

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HELD:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2013

LOCATION:

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

AMELIA NICOL, RPR
COURT REPORTER

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT
(Not Present)

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PATRICK ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE
(Not Present)

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance Recited and
2 Moment of Reflection Observed.)

3 MR. JOYCE: 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. Mr.
9 Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

12 MR. JOYCE: Dispense with reading
13 of the minutes.

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
15 TAX ASSESSOR'S REPORT HEARING DATE
16 HELD OCTOBER 2, 2013.

17 MR. JOYCE: Are there any
18 comments?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. JOYCE: If not, received and
21 filed.

22 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AUDIT STATUS
23 FROM ROBERT ROSSI & CO. RECEIVED
24 OCTOBER 17, 2013.

25 MR. JOYCE: Are there any

1 comments?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. JOYCE: If not, received and
4 filed.

5 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. SUBDIVISION AND
6 LAND DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION
7 RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 16, 2013.

8 MR. JOYCE: Are there any
9 comments?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. JOYCE: If not, received and
12 filed.

13 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
14 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING
15 HELD SEPTEMBER 25, 2013.

16 MR. JOYCE: Are there any
17 comments?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. JOYCE: If not received and
20 filed. Are there any clerk's notes.

21 MS. KRAKE: Yes, there is, Mr.
22 Joyce.

23 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

24 MR. KRAKE: Mrs. Evans requested
25 I attend the meeting held October 23rd

1 at Johnson College concerning the
2 major flooding issues in the area of
3 the school.

4 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

5 MS. KRAKE: And she asked me to
6 relay to council what was discussed.

7 MR. JOYCE: Yes, please do.

8 MS. KRAKE: Neighbors reported
9 serious flooding conditions, property
10 and road damage and an exposed gas
11 line on North Main Avenue due to
12 erosion caused by the flooding. John
13 Pocius, city engineer, and Mark
14 Dougher, DPW Director, made
15 recommendations to install a drainage
16 system that would alleviate the
17 flooding and Mr. Dougher alerted the
18 gas company immediately following the
19 meeting of the exposed gas line. The
20 repair work would be done completely
21 in-house through the joint efforts of
22 the city and Sewer Authority.
23 However, before the work begins, an
24 engineer's report must be done. This
25 would tell workers where utilities are

1 located, elevations in the area and
2 other vital information. In light of
3 the significant potential for the
4 development of additional hazardous
5 conditions Mrs. Evans is asking that
6 council send a letter to the
7 appropriate parties directing an
8 engineers's report be addressed
9 immediately.

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I agree with
11 that if my colleagues do as well.

12 MS. KRAKE: Okay. Thank you.

13 MR. JOYCE: Yes, Mrs. Krake, if
14 you could please send that letter, I
15 would greatly appreciate it.

16 MS. KRAKE: Thank you. And one
17 more quick remark. Today I attended
18 the assessment appeal hearings that
19 were spoken about at council several
20 weeks in a row and I'll have a report
21 for council next week on those
22 hearings.

23 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mrs.
24 Krake.

25 MS. KRAKE: You're welcome.

1 MR. JOYCE: Are there any council
2 members that have announcements?

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I have a few
4 announcements to make. And the first
5 one and I want to mention this now
6 just so the public has a chance if
7 they have questions or comments.
8 Tonight on the agenda we are going to
9 have the final reading of Community
10 Development Block Grant funding for
11 next year and the few changes that
12 will be made in the amendment proposed
13 tonight are as follows: OECD
14 administration will be reduced by
15 \$60,000, EOTC sidewalk lighting will
16 be increased by \$15,000, and \$45,000
17 will be allocated for the Pinebrook
18 Neighborhood pool. This item was
19 currently -- it was unfunded when it
20 was sent to city council. And then on
21 the public service side, the three
22 changes are the UNC Project Summer
23 Camp will be reduced from \$39,000 to
24 \$27,000, th Northeast Suicide
25 Prevention will be increased from

1 \$9,000 to \$11,000, and of all of the
2 applicants this group was the only
3 group that was a first time applicant
4 and they will receiving the maximum
5 funding for what they applied for.
6 And finally an increase from zero to
7 \$10,000 for Dress for Success.

8 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Councilman
9 Rogan. Oh, you said you had a few so
10 go ahead.

11 MR. ROGAN: And a couple of other
12 announcements that I had. The Dante
13 Literary Society will be having their
14 dinner on October 26th at 1916
15 Prospect from 4:30 to 7 o'clock. The
16 dinners are \$11 and take-outs are
17 available.

18 The South Scranton Neighborhood
19 Watch is having a free safe Halloween
20 event at Connor's Park at 500 Orchard
21 Street and that's on Sunday, October
22 27 from 3:00 to 6 p.m. And finally
23 and this is another one that I
24 announced last week as well, the
25 volunteers of Catholic Social

1 Services, St. Francis Kitchen and the
2 Scranton Chapter of UNICO along with
3 the LaFesta Italiano, Lackawanna Count
4 Committee are having a night of
5 entertainment to raise funds for the
6 construction of St. Francis Commons
7 which is to house -- help homeless
8 veterans and this event is \$35 per
9 person and it's from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.
10 at Genetti Manor in Dickson City and
11 all the funds raised will be going
12 towards the homeless veterans. And
13 that's all for now. Thank you.

14 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Councilman
15 Rogan. Mr. McGoff, do you have any
16 announcements?

17 MR. MCGOFF: I would just like to
18 make a motion to appoint Mr. Rogan and
19 temporary chair for public safety.

20 MR. JOYCE: Okay. There is a
21 motion on the floor. Do we have
22 second?

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

24 MR. JOYCE: Anyone on the
25 question?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. JOYCE: All in favor signify
3 by saying aye?

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. JOYCE: The ayes have it and
9 so moved.

10 Councilwoman Evans and Councilman
11 Loscombe will not in attendance at
12 tonight's meeting as they are both
13 ill. Mrs. Krake.

14 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER,
15 CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION.

16 MR. JOYCE: Our first speaker
17 tonight is Phyllis P. Humphrey.

18 MS. HUMPHREY: I'm back. I want
19 to say hello and I really miss
20 everybody. I am a victim of home
21 trafficking since I'm 16, but I am a
22 peacemaker no matter. I fell twice in
23 the City of Scranton. Things have to
24 be addressed over across by St.
25 Anthony's. I fell and was thrown out

1 on the road and about six weeks ago
2 when I went to the judge, they had a
3 PFA, he denied me and because I had
4 surgery what has happened -- I'm going
5 to let that go. I'm just going to say
6 this. USA, Israel, Jordan, Iran,
7 Turkey, Syria, Iran, Republic, Egypt,
8 Pakistan, Holy -- the United States.
9 President Lobana, I know you know me,
10 I want thank Homeland Security, the
11 Federal Bureau of Investigation and
12 our police that helped me through my
13 post trauma and the ambulance. We got
14 a couple guy who got it straightened
15 out. Everybody asked me to run for
16 mayor, a lot of people, and I'm 65.
17 Mr. Joyce --

18 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

19 MS. HUMPHREY: I know that there
20 is somebody here that is going to do
21 good. Our servicemen, the places I
22 went that it was ran out due to
23 conspiracy because I exposed Mr. Joyce
24 the truth of the slumlords. I got a
25 lot of documents that I need to get

1 here and documents that got to go for
2 all of the churches that have been
3 destroyed whether it's Muslim,
4 synagogue or a Catholic church or a
5 Russian church. I've been saving all
6 the relics, pictures, and the load is
7 getting heavy, the load is getting
8 heavy. These countries and 79
9 countries I baptized in the name of
10 the father and the son and the Holy
11 Spirit. Nobody knows about me. They
12 assume, they assume. I have a
13 certificate here. It's Phyllis
14 Humphrey the Flight of 93 the National
15 Memorial, a common field -- one day a
16 field of honor forever to recognize
17 your generosity and support of
18 building the Flight 93 National
19 Memorial. There's a certificate of
20 appreciation hereby by certify that
21 Phyllis B. Humphrey is a founding
22 sponsor of the Flight 93. I and the
23 City of Scranton in a special way
24 tried to intervene for the protection
25 of our country but something happened

1 because of a misdiagnose. I don't
2 have no police records, I was
3 misdiagnosed and I'm gifted. I want
4 to share these gifts with the City of
5 Scranton and I want to help them to do
6 the best to their ability in the City
7 of Scranton, Pennsylvania. I'm going
8 to step up, I'm going to give you
9 this, and I'm sure everyone supports
10 this. I want you to see that this is
11 put in an honored place for us.

12 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

13 MS. HUMPHREY: I have these
14 pictures here. We have those, we have
15 those, we have a Christmas tree that
16 I've been trying to get, everything is
17 in storage. I am considered homeless
18 because of my fate. Tonight thank God
19 for St. Anthony's, for Mr. Sherman has
20 abused our servicemen. This --
21 there's a disk in here. There's a
22 disk and it has everything that is not
23 a imagination -- but it's got to be
24 spoken that God is love and love is
25 God and we've got to do something for

1 veterans, they shouldn't be in bug
2 infested places and I even went up and
3 cried to the event. Now, these
4 pictures are -- it's on here. I want
5 this back but this is the disk. I
6 have taken this because I'm still
7 working for the International Peace
8 and I want everybody to know this is
9 how the devil works. It doesn't take
10 one, it takes a bunch down. I want to
11 see that abortion is abolished. It's
12 imperative because the Muslim
13 religion, Mohammed abolished abortion.
14 But it's a shame what these people are
15 doing. If I could be of any
16 assistance to any of you and we could
17 sit down humanly and talk, come and
18 get me. I really appreciate because
19 God make this a better place and not
20 have mayors not doing what they're
21 doing. Because of the debit, I called
22 here and nobody seemed to do anything
23 until yesterday when I called the
24 water company. All the characters
25 around the water tank, you've got to

1 do something because somebody else is
2 going to get hurt and if you see what
3 happened here. But I'm strong. I'm a
4 girl, remember that. Thank you, mr.
5 Joyce.

6 MR. JOYCE: Well, thank you very
7 much, Phyllis.

8 MS. HUMPHREY: I have a lot of
9 pictures and they're in suitcases
10 we've got to go through. God bless
11 you.

12 MR. JOYCE: Okay. Our next
13 speaker tonight is Doug Miller.

14 MS. HUMPHREY: He should be the
15 next mayor.

16 MR. MILLER: Good evening,
17 council. Doug Miller, Scranton.

18 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

19 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to
20 begin this evening and address 7-B,
21 the OECD funding on the agenda. I
22 couldn't really hear too well in the
23 back but I believe, Mr. Rogan, you
24 said Pinebrook was going to get some
25 funding for next year.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MR. MILLER: What was that
3 figure? I apologize. I didn't that
4 figure.

5 MR. ROGAN: \$45,000.

6 MR. MILLER: \$45,000, okay. You
7 know, as we all know, I mean, that's
8 obviously something that's a long time
9 coming when we look at a lot of the
10 neighborhood pools that unfortunately
11 the last few years have been shut down
12 due to a lack of funding and certainly
13 this will go a long way in an area
14 that has suffered an awful lot and I'm
15 pleased to see that finally the city
16 is able to step up and offer some
17 assistance with this particular
18 neighborhood pool and hopefully
19 Novembrino pool and Connell Park and a
20 lot of the other neighbor pools can
21 also reopen next summer. I'd like to
22 talk a little bit about the headline
23 this morning in regards to the Pension
24 Board and a recommendation made by a
25 member to reach out to nonprofits and

1 try to seek some sort of payment in
2 lieu of taxes to assist with the
3 pension shortfall. As we know, I
4 believe we're looking at this year
5 about a five million dollar shortfall
6 for 2013. If I'm incorrect on that
7 statement, I'm sure somebody can
8 correct me. You know, I couldn't help
9 but kind of go back to the suggestion
10 I had made a few weeks ago in regards
11 to the tuition tax and I know it's met
12 was some fixed emotions, some mixed
13 feelings but, you know, as I did
14 throughout my research determine that
15 the city does have the ability to
16 generate, you know, in the excess of
17 million dollars, you know, perhaps
18 more than the six million that I did,
19 you know, present to the council at
20 that time. You know, when you look at
21 the shortfall we have, a tuition tax
22 quite frankly come up with that
23 funding is needed. But I do want to
24 go back to a speaker last week, you
25 know, took some time to address some

1 issues and he took the time to, you
2 know, disagree with my suggestion and,
3 you know, in words found it somewhat
4 ridiculous to quote him and, you know,
5 I couldn't help but think to myself
6 that as I've said many times
7 repetitively from the podium when
8 you're a city that's near bankruptcy,
9 you know, near following the path of
10 Detroit, I don't think any idea
11 brought forward by, you know, a
12 resident of the community or an
13 individual council member should be
14 deemed ridiculous. I think it's
15 ridiculous to make that statement.
16 This same individual offered some
17 solutions and I commend him for that,
18 taking the time to step up and offer
19 some suggestions to council but to,
20 you know, classify my suggestion as
21 ridiculous I think is absurd. You
22 know, I took the time to do some
23 research and reached out, you know, to
24 individuals in Pittsburgh and I
25 believe this is a plan that should be

1 implemented. We have the ability to
2 bring in millions and millions of
3 dollars. We've been told that it's a
4 punishment, that we're punishing the
5 students. You know, those sort of
6 statements kind of irk me because I
7 don't think I could have been anymore
8 clear throughout this whole process of
9 myself, you know, raising this issue.
10 This isn't meant to be a punishment
11 and I sort of get frustrated having to
12 constantly be repetitive in that
13 nature because this isn't about
14 punishment. It's about paying your
15 fair share. If we want to talk about
16 punishment, we all have to pay taxes,
17 we all have to pay fees. It's not
18 just in Scranton. It's all across
19 America. We all pay taxes. Is that a
20 punishment? No. It's our obligation.
21 We pay taxes and fees for services
22 that our government provides us. And
23 that's simply what we're asking our
24 students to do here in the city. You
25 know, we've been told that they've

1 been diapers since the city became
2 distressed. Mr. Dobrzyn brought up
3 good point a weeks ago. These same
4 individuals that were in diapers can
5 vote in this community and they're
6 going to vote two weeks from now in an
7 historic election in the city to
8 determine who runs the city for the
9 next four years. They're going to
10 vote in that election. And so simply
11 asking them to contribute an
12 additional one percent out of the
13 tuition I think is totally fair when
14 you look at the services that we
15 provide. And, again, I do not feel
16 that one percent on the overall
17 tuition is going to make or break the
18 decision factor on whether or not a
19 parent sends their child to an
20 institution with our community. I
21 just totally find that hard to
22 believe. I do not think that on an
23 average an additional two or \$300 is
24 going to deter a potential student
25 from coming into this community. I do

1 not buy that. We are a city that, you
2 know, is in need of help, financial
3 help and we need to be creative, as
4 I've said, and brainstorm innovative
5 ways and that's why I brought this
6 suggestion forward and I still
7 understand that there's some legality
8 questions and I don't think we should
9 continue to sit on this. I think we
10 need to stand up and find out if this
11 is legal. I came forward, I presented
12 the information and now I think it's
13 our job to determine whether or not
14 this is legal because if it's legal, I
15 feel it should be implemented in this
16 budget. You know, we're looking at a
17 \$20 million deficit in the budget.
18 PEL has made numerous unrealistic
19 expectations to the city. We're
20 talking about tax increases in the
21 amounts of up to 117 percent suggested
22 by PEL, increase in garbage fees, you
23 know, just a lot of burdens that the
24 residents of this city can't take at
25 this point. And I know you have a lot

1 of difficult decisions to make in next
2 few weeks, you know, next few weeks
3 here as we get into budget season but,
4 you know, we have to take all
5 suggestions seriously and not be quick
6 to judge them. You know, that's why
7 we come forward and we offer
8 suggestions. They're to be
9 considered. And this is money making
10 opportunity. It's not a punishment.
11 This is about paying your fair share
12 and I just hope that we continue to
13 look into it. I understand it's been
14 brought to PEL's attention but I know
15 there's legality questions. It's easy
16 to determine whether or not it's legal
17 or not legal. It's something that we
18 need to do research on and get this
19 into play because we need funding here
20 and we need to be creative and
21 innovative to move the city forward.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Lee
24 Morgan.

25 MR. MORGAN: Good evening.

1 Council.

2 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

3 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I
4 have here today is, you know, we're
5 looking for someplace to host the Bob
6 Bolus Christmas Dinner this year
7 because where we generally have it,
8 St. Lucy's, they're doing renovations
9 there so I've been out and about
10 looking for an alternate site and in
11 discussions with organizations and
12 such to bring about this dinner, I had
13 a lot of discussions with a lot of
14 different individuals. And this goes
15 back to somewhat of some of the
16 comments of Mr. Miller a couple
17 moments ago because some of these
18 people religious and they perform
19 weddings. The vast majority of people
20 they -- the families that come here
21 for weddings are former Scrantonians.
22 They've left the city. They come here
23 for me wedding, I guess, and other
24 events because they're still tied to
25 some of our churches but the bleed of

1 the middle class from this city from
2 over taxation is overwhelming and when
3 we start talking about taxing young
4 adults in this city, I guess you could
5 make an argument they could vote but I
6 think we have to realize that for over
7 20 some years the residents of this
8 city had an obligation to vote. Now,
9 you know, in my own opinion, the union
10 heads took this city to where it is
11 now because they've controlled who was
12 in the Mayor's Office. They had a lot
13 of say on who and a lot of various
14 other offices throughout the city.
15 But the one question I have as we
16 proceed down this road is if they were
17 representing their members and union,
18 the question I have is why didn't make
19 sure that the pension funds were fully
20 funded considering all the sway they
21 had over all the candidates over all
22 these years that ran for public
23 service so in my opinion evidently
24 they weren't very concerned with the
25 rank and file because they were more

1 interested in climbing to the top and
2 getting posts in certain positions for
3 certain individuals as I'm sure is
4 taking place right now in regards to
5 the two mayoral candidates at this
6 time who -- because I attended the
7 debates at the University of Scranton
8 and I have to be very honest with you,
9 halfway through the debate I left
10 because I can't sit there and listen
11 to people running for public office
12 who are talking about no tax
13 increases. You know, I would have
14 hope that the League of Women Voters
15 would have asked a lot more relevant
16 but the candidates were more
17 interested in fighting with each over
18 insignificant things that had no value
19 to the city. But when it came to
20 talking about taxation and raising
21 revenue, they had nothing to say.
22 They had vision for the city either
23 candidate and, you know, it's just --
24 we're going go after allegedly, we're
25 going to discuss new forms of taxation

1 and where the city finds itself at
2 this point, it's not possible for the
3 city to raise the revenue it needs
4 inside the city. It's just not going
5 to happen. I don't care who the mayor
6 is, I don't care who the council is, d
7 you know, Mr. Rogan, it's not a cheap
8 shot at you either to think that you
9 should be finance chair because your
10 success is going to be no different
11 than anybody else is. The only reason
12 I think you're good fit for that is
13 because you've got four more years of
14 council and you're a young individual
15 that has a chance that if you can come
16 up with a good plan, that maybe some
17 day you'll climb to a higher office.
18 And I think that that's the kind of
19 people we need to elect is people that
20 are willing to bathe themselves in the
21 problems of the community and try to
22 come up with ideas. I think, Mr.
23 Joyce, to be honest with you, you
24 know, you did the best you could do
25 but what can you do with a city that's

1 been in distress for over 20 years and
2 the Commonwealth stands on the
3 sidelines. I remember when they came
4 and sanctioned Mr. Connors and I just
5 can't understand for the life of me
6 why something wasn't done as this city
7 slid backwards. We put 25 million
8 dollars down one side of Lackawanna
9 Avenue and the mall is ready to
10 collapse. No planning, no vision, no
11 nothing because it was fast easy money
12 from Harrisburg and now the pension
13 plan is 100 million dollars down and
14 we're listening to utter silliness.
15 The money isn't here for that and the
16 union leaders had an obligation to
17 protect the rank and file and they
18 didn't do that either and not to blame
19 them only but if even the residents g
20 haven't done anything in over 20 years
21 and now we're going to go to college
22 students to raise revenue. It just
23 doesn't make any sense. I think to be
24 quite honest with you, when the state
25 representative sat here and state

1 Senator Blake sat here, they should
2 have came up with answer and they
3 should have went to their prospective
4 legislatures and demanded changes in
5 the legislature to help this city turn
6 itself around and not only this city
7 but other cities. But politically
8 it's very dangerous because they don't
9 want to offend other people the
10 legislature. But you know what, maybe
11 it's time to start offending people
12 because my generation, we're going to
13 loss our Social Security and all the
14 pensions are underfunded. It's a
15 nightmare. Thank you.

16 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.
17 Our next speaker is Bill Jackowitz.

18 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
19 Scranton City Council.

20 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

21 MR. JACKOWITZ: Excuse me. 7,958
22 days Scranton was declared a
23 distressed city under Act 47. The
24 City of Scranton is a total mess
25 financially. The infrastructure such

1 as roads, bridges, parks, buildings,
2 swimming pools, city owned vehicles
3 are in need of repair. Unfortunately
4 the city government is broke and has
5 been broke for some time and will
6 remain broke for decades to come. The
7 following ideas have been tried and
8 have failed in the past 22 years:
9 Raising taxes, advertising on city
10 owned property, borrowing more money,
11 taxing commuters, going into court
12 only to lose, costing the taxpayers
13 more money, now we will try to tax
14 students, name calling of the
15 nonprofits, now the city wants the
16 nonprofits to bail the retirement and
17 health care system out, plus make
18 donations in lieu of taxes. When will
19 the so-called leaders step up to the
20 plate and admit they are responsible
21 along with the voters of Scranton for
22 the mess we call Scranton City
23 government. After attending the
24 mayoral debate on Tuesday evening
25 walked away with the understanding

1 that neither candidate, Courtright or
2 Mulligan understands the seriousness
3 of the financial problems facing the
4 taxpayers of Scranton. Neither
5 candidate had an answer or plan and
6 are not willing to make cuts in the
7 dysfunction Scranton City government.
8 First and foremost the 1.3 million
9 dollar payroll must be cut immediately
10 along the lucrative retirement and
11 medical benefits enjoyed by city
12 employees and retirees, past city
13 employees. A good start would be to
14 reduce the mayor's salary back to
15 \$50,000 a year and reduce the city
16 council salary to \$8,000 a year.
17 Let's show some leadership and start
18 at the top. City employees need to be
19 furloughed and departments must be
20 reduced in size along with salaries.
21 I am not saying this to hurt people
22 but this is what needs to be done.
23 The city is broke. We can't afford
24 1.3 million every two weeks in
25 salaries and entitlements. It's as

1 simple as that. Scranton is a
2 distressed city within the State of
3 Pennsylvania and should live within
4 their means. I personally have taken
5 an annual pay cut, been furloughed and
6 have not had a pay raise or cost of
7 living raise in four years. We have
8 been told do more with less. I'm
9 saying the same thing to Scranton. Do
10 more with less. City elected
11 officials and appointed officials need
12 to take a close look at the
13 demographics of Scranton. Currently
14 33 percent of the residents live in
15 poverty; 22 percent age 60 and older;
16 25.3 percent age 40 to 60-years-old;
17 28.1 percent age 20 to 40-years-old;
18 24.7 percent under age 5 to age 20.
19 This information was obtained from the
20 2010 US consensus report. Owner
21 occupied housing units in Scranton,
22 51.3 percent, 15,419 units; renters
23 occupied housing units, 48.7 percent,
24 14,650; rental vacancy rate, 8.3
25 percent; homeowners vacancy rate, 2.6

1 percent; occupied housing rate, 88.8
2 percent; 30,069 homes; vacant housing
3 units, 3,784, 11.2 percent; houses for
4 sale, 418 homes, 1.2 percent. As you
5 can see from the official census
6 report Scranton has a major problem,
7 that being too many rental units,
8 aging population, too many vacant
9 housing units, on average 13 percent
10 of the property owners do not pay
11 their property taxes on time or at
12 all. These are normally out of town
13 homeowners who have no intentions of
14 ever returning back to Scranton or for
15 that matter paying their taxes.
16 Thirteen percent on property taxes,
17 11.2 vacant house. Do the math,
18 figure it out. What's the solution?
19 Reduction in expenditures, increased
20 collected revenues such as taxes,
21 garbage, rental fees, permit fees. No
22 free ride for the politically
23 connected or city employees or elected
24 officials. Enforce the laws that are
25 currently on the books. Reduce

1 salaries and place a freeze on all
2 overtime, bonuses, promotions and do
3 more with less. How do you bring
4 businesses to Scranton when you have
5 an insane city government, high taxes,
6 crumbling infrastructure, more debt
7 than revenue, Democrats who are
8 Republicans, Republicans who are
9 Democrats and no solution on how to
10 get the City of Scranton out of the
11 distressed city status. Sounds to me
12 Scranton will be remain distressed for
13 another 7,950 days unless miracles on
14 Lackawanna Avenue and Steamtown Mall
15 happens. Most businessowners and job
16 producers will never move to Scranton.
17 Why? High taxes, dysfunctional
18 government, poor infrastructure such
19 as roads, closed bridges, controlled
20 political atmosphere, dirty city with
21 an over abundance of vacant property
22 and torn down buildings within the
23 neighborhoods, varmints and animals
24 running loose in every neighborhood on
25 a daily basis. Take a ride through

1 the city especially in the early
2 morning hours, tell me you don't see
3 varmints and animals all over the
4 city.

5 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. That
6 concludes our sign-in sheet for
7 tonight. Is there anyone else who
8 would like to address council?

9 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening,
10 council. Dave Dobrzyn, resident of
11 Scranton.

12 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

13 MR. DOBRZYN: And tonight I'd
14 like to rant about the state first of
15 all. And if you read the state
16 constitution, it gives you the right
17 on the nonprofit to support whatever
18 nonprofit you want, be it the church
19 or whatever. But it does not require
20 you to support that nonprofit. Okay?
21 So in my opinion at 33 percent tax
22 exemptions the people of Scranton are
23 being required to support these
24 whether they basically believe in them
25 or not. And the answer is with the

1 state and it's almost to a point where
2 I'd love to see a class action suits
3 go right to the Supreme Court on how
4 much the state can require us to just
5 sit here and accept one tax increase
6 after another and go on and on and on.
7 I'd also like to see if it's non
8 binding resolution from council some
9 day before January 1st that we request
10 that they kindly plan to locate
11 somewhere else in the future.
12 Basically I regard the current
13 nonprofit level as water over the dam
14 unless we didn't go to the Supreme
15 Court because I feel that our
16 constitutional rights are being
17 violated. Now, last week trash fees
18 were a big issue and I think they
19 should still be a big issue because
20 seven million dollars is atrocious in
21 back fees. When I first moved to
22 Scranton, I had -- it took me three or
23 four years just to get a mailing of my
24 trash bill and I did report it several
25 times and one was missed and I feel

1 that Northeast Credit Collection or
2 northeast conspiracy, whatever that
3 stood for actually passed over -- I
4 was standing there right at the
5 computer paying a back tax bill. I
6 bought a lot next to my house and he
7 had me right on the computer there and
8 he treated it there like a rollover
9 investment. He did not notify me that
10 this had been -- so currently
11 Northeast Credit Collection isn't but
12 obvious under city contract but
13 obviously this is how some of this
14 happened and it's a rotten shame with
15 how much they charged extra for
16 delinquent fees and so forth that they
17 didn't put a better effort into
18 collecting some more money. And there
19 is some discussion on bags and I don't
20 mean to harp but I have a question for
21 people that think they're not costing
22 the city a lot of money and that's
23 what did we cost over our lives, how
24 many kids did you have going through
25 school. Currently it cost 120 grand

1 from K through 12 on a national
2 average and how much taxes do you
3 really soak up. In other words, if
4 you're a basic level, middle class
5 person with two kids in school, you
6 might never pay enough property tax or
7 trash fees or whatever to justify
8 getting a tax break even through the
9 whole length of your life so it's time
10 t we start to look inward and ask, you
11 know, what did we do for our county or
12 what our country can do for you to
13 steal a quote from J.F.K. and that's
14 exactly what he meant. I mean, people
15 are costing way more than what they're
16 aware of and I dealt in service for 30
17 years or so as an automotive mechanic
18 and believe me when you provided the
19 service and they're at the counter,
20 the mistakes get made in the debtors
21 favor more often than not. Well, why
22 am I getting charged for this, why am
23 I getting charged for that, is it
24 under warranty, is it this or that
25 and, you know, it's obvious they don't

1 want to pay for the service after it's
2 been performed. And on vacant lots I
3 have a vacant lot adjacent to my house
4 and I appreciate it. It's awful
5 expensive so, in other words, if we're
6 going to sell vacant lots for a token
7 amount and charge token taxes
8 newcomers, then how about
9 consideration there for some of the
10 old timers because I have a vacant lot
11 that is just about a half of what a
12 whole house would cost. And on 7-A
13 the towers, I support that and I might
14 want to -- I'd like to note that --
15 I'll try and make it fast here, that
16 they tow a lot of scrap cars and so
17 forth and they pay cash for them. So
18 on several occasions when I no longer
19 had a car that I was using, I got 100
20 bucks, 120 bucks for it and when I'm
21 done with the car, it is done. But
22 the point being it's not hanging
23 around the neighborhood being a rat's
24 nest and creating blight. But I'm
25 very concerned with trash. I want to

1 see that trash is taken out and I'll
2 discuss a little more of it next week
3 because I had Jack Loscombe go to a
4 house and it hasn't improved over
5 three years. You know, the poor guy
6 is with cancer and a heart condition
7 cleaning up behind this lady that just
8 throws her bags. And, okay, I'll make
9 it quick. Finally in taxes they came
10 up with a voter law. If a woman is
11 married, her maiden name becomes her
12 name. If not, like my wife is May
13 Desee and it would have been May
14 Radeski Dobrzyn. She may not vote or
15 she might be required to a cast
16 provisional ballot. So they get the
17 gold parrot this week. Don't forget
18 bauck, bauck, bauck. And personally
19 some of those type of laws on voting
20 are getting to a point where criminal.
21 Thank you. Have a good night.

22 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Is there
23 anyone else who would like to address
24 council?

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,

1 council. Marie Schumacher, city
2 resident and taxpayer.

3 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'd like to
5 start this week by going back to last
6 week. There were so many accolades on
7 the trash fee collection last week
8 that, I think, were somewhat unfair.
9 I think you all had an obligation,
10 first of all, to know what was going
11 on down there and not have so many
12 delinquencies. But second of all
13 there are a lot of people whose names
14 appeared on that list who did not owe
15 a penny. I have several relatives.
16 They were mortified to find their
17 names on that list. I took them three
18 trips to City Hall to get it resolved.
19 The first time to come in and say
20 because they dealt with rental
21 properties that they had come in and
22 filed a required vacancy documentation
23 and at which time there's no fee and
24 then when the apartments were rented,
25 they came back and reinstated it, paid

1 what was due and because the city
2 could not come up with a paperwork,
3 they said, you know, it's gets
4 misplace and stuff it was just back in
5 their lap and they were told what they
6 could do to get the situation
7 rectified. But it took -- and I might
8 add that during each trip they were
9 here, there were other people with
10 that same problem and I think that the
11 city -- city council should pass
12 legislation requiring the city to
13 formally apologize in the paper to
14 those people who were wrongly accused
15 of being quote, unquote deadbeats.
16 They did say that the city treasurer
17 was very helpful and even the last day
18 when they finally got the paperwork
19 saying that they were in in the clear
20 and came out with some paperwork, came
21 outside after. So that was nice to
22 hear that at least they were at some
23 point treated well but I don't think
24 you should have to make three trips, I
25 don't think your name should be on

1 there at all and I don't think it
2 should be published in the paper.
3 There was no record that they had been
4 sent anything. I believe that the
5 paper said last November that notices
6 went out, never received. And I would
7 like to know for two reasons, one, I
8 believe those people who are honest
9 and have been paying properly are due
10 you a public as public as the deadbeat
11 comments, an apology in the paper from
12 the city and also I would like to know
13 how many of those were just improperly
14 posted as well, so -- and also the
15 other thing was the private sale that
16 settled through last year. It was
17 just one week prior that I had asked
18 that you put a termination date for
19 completing the sale and beginning to
20 pay property taxes and Mrs. Evans I
21 believe asked Attorney Hughes and the
22 missing question about whether that
23 was also incorporated in the
24 Pittsburgh plan but nothing was even
25 said about it last week. And I just

1 find it appalling. Again, another
2 place. I was here at the same podium
3 earlier this year and I told you of
4 several properties that I believe -- I
5 didn't go back and check but
6 properties that were so-called
7 purchased and the deeds were never
8 filed so you never got the sale price,
9 you never got fee of taxes, and I
10 believe it amounted to just in this
11 one instance that I checked about
12 \$80,000. Now, it's not a lot of money
13 but it's still revenue to the city and
14 I don't know why you went and passed
15 that without -- and I would like to
16 know is that because the Pittsburgh
17 plan under which this was approved
18 does have a termination date and it
19 goes back on the market?

20 MR. ROGAN: I spoke with one of
21 the -- was one of the instances that
22 you referenced where a person was
23 interested in buying an adjoining lot,
24 filed the paperwork with the it,
25 council passed it and at the point

1 they were never notified that they
2 were awarded, you know, that
3 everything processed and they had to n
4 come down to the city to submit
5 payment and in that instance it was
6 the administration's mistake that the
7 notice was never sent out when somehow
8 it was realized that it did go
9 through, they went down to make the
10 payment and it was too late. That's
11 what they were told when they went
12 into office.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: So what is that
14 deadline then?

15 MR. ROGAN: I'm not sure. We can
16 look into it.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: I would like to
18 know what that deadline is. With
19 respect to 7-B tonight, I do hope
20 there are some new recipients and I
21 will probably be back to the podium
22 later after I hear Mr. Rogan give his
23 changes that you all have agreed on.

24 MR. ROGAN: I did read them at
25 the beginning of the meeting. The one

1 new program that applied was the
2 Northeast Suicide Prevention and the
3 administration had them funded at
4 \$9,000 and in the amendment they will
5 be increased to the maximum that they
6 applied for which was \$11,000.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: And there were
8 no other changes made that --

9 MR. ROGAN: No. There were other
10 changes but as far as new applicants,
11 that was the only new applicant. I
12 can read off the others if you would
13 as well.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, maybe you
15 do it again in motions and then I'll
16 come back if I --

17 MR. ROGAN: Sure.

18 MR. SCHUMACHER: Because I just
19 think, again, as I stated at the
20 public hearing, I think there are too
21 many people that are relying on it and
22 if I may just -- Mr. Joyce, would you
23 have a date on the audits for us
24 tonight?

25 MR. JOYCE: I will discuss the

1 audit a little bit more in detail as
2 far as what's lacking still.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: And then could
4 to check to find out when Republic
5 will be adding the days of operation
6 to the parking meters. It's been
7 several weeks and nothing has been
8 done yet that I can see. Thank you.

9 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I will. Thank
10 you. Is there anyone else who would
11 like to address council?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Krake.

14 MS. KRAKE: 5-A MOTIONS.

15 MR. JOYCE: Mr. McGoff, do you
16 have any comments or motions?

17 MR. MCGOFF: Not at this. I'll
18 save them for the legislation.

19 MR. JOYCE: Okay. Councilman
20 Rogan, do you have any comments or
21 motions tonight.

22 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Just a
23 few brief comments regarding the CDBG
24 application and one citizen's request.
25 I will read off the changes once

1 again. The changes that were made
2 outside of public service were CDBG
3 administration was reduced to 17.5
4 percent of the total funding in the
5 past. The administration has always
6 sent it down to 20. It's been passed
7 at 18 in the past but it went a little
8 further this year which would be a
9 savings of \$60,000; \$45,000 was added
10 to the Pinebrook neighborhood pool
11 which wasn't funded when it was
12 initially sent down; \$15,000 was also
13 added to the ETOC sidewalks and
14 lighting which wasn't funded also when
15 it came down and the public service
16 monies which just to explain to the
17 public, only a certain portion of the
18 funds that we received from the
19 federal government can be used for
20 what's classified as public service so
21 any changes made within public service
22 if you're adding to one, you have to
23 take away from another that's in the
24 public service. So the three changes
25 there were the UNC Project Summer Hope

1 Camp was reduced from 39,000 to
2 27,000; the Northeast Suicide
3 Prevention was increase from 9,000 to
4 11,000 and Dress for Success was
5 initially -- it wasn't funded when it
6 was sent to city council and it will
7 be funded for \$10,000. Some of
8 highlights in the total planned items
9 that haven't been changed but are ones
10 that people commonly ask about are --
11 we have \$200,000 will be funded for
12 the demolition and disposal of
13 blighted properties throughout the
14 City of Scranton and this money goes
15 through LIPS, Lackawanna Neighbors
16 will be funded for the acquisition in
17 lead abatement and rehabilitation of
18 six properties in Scranton for homes
19 that are experiencing blight. That's
20 funded at \$125,000. City of Scranton
21 DPW, paving and curve cuts which is
22 the most popular of all of the
23 programs with the residents of
24 Scranton is \$418,500 for paving in low
25 to moderate income areas. And the one

1 other big item was the funding of the
2 neighborhood police patrols which will
3 be funded in the amount of \$152,000
4 and that money comes -- also comes out
5 of the public service portion of the
6 CDBG allocations. So hopefully next
7 year we will be able to fund at least
8 the same, hopefully even more police
9 officers because there's nothing
10 better than a neighborhood police
11 officer on the streets. So they are
12 some of highlights for the projects
13 that we have get the most questions
14 about.

15 And finally I do have one
16 citizen's request. A resident
17 contacted me today from the Jackson
18 Street, Cabrini Street area of West
19 Scranton and there's a bus stop right
20 on that corner and they reported to me
21 that between two and 3 p.m., mostly
22 around 2:30 right when school gets out
23 that there are numerous cars running
24 red lights in that area. Mrs. Krake,
25 if it's okay with my colleague, can we

1 please send a letter to Chief Graziano
2 requesting that if a patrol car is
3 available to do traffic monitoring in
4 that area. Again, it's the corner of
5 Jackson Street and Cabrini and that
6 area is a very busy area and for those
7 that aren't familiar with it is it's a
8 little strange because you have many
9 streets all converging in one area
10 there. You have a lot of traffic
11 coming up from town, they'll take a
12 shortcut instead of going all the way
13 up Lackawanna, you have folks going
14 down into town, it's s shortcut and
15 just the regular neighborhood traffic
16 and this location is a bus stop so
17 around those times there are kids
18 getting out of the bus and there's
19 parents picking up their kids and with
20 all the traffic, it seems to be a
21 dangerous situation.

22 And I guess I'll comment on one
23 other item now, the towing ordinance.
24 I'm glad this is going to be passed.
25 And, again, this agreement, what it

1 does is fills the hole that was put in
2 the budget with the idea of the city
3 lot that never materialized. I think
4 it's a good thing that we didn't have
5 a city lot because I think it would
6 have been more of a headache and it
7 would have been more costly than it
8 would have brought in. So what it
9 does is it locks in for ten years, the
10 towing contract for the city and
11 throughout those ten years, initially
12 the \$300,000 will come into the city
13 to fill that budget hole for this year
14 and the city will receive a portion of
15 the towing and storage fees that per,
16 I believe it was Mr. Loscombe's
17 amendment last week will only be used
18 for police vehicles in the city and
19 that's something I'm very happy to
20 support. I spoke to most of the
21 towing companies. They all like it.
22 They were all agreeable to it so it
23 works. It's a good compromise that
24 was reached between business and the
25 city and that's what we have to look

1 to do in the future. Work with the
2 business community whether it be, you
3 know, a small sector or a large sector
4 to work together and I wish this
5 agreement was reached last year
6 instead of going through the putting
7 it in the towing yard and coming back
8 with this but I am happy that that is
9 resolved and that's all I have for
10 tonight. Thank you.

11 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Councilman
12 Rogan. Tonight I'll begin by
13 addressing the audit. We received
14 some correspondence from Rossi and
15 Rossi, our independent auditors and as
16 of October 24th we have one major open
17 item and that's pretty much the
18 audited financial statements of the
19 Parking Authority. Thus far Rossi and
20 Rossi had received a revised draft of
21 their report, however, the audit can't
22 be completed until such a report has
23 been finalized and issued. After the
24 receipt of this and assuming the
25 information does not require any

1 further followup, Rossi and Rossi will
2 complete the financial statements, and
3 present a draft the full financial
4 statements for the city's review and
5 completion of the management -- and
6 management discussion and an analysis
7 section of the audit report. And
8 following this basically the final
9 statements cannot be issued without a
10 final Scranton Parking Authority audit
11 report as I said. The city's
12 required -- or the management and
13 discussion analysis of the financial
14 statement and the city's
15 representation letter followed by an
16 exit conference. I was told that all
17 of these matters were looking -- were
18 on target to be completed by the end
19 of October but judging by today's date
20 being October 24th and how we
21 certainly do not have many of our
22 ducks in a row, it looks like we're
23 not going to hit the end of October.
24 So I will follow-up with Ms. McAndrew,
25 our business administrator, and

1 inquire where we were and when we're
2 looking to have things finalized.

3 Also as stated in the Scranton
4 Times, the city has received a
5 proposal by Amalgamated Bank for an
6 tax anticipation note of up to 16
7 million dollars. As you know, there
8 are some conditions that such as their
9 approval and PEL's sign off on the
10 2014 budget as well as having funding
11 in place for the police and fire
12 arbitration award. And speaking of
13 the police and fire arbitration award,
14 I was speaking to Mike Judge from
15 CASCON, I spoke to him today and spoke
16 to him a few days ago as well just for
17 some updates on where we are as far as
18 progress. Our interested lender that
19 we're looking at basically wants to
20 review everything that they can about
21 the city as far as our cash flow
22 reports, the recovery plan, pension
23 information, et cetera. And that's
24 where they are right now. So once
25 they review that information, they

1 will make a determination whether or
2 they are interested in moving forward
3 or not interested at all. So that's
4 pretty much where we are on that. Mr.
5 Judge is making progress. The
6 information is being provided to the
7 potential lender and the lender is
8 currently reviewing that
9 information. Also in the picture, as
10 you know, is Janie Montgomery Scott,
11 however, they're waiting on the 2014
12 budget. They're waiting on the
13 outcome of that and also to see what
14 PEL's analysis of that will be.

15 And finally tonight I'd just like
16 to talk a little bit about the future
17 of the city and one thing that really
18 needs attention in the upcoming years
19 are pension costs and just overall
20 legacy costs, such as retiree health
21 benefits, et cetera. Just to give you
22 an idea of where the city is. In 2014
23 the city will be required to make a
24 contribution of \$9,735,912 in regard
25 to the MMO. In 2015 this is scheduled

1 to go up to slightly over 11 million
2 dollars. In 2016 this is still
3 scheduled to stay at around 11 million
4 dollars. In 2017, however, this is
5 scheduled to jump up to 15 million
6 dollars again based on some
7 information from the actuarial
8 reports. So it could be pretty well
9 said that legacy costs and our
10 underfunded pension system will be a
11 primary concern of the future and that
12 is an issue that the future
13 administration and future council's
14 will need to address. As you know,
15 minimum municipal obligations when I
16 first took office were rather low.
17 However, we're starting to see the
18 rise in that right now. This year the
19 city is pretty much on the hook for --
20 well, 6,298,656. As I said before,
21 that increases in 2014 and will
22 continue a steady increase of up until
23 2018. And then after that, well,
24 right now there's data past 2018. But
25 it's a major problem and it's

1 definitely something that needs
2 serious attention and that's all I
3 have for tonight.

4 MR. HUGHES: If I could comment,
5 Mr. Chairman.

6 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

7 MR. HUGHES: Before Rossi and
8 Company can complete the audit, they
9 have to have the audit from the
10 Scranton Parking Authority. I believe
11 you said that.

12 MR. JOYCE: Correct.

13 MR. HUGHES: I discussed that
14 today with Shawn Grassi because one of
15 the documents that Mr. Judge needs to
16 do any financing is at least a draft
17 of the city audit. One of the
18 problems is that the audit, the draft
19 audit that Mr. Grassi received from
20 the SPA auditors does not have any of
21 the assets of the garages listed, only
22 the liabilities are listed. I went
23 over that with Mr. Grassi, we reviewed
24 the order appointing Mr. Washo as the
25 receiver or trustee to manage the

1 garages. I told him that in my
2 opinion that the audit was as drafted
3 for the SPA was not correct, because
4 the garages are not -- were never
5 transferred or not owned pursuant to
6 the court order by the trustee on
7 behalf of the bondholders, that they
8 are still the property -- or still
9 owned by the Scranton Parking
10 Authority. The only thing that Mr.
11 Washo has is the ability pursuant to
12 the court order to operate and manage
13 the garages and what he has to do is
14 report to the Court what the gross
15 revenues are, what the expenses are,
16 what the net revenues are on a monthly
17 basis, turn that money over to the
18 trustee for the bondholders and then
19 the City of Scranton pursuant to its
20 guarantee must make up the balance in
21 order to make the bond payments. So
22 that's what's being investigated now.
23 I told him I was available to discuss
24 that with, you know, the SPP auditors.
25 I did call Mr. Washo, left a message

1 for him and I haven't heard back from
2 him for him to get in touch with Shawn
3 Grassi up at Rossi and Company to get
4 this straightened out. There's
5 absolutely no deeds conveying the
6 property from the Scranton Parking
7 Authority to Mr. Washo as the
8 receiver. It's still owned by the
9 Parking Authority and they should be
10 set forth on the balance sheet of the
11 Parking Authority as they are the
12 owner of those buildings along with
13 the debt, with the liabilities, of
14 course, would be the outstanding bond
15 issues. Hopefully that will be
16 addressed and we can get this resolved
17 tomorrow.

18 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Attorney
19 Hughes. Thank you for providing that
20 information.

21 And actually I did have one quick
22 comment, and I'll end on a bright note
23 tonight. I did happen to speak to the
24 mayor yesterday for a brief period of
25 time and I was informed by him that

1 since the delinquent folks owing
2 delinquent refuse fees were published
3 in the paper, the city has collected
4 an additional \$200,000 and that's all.

5 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. TRANSFERRING
6 FUNDS FROM FUND 04 CITY OF SCRANTON
7 PARKS AND RECREATION ACCOUNT WHICH
8 FUNDS AND ACCOUNT ARE NO LONGER NEEDED
9 FOR THE CONDUCT OF CITY BUSINESS, AND
10 ABOLISHING AND CLOSING SAID
11 ACCOUNT AND TRANSFERRING THE FUNDS
12 REMAINING IN SAID ACCOUNT TO THE PNC
13 GENERAL FUNDING CHECKING ACCOUNT
14 LISTED BELOW.

15 MR. JOYCE: At this time I'll
16 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
17 introduced into its proper committee.

18 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

19 MR. JOYCE: I'll second it. On
20 the question?

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes. This is just a
22 transfer of -- it's \$2,263.48 from the
23 Department of Parks and Recreation to
24 the general fund.

25 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.

1 Is there anyone else one the
2 questions?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor
5 signify by saying aye.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. JOYCE: The ayes have it and
11 so moved.

12 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A NO
13 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER.
14 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
15 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
16 -FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 50, 2013 (AS
17 AMENDED) - REPEALING FILE OF COUNCIL
18 NO. 37 OF 2011 (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED
19 "ESTABLISHING THE LIST OF
20 AUTHORIZED TOWING COMPANIES FOR THE
21 CITY OF SCRANTON AND ESTABLISHING THE
22 RULES, QUALIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS TO
23 BE FOLLOWED BY ALL SAID TOWING
24 COMPANIES, ESTABLISHING FINES AND
25 PENALTIES FOR TOWING AND FEES RELATED

1 TO THIS ORDINANCE" BY ESTABLISHING THE
2 LIST OF AUTHORIZED TOWING
3 COMPANIES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
4 ESTABLISHING THE RULES, QUALIFICATIONS
5 AND STANDARDS TO BE FOLLOWED BY ALL
6 SAID TOWING COMPANIES, ESTABLISHING
7 FINES AND PENALTIES FOR TOWING AND
8 FEES RELATED TO THIS ORDINANCE AND
9 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
10 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER
11 INTO A TEN (10) YEAR CONTRACT FOR
12 TOWING AND RELATED SERVICES IN
13 THE CITY OF SCRANTON IN EXCHANGE FOR A
14 ONE (1) TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED
15 THOUSAND (\$300,000.00) DOLLARS TO BE
16 CREDITED TO LINE ITEM 01.331.33165
17 POLICE TOWING/STORAGE FEES IN
18 ACCORDANCE WITH FILE OF COUNCIL 50,
19 2013 (AS AMENDED).

20 MR. JOYCE: What is the
21 recommendation of the chairperson for
22 the Committee on Public Safety?

23 MR. ROGAN: As temporary chair
24 for the Committee on Public Safety, I
25 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

2 MR. JOYCE: On the question?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. JOYCE: Roll call, please.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I hereby
11 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully
12 adopted.

13 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make
14 a motion to take file of council, No.
15 47-2013, Item 7-B from the table.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

17 MR. JOYCE: On the question?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. JOYCE: All those in favor
20 signify by saying aye.

21 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. JOYCE: Opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. JOYCE: The ayes have it and
2 so moved.

3 Before we read Item 7-B, I would
4 like to open up the floor for any
5 public comment.

6 (No response.)

7 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Krake.

8 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR
9 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT-FILE OF COUNCIL
11 NO. 47, 2013 (PREVIOUSLY TABLED) -
12 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
13 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
14 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS
15 TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
16 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
17 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED
18 UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
19 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
20 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND
21 EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)
22 PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING
23 JANUARY 1, 2014.

24 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to
25 amend Item 7-B as per the following:

1 CBDG Administration, \$420,000; EOTC
2 sidewalks and lighting, \$15,000;
3 Pinebrook neighborhood pool, \$45,000;
4 UNC Project Summer Hope Camp, \$27,000;
5 Northeast Suicide Prevention, \$11,000;
6 Dress for Success, \$10,000.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

8 MR. JOYCE: Sorry. We have a
9 motion on the floor. Obviously we
10 have a second. All those in favor
11 signify by saying aye.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. JOYCE: The ayes have it and
17 so moved. Actually I should have
18 opened up public comment after the
19 motion was made to amend. However, is
20 there anyone who would like to address
21 council regarding the amendment to
22 Item 7-B.

23 (No response.)

24 MR. JOYCE: Okay. What is the
25 recommendation of the chairperson for

1 the Committee on Community Development
2 of 7-B as amended.

3 MR. ROGAN: As chairperson of the
4 Committee on Community Development, I
5 recommend final passage of Item 7-B as
6 amended.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

8 MR. JOYCE: On the question?

9 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, a couple of
10 things. First, it should be noted
11 that the reduction in administrative
12 costs for this program, administrative
13 costs do not -- are not just salaries.
14 A lot of people believe that that just
15 covers the salaries of people in OECD.
16 Administrative costs are the costs of
17 operating the entire OECD program.
18 Everything from salaries to staples
19 and in between. Reducing it does have
20 an effect on the ability of OECD to
21 operate obviously if their funding --
22 if that administrative funding is cut.
23 If what happens is if the
24 administrative costs of operating OECD
25 exceed what's this amount, it becomes

1 the responsibility of the city to pay
2 those additional costs. So while
3 there are savings upfront, there is a
4 potential that -- or I shouldn't say
5 savings upfront -- while we can
6 redirect some of that money upfront,
7 there is the potential that through
8 the course of 2014 if the
9 administrative costs do exceed that
10 amount, this city will be responsible
11 and it would be a cost to the city,
12 something that would come out of the
13 general fund.

14 Second thing that I did want to
15 mention and I had spoken to Mr. Rogan
16 in the day earlier about these, but I
17 failed to ask about any changes to the
18 Home and ESG Programs. I know that I
19 had said in the past that I was going
20 to recommend some changes and I did
21 but we don't have any amendments and I
22 was just wondering if you would care
23 to comment, if there was a reason.

24 MR. ROGAN: Well, when we spoke
25 this morning, I thought we weren't

1 going to make any changes to the Home
2 or ESG.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

4 MR. ROGAN: And I do remember we
5 spoke on the floor about directing
6 money from demolition and from some of
7 the rehab in the city to other rehab
8 which is something, I think, we all I
9 supported but then nothing ever --
10 there wasn't any further discussion
11 and that's something I missed, I
12 certainly apologize.

13 MR. MCGOFF: And I would say that
14 in speaking with Mrs. Aebli, some of
15 the changes that I had recommended
16 were things that she did say not that
17 we weren't possible but that they
18 wouldn't haven't the effect that I
19 thought they would. One of the things
20 that came up was that any home
21 rehabilitation, they can't do it --
22 they can't do it piecemeal. In other
23 words, you can't go in and just do --
24 put a roof on somebody's house. That
25 once they get funding, the entire

1 house must be brought to code. And so
2 the program that I had envisioned
3 would probably be illegal under or not
4 possible under current HUD standards
5 so, as I said, the recommended changes
6 probably wouldn't have the effect that
7 I had envisioned and that's all.

8 That's fine.

9 MR. ROGAN: And just a couple and
10 I'm glad you brought these up because
11 I had a couple more comments regarding
12 a few understanding issues and
13 something that was brought a couple
14 weeks ago. I believe it was Mrs. Evans
15 brought up a question regarding
16 funding and some of the grants that
17 went to OECD administration and from
18 speaking to Miss Aebli it was
19 explained that any time it's allowable
20 to build a specific grant for the
21 administration, it's done that way
22 because that's less funding that will
23 be used out of our CDBG allocation and
24 that's generally -- it's done on an
25 hourly basis and it varies, depending

1 on how much work is put in. And next
2 regarding the changes, Mr. McGoff
3 pretty much summed it up correctly
4 regarding the rehab of homes, that it
5 has to be -- things have to be brought
6 up to a certain standard and I do know
7 that Neighbor Works NEPA had some
8 other programs that were doing outside
9 of the HUD and we received a flyer and
10 I do want to followup with Jessie
11 Ergott, the president of the group.
12 And they were working on getting
13 volunteers to go through different
14 sections of the community to do minor
15 repairs, things like, you know, if
16 there's a fence -- a picket fence on a
17 house has lead paint, you know,
18 removal of that and giving it a coat
19 of paint and smaller things like that
20 but they add up in a neighborhood and
21 I'm hopeful that little things like
22 that could add up with many of the
23 bigger program where we're rehabbing
24 homes and a lot of the money in the
25 rehab is asbestos and lead removal

1 because it is so expensive.

2 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. In light
3 of what was said before, I know Mr.
4 McGoff you had some idea for Home and
5 ESG and they weren't included. Would
6 you like to make a motion to include
7 some of your suggestions?

8 MR. MCGOFF: In light of, again,
9 in light of what Mrs. Aebli and I had
10 spoke about, I'm satisfied with it as
11 it currently exists.

12 MR. JOYCE: Okay. Just making
13 sure. I will offer my comment. I'm
14 very pleased to see some projects
15 receiving some extra funding or
16 funding at all. I'm very glad to see
17 the Pinebrook neighborhood pool
18 received \$45,000. I know this is that
19 Miss Slipko from the Pinebrook
20 Neighborhood Association has been
21 speaking about for a very long time
22 and it would be very nice to see this
23 pool on its way to reopening and it
24 would just be something great to see
25 that area start to revive because I

1 know it's an area of Scranton that has
2 been going downhill over the years and
3 it's great to see that some money will
4 be invested in the area and also that
5 we have a great neighborhood
6 association over there that does take
7 pride in the area and that's working
8 to improve things.

9 Also I'm also glad to see Dress
10 for Success being funded. I think
11 that's an important program, and I'm
12 very pleased to see that we will be
13 allocating funding for beat officers,
14 three beat officers. I know that we
15 received a letter from the North
16 Scranton Neighborhood Association
17 Watch encouraging us to approve five
18 beat officers, however, with the
19 requirement, basically you're only
20 allowed -- in layman's terms you're
21 only allowed to allocate so much
22 funding for a public service event and
23 this is a public service allocation.
24 So we cannot just simply allocate
25 money to fund the full compliment of

1 officers that was requested of the
2 department at will. However, I do
3 believe that by funding three officers
4 we are doing our best to make sure
5 that we're working to keep our streets
6 safe as well as funding other public
7 service activities. And that's all.

8 MR. ROGAN: And you brought up a
9 good point. I don't want to belabor
10 it too much but you spoke about
11 Pinebrook and one of the issues we
12 dealt with -- this is going back a few
13 months was the issue of the parking
14 lot on Capouse and Marion Street and I
15 know that -- I believe it passed
16 four/one to approve to accept it and
17 that project for the parking lot rehab
18 is also included in here and the other
19 night I did have a chance to drive by
20 the privately developed portion of
21 that block renovation that the
22 Fausetts have been doing, I talked to
23 Chris the other day and they're doing
24 an amazing job. It's a great project.
25 I'm glad to see neighborhood, that

1 block really looks great. And that
2 neighborhood, it's kind in between
3 Pinebrook and Greenridge, it's right
4 on that borderline there, but it looks
5 great and I think this will really be
6 the icing on the cake, this last part
7 of the project.

8 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
9 Is there anyone else -- well, we all
10 spoke. Is there anyone else that has
11 any additional comments to add?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. JOYCE: Okay. What is the
14 recommendation of the chairperson for
15 the Committee on Community
16 Development?

17 MR. ROGAN: As chairperson for
18 the Committee on Community
19 Development, I recommend final passage
20 of Item 7-D as amended.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

22 MR. JOYCE: On the question?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. JOYCE: Roll call, please.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR
9 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT-RESOLUTION NO.
11 42, 2013 - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF
12 THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
13 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
14 SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY LIFE
15 SUPPORT, INC. (CLS), TO THE
16 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING
17 THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING
18 AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT
19 GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE
20 DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE
21 AMOUNT OF \$325,474.00 FOR THE PROJECT
22 TO BE KNOWN AS "NEONATAL
23 TRANSPORTATION PROJECT" LOCATED IN
24 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA. AUTHORIZING
25 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY

1 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
2 ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL AND
3 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE
4 ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT
5 LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
6 PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE
7 THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$325,474.00
8 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF
9 PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

10 MR. JOYCE: What is the
11 recommendation of the chairperson for
12 the Community Development?

13 MR. ROGAN: As chairperson for
14 the Committee on Community
15 Development, I recommend final passage
16 of Item 7-C.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

18 MR. JOYCE: On the question?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. JOYCE: Roll call, please.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

1 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I hereby
2 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully
3 adopted.

4 MS. KRAKE: 7-D. FOR
5 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
6 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT-RESOLUTION NO.
7 43, 2013 - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF
8 THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
9 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
10 SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF THE SCRANTON
11 SEWER AUTHORITY, TO THE COMMONWEALTH
12 OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE
13 COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A
14 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO
15 THE PA RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND
16 GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT OF
17 \$415,695.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE
18 KNOWN AS "STREET SWEEPER PROJECT"
19 LOCATED IN SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.
20 THIS RESOLUTION SHALL ALSO AUTHORIZE
21 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY
22 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
23 SCRANTON TO ACCEPT THE GRANT IF
24 APPROVED, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
25 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT

1 CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH
2 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO
3 ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT AWARDED
4 BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
5 FOR SUCH PROJECT.

6 MR. JOYCE: What is the
7 recommendation of the chairperson for
8 the Committee on Community
9 Development?

10 MR. ROGAN: As chairperson for
11 the Committee on Community
12 Development, I recommend final passage
13 of Item 7-D.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

15 MR. JOYCE: On the question?
16 (No response.)

17 MR. JOYCE: Roll call, please.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

23 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I hereby
24 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully
25 adopted.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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

MR. MCGOFF: Motion to adjourn.

MR. JOYCE: This meeting is
adjourned.

(Proceedings concluded at 7:30
p.m.)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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 taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability.

Amelia Nicol, RPR
Court Reporter