Montgomery out, totally out? I mean, are  
2           they being pitted against --

3                     MR. JOYCE: Well, I don't know if --

4                     MS. SCHUMACHER: Not pitted against,  
5           but is there competition between the two to  
6           get the best deal for we taxpayers?

7                     MR. JOYCE: Well, there is Janney  
8           Montgomery Scott and there are two other --  
9           two other perspective lenders. Right now I  
10          know that Janney Montgomery Scott is kind of  
11          on hold until there is a budget.

12                    MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.  
13          Sorry about the extra time.

14                    MR. JOYCE: That's okay.

15                    MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city  
16          council.

17                    ALL OF COUNCIL: Good evening.

18                    MR. UNGVARSKY: I'm Tom Ungvarsky.  
19          Last week I got a phone call from a citizen  
20          of Scranton who had a suggestion for  
21          settling with the police and firemen. He  
22          asked if he could send the plan to me and  
23          present it to city council. Seeing as  
24          Mr. Loscombe's name was mentioned in it, I  
25          gave it to Jack. He has the feeling that

1           since the police and firemen are citizens of  
2           the city that they would be receptive to  
3           most any kind of a plan to help out the  
4           city. I hope either this administration or  
5           anyone coming in will sit down with the  
6           police and firemen and try to reach some  
7           kind of an agreement where we could perhaps  
8           save on closing fees and consultants and  
9           lawyers and make some kind of an arrangement  
10          with them.

11                        I noticed that the county is buying  
12           a tandem dump truck, and I think it's over  
13           \$100,000. As you know, I contribute, I'm  
14           taxed by the county and part of my money  
15           will go to pay for that truck. Now,  
16           probably the only time that truck will be on  
17           the Scranton street is when it's passing  
18           through. I hope city council will put forth  
19           a good effort to get the commuter tax.

20                        I'm glad to see you have  
21           straightened out the parking meters. I hope  
22           that you are working with the Parking  
23           Authority now for the garages and thank you  
24           for your attention.

25                        MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Ungvarsky as I  
2 was coming into the meeting tonight gave me  
3 this envelope, so I have looked at it yet.  
4 Thank you, Mr. Ungvarsky.

5 MR. UNGVARSKY: You're welcome.

6 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

7 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.  
8 Doug Miller, Scranton.

9 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

11 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to  
12 address the front page story of the Scranton  
13 Times from this morning in regard to PEL's  
14 new projection of an estimated \$20 million  
15 deficit for next year. If we go back a  
16 little bit to July they sent a letter down  
17 to council, at the time looking ahead they  
18 projected a \$18 million deficit and also  
19 suggested a 117 percent tax increase to  
20 cover that deficit.

21 Now after learning that the city is  
22 it obligated to increase it's municipal  
23 minimal pension contribution by \$2 million  
24 next year they come up with the result of  
25 \$20 million. That's also including nearly

1           \$2 million of PILOT payments that will  
2           likely not occur this year, \$1.2 million in  
3           departmental savings that likely will not  
4           occur next year. They go on and talk about  
5           our on-street parking meter enhancement  
6           revenue, which is expected to be down  
7           approximately \$300,000. The MBRO, market  
8           based revenue opportunity likely to fall  
9           short of it's goal by roughly \$250,000.  
10          They go onto conclude that the city does  
11          hope to end this year with a deficit of  
12          about \$300,000. However, it is looking as  
13          if that may not happen if the city has an  
14          inability to obtain new borrowing to cover  
15          pension costs and moving forward to the  
16          Supreme Court ruling, you know, and a lot of  
17          other things that the city is obligated to  
18          come up with funding for.

19                        Obviously, a lot of this comes down  
20          to the city's inability to generate revenue  
21          and we certainly going back to the recovery  
22          plan council did offer many suggestions and  
23          did implement many revenue enhancements and,  
24          unfortunately, were never implemented  
25          properly I believe from day one, and what I

1 mean by implemented properly is that I don't  
2 believe they were enforced the way they  
3 should have been. I think that the  
4 administration sort of got off to a late  
5 start, and what I see occurring here, and  
6 it's kind of frightening to me, but what I  
7 do see arising here is I do see blame coming  
8 back once again to city council and I think  
9 tonight it needs to be made quite clear that  
10 this is not the case.

11 When you look at that recovery plan  
12 and you look at the budget, you look at the  
13 impact summary and all of the things that  
14 this council did, the Finance Chair, the  
15 council president, all of the figures and  
16 the revenue enhancements that they put into  
17 place by working with, you know, your  
18 solicitor and Attorney Hughes and all of  
19 those involved to make this happen, it's  
20 very troubling to me that this  
21 administration didn't jump on board on this.

22 You know, we thought we had  
23 cooperation last year and we thought that we  
24 would realize these things. Obviously, with  
25 some of these new revenue enhancements there

1 is going to be some obstacles and some  
2 things may not come to fruition right away,  
3 but for the most part you hope for success  
4 and you hope for these things to be  
5 realized.

6 Unfortunately, that hasn't been the  
7 case. The biggest one to me is our PILOTS  
8 and it seems repetitive that we, you know,  
9 constantly, you know, revisit this issue,  
10 but we were hoping to generate according to  
11 the summary here about \$1.4 million this  
12 year and that's not going to happen and it  
13 goes back to the administration's lack of  
14 the sense of the urgency to come forward and  
15 pursue payments in lieu of taxes.

16 And I want to go back to the tuition  
17 tax proposal or suggestion I made at council  
18 that may be our only way of getting  
19 increased payments in lieu of taxes. I hate  
20 to see it be used as a bargaining chip, but  
21 we may have come to that point. It's quite  
22 clear that after all of these years the  
23 nonprofits aren't willing to cooperate to  
24 some degree. You know, not every nonprofit  
25 is, you know, has been uncooperative, I want



1 to make that clear, but, you know, there are  
2 certain nonprofit entities that have sort of  
3 slammed a door in the city's face.

4 And, you know, when you take a look  
5 at the services that the city provides and,  
6 you know, my suggestion has been criticized  
7 a few weeks by a speaker, I think Mr.  
8 Dobrzyn made a good point tonight, you know,  
9 these children, these students that "were in  
10 diapers" when the city's financial situation  
11 sort of arose, Mr. Dobrzyn made a very good  
12 note tonight while he brought it up, these  
13 are the same individuals that were in  
14 diapers 20 years ago that have the ability  
15 to vote in this city, whether they are from  
16 New Jersey, Philadelphia, New York,  
17 Pittsburgh, whatever. If they live here in  
18 the city while they are attending our  
19 institutions they are the ability to cast a  
20 vote. And with that said, I think it's only  
21 fair that a 1 percent tax be attached to the  
22 tuition.

23 But I just hope that we continue to  
24 pursue vigorously a lot of the enhancements  
25 that the city hoped to realize. I'm not

1           sure what the city's plan in relation to the  
2           commuter tax, but I do think that's  
3           something had that we need to revisit again.  
4           I know that -- I believe PEL had mentioned  
5           in the article this morning that refinancing  
6           the city's debt may not be a possibility,  
7           I'm not sure if maybe a member of council  
8           can clarify that, I know that was something  
9           that's been brought up.

10                    The amusement tax, I know that we  
11           fell behind on that. And I just want to end  
12           this evening with one question, has the city  
13           at this point received on it's payment in  
14           libation from the amusement tax? I know  
15           that was a story.

16                    MS. EVANS: It did receive the first  
17           payment of \$19,000 and there will be more  
18           forthcoming, so I do see that the amusement  
19           tax is going to generate revenue not only by  
20           the end of this year, but I think more  
21           significantly next year and through  
22           throughout the future years.

23                    MR. MILLER: Thank you. And to  
24           conclude, this will be it, you know, again,  
25           not to be repetitive, but when you do go

1 back and you take a look at the work that  
2 went into putting this recovery plan and the  
3 2013 budget together I would hope that the  
4 residents of this city would remember how  
5 you had to go through a lot of, you know, I  
6 guess ropes you could say to ensure that the  
7 burden wasn't as significant as PEL wanted  
8 it to be on the taxpayers of this city.  
9 Remember, PEL was looking at nearly at a 85  
10 to 100 percent tax increase and this council  
11 did everything that it could possibly do to  
12 lessen that burden, so when we want to look  
13 at where we could really be at this point in  
14 time we think things are bad now, I do think  
15 we have come a long way. There is no doubt  
16 about that and a lot of good things have  
17 happened I know that when you are a city  
18 that faces these financial challenges you  
19 would find it hard to say that, but I do  
20 think a lot of good things have happened,  
21 and I do think that there is some light at  
22 the end of this tunnel.

23 But, as I said, it's cooperation,  
24 it's following through on things that  
25 council implements, and again, I thank you a

1 commend you for everything you have done and  
2 I do not think that moving forward this  
3 dilemma that we are going to be facing  
4 should be placed on your shoulders because  
5 you did everything to avoid bankruptcy,  
6 hefty tax increases and a loss of services  
7 on the residents of this city, so thank you  
8 very much.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
10 anyone else?

11 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

12 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Hi, Janet. Sorry.

13 MS. EVANS: That's okay.

14 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Hey, Jackie, my  
15 boy.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy is back.

17 MR. SLEDZENSKI: I'll always be  
18 back, Jack, you know that. Frank, what  
19 happened last week, Frank.

20 MR. JOYCE: I don't know.

21 MR. SLEDZENSKI: We got walloped,  
22 Janet. We got walloped. Well, good luck  
23 this weekend. Good luck, boys. Thank you.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thanks, Chrissy.

25 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

1 MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan, do you  
2 have any comments or motions tonight?

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you, just a  
4 few brief comments, two on some outstanding  
5 issues and one on an agenda item. The first  
6 is regarding the letter from PEL that was  
7 reported in the newspaper, and I hate to  
8 say, unfortunately, that I was right on  
9 these items when it was time to vote on a  
10 budget and a recovery plan. As you know, I  
11 was the only member to vote against the  
12 recovery plan and the budget because of the  
13 concerns of revenue not being realized and,  
14 unfortunately, my concerns have played out.

15 Some of the items in here reduction  
16 in PILOT revenue \$1.75 million, reduction in  
17 departmental savings, \$1.2 million,  
18 reduction in the parking enhancement  
19 \$300,000, and reduction in the market based  
20 revenue is a quarter of a million, those  
21 items along with others and the commuter tax  
22 make a deficit the size of our neighboring  
23 towns' budgets, actually more than that, and  
24 next year's -- when next year's budget comes  
25 up, I think that when voting and when

1 looking at ideas we need to make sure that  
2 all of the items placed in the budget  
3 actually are materialized.

4 If the administration is considering  
5 pursuing a commuter tax again they should  
6 petition the Courts now. They shouldn't  
7 wait until a budget is voted on to petition  
8 the courts. It was done completely  
9 backwards the last time. I don't know how  
10 the administration expected council to vote  
11 on putting an item in that wasn't approved  
12 yet, so if that is something that the mayor  
13 wants to put in the budget it should go to  
14 the courts now before budget time begins.

15 Another item, and actually these two  
16 kind of blend in to each other, everyone  
17 knows one of the departments that I'm very  
18 critical of and I look very closely at is  
19 the Department of Public Works, and PEL has  
20 been advocating for an increase in the  
21 garbage fee and that's actually something  
22 that I supported in a way, but I think we  
23 need to reform the way the people in the  
24 city of Scranton pay for garbage. Currently  
25 the garbage fee is the same for everyone in

1 the City of Scranton, whether it's a single  
2 widow living off social security or whether  
3 it's somebody, a family of six or a family  
4 of 12 making a couple of hundred thousand  
5 dollars a year and obviously having much  
6 more garbage than that single widow.

7 I think we need to look at going to  
8 a per bag fee in the city. It may be a  
9 difficult transition to get it up and  
10 running, but I definitely think it's  
11 something that needs to be on the table.  
12 Simply increasing a garbage fee across the  
13 board isn't fair. It's not fair especially  
14 to senior citizens who don't have a lot of  
15 garbage and don't use the service as much as  
16 other people do.

17 Additionally, some other community  
18 neighboring communities that have gone to  
19 per bag fees have seen increase success with  
20 their recycling program. When people are  
21 forced to pay for how much they actually put  
22 in their garbage they have a much bigger  
23 incentive to recycle, which is not only good  
24 for the city because it saves us money in  
25 fees at the dump, it's also good for the

1 environment because all of these items are  
2 being used again, so I hope that's something  
3 that can be considered and discussed  
4 regarding the garbage fee.

5 Next, today in my full-time job I  
6 attended a senior fair today and much of the  
7 talk with the senior citizens at this fair  
8 was about Senate Bill 76, and I have spoke  
9 many times in these meetings about Bill 76,  
10 which for those of you who don't know, it's  
11 the property tax elimination bill for school  
12 districts. This bill would be a huge help  
13 for the City of Scranton. In the city the  
14 school tax is by far the largest portion of  
15 your tax bill. The city always seems to get  
16 the blame for the tax bill because when you  
17 read your bill it's lumped together as city  
18 and school district, but the school district  
19 is by far the much larger portion of that  
20 bill, and if Senate Bill 76 were to pass the  
21 Senate and the House could reconsider it and  
22 if it were signed into law that would  
23 eliminate property taxes for schooling,  
24 which would enable the city to generate more  
25 revenue and people would still be paying



1           less in property taxes and they would be  
2           able to keep their homes.

3                         Unfortunately, our Senator John  
4           Blake has flat out refused to support this  
5           proposal. This goes with Mr. Blake's track  
6           record of not doing anything to help the  
7           City of Scranton and I hope that he would  
8           reconsider. Many of the neighboring  
9           senators of both parties, Democrats and  
10          Republicans, state representatives I know  
11          Representative Flynn sent us a note, a memo  
12          that he voted to eliminate property taxes,  
13          and we thank him for that, but Senator Blake  
14          has refused to get on board with trying to  
15          help the property owners in Lackawanna  
16          County and in Scranton. So I hope that he  
17          would I believe listen to the voters and I  
18          would urge them to call Senator Blake and  
19          ask him to support or to sign on as a  
20          cosponsor to Senate Bill 76.

21                         Finally, just one comment on Item  
22          5-A regarding the towing, I will be voting  
23          yes on this item tonight, I do want to take  
24          a week to talk to some of the towing  
25          companies. None of them have reached out to

1 me yet so it seems it's great to everyone,  
2 and the only negative with this, and I  
3 understand the budget hole has to be filled  
4 with this \$300,000 that was put in for the  
5 towing yard that did not happen, but by  
6 doing this in a one-time fashion, yes, the  
7 city gets \$300,000, but for the next nine  
8 years, ten years we won't receive any  
9 revenue.

10 MS. EVANS: Well, actually we will.  
11 It's not going to be significant revenue,  
12 but the city also receive, thanks to our  
13 attorney who negotiated this, the city will  
14 receive a certain portion of all of the fees  
15 charged by the towers and each time the  
16 towers would increase those fees then the  
17 amount coming into the city would increase  
18 as well, and those funds, I believe, are  
19 going to be delegated toward the purchase of  
20 police cars.

21 MR. ROGAN: Okay, and that  
22 definitely sounds like something that would  
23 be good to have, at least some of revenue  
24 coming in over the next few years, but  
25 again, I will vote for it this week. I do

1 want to reach out to the tow operators just  
2 to make sure that it's agreeable to them and  
3 it's agreeable to everyone on the board and  
4 the residents. So that's all for tonight.  
5 Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,  
7 Councilman Loscombe, do you have any  
8 comments or motions tonight?

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Not really. The only  
10 thing I will comment on is I had the same  
11 questions Mr. Rogan had as far as the  
12 towing, the length of the time, and you just  
13 clarified some information, but, you know, I  
14 hope it's a win-win for everybody.

15 But, Mrs. Evans, you mentioned that  
16 when the towers increase their fees that we  
17 would get the increased portion of it?

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: I didn't get a chance  
20 to read it, but I thought the fees were set  
21 by the city. Are they allowed to increase  
22 their own fees or?

23 MR. HUGHES: If you look at the  
24 ordinance, attached is Exhibit A is the  
25 contract, and attached to Exhibit A is

1 Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2. Exhibit 2 is the  
2 increase in the fees over the period of ten  
3 years for every three years and it shows --  
4 it sets forth there what portion of the fees  
5 the city will receive on each of that in  
6 increments of three years. I believe it  
7 goes from zero to three years and I think  
8 it's three to six, and six to ten.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Okay, I do see that.

10 MR. HUGHES: Okay, so that's -- if  
11 you look at that, you know, you can review  
12 that next week, you will see the contract,  
13 that's Exhibit A, right now if my memory is  
14 right from Exhibit 1, but Exhibit 2 is the  
15 one that sets the increase in the fees and  
16 what the city will get.

17 Now, what happened was when the  
18 ordinance was sent down it had in the  
19 original ordinance that those funds would be  
20 placed into the account to purchase the  
21 police cars. In my opinion that ordinance  
22 was contrary to the Home Rule Charter that  
23 says that each ordinance shall have only one  
24 title and one subject matter. I wrote that  
25 back to Attorney Kelly, he then subsequently

1 revised it and sent it down so he said if I  
2 wanted to -- if we wanted it that way  
3 instead of adopting the ordinance that way  
4 I'll have to draft the ordinance, so I'll  
5 draft the ordinance hopefully for next week  
6 that this will be introduced tonight, but  
7 then the increases will be specifically sent  
8 into that special account, and that goes  
9 back to an ordinance, I believe Ordinance  
10 No. 21 of I think it was 2004 that those  
11 fees or anything that comes in, not only  
12 from that, but also the grant that the  
13 police cars go into this account.

14 So that would be a second piece of  
15 legislation for the increases over the next  
16 ten years that those funds will come in and  
17 they'll go into that special account for  
18 purchase of cars, you know, for the police  
19 department.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure. I'm glad.  
21 That's the first I got to see that when you  
22 pointed that out. Just another quick  
23 question out of curiosities, it may be  
24 irrelevant, but suppose my brother has a  
25 towing company, he is not on the list, I

1           have an accident, I am not allowed to use  
2           him I would have to use one of these towers?  
3           Not that I have a brother that has a towing  
4           company, but I'm just, you know, being the  
5           devil's advocate here. Just, like, you  
6           know, you have a car accident and these  
7           insurance companies try to direct you to  
8           certain body shops, but you have the right  
9           to go to whoever you want.

10                       MR. ROGAN: Mr. Loscombe, I think I  
11           can answer that, I remember when we debated  
12           the idea of a city lot I spoke to many of  
13           the towers and people involved in the  
14           industry and if you are in an accident and  
15           you are there you can call whoever you want,  
16           they don't have to be on the city list or  
17           not. This more pertains to if there is an  
18           abandoned vehicle or there is an accident  
19           and, for instance, say you were  
20           incapacitated, you can't communicate that  
21           you want, you know, Loscombe's Towing to get  
22           you, it would go to the next person on the  
23           list. It's a rotating list, but if somebody  
24           has a preference they get to choose who they  
25           want and also if this doesn't apply, just so

1 the people out there know, this doesn't  
2 apply if you break down or anything of that  
3 nature, this is just police towing.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: I just wanted to get  
5 that out there, you know, I know there is  
6 people with those questions so very good.  
7 Thank you.

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

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I want to begin  
11 tonight by addressing the recovery plan and  
12 PEL's letter to us. Whether or not you  
13 agree with the provisions of the recovery  
14 plan or what was put in it, a recovery plan  
15 was necessary, and I'll tell you why.  
16 Without the recovery plan we probably  
17 wouldn't have been able to get a tax  
18 anticipation note this year. We probably  
19 wouldn't have been able to obtain any  
20 borrowing to cover unfunded debt from  
21 previous years. If we didn't have a  
22 recovery plan in place and we shot that  
23 down, what would happen is that the lights  
24 would be turned out on this city. The city  
25 would just go bankrupt. There would be no

1 money to pay employees, there would be no  
2 money to pay bills that were already months  
3 overdue. They would have shut off the gas  
4 and the electricity in city hall and all of  
5 the fire stations and police headquarters  
6 and the DPW facility.

7 So, you know, whether or not you  
8 agree with the recovery plan or the  
9 provisions in it, it was something that was  
10 necessary. Now, some of the provisions in  
11 it, market based revenue opportunities, this  
12 was something that was actually suggested by  
13 PEL, it's something that hasn't materialized  
14 yet, and really there has been a lack of  
15 execution in the administration to follow  
16 through on it and that's something that city  
17 council can't control. We can't control how  
18 fast things get implemented or if they get  
19 implemented at all or when the ball gets  
20 rolling and when the ball doesn't get  
21 rolling.

22 So, you know, I can't say that the  
23 administration is at fault for everything,  
24 because they are not, but are there things  
25 that they could have been faster on? Yes.



1                   Now, in this letter that PEL had  
2                   sent, and as most people know there is an  
3                   article in the Scranton Times about it  
4                   today, PEL projects that the city is facing  
5                   a \$20 million deficit in 2013. Actually, to  
6                   be more specific, it's \$19.73 million. So  
7                   really in their suggestions they say options  
8                   available or to increase the real estate  
9                   property tax, an increase to the resident  
10                  EIT and/or an increase to the garbage fee.

11                  Well, I did a few quick calculations  
12                  here while the council meeting was going on,  
13                  but I still paid attention to the speakers.  
14                  Anyhow, with all being said this is what  
15                  PEL's suggestion is to us, and the  
16                  administration. Now, the \$19.73 million  
17                  deficit. Right now the city collects, oh,  
18                  approximately \$16 million in real estate  
19                  taxes. If you do the math, if the real  
20                  estate taxes would be increased alone it  
21                  would be roughly 125 to 130 percent tax  
22                  increase. That's their suggestion to us.

23                  Also, regarding the EIT, which is  
24                  currently at -- well, the city EIT is at 2.4  
25                  percent, and there is a maybe 1 percent EIT

1 for the school district, which means that  
2 why a 3.4 percent earned income tax gets  
3 taken out of a everyone's check that's  
4 employed. It's about \$800,000 of revenue  
5 for every .1 percent to increase that tax.  
6 So if you were to increase that to cover \$20  
7 million it would be a 2.5 percent increase  
8 in the earned income tax, which would mean  
9 that workers that live in the City of  
10 Scranton would pay 5.9 percent of an earned  
11 income tax if we follow that suggestion.

12 Personally, I think if taxes, real  
13 estate taxes were to increase 125 percent or  
14 to earned income tax were to increase to 5.9  
15 percent there would be a mass exodus of  
16 people out of this city. People would  
17 probably -- as far as real estate taxes,  
18 people would probably just leave their  
19 homes. You wouldn't be able to sell them.

20 Anyway, as far as what would be done  
21 to lower any tax increase, it's almost  
22 inevitable to say that there will be a tax  
23 increase, it's going to happen. What I'm  
24 trying to do is make that increase the  
25 lowest possible amount for city homeowners.

1 I was elected to represent the City of  
2 Scranton. I was elected by the people that  
3 vote in the City of Scranton and I was not  
4 elected by PEL.

5 Anyhow, these are my suggestions: I  
6 suggest that the city should pursue the  
7 commuter tax. In previous conversation with  
8 Mayor Doherty he had said that the city  
9 would pursue the /KPH-T and also PEL had  
10 stated that the city is obliged to pursue  
11 the commute tax since it's part of the  
12 recovery plan. This is \$5.7 million worth  
13 of revenue if the Courts allow the city to  
14 implement -- to levy this tax.

15 Also, in speaking with Mayor Doherty  
16 in the past he informed me that the city  
17 would be or may be eligible to receive \$2  
18 million extra in liquid fuels money next  
19 year. He worked with Senator Blake to  
20 obtain this and it would be earmarked for  
21 Parking Authority debt, which is currently  
22 paid out of our general fund anyways to the  
23 tune of over \$2 million, so it's almost like  
24 we are saving -- it's basically like we are  
25 saving \$2 million off of our projected

1 deficit.

2 And another thing that I have been  
3 pushing for is a scoop out refinancing.  
4 Now, I know that PEL had stated that they do  
5 not favor this or they don't consider this a  
6 good option. However, I did speak with Mike  
7 Judge from CaseCon and a proposal has been  
8 put together to include a \$5 million savings  
9 in 2014 and a scoop out refinance, the  
10 borrowing necessary to pay off the  
11 firefighter and -- or the firefighter and  
12 police Supreme Court award and to cover the  
13 borrowing for the MM0 in 2013.

14 This deal there are two perspective  
15 lenders, one is waiting for some feedback,  
16 another wants to set up a meeting for next  
17 week to discuss the proposal in more detail.  
18 So with what I have mentioned so far you  
19 have \$5 million of possible savings in scoop  
20 out refinance, \$5.7 in commuter tax, and \$2  
21 million in liquid fuels, which is \$12.7  
22 million off of the 19.73, which brings is  
23 down to about \$7 that we are looking at that  
24 we would have to fill, obviously, with some  
25 sort of an increase in taxes.

1                   Now, there also may be cuts made to  
2                   the budget. The administration has asked  
3                   all departments heads to cut 10 percent of  
4                   their departmental expenditures and that, of  
5                   course, any money that has been cut out  
6                   would also be deducted from that \$7 million  
7                   so that's what I'm looking at and that's  
8                   what I'm in favor of.

9                   Any massive increase to real estate  
10                  taxes or the EIT, I would be very much  
11                  against. What I'm trying to do as the last  
12                  think I do on city council is save a couple  
13                  of hundred dollars for every homeowner in  
14                  the City of Scranton, and that's my goal and  
15                  I'm going to work as hard as I could to  
16                  achieve that goal. And that's all I have  
17                  for tonight.

18                 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And if I  
19                 might just piggyback on that, I think you  
20                 all know, and it was mentioned earlier that  
21                 for this current year PEL had recommended it  
22                 might have been an 89 percent tax increase  
23                 and city council did not allow that to  
24                 happen. City council was able to bring it  
25                 down to 22 percent, and I agree with

1 Mr. Joyce, there are alternatives here that  
2 must be pursued because I will not approve a  
3 massive tax increase. I know that certainly  
4 PEL believes it to be the answer, but I  
5 don't and I think, you know, you can  
6 certainly in PEL's mind try to levy such a  
7 significant tax, but, frankly, I don't  
8 believe it would ever, ever be collected.  
9 People just can't afford that.

10 So I am hoping that these measures  
11 that are being proposed by council are going  
12 to be taken seriously by the administration  
13 because, again, I will not approve -- I will  
14 not approve any proposed three digit tax  
15 increase as PEL has recommended.

16 I do agree with something that my  
17 colleague, Mr. Rogan, has said and that is  
18 that it is impossible for the city to pass a  
19 budget before it can go to Court to petition  
20 for a commuter tax. We cannot produce a  
21 budget and not know whether or not a  
22 commuter tax is approved and to be included,  
23 and that is not an issue that we can guess  
24 at. A recovery plan is nothing more than  
25 guesses and projections, but a budget has to

1 be far more concrete and the people that are  
2 going to have to oversee that budget I think  
3 need to be more actively involved this time,  
4 and that is not to say, you know, the new  
5 council or a new mayor at this point because  
6 after all they must be elected, but I think,  
7 you know, we have council members that are  
8 going to remain in 2014 and they will be  
9 charged with carrying out that budget and so  
10 they must have an active voice in planning  
11 what's going to occur next year.

12 But again, I just want to emphasize  
13 that it is impossible for the administration  
14 or city council to craft a budget and pass a  
15 budget that does not contain a definitive  
16 answer on the commuter tax. And so a budget  
17 can be proposed, the mayor can certainly  
18 propose his budget and that can be presented  
19 to the Court, but I cannot pass a budget  
20 that does not contain firm definite numbers.

21 In addition, I have a brief update  
22 regarding the request made by  
23 Mrs. Schumacher during our last city council  
24 meeting. Republic Parking System was  
25 contacted on Friday, October 4, and agreed

1 to place stickers indicating the days of  
2 operation on all parking meters.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: You're welcome. Next, I  
5 wish to remind the public quickly of the  
6 facts regarding the Perry Avenue Park in  
7 North Scranton. Scranton City Council did  
8 not approve a grant to construct this park  
9 because the City of Scranton had absolutely  
10 no funds to maintain it. In fact, the  
11 administration began closing the city pools  
12 in 2010 because there wasn't funding to  
13 repair and maintain them even before the  
14 Perry Avenue Park was proposed by Mayor  
15 Doherty.

16 As of the Summer of 2013, Capouse  
17 Avenue Pool, the Novembrino Complex Pools  
18 and two others remain closed. Further,  
19 there are no funds available in either the  
20 capital or the annual operating budget to  
21 maintain many of our existing parks, let  
22 alone the newest Perry Avenue Park.

23 Like all of us who reside in  
24 Scranton and it's neighboring communities,  
25 the editor of the Scranton Times newspaper



1           undoubtedly is aware of the severe financial  
2           problems our city has faced for years.  
3           Although he fails to offer plausible  
4           solutions and has consistently ignored the  
5           Doherty debt that was born in 2002, swelled  
6           each year thereafter, and came home to roost  
7           in 2012. Contrary to the editor's skewed  
8           opinions, my council colleagues and I are  
9           pleased by the construction of Perry Avenue  
10          Park and acknowledge the work of the many  
11          generous volunteer groups who made it  
12          possible.

13                         Further, we hope that these groups  
14          will be able maintain the park and equipment  
15          well into the future because it is clear to  
16          all but the Scranton Times editor that the  
17          City of Scranton has no financial ability to  
18          do so.

19                         Finally, I received a letter from a  
20          resident of Harrison Avenue regarding  
21          handicapped parking. Mrs. Krake, can you  
22          provide me, please, with two copies of the  
23          handicap parking ordinance, and I am going  
24          to submit the details of this citizen's  
25          request to our office following tonight's

1 meeting and we will contact the individual  
2 with the appropriate information. And  
3 that's it.

4 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. REPEALING FILE OF  
5 COUNCIL NO. 37 OF 2011 (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED  
6 "ESTABLISHING THE LIST OF AUTHORIZED TOWING  
7 COMPANIES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND  
8 ESTABLISHING THE RULES, QUALIFICATIONS  
9 AND STANDARDS TO BE FOLLOWED BY ALL SAID  
10 TOWING COMPANIES, ESTABLISHING FINES AND  
11 PENALTIES FOR TOWING AND FEES RELATED TO  
12 THIS ORDINANCE" BY ESTABLISHING THE LIST OF  
13 AUTHORIZED TOWING COMPANIES FOR THE CITY OF  
14 SCRANTON, ESTABLISHING THE RULES,  
15 QUALIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS TO BE  
16 FOLLOWED BY ALL SAID TOWING COMPANIES,  
17 ESTABLISHING FINES AND PENALTIES FOR TOWING  
18 AND FEES RELATED TO THIS ORDINANCE AND  
19 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
20 CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A TEN (10)  
21 YEAR CONTRACT FOR TOWING AND RELATED  
22 SERVICES IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON IN EXCHANGE  
23 FOR A ONE (1) TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED  
24 THOUSAND (\$300,000.00) DOLLARS.

25 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll

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

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

9 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

12 MS. KRAKE: 6-A. READING BY TITLE  
13 -FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 49, 2013 - AN ORDINANCE  
14 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT THE  
15 CORNER OF LINDEN STREET AND TAYLOR AVENUE,  
16 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO LINDEN TAYLOR,  
17 L.L.C., 56 LEDGE DRIVE, LAKEVILLE,  
18 PENNSYLVANIA, 18438, FOR THE SUM OF  
19 \$2,500.00.

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

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

24 MR. JOYCE: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: On the question? All

1                   those in favor signify by saying aye.

2                   MR. ROGAN:   Aye.

3                   MR. LOSCOMBE:  Aye.

4                   MR. JOYCE:    Aye.

5                   MS. EVANS:    Aye.  Opposed?  The ayes  
6                   have it and so moved.  And perhaps we could  
7                   take a look into the forthcoming week at  
8                   whether there can be an amendment placing a  
9                   timeline on what needs to be paid after  
10                  purchase.  I know Mrs. Schumacher had  
11                  mentioned this during citizens'  
12                  participation that a number of the  
13                  properties that purportedly had been sold I  
14                  guess either didn't file a title or deed and  
15                  had delinquent taxes.  So, you know, maybe  
16                  you can take a look into that and see if  
17                  there is anything that can be added.

18                  MR. HUGHES:  It's been a long time  
19                  since I did one of these, but I believe this  
20                  is a purchase under what's commonly known as  
21                  the Pittsburgh Plan and that after this is  
22                  approved then it's advertised and it's  
23                  presented to the Court, there is a hearing  
24                  date that's advertised, anyone can come in  
25                  and then bid on this property and it goes to

1 the highest bidder.

2 And, as I said, it's been years  
3 since I have done anything like this,  
4 probably decades, but anyway, I think that  
5 that might be in the Court order if they  
6 don't come up with the money within 30 days  
7 or whatever it is that it's null and void  
8 and it could be put back out to bid. We'll  
9 have to check on that, but, you know,  
10 usually, there is a time limit once the  
11 Court issues its order approving the sale  
12 either to the original bidder or to anyone  
13 who comes in and bids that the money has to  
14 be paid in a certain period of time.

15 MS. EVANS: I see. And while you  
16 able to take a look at the Pittsburgh Plan,  
17 I know you had mentioned to me a very good  
18 idea that you had concerning these vacant  
19 properties and, you know, keep that in mind  
20 as you are looking through if that could be  
21 become a real possibility for the city to  
22 pursue.

23 MR. HUGHES: I'll give that to my  
24 twin brother who works 24 hours a day in the  
25 office. I'll take care of that. No

1                   problem.

2                   MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3                   MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. NO  
4 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

5                   MS. EVANS: If no one has any  
6 further business, I'll entertain a motion to  
7 adjourn.

8                   MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

9                   MS. EVANS: This meeting is  
10 adjourned.

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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.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER