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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, October 17, 2013

LOCATION:

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and moment of reflection  
2 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 (Not present.)

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 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
17 SCRANTON HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD SEPTEMBER 9,  
18 2013.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. SCRANTON MUNICIPAL  
22 RECREATION AUTHORITY'S 2012 ANNUAL REPORT  
23 RECEIVED OCTOBER 13, 2013.

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

1 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
2 REPORT HEARING DATE HELD SEPTEMBER 25, 2013.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. AUDIT STATUS REPORT  
6 FROM ROBERT ROSSI & CO RECEIVED OCTOBER 11,  
7 2013.

8 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
9 If not, received and filed.

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

13 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
14 If not, received and filed.

15 Do we have any Clerk's notes, Mrs.  
16 Krake?

17 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any  
19 council members have announcements at this  
20 time?

21 MR. ROGAN: I have a few. The first  
22 one is you are invited to help those who  
23 served us. Please join the volunteers of  
24 Catholic Social Services, St. Francis of  
25 Assisi Kitchen, Scranton Chapter of UNICO,

1 National LaFesta Italiano of Lackawanna  
2 County as they gather for a great night of  
3 entertainment to raise funds for the  
4 homeless veteran's project, it's currently  
5 in the works in Scranton. This event would  
6 be \$35 per person on Saturday, November 9,  
7 at Genetti Manor in Dickson City and the  
8 feature entertainment will be the Poets, and  
9 again, that's for homeless veterans.

10 Two other announcements. Second,  
11 the Dante Literary Society will be having  
12 their Fall dinner on October 6 from 4:30 at  
13 night to 7:00 at night at the Dante Club  
14 located at 1916 Prospect. The pasta dinners  
15 are \$11 and takeouts are also available and.

16 And finally, on Sunday, October 27,  
17 from 3 to 6 p.m. the South Scranton  
18 Neighborhood Watch is having a safe  
19 Halloween event. It's at Connors Park, 500  
20 Orchard Street and it's for kids, free  
21 Halloween bash and costume parade and there  
22 is information on this on Facebook as well,  
23 which is where it was sent to me. And  
24 that's it all.

25 MS. EVANS: Anyone else? St.

1 Joseph's Malachite Catholic Church located  
2 at 130 North St. Francis Cabrini Avenue in  
3 West Scranton will hold it's annual  
4 spaghetti dinner fundraiser this coming  
5 Wednesday, October 23 from 5 p.m. to until  
6 8:00 p.m. Takeout dinners will be available  
7 beginning at 4 p.m. Each dinner consists of  
8 salad, bread, spaghetti, meatballs, dessert  
9 and coffee. Adult tickets are \$8.50 each.  
10 Tickets for children age ten and younger are  
11 \$4 each. Tickets may be purchased at the  
12 door.

13 Also, Johnson College will be  
14 holding a neighborhood meeting on Wednesday,  
15 October 23, 2013, at 10 a.m. in Richmond  
16 Hall, classroom 200. It is a meeting among  
17 the school, the City of Scranton, the  
18 Scranton Sewer Authority, and the residents  
19 of the streets affected in that area by  
20 water runoff. And that's it.

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

23 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this  
24 evening is Doug Miller.

25 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

1 Doug Miller, Scranton.

2 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

3 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to begin  
4 this evening on some of the comments last  
5 week, we had a lot of discussion on PEL's  
6 letter, and obviously, we are well aware  
7 that the city is going to, quite frankly,  
8 fall short of some of the revenue  
9 enhancements that were part of the recovery  
10 plan and obviously implemented in the 2013  
11 operating budget. Unfortunately, some of  
12 those such as PILOTS and some of the other  
13 revenue enhancements that were included we  
14 understand we will fall short and our  
15 hopeful that moving forward and we can be  
16 more successful in those areas.

17 However, you know, I do have to take  
18 issue with, you know, and I don't mean this  
19 in a disrespectful way, but I do have to  
20 take issue with a lot of the statements made  
21 by Councilman Rogan last week and, you know,  
22 when I sat back and listened to, you know,  
23 this idea of kind of, like, you know, ha,  
24 ha, I told you so, you know, I was somewhat  
25 insulted by that, and I sort of had some

1 sympathy for his colleagues on council  
2 because I know a lot of the hard work and  
3 the research that you put into a lot of  
4 these ideas, and at the time if you paid  
5 attention even discussing some of these  
6 revenue enhancements last summer we knew  
7 that some of these were gambles, but when  
8 you are a city on life support and you face  
9 the decision of whether or not to pull the  
10 plug and basically give up and file for  
11 bankruptcy or take some chances, you take  
12 some chances.

13 The position that this city  
14 currently is in, as I have said, no idea at  
15 this time is bad idea. The city has a lot  
16 of obligations and so at certain times you  
17 have to take a risk. And so I think at  
18 somewhat insulting and it discredits the  
19 time and effort that Mrs. Evans and  
20 Mr. Joyce and Mr. Loscombe put into this  
21 process. And, you know, this, you know, I  
22 told you so that's why I voted against the  
23 recovery plan and I voted against the  
24 budget, again, taking me back to if there  
25 were certain portions of that plan that you



1           didn't support or you didn't feel were  
2           necessary or in the best interest of the  
3           city that's when I believe, you know,  
4           leadership takes a place and you step up to  
5           a leadership role and you offer  
6           alternatives, and that never happened, and  
7           so I think it's quite hypocritical to make  
8           those statements and it's unfair to make  
9           those statements.

10                        I can only hope that moving forward  
11           we sort of have an attitude adjustment and  
12           we move away from the, you know, ha, ha, I  
13           told you so and that's why I went against  
14           it. That is not what leadership is about.  
15           Leadership is about ideas, vision,  
16           creativity, and when you are in the city's  
17           position it's about taking chances. And  
18           again, you took some chances, unfortunately,  
19           some things didn't come through all the way,  
20           but a lot of good things have happened and  
21           we can only hope that we continue to pursue  
22           the things that we went after and hope that  
23           we do realize those things and hopefully  
24           with the new administration coming in,  
25           whoever that is, that there will be so more

1 cooperation and more dialogue and  
2 willingness to, you know, follow through on  
3 some of the things that council puts into  
4 place. But, again, I don't think there is a  
5 need for that.

6           Onto the garbage fee issue,  
7 obviously by now everyone is well aware of  
8 the fact that on Monday there was I believe  
9 15 pages or so in the Scranton Times of  
10 delinquent individuals who have yet to pay  
11 the \$178 garbage fee, and I know there is a  
12 lot of mixed feelings on this issue and, you  
13 know, we had some discussion on that last  
14 week and, you know, my feelings on it are  
15 that I certainly feel the taxpayers  
16 obviously have an obligation to fulfill  
17 paying the taxes and fees, but at the same  
18 time I think that I kind of hold the city's  
19 feet to the fire more than I do the taxpayer  
20 because at the end of the day the city has  
21 an obligation to ensure that these fees are  
22 being collected. And to let nearly \$7.8  
23 million go uncollected I think is  
24 inexcusable and it says a lot about the  
25 ongoing mismanage of the city by this

1 administration, and now that the city is in  
2 a pinch for cash now we are running around  
3 and publishing names in the paper, you know,  
4 running around doing whatever we can to  
5 collect this money whereas if we did right  
6 in the first place we wouldn't be in a  
7 situation.

8 You know, it all goes back to doing  
9 a right the first time and that seems to be  
10 the history of this administration when, you  
11 know, when we look back on it just the  
12 mismanagement and letting things go and, you  
13 know, I do think moving forward we do need  
14 to take a look at a more efficient plan.  
15 Going back to Mr. Rogan, him and I don't see  
16 eye to eye on a lot of it, but I do have to  
17 agree with the last week that perhaps, you  
18 know, the idea of maybe looking at a per bag  
19 collection maybe something to look at as  
20 long as -- and I want it make it clear, as  
21 long as it does not, you know, involve a  
22 privatization, that is something I did not  
23 support, b ut I do think that utilizing the  
24 DPW and the staff and our assets we have  
25 that maybe this is something we can look at.

1 I have discussed it with an elected official  
2 who actually serves on the Old Forge Borough  
3 Council who informed me this is what they  
4 do, this is their procedure, it's a \$2  
5 sticker that is put on each bag each week,  
6 and again, you alleviate having the burden  
7 put on a lot of seniors and those who may  
8 not have as much put out each week so it's  
9 definitely something that I think we should  
10 look at as long as it doesn't mean that we  
11 have to, you know, look at privatization  
12 because I do in the support that. I think  
13 we can utilize the assets we have and maybe  
14 take a look at something along this avenue  
15 and avoid having to go back from years and  
16 years and trying to collect fees that should  
17 have been collected at that point in time.  
18 Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I just  
20 wanted to add briefly to the comments made  
21 by Mr. Rogan regarding the delinquent  
22 garbage fee collections. I absolutely agree  
23 that this is something that should have  
24 occurred years ago. I believe the years  
25 that are being currently collected are 2002

1 through 2012. Previously, the city employed  
2 NCC as its collection agency and apparently  
3 they did not do a very good job and as a  
4 result we were able to successfully replace  
5 them with Northeast Revenue Service, and at  
6 the time I know Solicitor Hughes and Mrs.  
7 Krake and myself and Councilman Joyce  
8 negotiated a contract with them and we have  
9 found them to be very transparent, highly  
10 accountable, and very successful in bringing  
11 in much needed revenue to the city.

12 And like Mr. Miller said, that's the  
13 time of type of company that should have  
14 been on board many years ago, not just since  
15 this council came on board and held the  
16 mayor's feet to the fire to get someone who  
17 can do the job. It really should you have  
18 been done long, long, long before that.

19 Our next speaker is Gerard Hetman.

20 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.

21 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

22 MR. HETMAN: Gerard Hetman from  
23 Lackawanna County Community Relations  
24 Department. To begin this evening, as many  
25 of you may be aware the Lackawanna County

1           Commissioners earlier this week released  
2           would their tentative 2014 general fund  
3           operating budget for public review. I would  
4           like to share a couple of informational  
5           items and budget highlights from our 2014  
6           budget with council this evening.

7                        To begin, in 2014 the Lackawanna  
8           County administration will continue to  
9           follow a conservative fiscal policy which  
10          includes demonstrated fiscal responsibility,  
11          restrains and management, while facing the  
12          county's financial challenges. Some  
13          important features of the budget as are as  
14          follows:

15                       First, in 2014 the general fund  
16          budget includes no tax increases. And  
17          again, just to repeat that to be clear, the  
18          tentative 2014 Lackawanna County general  
19          fund budget includes no tax increases.

20                       Second, the factors that impact the  
21          2014 budget include an additional federal  
22          and state staffing mandates at the county  
23          prison and the continuing challenge of  
24          continuing personnel costs.

25                       Third, the county is renewing its

1           commitment to economic development in the  
2           2014 budget. Beginning in 2013, the county  
3           introduced programs, such as the SPA loan  
4           fee waiver program, the community  
5           reinvestment grant program, the biosciences  
6           initiative, and the construction permit fee  
7           waiver program, all of which were intended  
8           to encourage the creation of the private  
9           sector and family sustaining jobs while  
10          stimulating economic growth in Lackawanna  
11          County. The 2014 budget renews funding for  
12          these programs.

13                         Fifth, the 2014 budget also provided  
14          resources for potential annual surveillance  
15          fee imposed by a bond insurer. In 2005, as  
16          a condition of past borrowings, the  
17          surveillance fee was implemented by a bond  
18          insurance company in the event of a lapse in  
19          the commons investment grade rating. This  
20          fee will be assessed until we are able to  
21          restore our investment grade rating.

22                         By completing it's 2011 and 2012  
23          financial audits in a timely fashion under  
24          the terms of it's bond indentures, the  
25          county has generated a modest operating

1 surplus during 2012 and an accumulated fund  
2 balance as of December 31, 2012. The county  
3 anticipated another modest surplus during  
4 2013 and 2014. This is a viewed positively  
5 in the eyes of grading agencies.

6 However, the estimate for 2014 is  
7 not guaranteed because of money spent in  
8 expenses that may arise during the upcoming  
9 budget cycle.

10 Moving forward in the budget  
11 process, the Lackawanna County Commissioners  
12 have scheduled a series of hearings on the  
13 proposed 2014 budget to allow county  
14 residents to ask questions and provide input  
15 to the county commissioners and our budget  
16 staff in the upcoming days. There are four  
17 hearings with the dates and times and  
18 locations as follows:

19 Friday, October 18, 1 p.m. a the  
20 Commissioner's Conference Room on the sixth  
21 floor of the county administration building,  
22 200 Adams Avenue, in Scranton; Friday,  
23 October 18, 3 p.m. at the Archbald Borough  
24 Building, 400 Church Street in Archbald, and  
25 the second two are on Tuesdays, October 22,



1 4:30 p.m. at the Dunmore Community Center on  
2 Monroe Avenue in Dunmore; and lastly,  
3 Tuesday, October 22, 7:00 p.m. at the  
4 Greenfield Township Municipal building, 424  
5 State Route 106 in Greenfield Township. All  
6 county residents are welcome and encouraged  
7 to attend the hearings and give their input  
8 to the county commissioners on the budget  
9 process.

10 And there two other items that we  
11 have for different departments. First, the  
12 Lackawanna County Voter Registration Office  
13 is still seeking poll workers for a number  
14 of polling locations in the upcoming  
15 municipal election, including several that  
16 are located within the City of Scranton.  
17 Anyone interested in working the polls can  
18 contact Beth Hopkins at Voter Registration  
19 Office at 570-963-6737.

20 And lastly, the Scranton Police  
21 Department, along with the Pennsylvania  
22 State Police Troop R Dunmore, will  
23 participate in the national Take Back  
24 Initiative for prescription/non-prescription  
25 drugs. The event is next Saturday, October

1           26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on both of those  
2           locations, the Scranton Police Headquarters  
3           on South Washington, as well as the  
4           Pennsylvania State Police barracks in  
5           Dunmore. Anyone can drop off any  
6           prescription or nonprescription  
7           pharmaceuticals that they may have laying  
8           around their house. There is no cost, no  
9           questions will be asked, and it's a good  
10          chance for anyone in the city or the area to  
11          dispose of those in a safe and  
12          environmentally friendly manner. And that's  
13          all we have this evening, ladies and  
14          gentlemen, thank you, as always.

15                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

16                   MR. ROGAN: Mr. Hetman?

17                   MR. HETMAN: Yes, sir.

18                   MR. ROGAN: Before you leave, last  
19          year, and as been stated by numerous people  
20          there is no question that taxes in the City  
21          of Scranton are going to increase next year,  
22          last year when the taxes in the city were  
23          increased city council requested that the  
24          county commissioners extend the discount  
25          period for residents of the entire county,

1 and specifically of Scranton.

2 MR. HETMAN: Yes.

3 MR. ROGAN: Would you be able, with  
4 my colleagues' agreement, I know we all did  
5 last year, would you be able to relay that  
6 message to the commissioners from council  
7 again, because if the county is running a  
8 surplus they certainly shouldn't be too much  
9 of a burden for them to extend the discount  
10 period a small amount to make it easier for  
11 the residents of the Scranton.

12 MR. HETMAN: We'll be happy to  
13 forward your request to the commissioners,  
14 yes.

15 MR. ROGAN: Thank you very much.

16 MR. HETMAN: No problem. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I just  
18 wanted to add that, you know, it is a  
19 tremendous and welcome announcement that the  
20 county will not be levying a tax increase  
21 this year, particularly since it has levied  
22 tax increases last year and the year prior  
23 to that. I think last year might have been  
24 minimal, 4 or 5 percent, and the previous  
25 year--

1 MR. ROGAN: 48 percent.

2 MS. EVANS: 48 percent, so --

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: 42.

4 MR. ROGAN: It was high.

5 MS. EVANS: It was very high and so,  
6 you know, with the additional 4 or 5 it's  
7 pushing a 50 percent tax increase. So, you  
8 know, the fact that there is none this year  
9 is certainly appreciated, but I think it's  
10 also important to note that the  
11 commissioners also turned away from pursuing  
12 payments in lieu of taxes from large  
13 nonprofits in a joint effort among the city,  
14 the school district and themselves. They  
15 also turned away from the development of a  
16 health care consortium among the city, the  
17 school district and the county.

18 So, you know, inasmuch as they are  
19 now seeing a surplus, I could venture a  
20 guess that had they been cooperative with  
21 the other two governing bodies of our  
22 community much more money could have been  
23 saved on their part, added to their surplus,  
24 and much money could have been saved and  
25 brought in for the City of Scranton which

1 remains distressed over 20 years now. So in  
2 the future I hope that if the commissioners  
3 remain in office they would reconsider their  
4 previous actions and move forward  
5 intergovernmentally with the other local  
6 bodies for the best interest of all the  
7 taxpayers.

8 Is there anyone else? That  
9 concludes our sign-in sheet.

10 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave  
11 Dobrzyn.

12 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

13 MR. DOBRZYN: Resident of the  
14 Scranton. Taxes paid. Okay, once again I'd  
15 like to mention that in early November it's  
16 time to vote. Inform yourself as to who is  
17 the best candidate and get out there and  
18 vote, and I'd also like to note that many of  
19 the schools in the area, students by a  
20 Supreme Court decision are allowed to vote  
21 within Scranton if they reside here during  
22 the school year.

23 And a few weeks ago before the  
24 hoopla down in Washington there was a big  
25 thing about taxes and tax exempts and that

1 certain political parties, minor political  
2 agendas of their own were given a positive  
3 review as a nonprofit by the government, by  
4 the IRS, and they are complaining about it  
5 where a 1958 or 1959 law states that they  
6 have to be exclusively public welfare. They  
7 cannot be politically involved. Now, the  
8 IRS turned around and said primarily.

9 The law sales exclusively, the IRS  
10 regulations said primarily, so it opened up  
11 the door for all of these political groups  
12 to start using most of their money for  
13 political activities, and the very wealthy  
14 people that are donating and threw in  
15 million of dollars a year are actually  
16 getting a tax break for it, just as if they  
17 had given to a hospital or a church or  
18 something like that. So it's time to get  
19 out and vote people and it's time to do a  
20 little reading and inform yourself as to  
21 what's really going on.

22 On the trash fees, I'd like to once  
23 again we need better collection attempts and  
24 I proposed to a candidate for tax collector  
25 if they would be willing to use the tax

1 office, the Single Tax Office for collecting  
2 trash and I think that's a pretty good idea.  
3 We have a total lack of the coordination on  
4 this tax or fee collection and it's really  
5 out of line. I also read that some people  
6 have shown up with cancelled checks, too, so  
7 they might even be in the paper  
8 unjustifiably.

9 And as far as a per bag fee, I'd  
10 like to note that we should go with cans  
11 instead of bags because they get torn up and  
12 ripped apart by cats and skunks and  
13 whatever, and one of the problems with the  
14 per bag fee if it's not taken, if it's not  
15 taken people start to push it onto their  
16 neighbor's lawns. I've had that happen in a  
17 per bag community, it was privatized trash,  
18 but the mayor and policeman was actually  
19 over to my side of the house in a double  
20 house that I rented and the lady upstairs  
21 told them that it was our trash, so I'm very  
22 apprehensive about it not being taken  
23 because I don't need it on my lawn and then,  
24 you know, whose responsibility is it from  
25 there? Mine. I don't want to pay for

1           somebody else's. I have had a couple of  
2           tires and so forth that I threw away or paid  
3           to have much rather at tire shops and they  
4           don't really want to take them.

5                         And also, I'd like to note on  
6           recycling, we are doing a very poor job, I  
7           see a lot of cardboard, I see cans, aluminum  
8           cans, bottles, plastic bottles, glass  
9           bottles have very little value, by the way,  
10          but the aluminum and steel cans and  
11          cardboard and all of that, we just got a  
12          mailing from the county, I think I gave you  
13          a copy a couple of months ago, and it noted  
14          a whole bunch of the other things that they  
15          were adding to the recycling. In years back  
16          we had a recycling officer and apparently  
17          the job was never done. He was supposed to  
18          be patrolling for recycling way back, it  
19          might have been back when you were running,  
20          but somebody from the DPW was actually  
21          supposed to be going through the courts and  
22          checking to see if it was recycling and  
23          issuing citations.

24                         Now, as far as the citations I'd  
25          like to mention that I think it's like a



1 couple of hundred dollars so that's way  
2 overboard and we should make it like \$25 or  
3 something, hit somebody with a small fine  
4 and maybe it will wise them up before they  
5 get hit really, because I'm not sure  
6 somebody once said it's like a \$300 fine, so  
7 that's a lot of money.

8 Golden parrot once again goes to  
9 USIS, I'll make this quick, they privatized  
10 background checks for the federal government  
11 and they passed people that eventually  
12 became murders because they were hearing  
13 voices and so forth, that's what we get.  
14 How making it a little cheaper to pass the  
15 defects along with it. Thank you and have a  
16 good night, and don't forget to bawk, bawk,  
17 bawk.

18 (Whereupon while Mr. Dobrzyn was  
19 speaking, Councilman Joyce joins the  
20 meeting.)

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Let the  
22 record show that Councilman Joyce has joined  
23 the meeting.

24 MR. JOYCE: I just wanted to say  
25 something before the next speaker, I

1 apologize for being tardy to tonight's  
2 meeting. I would have been here at 6:00  
3 otherwise. I received a phone call from  
4 Mike Judge of CaseCon discussing potential  
5 borrowing for the Supreme Court award along  
6 with other issues and the call went much  
7 longer than expected, and I'll actually  
8 elaborate more during motions, but I just  
9 wanted everyone to know that that's the  
10 reason why I am here late tonight.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Morgan?

12 MR. MORGAN: Yes. The first thing  
13 I'd like to say here tonight is that, you  
14 know, I'd like to thank all of the people  
15 who come here continually regardless of what  
16 kind of shape the city is in, and I'd also  
17 like to say that I appreciate people who put  
18 their name on the ballot whether we agree  
19 with what they do or not because they show a  
20 real genuine concern for our city, even  
21 though we may not always agree with  
22 everything that's done here.

23 But, you know, the first thing I  
24 have here tonight is, you know, the recovery  
25 plan, the budget, it's not a shot at

1 anybody, the Court knew that it wasn't  
2 realistic. In my opinion, I think most  
3 people knew it wasn't receipt realistic and  
4 I think most people knew we were going to  
5 fall short, and I think a major problem the  
6 city is it having is I think the  
7 Pennsylvania Economy League has proven that  
8 it can't steer this ship and as long as we  
9 keep following them we are not going  
10 anywhere because there is lot of other  
11 communities in the same shape we are in, so  
12 I'd like to see something really change here  
13 and I think the city should take a gamble  
14 and sever it's relationship with the PEL  
15 because what is the state going to do,  
16 sanction us? Can it really get much worse?  
17 I mean, think about it.

18 And the other thing is for the state  
19 to come here and sanction us when they used  
20 us for a guinea pig for Act 47 in regard to  
21 our city employees, I mean, I haven't seen  
22 good stewardship from them either because  
23 they should have been trying to protect the  
24 city and instead they threw us in -- the  
25 they threw is like a pack of the wolves.

1           So, I mean, when you see where the city is  
2           we don't only have one problem, we have  
3           multiple problems, and in order to be  
4           determine what our problems really are we  
5           need to get everybody's hands out of our pie  
6           and we need to figure out what ingredients  
7           we need in this pie to right ourselves,  
8           because everybody makes recommendations to  
9           us and if they are the wrong recommendations  
10          and we take them and pee proceed to use them  
11          and they are wrong we hurt ourselves.

12                        And from what I have seen over the  
13          decades I have come here I really don't have  
14          much faith in Harrisburg and the things they  
15          are telling us to do. And, look it, it's  
16          not as if we don't mistakes here, because we  
17          do, but we are Scrantonians and I think we  
18          should have more of a say about what's going  
19          on in our city than politicians in  
20          Harrisburg.

21                        And don't get me wrong, there is no  
22          disrespect for people who run for office,  
23          but I just think that when people from  
24          Scranton run for an office, they run for an  
25          office because hopefully love the community

1 or concern for community, but when we have  
2 people from outside in Harrisburg and other  
3 places telling us what we should do, is that  
4 politics or is that concern for our  
5 community? And if this is the concern they  
6 have shown our community then we are in bad  
7 shape and if we are going to proceed again  
8 and take recommendations from PEL I don't  
9 see why we do it because this with the PEL  
10 basically, this was their plan, that is what  
11 they thought we should do. They had their  
12 own projections. Everything came out. They  
13 spoke in Court, they gave their position.

14 And, look it, I'm not saying that  
15 the city administration and council don't  
16 have a part to have played in that, but the  
17 problem is that, you know, everything is,  
18 well, if we don't do what we want you to do  
19 there is going to be repercussions. Well,  
20 how much many more repercussions can we  
21 have?

22 I mean, the Bon-Ton is getting ready  
23 to roll over and leave. The mall is in  
24 trouble, the community is in troubled, the  
25 neighborhoods are in trouble. I mean, we

1 can't -- I appreciate the gentleman that  
2 comes here from the county today talking  
3 about no tax increases, and they have had  
4 tax increases before, but when we look at  
5 where our city is we only have pain in front  
6 of ourselves and no solutions, and to go  
7 into court with another failed plan, and  
8 this isn't a shot at the mayor, his recovery  
9 plan when he first took office wasn't  
10 realized, stood here and said that, and some  
11 people in the community thought it was  
12 silliness, but in reality all of this time  
13 and the mayor is probably a fine gentleman,  
14 but the truth of the matter is it wasn't a  
15 plan and it didn't lead to recovery.

16 We just need to really step back,  
17 tell Harrisburg to stay in Harrisburg, we  
18 need to tell the PEL to go back home. We  
19 need to come up with a plan and, Mr. Rogan,  
20 to be honest with you, look it, I still  
21 think that you should be the Finance Chair.  
22 I still think that. I mean, and that isn't  
23 a shot at you, I just think that you have  
24 been on council a long time and I think you  
25 have something to contribute. You can't

1 make everybody happy about everything, but  
2 you are the person that's going to inherit  
3 the city. I mean, Mr. McGoff has got two  
4 years, Mr. Loscombe has got two years, and  
5 you are going to be here for four and you  
6 have been here through these things and,  
7 look it, I'm not going to condemn anybody  
8 because I don't know what took place behind  
9 the scenes when everything was being put  
10 together but, you know, what I have think  
11 have you something to contribute and I think  
12 you can show that. Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
14 anyone else?

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
16 Council. Marie Schumacher, citizen and  
17 taxpayer.

18 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: First off, I would  
20 like to thank Mrs. Evans for the information  
21 that was provided regarding the parking  
22 meters, I do have a few questions that I'll  
23 follow-up with after I have had a little bit  
24 of time.

25 And next, I would like to make an

1 announcement that there will be the League  
2 of Women Voters will be holding two debates  
3 next week. Tuesday, October 22, at 7:00  
4 p.m. there will be a debate of the two  
5 candidates for Scranton city mayor,  
6 Democratic Bill Courtright and Republican  
7 Jim Mulligan. It will be held in the Loyola  
8 Science Center, Room 133, at the University  
9 of Scranton, 1204 Monroe Avenue.

10 And the second debate will be the  
11 candidates for the Scranton School Board,  
12 Thursday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m. and that  
13 will be in the Moszkowicz Theatre on the  
14 fourth floor of the DeNaples Center and I  
15 urge everybody to come.

16 A quick question I guess for  
17 Mr. McGoff and Mr. Loscombe, are all of our  
18 city-owned vehicles equipped with GPS  
19 tracking? The DPW and the --

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: I don't believe so.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- public safety?

22 MR. MCGOFF: I have no idea.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: No? Could you  
24 inquire? Thank you. Mr. Rogan, and I  
25 guess -- I'm sorry, Mr. Joyce.



1 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Last week you  
3 talked about the \$5 million savings for  
4 refinancing the debt.

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: \$5 million savings  
7 from what?

8 MR. JOYCE: Basically what would  
9 happen in a scoop out refinance if it were  
10 to happen is some of the debt service  
11 payments would be abated for 2014.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: So there is no  
13 savings, it's just not payment in one year.

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Some people may  
15 call it kicking the can down the road a  
16 little bit further, that may be a term that  
17 some people use to describe it.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah. Well, not in  
19 favor of that that's for sure. Back to  
20 Mr. Loscombe, I have some more questions  
21 with respect to the award. Number one, how  
22 many people in the city, or maybe Mr. Joyce  
23 could answer this, how many of the city  
24 employees have a pension of 70 percent of  
25 their final pay?

1                   MR. JOYCE: I don't know the answer  
2 to that off the top of my head. As far as  
3 who is receiving what, we could definitely  
4 ask that question and try to obtain the  
5 answer.

6                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I would  
7 appreciate that. And, Mr. Loscombe, you  
8 were correct that -- and I guess it's  
9 upsetting either way, but the article that I  
10 referred to was from the October 2 of this  
11 year pension and prices article in the  
12 Scranton Times-Tribune, and I would like to  
13 know how many -- it says retirees will  
14 receive the pension -- will receive a  
15 portion of the Supreme Court award, are  
16 those retirees retired during the period of  
17 2002 through the award or is that all  
18 retirees.

19                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, it's a  
20 combination. It's a combination of those  
21 who retired under the agreement that they  
22 would receive any increase in retirement  
23 benefits, which does apply to all  
24 firefighters. That was stopped at a certain  
25 time, and it would apply to any firefighter

1                   that retired in that time period that the  
2                   awards were --

3                   MS. SCHUMACHER:  What years did  
4                   apply that any increase to active retirees  
5                   would also apply to the retired employees?

6                   MR. LOSCOMBE:  I'm sorry?

7                   MS. SCHUMACHER:  You said for a  
8                   period of time it was anybody -- any retiree  
9                   received an increase in the --

10                  MR. LOSCOMBE:  Retirees that retired  
11                  within certain years.

12                  MS. SCHUMACHER:  But what were those  
13                  years?

14                  MR. LOSCOMBE:  Oh, I don't have them  
15                  off the top of my head, but I believe, if  
16                  I'm not mistaken, I believe they ended some  
17                  time in the mid 80's, maybe '87.  Anyone  
18                  that came on after that did not -- did not  
19                  come under the old retirement plan where toe  
20                  would automatically get increases, like,  
21                  half of what the --

22                  MS. SCHUMACHER:  It's a portion --  
23                  that's what I was going to ask you next is  
24                  what is the portion that they receive?

25                  MR. LOSCOMBE:  The portion the

1 retiree would receive under that would be 50  
2 percent of an active firefighter. In other  
3 words, if an active firefighter received a 5  
4 percent increase, the retiree would receive  
5 2 1/2 percent.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, and how are  
7 we coming determining how many people are  
8 affected by this award and --

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: This is -- believe  
10 me, I'm still waiting for some information.  
11 It's not easy coming by all together, and  
12 the retirement aspect is a total different  
13 thing, that comes out of the pension, it  
14 doesn't come out of the active city pay,  
15 city budget, so --

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Who has the court  
17 award?

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: The legal Department.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Can I go down and  
20 read it myself.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: The Legal Department,  
22 the Law Department, and the Human Resources.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. And why  
24 are we now just finding out in October that  
25 there are two additional cases pending to

1           increase the maximum payout for the  
2           firefighters from 50 to 75 -- or to 70  
3           percent of their pay?

4                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, those are new  
5           cases, I believe. Those are something that  
6           were just proposed by the current  
7           firefighters as far as 70 percent.

8                   MS. SCHUMACHER: But when did that  
9           happen? We have never been told about that  
10          to the best of my knowledge. I mean, I  
11          don't think I've missed a lot of meetings.

12                   MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe it happened  
13          within the last two months or so when it was  
14          put in the newspaper.

15                   MS. SCHUMACHER: It's already in the  
16          Commonwealth Court so they must have been  
17          through the local court; right?

18                   MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe they -- I  
19          don't know how that worked.

20                   MS. SCHUMACHER: I mean, do you go  
21          directly -- I mean, I don't know.

22                   MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm not a legal mind,  
23          but I believe part of that recovery plan or  
24          part of the agreement there was some  
25          language in there, again, you know, you

1           would have to maybe seek to the city  
2           solicitor or the solicitor for the fire  
3           department on that, but it jumped to that  
4           aspect because of a prior award mentioned  
5           that when the city was trying to fight this  
6           whole thing.

7                        MS. SCHUMACHER:  Okay because, I  
8           mean, I didn't think you went directly to  
9           the Commonwealth Court, but, okay, I will be  
10          back next week, good Lord willing.  Thank  
11          you.

12                       MR. JOYCE:  Thank you.

13                       MS. EVANS:  Mrs. Krake, I'm hoping  
14          you might remember this particular  
15          circumstance.  As Mr. Schumacher was  
16          discussing pensions, back in 2002 I recall  
17          that quite a number of city employees were  
18          pushed out of their jobs -- well, prior to  
19          the retirement age or, you know, if they  
20          were close to it or whatever, but  
21          regardless, there were quite a number who  
22          left as soon as the new administration came  
23          in.  Can you recall what was given to those  
24          employees, former employees by this  
25          administration?

1 MS. KRAKE: I believe when people  
2 would have retired is what they had  
3 bargained for at the time. The reason for a  
4 lot of people leaving was because there was  
5 a big fight on everyone's hand, if you want  
6 to call it a conflict, of what was going to  
7 happen with this administration and the  
8 recovery plan, as Mr. Morgan referred to.  
9 So as it was explained to all of us if you  
10 could retire, you know, and knew what you  
11 were going to get as an employee having  
12 worked many, many years and that was a good  
13 option for you and that would be something  
14 that would be in your best interest. You  
15 don't know how this is going to play out  
16 after all of these years and that was pretty  
17 much the reason, I believe, that most people  
18 left for they would come in.

19 I know in the clerical union that I  
20 was president of they actually offered a  
21 double pension, which made at liability of  
22 the clerical pension soar. We had a very  
23 low liability unfunded liability and it  
24 practically quadrupled, quintupled by doing  
25 that and that was an incentive that they

1                   gave to people to leave which, of course, we  
2                   are all paying for now.

3                   MS. EVANS: That was what --

4                   MS. KRAKE: That was the money you  
5                   were thinking of?

6                   MS. EVANS: Yes, that the double  
7                   pension had been offered and so the number  
8                   of the people took advantage of that.

9                   MS. KRAKE: They had non-union  
10                  people piggy-back on that because it's  
11                  non-uniform pension and so on and so on and  
12                  that was not a very fiscally responsible  
13                  thing to do.

14                  MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15                  MR. LOSCOMBE: Just to clarify that  
16                  for Mrs. Schumacher, that didn't affect the  
17                  police and firefighters. That was strictly  
18                  on the clerical and non -- or the  
19                  non-uniform.

20                  MS. KRAKE: Right, and I do believe,  
21                  and this I'm so -- I'm going to apologize in  
22                  advance if I don't have this correct, it's  
23                  the Supreme Court award actually addressed  
24                  the pension the way it was written so now  
25                  it's remanded back to Commonwealth Court, if



1 I have that correct, I don't think they  
2 started over again, it's not like -- it's a  
3 different path because it's in the award and  
4 back --

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's in response to  
6 the 70 percent that she was discussing  
7 because it was in this award so that's what  
8 brought it back forward of.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.  
10 Is there anyone else who cares to  
11 address council?

12 MR. HULES: Good evening. Greg  
13 Hules, West Scranton resident and taxpayer.  
14 I come to the podium this evening to discuss  
15 some of the ways we can possibly get out of  
16 the current debacle that this city now finds  
17 itself in. I heard some solutions, some  
18 plausible, some not, and I always sit in the  
19 audience and listen to the many problems  
20 that this city does have, but I'm here to  
21 offer some solutions.

22 Last time I stood here at this  
23 podium was during the budget fight last  
24 year, and I offered some ideas that I  
25 thought the city needed to get done to get

1 the city back on track, and I'm glad to see  
2 that some of the suggestions I made, one of  
3 the things about the parking meters using  
4 debit cards was taken up and done.

5 At that time I stated that we cannot  
6 tax away the city out of this mess and that  
7 the city -- what this city needs is jobs and  
8 I know everyone is going to say of course it  
9 does, we all know this, but how do we get  
10 there? How do we invite businesses and give  
11 them incentive to want to move their  
12 business to Scranton? As we all know,  
13 businesses are moving out.

14 Well, I've come up with an idea to  
15 help solve this, maybe it's plausible, maybe  
16 it's not. I hope the first. We all know  
17 businesses needs incentive to move here to  
18 Scranton. Well, let's give them one. I  
19 would propose a plan that gives businesses a  
20 tax credit for every full-time employee they  
21 hire and I would offer -- give them like  
22 \$3,500 off the property tax, mercantile tax,  
23 or something that we can give them that can  
24 be negotiated between council and the  
25 business leaders in this city.

1                   Furthermore, I would give them  
2                   \$3,500 for every Scranton resident they hire  
3                   and a \$2,500 tax credit for anyone that they  
4                   hire outside of the city from Dunmore, Old  
5                   Forge, whatever have you. It's putting  
6                   people back to work, it's putting people in  
7                   work in the city, and we are going a wage  
8                   tax out of this. We are getting something.  
9                   It's a win-win for everybody and I think  
10                  that's what this city needs, a win-win.

11                  I'm sick and tired of hearing about  
12                  us losing all of the time. Let's win  
13                  something. The bridges are going to break,  
14                  you know, they get lower taxes, there are so  
15                  many businesses that I have talked to that  
16                  are paying outrageous property taxes, you  
17                  know, and we are getting an influx of wage  
18                  taxes and maybe they will move to Scranton.  
19                  As we all know, there is a lot of empty  
20                  buildings, a lot of empty homes in the city.  
21                  We do not need more taxes. We just need to  
22                  privatize and budget wisely.

23                  I don't agree with the 1 percent tax  
24                  on the University of Scranton students.  
25                  We've got to get real. We are basically

1           punishing students because we feel that the  
2           University isn't paying their fair share.  
3           That's the way I see it and while I somewhat  
4           agree that they don't, I think this is not  
5           the way to get money from the University.  
6           It's like a tax against the University and  
7           that hurts their students. It will just  
8           alienate further the University towards the  
9           city. Like it or not, it's state law that  
10          protects them as a nonprofit. You are going  
11          to have to go to Court to fight it and,  
12          frankly, we don't have the money or to fight  
13          it so why take, as Mr. Miller says, why take  
14          the risk. I call it a gamble. Well, we  
15          can't afford gambling, okay, we are broke.

16                        If I have my last \$100 and I'm going  
17          to the casino and I need to go to buy  
18          groceries or the casino, well, I'm not going  
19          to the casino and bet on red, you know, I'm  
20          not going to do that. I'm going to budget  
21          and buy groceries, budget wisely, use the  
22          money wisely. I look at it as an investor.  
23          I invest and I look at it from an investor's  
24          point of view. The investor in this case is  
25          the University of Scranton. We are asking

1           them to invest in the company, which is a  
2           city. We have a bad CEO as the mayor and a  
3           dysfunctional board of the directors, city  
4           council. Why would any investor in their  
5           right mind want to invest in a company that  
6           is run in the manner we have been running  
7           the city the last few years? But that's  
8           what we are asking the University of  
9           Scranton to do, invest in us. I wouldn't,  
10          as an investor, and I'm sure that's what  
11          they're thinking as well.

12                    And I talked to business leaders, I  
13           talked to people at the University, they  
14           want to invest, they want to invest in the  
15           city, but they want our fiscal house in  
16           order first and we have to give them  
17           credible ideas rather than overtaxing the  
18           people as the solution.

19                    Furthermore, to promote growth and  
20           to give incentive to new businesses to move  
21           here I know that people don't like the KOZ,  
22           but if we gave new businesses a KOZ zone for  
23           seven years but run properly I think this is  
24           a way to help and invite businesses into the  
25           city and here's how we do it. You give them

1 a KOZ for seven years. They have to pay --  
2 they have a seven-year break. If they don't  
3 own the land and deed to their property and  
4 the building they built, they pay all the  
5 back taxes for those seven years. They  
6 decide to move out of the city after their  
7 seven years, they are responsible for the  
8 demolition of that building they put there,  
9 because we all know selling a vacant  
10 building that's 30, 40,000 square feet is  
11 nearly impossible.

12 Thank you. I know I ran over my  
13 time this week. Thank you very much and I  
14 hope you would take these proposals  
15 seriously.

16 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

17 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Jackie.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

19 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Frankie. My back  
20 is killing me. My back went out. Well,  
21 this week, what did you think, Frank? West  
22 or Abington this week, what you did think,  
23 Frank? What did you think, Frankie?

24 MR. JOYCE: West Side is going to  
25 win.

1 MR. SLEDZENSKI: I'm going with  
2 Abington. I'm going Abington all the way,  
3 Frank, I have to. Okay, good luck Saturday,  
4 guys. Good luck. Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who  
6 cares to address council?

7 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

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

10 MR. MCGOFF: Actually, I'd just like  
11 to thank people for their well wishes during  
12 my recent infirmity, I'm feeling better, and  
13 again, thank you. And that's all.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes, two brief comments.  
18 The first one regarding the delinquent  
19 garbage fees that were posted in the paper,  
20 and I talked a little bit about changing how  
21 the city collects garbage fees last night,  
22 switching to a per bag fee, and I think the  
23 reason why you see so many people that  
24 aren't paying their garbage fee is because  
25 the one bill in this entire city if you

1 don't pay it you still get the service, and  
2 that's the garbage fee. These people who  
3 have been delinquent for five, ten years,  
4 their garbage has still been picked up every  
5 day, and I have had a lot of residents that  
6 have called me with different ideas on how  
7 to address that problem, one is going to the  
8 per bag fee, the other is having some sort  
9 of sticker that you place on your garbage  
10 cans and you can only use cans to show that  
11 you pay your fee. You know, just a small  
12 sticker, just like, you know, a lot of  
13 neighborhoods have when they have permit  
14 parking that you would put in your car and  
15 that would prove to the garbage collectors  
16 that you paid your fee and if you don't pay  
17 the fee your garbage shouldn't get picked  
18 up, and the per bag fee would accomplish  
19 that, some sort of sticker system could  
20 accomplish that as well.

21 And the other thing, and it was  
22 mentioned here from the podium as well, that  
23 these changes would encourage more recycling  
24 and recycling really is a win for the city  
25 because every can, bottle that is recycled



1           instead of put in a garbage can that's less  
2           tonnage that we have to pay at the landfill  
3           and not only is it good for the environment,  
4           that's the added bonus, but the savings that  
5           we have at the dump would be astronomical if  
6           everything that can be recycled in the city  
7           is.

8                         As was mentioned before, the county  
9           is and they should continue to expand the  
10          recycling program to accept more items if it  
11          can be done in an economical fashion. We  
12          see and there are entrepreneurs, I guess,  
13          scrap men that you see going through the  
14          neighborhood and grabbing different things  
15          that can be run to the scrap yard, and there  
16          is no reason that the county can't take  
17          those items as well because it's a profit  
18          actually you take and turn them.

19                        So I definitely think when you look  
20          at garbage fees in the city I think we need  
21          to start from scratch figuring out the exact  
22          cost of garbage collection and the disposal  
23          of the garbage, which would be the tipping  
24          fees at the dump, and you average that out  
25          to either do a fee based on how much it cost

1 per household or how much it costs per bag  
2 and everyone should pay their fair share on  
3 garbage collection. If people aren't paying  
4 for their garbage to be picked up, the  
5 garbage shouldn't be picked up and they  
6 should be cited by the city. The free ride  
7 for some of these individuals has to end.

8 And there was a good point raised by  
9 a couple of speakers, and I think Mrs. Evans  
10 chimed in on it as well, that it's not only  
11 the taxpayers' fault, there is some people  
12 that I know for a fact didn't receive these  
13 bills or people that bought houses that had  
14 back garbage fees when they purchased the  
15 house. The city needs to be more proactive  
16 in getting these payments and putting them  
17 in a paper to try and embarrass them or  
18 notify them to pay is a good first step, but  
19 we have to focus on the delinquencies to get  
20 the people more to pay and we need to reform  
21 the entire system so that it's made to be a  
22 fair and equitable situation for everyone in  
23 the City of Scranton.

24 Personally, I don't believe that a  
25 single widow who has maybe one bag of

1 garbage a week should pay the same fee as  
2 the family of 12 that may have 10 or 15 bags  
3 a week, so that's definitely something I  
4 think we should look at.

5 Refinancing was brought up, and I  
6 know I discussed this with Councilman McGoff  
7 last week and Mr. Joyce and a couple other  
8 speakers mentioned it before, I would  
9 support refinancing if it were to be at a  
10 lower rate and a lower cost over the entire  
11 portion of the refinance, but taking a  
12 one-year scoop out or whatever you want to  
13 call it where we would be paying less for  
14 one year and our rate would go up and we  
15 would be paying more overall, that's  
16 something that I would oppose, so depending  
17 on how that was structured whether I would  
18 support or oppose it. I find it very hard  
19 to believe and it would be great if we could  
20 that the city would could refinance any of  
21 our debt at a lower rate from what we are  
22 already paying.

23 Not only is the city's credit rating  
24 and creditworthiness been hurt in the media  
25 and in the banking community, but the

1 interest rates in general have increased. I  
2 purchased my home in December at a rate of  
3 3.25, it's now 4.25, so it increased a full  
4 percent in less than a year, and that's on a  
5 much lower level when you are talking  
6 residential loans so I think we can't be  
7 short sided regarding refinancing or any  
8 other items that can be proposed, but it's  
9 definitely a discussion that we need to have  
10 and if those proposals come in and they  
11 would save the city in the long run, that's  
12 definitely something that we should  
13 consider.

14 And I will comment on a couple of  
15 other items on the towing when they come up.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, I said I  
17 didn't have anything to say but just a  
18 response to the refuse collections and the  
19 fee, as far as, first of all, just  
20 because -- because somebody doesn't pay the  
21 garbage fee I wouldn't want -- if that were  
22 my neighbor I wouldn't want their garbage  
23 not picked up. You know, I don't think you  
24 can discontinue the service because someone  
25 doesn't pay the fee. That affects not only

1           them, but it affects an entire neighborhood.

2           The problem has been, obviously, the  
3           collection of the fee. If we are going to  
4           change anything it should be in the way in  
5           which the fee is collected and enforcement  
6           of it, whether it is through citations and  
7           all for not paying, but any change or any  
8           program or any idea that would in some way  
9           discontinue service to anyone I think would  
10          be a detriment to the entire community.

11          MR. ROGAN: Just to recall for a  
12          second, if you look at every single bill as  
13          an individual or as a city or if you ask  
14          anyone if you don't pay your bill you stop  
15          getting the service, but the garbage fee in  
16          the City of Scranton is the one thing that  
17          people have gone over decades without paying  
18          and still receive the service, and I do I  
19          agree that we can't just let our garbage  
20          pile up on the streets, that certainly can't  
21          happen, but if it gets to the point where  
22          somebody is refusing to pay and they  
23          continue to put garbage out they should be  
24          cited, if they don't respond to the citation  
25          the home should be condemned, and that could

1           be -- you know, could be the repercussions  
2           and if somebody is facing that as a penalty  
3           I think they would pay their garbage fee  
4           instead of letting it pile up.

5                        But there is a lot of different  
6           ideas and it's definitely a discussion I  
7           think we should all have as a group. That's  
8           all.

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

11                       MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, just briefly.  
12          Not to beat a dead horse, but this is on the  
13          garbage fees, also. A lot has been  
14          discussed here, a lot of ideas have been  
15          presented and all valid, that list came out,  
16          I think we are on the right path to finally  
17          pursuing the collections on the garbage  
18          fees. There have been some mistakes and  
19          there is really no one to blame. It's been  
20          a combination of different things. I have  
21          done some research myself. I was -- I have  
22          an inquiry about the fee that was paid for  
23          2009, and the first thing I want to say is  
24          you can go to the Treasurer's Office  
25          downstairs and there is representatives from

1 Northeast Revenue that collect -- that are  
2 collecting the prior year's -- prior year's  
3 garbage fees. Current year's garbage fees  
4 are directed right to the Treasury through  
5 your Treasurer's Office. Some of the  
6 mistakes I have seen have been the past due  
7 payments have been sent on the current  
8 address to the Treasurer's Office and placed  
9 in their account, so it's a matter of them  
10 taking a few weeks to have to get the debits  
11 and all of that straightened out, so that  
12 happened to be in this particular case I  
13 looked at they had the cancelled check and  
14 everything, but it was sent to the City  
15 Treasurer's account and deposited there and  
16 now Northeast Revenue has to wait to get it  
17 back and to credit this particular one, but  
18 it's in the process.

19 But, you know, the representatives  
20 from Northeast Revenue are down there, they  
21 didn't put the names in the paper, they  
22 didn't do this, all I ask is that if you go  
23 down there and you were wrongly put in the  
24 paper or even if you have any kind of an ill  
25 will don't take it out on the

1           representatives, they are just there to do  
2           their job and I found them very helpful,  
3           very courteous to everyone that's been  
4           there. They will bend over backwards to try  
5           and look up what the problem is.

6                        As was the case, several years ago  
7           there are some bad records out there and I  
8           think Mrs. Evans mentioned with the prior  
9           collector, so it was a tough job for  
10          Northeast Revenue to try and come up with  
11          the current list and I think they have done  
12          a good job.

13                       Several issues like Mr. Rogan  
14          stated, someone purchasing a home that may  
15          have garbage fees owed on it for years and  
16          not knowing about it until after they  
17          purchased it. Perhaps we could do like at  
18          Sewer Authority does and put a lien on it if  
19          there is garbage fee over a certain amount  
20          and if one is purchasing that house that  
21          lien shows up so that has to be taken out at  
22          closing, maybe we could look at something  
23          like that to alleviate those problems.

24                       And there has been situations in a  
25          few instances where homes have been



1 converted maybe and it was a double home  
2 where the parents lived on one side and that  
3 and the parents have then moved on or passed  
4 away and the individuals have converted it  
5 to a single home to raise their children and  
6 expand and they are still being listed as  
7 multiple dwellings and that. You know, with  
8 the proof the home has been converted to a  
9 single home to raise their children an  
10 expand and they are still being listed as  
11 multiple dwellings and that, and with proof  
12 the home has been converted with the meters,  
13 all of that stuff, utility bills, I believe  
14 Northeast Revenue will be willing to work  
15 with you on those aspects, also.

16 So there is a lot of resolutions  
17 here, but, you know, it is shocking to see  
18 the amount of money out there that's owed  
19 and for how long it's been, especially for  
20 some individuals I don't know how, you know,  
21 someone got away with it so long, but just  
22 bear with it and I hope we are on the right  
23 path now to, you know, keeping up-to-date  
24 with this stuff.

25 And I think in the past couple of

1 years you have seen our efforts to generate  
2 revenue by doing different things are  
3 finally starting to come to fruition. It's  
4 been an uphill battle and the city if they  
5 kept their eyes and ears open years ago I  
6 don't believe would have been in this bad of  
7 a position at this time, so we have all done  
8 our part to try and alleviate many of these  
9 problems so it doesn't fall on the back of  
10 the taxpayers because that's who it falls  
11 on. If we can't pay our bills because other  
12 people don't pay theirs that's what happens.

13 And, you know, just to go on off on  
14 a tangent, Mr. Hulse I believe it was  
15 mentioned about the University and stuff  
16 like that, I believe -- I look at it this  
17 way. If I was living in a home free of  
18 charge and I say I had a barber shop or  
19 whatever and the doors were falling off the  
20 barber shop it's not too appealing to bring  
21 customers in. If I was in that position  
22 that I was so embarrassed and tried to bring  
23 people in I would try to help the person  
24 that owned the property since I'm there tax  
25 free. That's the way I look at it. I know

1 people look at it differently. But, you  
2 know, at this point in time the city is  
3 hurting and we are hosting a lot of these  
4 nonprofits and we are not asking for a  
5 permanent commitment, we have asked  
6 legitimately for a temporary commitment and  
7 yet we haven't had a conversation come back  
8 from basically anybody, and that is all I'm  
9 saying. The doors are open, the windows are  
10 open, I'm happy to, and again, I have got  
11 family members that have been big  
12 contributors to the University. I have got  
13 family members that have been great -- have  
14 great jobs as students graduating from the  
15 University, but, you know, all we are asking  
16 for is a little bit of help, and not just  
17 the University, but I understand, and  
18 everyone has a different idea on that, but I  
19 just had to throw that out. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.  
21 Councilman Joyce, do you have any comments  
22 or motions tonight?

23 MR. JOYCE: I do. First I'll --  
24 well, I'm going to address a few things  
25 tonight. One, I'm going address the budget

1 a little bit; two, I'm going to address  
2 borrowing for the Supreme Court award and  
3 possible refinancing; and three, Mr. Rogan  
4 brought up a very good issue about trash  
5 fees in the city and I did want to add some  
6 comments to that.

7 First of all, the budget. I did  
8 call the mayor's office today and I tried to  
9 reach Mayor Doherty. I believe at the time  
10 I called he was a little tied up or he was  
11 out of the office, but I spoke to the  
12 secretary in the office and what I planned  
13 to do is meet with Mayor Doherty hopefully  
14 next week to discuss the budget more, maybe  
15 exchange ideas or reinforce ideas that have  
16 been provided by myself and see exactly  
17 where the administration is, so I was  
18 looking to have that meeting on a  
19 Wednesday -- well, I don't want to say,  
20 between the afternoon and evening hours,  
21 possibly like about 4:00, so that's pretty  
22 much where I will -- or I'll stop with that.

23 As far as borrowing for the Supreme  
24 Court award and the MMO this year and the  
25 possibility of refinancing debt, I did

1 receive a call from Mike Judge from CaseCon,  
2 and I spoke to him for quite some time this  
3 afternoon after work, and actually it drug  
4 out into a long conversation and actually  
5 made me a little tardy for tonight's  
6 meeting, but basically we have some lenders  
7 in the picture. Janney Montgomery Scott,  
8 obviously, is waiting to see the budget and  
9 what comes out. We have another lender that  
10 CaseCon is looking at that's sort of a  
11 little silent right now, and we have an  
12 another lender that is interested and they  
13 are in the phase of gathering information  
14 and evaluating information. Some of the  
15 information that they are gathering are  
16 explanations of things such as tax rates and  
17 etcetera, what might possibly be done in the  
18 future. They are looking at our cash flows.  
19 They are looking at our pension system.  
20 They are looking at the debt that we  
21 currently have in the city, so that's are  
22 all things that are being taken into  
23 consideration.

24 I know that Mr. Judge from CaseCon  
25 is working very diligently. I usually speak

1 to him about, oh, twice a week and sometimes  
2 I bother him for updates because this is  
3 something I want to see get completed sooner  
4 than later. Hopefully by the time I am off  
5 of council there will be at least something  
6 in place to pay the arbitration award that  
7 we owe as well as cover the borrowing for  
8 the MMO this year so it's not carried over  
9 into next year, and that's very important  
10 because that's another five plus million  
11 dollars.

12 Now, as far as refinancing, you  
13 know, obviously there is a possibility that  
14 we could refinance to the same interest  
15 rate, a lower interest rate, or a higher  
16 interest rate, there is only three choices.  
17 I am looking at a possibility of a scoop out  
18 refinance. Now, that would abate some of  
19 our debt service payments for 2014. If it's  
20 possible, it will be done. If it's not  
21 possible, if the lending community does not  
22 like Scranton's financial position and they  
23 feel that it's too weak then it won't be  
24 done, but if you don't favor refinancing or  
25 scoop out that leaves very little options to

1 explore as to how to replace that revenue or  
2 save that money or generate the excess \$5  
3 million in revenue, so the only option we  
4 have been provided that we know are legal or  
5 property tax increases or wage tax increases  
6 or refuse fee increases or fees or  
7 additional permit increases or you could  
8 increase the real estate transfer tax, all  
9 things that we don't want to do or we want  
10 to limit. So just saying if you don't favor  
11 that you if have to come up with \$5 million  
12 more.

13 And as far as garbage fees, I think  
14 Councilman Rogan brought forth a very  
15 interesting idea and we do have a problem in  
16 this city with the collection of refuse  
17 fees. It's very evident. When there is 15  
18 pages of non-taxpayers in the Scranton  
19 Times, it's very evident that there is  
20 definitely a major issue with collecting the  
21 fee.

22 Now, I have noticed, you know, I  
23 have been trying to look at what other  
24 communities are doing to see what could  
25 possibly be done in Scranton. Obviously,

1           there is the flat fee rate, which we  
2           currently have. There is the option of a  
3           per bag charge. There is the option of some  
4           communities actually sell garbage bags that  
5           residents purchase, which I'm not sure how  
6           you implement that in Scranton, but I think  
7           Mr. Rogan brought forth some very valid  
8           points and, you know, the thing I worry  
9           about is it too late to actually enact  
10          something like that because with the change  
11          of the system of how you are doing something  
12          comes the implementation of it. How do you  
13          actually do it, how did you change this  
14          system? How do we convert to a per bag fee?

15                   And I have seen another interesting  
16          thing would be to maybe require the garbage  
17          fee to be paid by a certain date and if it's  
18          not paid by a certain date -- or when you  
19          pay -- when you pay the garbage fee maybe  
20          the city issues a sticker that you place in  
21          your window to ensure that you have paid the  
22          fee and then if you don't pay the fee,  
23          obviously, you wouldn't get the sticker and  
24          then maybe a fine could be imposed.

25                   But it would be interesting, I would



1 encourage more discussion with Mr. Dougher  
2 from the Department of Public Works possibly  
3 and the business administrator from Mr.  
4 Rogan because I think it's a very -- it's a  
5 very valid idea. It's something that may be  
6 able to work.

7 While we are on the subject of trash  
8 fees, Northeast Revenue, who collects our  
9 delinquent trash fees, has sent us a report  
10 for the period ending September 30, so for  
11 the month of September Northeast Revenue  
12 collected \$54,239 in delinquent trash fees  
13 for the years of 1999 to 2012. Their fee  
14 for collection was \$8,561 and change so the  
15 city received \$48,516 from that.

16 And delinquent refuse fees that are  
17 more than one year past due, that Northeast  
18 Revenue as we know also collects, during the  
19 month of September to report they collected  
20 \$39,260.87 so I would like to commend  
21 Northeast Revenue for continuing to do an  
22 admirable job in collecting delinquent taxes  
23 and delinquent refuse fees and going after  
24 the non-payers. And that's all I have for  
25 tonight.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good  
2 evening. In response to city council's  
3 request for an evaluation of water runoff  
4 problems on Augusta Avenue, Lemon Street,  
5 Gaston Place and North Main Avenue, and for  
6 a meeting among the city engineers, Scranton  
7 Sewer Authority representatives, Johnson  
8 College representatives and homeowners,  
9 Johnson College provided the following  
10 letters which it asks that I read aloud.

11 "Dear Mrs. Krake and members of the  
12 Scranton City Council: Johnson College  
13 would be happy to meet to discuss the  
14 solution to the water issues occurring in  
15 our neighborhood. The college has been  
16 dealing with the same water issues on our  
17 property for many years. Our concern is  
18 just as strong as our neighbors in finding a  
19 solution to the storm water problem  
20 impacting our campus along with our  
21 neighbor's properties.

22 Johnson is dedicated to finding a  
23 reasonable solution to this issue. The  
24 college has hosted several meetings with our  
25 neighbors to try and remedy and/or alleviate

1           some of the problems. Here are the recent  
2           meetings that have occurred with residents  
3           of Augusta Avenue, Lemon Street and Gaston  
4           Place, as well as other meetings we have  
5           been part of in relation to the new building  
6           and the water issues.

7                        On June 2011 a pre-meeting with  
8           neighbors prior to beginning the  
9           construction on the new building in  
10          question, which is the Health Science  
11          Technology Center. The college's  
12          maintenance supervisor, Mr. Bill Kelly, was  
13          in attendance as well as Mr. Joseph Durkin,  
14          an engineer from Riley Associates.

15                       2011 and 2012 Mr. and Mrs. Doug  
16          Evans kept in contact with Ms. Leonard,  
17          senior vice-president of college  
18          advancement, and Mr. Kelly of the water  
19          issues. The college also heard from and  
20          worked with Mrs. Adele Snyder, another  
21          neighbor on the water issues.

22                       September 2012 a letter was sent to  
23          Mark Dougher, director of the City's DPW  
24          expressing concerns about the water. In  
25          September/October 2012 Mr. Dougher met with

1 Mr. Kelly from Johnson College.

2 Also in October 2012, the college  
3 organized another meeting with the neighbors  
4 to discuss the water issues. Mr. Dougher  
5 was invited to this meeting but  
6 unfortunately couldn't attend. Mr. Durkin  
7 was in attendance, however, to discuss the  
8 issue.

9 In November 2012, the college  
10 installed curbing for one of its neighbors,  
11 Mrs. Adele Synder, at 3227 North Main avenue  
12 to try to help in the management of the  
13 water that was affecting her property.

14 In the Summer of 2013, Mr. Kelly and  
15 Mrs. Leonard met with Mr. and Mrs. Evans  
16 again to further discuss the water issues,  
17 and in October 2013 the college worked with  
18 Mr. Evans to organize another meeting of the  
19 neighbors to discuss these same issues and  
20 at this meeting Mr. Kelly and Ms. Leonard  
21 explained their issues at play, reiterated  
22 how it was still impacting the colleges  
23 property, too, and offered to provide more  
24 curbing, which could help neighbors.

25 Everyone seemed to agree that the

1 the curbing was only a temporary solution  
2 and the neighbors declined the college's  
3 offer. It was agreed at this meeting that  
4 the next step would be to have another  
5 meeting and include someone from the city  
6 and Mr. Larry West from Senator Blake's  
7 Office and Mrs. Leonard was in the process  
8 of trying to schedule this meeting when she  
9 heard from Scranton City Council.

10 Johnson College will move forward  
11 with organizing the meeting between the  
12 Sewer Authority, the city engineer, and the  
13 affected residents."

14 They were in the process of getting  
15 dates from Mr. Pocius, the city engineer, so  
16 that a meeting could be scheduled as soon as  
17 possible and the college would be happy to  
18 report back the findings from the meeting to  
19 Scranton City Council.

20 They also enclosed a letter that was  
21 sent in 2012 to Mr. Dougher about this same  
22 issue.

23 "Dear Mr. Dougher, I would like to  
24 bring some information to your attention  
25 that I have become aware of since the

1 addition of Johnson College's newest  
2 building to it's campus, the Health Science  
3 Tech Center. The new building is located  
4 toward the rear of the campus close to Lemon  
5 Street and, therefore, we have been keeping  
6 in close contact with our neighbors in that  
7 area regarding all aspects of the project.

8 In conversations with a few of the  
9 neighbors, we discussed some water runoff  
10 issues that we think the City of Scranton  
11 should be made aware of and they are when it  
12 rains quite a few of the neighbors get a lot  
13 of water in their yards, and we also found  
14 that there is an area of a drainage pipe  
15 that is broken which may be contributing to  
16 the water build up issue on Lemon Street.  
17 Silt and sediment gather due to this break  
18 and the college is going to be cleaning out  
19 this area and repairing the break through  
20 the area of the pipe that is causing this  
21 build up.

22 The larger issue is the fact that  
23 there are no storm drains in this part of  
24 Scranton and, therefore, no place for any of  
25 the water runoff to go except in the

1 different properties in this area."

2 Now, in addition, this letter  
3 notified us that the requested meeting will  
4 be conducted on October 23, 2013, at 10 a.m.  
5 in Johnson College's Richmond Hall,  
6 classroom 200, and I look forward to  
7 receiving the minutes of that meeting to  
8 determine if the homeowners water runoff  
9 problems are being addressed.

10 Next, a few months ago I received  
11 the results from the Tax Assessor's hearing  
12 on the appeal of the real estate taxes for  
13 two properties assessed to the Scranton  
14 Parking Authority, the former Molly  
15 Brannigan assessment of the 74,000 was  
16 reduced by 12,000 to \$62,000. When  
17 multiplied by the millage for improvement  
18 only taxes decreased from \$1,898.54 to  
19 \$1,590.67.

20 In addition, Novicare's assessment  
21 of \$52,000 was reduced by 12,000 to 40,000.  
22 In terms of improvement only, taxes dropped  
23 from \$1,334.11 to \$1,026.24. In order to  
24 determine the amount of tax revenue lost  
25 because of the approximately 30 Scranton

1 businesses that filed appeals of real estate  
2 taxes in October 2013, I asked Mrs. Krake to  
3 contact the Tax Assessor's Office to obtain  
4 the appropriate information and correct  
5 figures and upon receipt of that information  
6 I will report it to the public.

7 Next, the League of Women Voters  
8 mayoral and school board debates as well as  
9 the recent candidates interview will be  
10 broadcast by ECTV on Channel 19 throughout  
11 the coming weeks leading up to general  
12 election day, November 5.

13 And, finally, I have one citizen's  
14 request tonight, city residents again ask  
15 for the paving of Kane Street. And that's  
16 it.

17 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. RATIFYING AND  
18 APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF  
19 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF  
20 SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY LIFE  
21 SUPPORT, INC. (CLS), TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
22 PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH  
23 FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE  
24 ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE  
25 DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT OF



1           \$325,474.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS  
2           "NEONATAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECT" LOCATED IN  
3           SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA. AUTHORIZING THE  
4           MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
5           OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT THE GRANT,  
6           IF SUCCESSFUL AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
7           LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND  
8           COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
9           PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT  
10          IN THE AMOUNT OF \$325,474.00 AWARDED BY  
11          THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH  
12          PROJECT.

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

16                   MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17                   MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

20                   MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21                   MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

23                   MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

1 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. RATIFYING AND  
2 APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF  
3 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF  
4 SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF THE SCRANTON SEWER  
5 AUTHORITY, TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
6 PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH  
7 FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE  
8 ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE  
9 DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT  
10 OF \$415,695.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN  
11 AS "STREET SWEEPER PROJECT" LOCATED IN  
12 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA. THIS RESOLUTION  
13 SHALL ALSO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
14 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
15 SCRANTON TO ACCEPT THE GRANT IF APPROVED,  
16 AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE  
17 ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER  
18 WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO  
19 ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT AWARDED BY THE  
20 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH  
21 PROJECT.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. JOYCE: Second.

2 MS. EVANS: On the question? This  
3 \$415,695 proposed grant will be used for the  
4 purchase of two street sweepers, one for the  
5 City of Scranton, one for the Borough of  
6 Dunmore.

7 As I perused the application and its  
8 line items, I noticed that of that let's say  
9 \$416,000, \$24,000 was plugged in for OECD  
10 for the administration of the grant and  
11 follow-up. And so I'm certainly wondering  
12 if each time OECD is handling these grants  
13 situations for whatever entities if they are  
14 receiving a fee to do so.

15 MR. ROGAN: Especially in this  
16 scenario where only half of the grant  
17 directly benefits the residents of Scranton.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. ROGAN: We are using, even  
20 though it's federal tax dollars, it's still  
21 our tax collars and that money, if we could  
22 reduce the administration, would be more  
23 money available for other programs.

24 MS. EVANS: Or I'm thinking that  
25 exactly it within the CDBG if we could maybe

1 take a look at how many fees OECD let's say  
2 has received in the last year or two from  
3 the projects that it becomes involved with I  
4 think that it could give council a good idea  
5 of what number their administration  
6 allocation can be reduced.

7 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely, and just so  
8 we can get more information in writing from  
9 Ms. Aebli, Mrs. Krake, could we please send  
10 a request, that request that Mrs. Evans  
11 mentioned, asking how often that occurs and  
12 why it occurs.

13 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of  
14 introduction signify by saying aye.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

18 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

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

22 READING BY TITLE -FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 50,  
23 2013 - AN ORDINANCE - REPEALING FILE OF  
24 COUNCIL NO. 37 OF 2011 (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED  
25 "ESTABLISHING THE LIST OF AUTHORIZED TOWING

1 COMPANIES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND  
2 ESTABLISHING THE RULES, QUALIFICATIONS  
3 AND STANDARDS TO BE FOLLOWED BY ALL SAID  
4 TOWING COMPANIES, ESTABLISHING FINES AND  
5 PENALTIES FOR TOWING AND FEES RELATED TO  
6 THIS ORDINANCE” BY ESTABLISHING THE LIST OF  
7 AUTHORIZED TOWING COMPANIES FOR THE CITY OF  
8 SCRANTON, ESTABLISHING THE RULES,  
9 QUALIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS TO BE FOLLOWED  
10 BY ALL SAID TOWING COMPANIES, ESTABLISHING  
11 FINES AND PENALTIES FOR TOWING AND FEES  
12 RELATED TO THIS ORDINANCE AND AUTHORIZING  
13 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY  
14 OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A TEN (10) YEAR  
15 CONTRACT FOR TOWING AND RELATED SERVICES IN  
16 THE CITY OF SCRANTON IN EXCHANGE FOR A ONE  
17 (1) TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND  
18 (\$300,000.00) DOLLARS.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would like to make  
20 a motion to amend Item 6-A per the  
21 following:

22 I make a motion to amend Item 6-A,  
23 File of Council No. 50, 2013, in the last  
24 line of the summary title after the word  
25 "dollars" insert the following: "To be

1 credited to Line Item 01.331.333165, police  
2 towing/storage fees in accordance with the  
3 ordinance File of Council No. 50, 2013, as  
4 amended."

5 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the  
6 table, is there a second?

7 MR. JOYCE: Second.

8 MS. EVANS: On the question?

9 MR. MCGOFF: I was going to say just  
10 an explain of what it changes?

11 MS. EVANS: Would you like to  
12 address that, Solicitor Hughes?

13 MR. HUGHES: Sure, Madam President.  
14 When the legislation originally came down  
15 from the Solicitor's Office to say that the  
16 \$300,000 would go into a special account to  
17 purchase police cars I looked it over and it  
18 was -- first of all, I thought there were  
19 two -- that there were two items in the  
20 title when by the Home Rule Charter there  
21 could be only be one item in the title, and  
22 it's a separate legislation that during the  
23 next ten years its fees are increased, the  
24 City of Scranton is going to get a portion  
25 of the increase of the fees as the revenue.

1                   I wrote back to Solicitor Kelly and  
2                   told him that and not only that but that in  
3                   accordance with this year's budget that the  
4                   \$300,000 on this contract was a revenue  
5                   source by a specific line item and is the  
6                   line item is stated there. The legislation  
7                   is then sent back with without the statement  
8                   in there that if would go into the special  
9                   account to purchase police cars.

10                   However, in subsequent e-mails their  
11                   intent was that he still thought that this  
12                   would go into purchase police cars and not  
13                   in the operating budget. I don't know any  
14                   problem with this, this is a revenue line  
15                   item in this year's budget for \$300,000, and  
16                   I want it specifically stated even though  
17                   it's not in the ordinance as sent down but  
18                   only in the fourth whereas clause.

19                   So I just want to clear it up, they  
20                   do have the check, I told them they should  
21                   put the check in his escrow account until it  
22                   is passed, but then I received an e-mail and  
23                   they put it into the account temporarily to  
24                   purchase the police cars until the  
25                   legislation is passed. That's why I want to

1                   this to be specifically stated this money,  
2                   this \$300,000, is going to go into this  
3                   year's operating budget and that any future  
4                   monies that would come in over the next ten  
5                   years will go into the special account to  
6                   purchase police cars.

7                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

8                   MR. ROGAN: So in laymen's terms all  
9                   this does is appropriate where the funds go.  
10                  It doesn't change anything with the  
11                  contract.

12                  MR. HUGHES: That's correct, and  
13                  that's good laymen's terms.

14                  MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
15                  signify by saying aye.

16                  MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17                  MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18                  MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19                  MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

22                  You've heard reading by title of  
23                  Item 6-A, as amended, what is your pleasure?

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



1 MR. JOYCE: Second.

2 MS. EVANS: On the question?

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes, very briefly. As I  
4 stated last week, I have begun reaching out  
5 to many of the tow truck operators that are  
6 listed, I believe there are 15 of them, I  
7 know I haven't gotten to all 15 yet, but  
8 from speaking to them from the most part  
9 they seemed pleased with the deal that they  
10 are helping the city, they are helping the  
11 city a lot by doing this. We certainly  
12 thank them for that, for filling the  
13 \$300,000 gap that was in the budget and in  
14 return they receive a longer term contract  
15 which keeps the towing list at a set amount,  
16 which is something -- which are two items  
17 that I support.

18 And I just wanted to stress again  
19 because a couple of people did mention,  
20 residents that I spoke to, this doesn't  
21 affect your towing if you are calling a tow  
22 truck for private tow or even if you are in  
23 an accident and you are able to request a  
24 specific company you can still do that.  
25 This is only for the instance when the

1 person doesn't -- either doesn't want a  
2 specific company or if it's an abandoned  
3 vehicle, accidents where a person is maybe  
4 taken to the hospital and unable to make  
5 that kind of request, so that's all this  
6 affects. It doesn't change me calling, you  
7 know, my favorite tow company to have them  
8 come and fix my car when I get a flat tire,  
9 so I just wanted to clear that up.

10 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?  
11 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
19 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
20 FINANCE--FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 49, 2013 - SALE  
21 OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT THE CORNER OF  
22 LINDEN STREET AND TAYLOR AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
23 PENNSYLVANIA, TO LINDEN TAYLOR, L.L.C., 56  
24 LEDGE DRIVE, LAKEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA, 18438,  
25 FOR THE SUM OF \$2,500.00.

1 MS. EVANS: What is the  
2 recommendation of the Chair for the  
3 Committee on Finance?

4 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the  
5 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
6 passage of Item 7-A.

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

8 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
9 call, please?

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

21 I know last week I had mentioned an  
22 idea that was proposed by our solicitor  
23 concerning the sale of many of these  
24 properties on which homes have been  
25 demolished and, frankly, are too small on



1 narrow, they are the old type development in  
2 urban development and they could be 40 feet  
3 wide, 100, 150 feet deep, which was the  
4 standard size lot, you know, back in the  
5 early 1900's all of the way up through the  
6 40's and, you know, right now where they  
7 have huge tax delinquencies on them, there  
8 is probably a demolition lien against them  
9 and they are never going to be sold. Who is  
10 going to buy them and put, you know -- come  
11 through like with the last one here in the  
12 Pittsburgh plan and, you know, come back and  
13 make an offer and then put a house up on it  
14 because it's not conducive to, you know,  
15 modern development.

16 And just driving around the city,  
17 you know, you look at them and you think  
18 that if you could just give them away, you  
19 know, to an abutting land owner if there is  
20 two of them you could split them in half and  
21 each one would have half of a lot and put it  
22 back on the tax rolls and then they could  
23 maybe expand their house or put up some  
24 other type of improvement. And they have  
25 just laying there fowl and, you know, you

1 drive throughout the city and you see quite  
2 a few of them, and I think this could be an  
3 idea that, you know, we are never going to  
4 get any revenue out of them, they are really  
5 a liability from the standpoint that, you  
6 know, even though the city has tax title to  
7 them that we are never going to be able to  
8 really sell them, and I think if we look  
9 into it some way that it might be a way to  
10 get property right now that's totally  
11 unproductive back onto the tax rolls and  
12 maybe even add to some development in the  
13 city. Somebody could put an addition on  
14 their house or some other type of  
15 improvement. I'll definitely take a look at  
16 it.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. If there is  
18 no further business, I'll entertain a motion  
19 to adjourn.

20 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

21 MS. EVANS: This meeting is  
22 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.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER