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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, November 21, 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  
(Not present)

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF  
(Not present)

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. JOYCE: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Here.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.  
15 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON POLICE PENSION  
16 COMISSION MEETING HELD OCTOBER 23, 2013.

17 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?  
18 If not, received and filed.

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. APPLICATIONS ALONG  
20 WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING  
21 HEARING BOARD HELD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2013.

22 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?  
23 If not, received and filed.

24 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. SINGLE TAX AUDIT  
25 AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING

1 DECEMBER 31, 2011.

2 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?

3 If not, received and filed.

4 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. AGENDA FOR THE CITY  
5 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD NOVEMBER  
6 20, 2013.

7 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?

8 If not, received and filed.

9 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE  
10 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION  
11 MEETING HELD OCTOBER 23, 2013.

12 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?

13 If not, received and filed.

14 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. AUDIT STATUS FROM  
15 ROBERT ROSSI & CO. RECEIVED NOVEMBER 14,  
16 2013.

17 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?

18 If not, received and filed.

19 Are there any clerk's, Mrs. Krake?

20 MS. KRAKE: No, Mr. Joyce.

21 MR. JOYCE: Do any council members  
22 have announcements?

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes, very briefly.

24 First, Mr. McGoff did message me earlier in  
25 the meeting he won't be able to attend, he

1 is having a medical procedure.

2 Two announcements. The first one is  
3 a benefit for Bobby. Bob Beck is a  
4 63-year-old Scranton man diagnosed with  
5 Alzheimer's disease in March of 2009. In  
6 October of 2013 he was diagnosed with tonsil  
7 cancer. Before his illness, Bob worked at  
8 General Dynamics for many years. He is an  
9 amazing person who loves his family dearly,  
10 mostly he loves helping others, music,  
11 fishing and food.

12 The organizer is looking for  
13 donations of all kinds, baskets, food,  
14 etcetera. To donate you can call Kiera at  
15 570-780-9270 and this event will be held on  
16 Sunday, December 1, from 2 to 7 p.m. at the  
17 Keyser Valley Community Center. Tickets are  
18 \$10 and there be will live music by Grace's  
19 Downfall and DJ Ransom.

20 Secondly, Buona Pizza, Giovanni  
21 Piccolino, will be having a free  
22 Thanksgiving lunch. I know he has been  
23 having this for many years. This is on  
24 Thanksgiving day from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. at  
25 Buona Pizza and a big thank you to Giovanni

1 for continuing to give back to the  
2 community. Thank you.

3 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Councilman  
4 Rogan. Yes?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just briefly, I would  
6 like to follow-up on something I had asked  
7 for prayers for last week. My mother wishes  
8 to thank everybody from the many get well  
9 wishes she has received so far from so many  
10 kind and thoughtful people. She will  
11 remember you all, and she is doing very  
12 well, maybe another week she will be dancing  
13 hopefully.

14 And my brother, also. My brother,  
15 David, wishes to express his thank you for  
16 the many condolences he has received upon  
17 the death of his beautiful wife Christine  
18 and I thank you all.

19 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. I would just  
20 like to reiterate, as Mr. Rogan stated  
21 before, Councilman McGoff will not be in  
22 attendance at tonight's meeting as he is  
23 having a medical procedure. I hope that he  
24 does well and I hope that he has a speedy  
25 recovery. And in addition, Councilwoman

1 Evans is ill and will not be at tonight's  
2 meeting as well, so I hope that she is doing  
3 better soon as well. And Attorney Hughes  
4 will also not be in attendance at tonight's  
5 council meeting as he is ill as well, so I  
6 hope they all get better soon.

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

9 MR. JOYCE: Our first speaker  
10 tonight is Fay Franus.

11 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

12 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

13 MS. FRANUS: I wanted to throw some  
14 questions out, not necessarily for you to  
15 answer just to pose them out.

16 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

17 MS. FRANUS: Just so people are  
18 aware of things and try to think about these  
19 things. Since this budget, the mayor  
20 proposed the budget he quite graciously  
21 invited the mayor-elect Bill Courtright to  
22 open door to come in and help him with the  
23 budget to look at it and go over it for any  
24 of his input. I can't understand how come  
25 no one has heard from Mr. Courtright. Like,

1           why wouldn't he jump on this opportunity to  
2           have input in this budget? Does anybody  
3           even know what he thinks about this budget?  
4           Has anybody asked him? Has he contacted  
5           council? Has he contacted the mayor?

6                        I mean, here is the newspaper right  
7           here, I look every day and see no stories.  
8           Mr. Lockwood, I can't understand how come  
9           there is no stories on mayor-elect  
10          Courtright as to his ideas on this budget.

11                       Why he doesn't contribute to it, why  
12          he doesn't convey his thoughts, what he  
13          thinks about it. He is the man that has  
14          live with this budget. He is the one that  
15          has to work on this. He also has said many  
16          times publically that he has a great  
17          relationship with council members now and  
18          council members to come in January, and he  
19          has a great relationship with the unions and  
20          he has a great relationship with the banks.  
21          Why are we not hearing his ideas on this  
22          budget? Why hasn't he even uttered a word  
23          about this? This should be an editorial if  
24          nothing else.

25                       I think it's food for thought for



1 the people who think about. He should not  
2 be not saying anything. He should have a  
3 direct input, especially since Mayor Doherty  
4 invited him to look at it, and I hope. He  
5 still has a couple of weeks, maybe he will.  
6 It will be very good if he does, let's wait  
7 and see.

8 Now, I want to talk about this  
9 garbage fee for a second. I don't know if  
10 people understand this or how this thing got  
11 created, but this -- the garbage, when you  
12 put your garbage out that was part your  
13 taxes. What are we paying taxes for? For  
14 police protection, fire protection and for  
15 our garbage pickup. That's the way it is.  
16 And when Jimmy Connors was the mayor, he had  
17 had an arbitration with the firemen or  
18 something and it got messed up, it didn't  
19 work out so they had this huge bill with to  
20 pay and they didn't know how to pay it, so  
21 they created a garbage fee. To me, that's  
22 double taxation. You are paying for your  
23 garbage through your taxes.

24 Now, you are going to increase it to  
25 \$300, senior citizens cannot afford it.

1 Even -- nobody could afford it. And I don't  
2 think you should go to per bag because  
3 people will be dumping their garbage in  
4 other people houses and, Mr. Rogan, you  
5 mentioned once that if people don't pay for  
6 the garbage it won't get picked up. Well,  
7 you can't do that either because of skunks  
8 and rats and you can't leave garbage out on  
9 the street. I mean, you just can't.

10 But to me it's a double taxation.  
11 You should never have the garbage fee to  
12 start with, let alone increase it to \$300,  
13 and the taxes are out of site. I mean, you  
14 are there to represent us not to take care  
15 of Bill Courtright as the mayor or take care  
16 of the firemen and the policemen, you are  
17 there to take care of us. I haven't seen it  
18 yet.

19 Mr. Rogan, I'm going to be looking  
20 carefully to see how you vote for this  
21 budget. You, who have never said -- who  
22 have always said rather, "I will not raise  
23 taxes. I will not raise taxes. I will take  
24 care of you, I'm looking out for you."

25 We'll see. We'll see what you do

1 with this budget. I'm watching you very  
2 closely.

3 Another thing, I was in Clarks  
4 Summit last week and I went to the State  
5 Street Grill, and on their meters they have,  
6 "If you are going to State Street Grill you  
7 did not have to pay for the meters."

8 So I asked them about it inside and  
9 they said they pay, the State Street Grill  
10 owners, pay the Borough of Clarks Summit the  
11 cost of the meters for the day, every day.  
12 This encourages people to come in their  
13 restaurant because they don't have to go and  
14 pay or worry about coming out and feeding  
15 the meters. I think some businesses in  
16 Scranton should consider that. They would  
17 get much more business if they, themselves,  
18 possibly did the same thing and that the  
19 people that park in front of their business  
20 won't have to feed the meters. It's food  
21 for thought. I know I'll go back there  
22 because I think Clarks Summit -- they are a  
23 step ahead of Scranton.

24 They have the cars getting stopped  
25 for overweight. The trucks rather, or

1           overweight trucks on State Street they are  
2           getting tons of money. Scranton, nothing.  
3           \$300 fine never. Not one fine yet.

4                        So I just hope you think about the  
5           people and do what you can and start doing  
6           the job that you were elected to do and not  
7           taking care of special interests and certain  
8           people, and try to get rid of this garbage  
9           fee, it shouldn't even be a garbage fee.  
10          Double taxation.

11                       And I hope Billy Courtright comes  
12          forward with his ideas on this budget.  
13          People want to know what he thinks. He is  
14          going to be the mayor. He has to live with  
15          this. Thank you.

16                       MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Gerard  
17          Hetman.

18                       MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.

19                       MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

20                       MR. HETMAN: Gerard Hetman from  
21          Lackawanna County's Community Relations  
22          Department. It's go ahead to see you all as  
23          always.

24                       To begin this evening just to follow  
25          up on a question that Councilman Rogan had

1           asked at my last appearance last month  
2           regarding the possibility of Lackawanna  
3           County postponing the first installment of  
4           the property tax payments for 2014, I have  
5           forwarded that request to the County  
6           Commissioners' Office, however, I have not  
7           heard back from them specifically if they  
8           will go ahead with that or if they won't do  
9           it, but as soon as I do have an answer I'll  
10          remind them about it this week and as soon  
11          as they let me know what their plans are for  
12          that process, I'll certainly forward it to  
13          council's office as soon as they let me  
14          know. But I have requested information on  
15          it we'll hopefully know soon and we'll let  
16          council know ASAP when they have a decision  
17          on that.

18                   MR. ROGAN: Thank you. I appreciate  
19                   it.

20                   MR. HETMAN: No problem.

21                   MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

22                   MR. HETMAN: No problem. To get to  
23                   a couple of items related to county and the  
24                   holiday season coming up, the Lackawanna  
25                   County Office of Youth and Family Services,

1           formally known and still known by many as  
2           the Office of Children and Youth Services,  
3           is conducting it's annual "Adopt an Angel"  
4           program again this year. This is a program  
5           that allows the community to contribute to  
6           help that office provide gifts for  
7           underprivileged children at this time of the  
8           year who otherwise would not face a very  
9           happy holiday season due to unfortunate  
10          circumstances.

11                       Children served by the Office of  
12           Family and Youth Services allows people to  
13           contribute and it could be an individual,  
14           could be your office at work, a community or  
15           church group, anybody anyway you want to  
16           slice it they just need to contact some  
17           volunteers that work with that office to  
18           coordinate the program. They suggest a  
19           minimum donation of \$100 per child, but  
20           there is no firm threshold as to what you  
21           have to contribute. The volunteers who work  
22           with whoever would like to participate in  
23           the program to match the child generally  
24           with an age that they request one they will  
25           work to match with that child and whoever

1 participates in the program just donates  
2 some funds to provide gifts for those  
3 children.

4 It's very easy to do. The gifts  
5 will actually -- people want to purchase  
6 them and they can be dropped off at the M  
7 all at Steamtown and it's coordinated, I'd  
8 like to give you the name of the volunteer  
9 who does this, her name is Lea Doherty and  
10 her e-mail, I'll spell it out real quick, is  
11 L-E-A-D-O-U-G-H-R-E-R-T-Y-M-S-W@GMAIL.COM.  
12 And her phone number is area code  
13 570-630-4506.

14 And again, this program helps many  
15 children, a lot of whom may residents of our  
16 cities and the communities around us to  
17 enjoy a Merry Christmas season, so it's a  
18 great way to participate in community  
19 service and help those less fortunate this  
20 time of year.

21 Second, just a couple of events that  
22 will come up in the holiday season, all of  
23 them like to hit that first weekend in  
24 December. Saturday, December 7, the annual  
25 Lackawanna Heritage Valley Santa train will





1 December 6, at 5 p.m. on courthouse square  
2 coinciding with two events, the first one  
3 which is the December First Friday, but also  
4 in addition to this new this year, Scranton  
5 local artists, small businesses and  
6 merchants and artists in and around the City  
7 of Scranton together with the County's Arts  
8 and Culture Department are hosting Holiday  
9 on the Square. It's a festive, as described  
10 by them, a festive outdoor winter market.  
11 It features a large number of crafters,  
12 merchants, artists, all selling their wares  
13 on Courthouse square and the hours of the  
14 market are 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, December  
15 6, Saturday, December 7, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
16 It's the same group that did the Arts on the  
17 Square festival back during the summer  
18 months, really similar to the Lehigh Valley  
19 mart down in Bethlehem. It's only one  
20 weekend, but it should be a great time, and  
21 again, we look forward to seeing those  
22 events grow and prosper in downtown Scranton  
23 and hopefully residents and visitors will  
24 enjoy it and see the best our city has to  
25 offer.



1 haven't heard anything and it's been years  
2 now.

3 Would a fair share tax law be fair  
4 and include anybody or just the out-of-state  
5 University students?

6 Garbage fees, \$300 a year. The city  
7 cannot collect \$178 a year, fee, what makes  
8 you think they will collect a \$300 a year  
9 fee?

10 Scranton population 75,809  
11 estimated. Persons 65 and older, 16.4  
12 percent of the population. Property tax  
13 increases 56.7 percent. Garbage fee  
14 increase 68.5 percent. Parking fee  
15 increase, 25 percent. Rental registration  
16 tripling. Look out, renters, open up your  
17 wallet, you are going to get nailed big  
18 time.

19 Per capita income, \$19,681 2010  
20 census report. Median household income  
21 \$36,968 2010 census report.

22 Persons living below the poverty  
23 level, 33 percent. Highest unemployment  
24 rate in the state over four years, State  
25 Department of Labor. Food stamps use source

1 75 percent in five years.

2 Average salary in the United States  
3 grew by 6 percent, in Scranton only 3.7  
4 percent. Why? But yet Scranton wants to  
5 raise taxes, fees, with no cuts in city  
6 employee's salaries or layoffs.

7 Mr. Doherty said, "I have always  
8 been a realist. You pay your bills and you  
9 move on."

10 I am also a realist. I have said  
11 that many times from this podium. So,  
12 Mr. Doherty, take out your checkbook and  
13 write the check to pay your bills you  
14 created along with city council members who  
15 voted for your ridiculous proposals  
16 throughout the years. The taxpayers are not  
17 responsible for this. The truth of the  
18 matter is 20 million plus gap deficit will  
19 not be closed. Period.

20 According to Mr. Doherty everything  
21 in the 2014 is an assumption. Did we not go  
22 through this in 2013? You know what happens  
23 when you assume.

24 Another quote from Mr. Doherty, "But  
25 if we are going to the able to borrow,

1 borrow, if we are going to be able to do  
2 things ten years from now you need revenues  
3 to pay the bills."

4 Really, Mr. Doherty? Mr. McGoff,  
5 Mrs. Gatelli, Ms. Fanucci, Mr. Murphy,  
6 Mr. Hazzouri, Mr. McTiernan and Mr. Pocius,  
7 why did those council members approve the  
8 borrowing which put the city into its  
9 current status? More importantly, why did  
10 these council members support fighting the  
11 police and fire unions which lead to this  
12 ridiculous \$22 million award? Mr. Reap was  
13 correct, the only people making money are  
14 the attorneys.

15 The Catholic Diocese of Scranton had  
16 the right idea, they appointed Bishop  
17 Martino as Bishop, not from the area, no  
18 ties or relatives in the area. He closed  
19 the churches, schools and everybody  
20 complained. Once he completed his job he  
21 left the area, mission accomplished. Now  
22 nobody complains. Why? Because it had to  
23 be done.

24 I recommend to the dysfunctional  
25 Scranton government that you do the same.

1                   Otherwise, the city remains distressed.

2                   Period

3                                 As far as last week's comments about  
4                   the 2013 budget being close to being  
5                   balanced, should you not accept that  
6                   considering we had several tax increases in  
7                   the past five years? Of course, we are  
8                   going to have more money. We increased  
9                   taxes. The taxpayers are being milked for  
10                  more. Period.

11                                Has anybody tried getting affordable  
12                  health care insurance lately?

13                                FYI, for your information, there are  
14                  three, five letter words that go  
15                  hand-in-hand, money, power, and greed. If  
16                  you have money, you have power. If you are  
17                  power, you have money. When you have both  
18                  that equates to greed. That's government  
19                  right there.

20                                And to the Scranton firefighters and  
21                  police officers, you know, the majority of  
22                  you people are good people, you do a hell of  
23                  a good job, you won your arbitration and I  
24                  applaud you for that, I support all firemen,  
25                  I support all police officers, but in the

1 same token I'm asking you to please, please  
2 consider renegotiating this arbitration  
3 award. I know you are generous enough to  
4 give back 15 million, but your fellow  
5 residents of this city cannot afford it.  
6 I'm not asking -- I don't want you to give  
7 up everything, but I'm just asking you,  
8 please, for the benefit of the rest of the  
9 citizens of this City of Scranton, please at  
10 least think about it and consider it.

11 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next  
12 speaker tonight is Bob Bolus.

13 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.  
14 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

15 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

16 MR. BOLUS: I sat through part of  
17 tonight's caucus, I guess we would call it,  
18 regarding Alexander's. Let me tell you what  
19 I heard and what I didn't like and what I  
20 haven't liked in this city for a long, long  
21 time. Alexander's, from my understanding,  
22 was given a grant. That was changed to a  
23 loan. 1/12 percent. That was tried to  
24 change to 5 percent, then God knows where  
25 else.

1                   You know, when somebody comes in and  
2 they agree to do something and this city  
3 agrees to do it and you change it that's  
4 called bait and switch. Let me bait you in  
5 and switch the deal. That was done with car  
6 dealers for many, many years and that's what  
7 we did in this city. I think if they were  
8 entitled to a grant then it's this council's  
9 responsibility to live up to your word. You  
10 give them a grant, you give anybody else  
11 that you gave your word to, and that's to  
12 show credibility and integrity. Somebody we  
13 are lacking anymore.

14                   Don't ask a business that's actually  
15 brought a business here and successful what  
16 they earned, what they make. You go to a  
17 salon watch these people stand on their feet  
18 eight, ten hours a day cutting hair, putting  
19 with their big smiling faces, and complaints  
20 and so on and so forth. Lackawanna Avenue  
21 is ghost town. You spent millions of  
22 dollars to do what you did to Lackawanna  
23 Avenue. Go take a look at it. Bon-Ton is  
24 bailing out. What are you going to get  
25 here?



1                   Alexander's can go anywhere. They  
2                   are Wilkes-Barre. They can go anywhere they  
3                   want to be. She elected to be here. It's  
4                   your responsibility to see that those that  
5                   want to stay here and you made a deal with  
6                   don't change it. That's character, to stand  
7                   up for what's right. This city spent  
8                   millions of dollars, the Connell building,  
9                   the hotels, you gave it away.

10                   You took 3 1/2 million dollars, my  
11                   pet peeve, of the golf course money with the  
12                   council's before and the administration and  
13                   flushed it down the toilet and you got this  
14                   for it in return? Now, you want to penalize  
15                   the business that's staying here making  
16                   something happen? It's easy to get another  
17                   vacant building. Where are we going here,  
18                   guys? Let's pay attention. Live up to your  
19                   word, live up to your bond, you have to make  
20                   corrections for the future so be it, but  
21                   don't tell somebody that's already been  
22                   there to pay for the past. That's not their  
23                   fault.

24                   You know, we are ready to get a tax  
25                   increase by the state, now we are going to

1 get it in the city in the budget, where the  
2 heck are we going? You are going to borrow  
3 to get out of debt? It's not going to  
4 happen. What do we get for our recyclables?  
5 Do we give them away to the Recycling Center  
6 or do we sell them? Does anybody got that  
7 answer? It's an answer that I think we  
8 should get and look into. Put your  
9 recyclables out for sale to the highest  
10 bidder. You are dumping them into a  
11 privately owned recycling center that gets  
12 cheap labor from the prisons to go out there  
13 and work and puts millions off dollars in  
14 their pocket. It's time for us to look at  
15 making money out of our recyclables. Put  
16 them out there, a lot of people will be glad  
17 to buy them and if they want them, let them  
18 pay for them. They are getting a labor free  
19 literally operation out there at our  
20 expenses. So those are things to do.

21 Your garbage fee \$300. It's a damn  
22 joke, excuse me the French. To a landfill  
23 up there that has pirated this city in every  
24 direction it can possibly go. There is a  
25 leachate line, put \$10 a gallon on that as a

1 host community. Take what it takes to what  
2 it takes to make this city whole again  
3 instead of being bullied. You know, one  
4 time you got to keep walking across the  
5 street from a bully, one day you got to  
6 stand up to him and the time is now. There  
7 is a new council coming, a new mayor coming,  
8 but it's your responsibility to the day you  
9 guys leave here to try and clean the house  
10 up before you go and you need to do that.

11 The leachate, I mean, you know, it's  
12 DeNaples has two garages in this city, have  
13 they ever paid anything on them? I remember  
14 going back years and years, have they ever  
15 paid anything? Yet you want to hand them  
16 more money? You can't even pay the garbage  
17 bills from the past and now you want to hand  
18 more to the people. It's a taxation without  
19 representation. That's as simply as it's  
20 put.

21 If you can tax or better yet put a  
22 fee on the citizens of this city that you  
23 are already burying with everything else  
24 then you can put a fee on nonprofits. It's  
25 another group of bullies. It's time. The

1 time is now, not tomorrow or the day after  
2 for them to pay to the piper. The free ride  
3 is over, they are a contributing factor to  
4 the death of this city.

5 You got to make cuts. You can't  
6 just keeping borrowing to get of debt  
7 because that's proven a fallacy. You got  
8 awards coming, unions, everything else out  
9 here. Um-hum. We have to get our heads out  
10 of the sand, gentlemen, and the time is now.  
11 If you don't do it now, it's never going to  
12 happen. You have broken promises, we have  
13 squandered millions of dollars, we haven't  
14 made one single cut in this city. We have  
15 given our stadium away over there. South  
16 Side Center, gave it away, didn't get a  
17 dime, could have sold it for more money.

18 I bought a church in this city to  
19 save it. It's value was \$3, I paid \$35,000  
20 to preserve our history. You know what they  
21 assessed me? A half a million bucks for it  
22 so stop and think what we are paying to be  
23 in the City of Scranton and those that  
24 should pay aren't paying.

25 This budget is a joke, it's going to

1           destroy this city, you are never going to go  
2           it done, and you can't keep asking for more  
3           blood from the people out of this city, I  
4           think they bled enough. The chance and  
5           choices are now. You have a gas line going  
6           here, you have a leachate line, why don't  
7           you look into possibly doing Marcellus Shale  
8           drilling in this area. How much gas is  
9           under the City of Scranton? Has anybody  
10          thought about exploring it? What about  
11          windmills up on West Mountain? Sell the  
12          power, cut our expenses, here, give the  
13          people a break.

14                        There is creativity, but nobody is  
15          creative, let's just borrow millions of  
16          dollars. You can't even pay the interest on  
17          the millions you are going to borrow and now  
18          you want to add a garbage fee? Come on,  
19          that's what our taxes are for to pay for  
20          garbage, so it's time to really smell the  
21          roses, gentlemen. You are burying this city  
22          and this administration is going to take us  
23          to the grave before it goes. Thank you.

24                        MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.  
25          Our next speaker is Dug Miller.

1                   MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.  
2                   Doug Miller, Scranton. I, too, would like  
3                   to spend my time tonight addressing this  
4                   budget. Over the last week or -- good week  
5                   I have had a chance to take a look at this  
6                   budget. I have a lot of concerns with this  
7                   budget, particularly the fees, the increased  
8                   fees that have been placed in this budget  
9                   for next year.

10                  But before I get into that I want to  
11                  make it clear in terms of the property tax  
12                  increase of roughly 57 percent, coming here  
13                  long enough and knowing full well the  
14                  situation the city is in, particularly this  
15                  last year, going back to last summer and all  
16                  we dealt with the recovery plan and trying  
17                  to get ourself in a situation this year  
18                  where we can somehow float above water.

19                  I knew that a tax increase was  
20                  inevitable and so that doesn't come as a  
21                  surprise to me. I know where we are in a  
22                  situation where we pretty much have no  
23                  choice in that end and so I don't think this  
24                  is much we can do with that. In fact, I was  
25                  actually surprised that it wasn't higher in

1 terms of the mayor's, you know, suggested  
2 amount.

3 The concerns I have are mainly the  
4 revenue projections and our inability to,  
5 yet again, be aggressive and go after  
6 revenue that's out there. Yet again, we  
7 seem to be lax and there is no sense of  
8 urgency whatsoever by this administration  
9 and I'm really upset that we haven't put our  
10 foot down and held their feet to the fire  
11 here.

12 I'm concerned that when I look at a  
13 budget, and I see that through September 30,  
14 the city has only generated \$25,000 for an  
15 amusement tax. I believe Live Nation is the  
16 only organization to contribute towards that  
17 tax. My question tonight is where is the  
18 rest of the money? Why hasn't the city  
19 aggressively pursued these organizations,  
20 other organizations so we that get the money  
21 that we budgeted. That's a very important  
22 question.

23 My other question is the MBR0,  
24 market based revenue opportunity. According  
25 to this budget through September 30 not a

1           dime has been brought in. I understand the  
2           process was delayed, so that's obviously a  
3           contributing factor, but what is the future  
4           of this? I mean, do we intend on this being  
5           successful or is this just another, you  
6           know, pie in the sky, you know, revenue  
7           enhancement?

8                        I understand that when you put  
9           recovery plans together and you place  
10          revenue enhancements I understand you are  
11          taking a chance and you are counting on  
12          things to happen that some times don't  
13          happen, but we knew we had to take a chance,  
14          but my concern is I don't think there is --  
15          we put things down, but we are not being  
16          aggressive in our pursuant to bring these  
17          things in and make them happen, make them a  
18          reality. It's nice to talk about them.  
19          It's nice to have it on paper, but we are  
20          not realizing them, and a contributing  
21          factor of that is we are non-chalant on  
22          everything. That's the philosophy of this  
23          administration for the last 12 years. It's  
24          we do not have an aggressive attitude and  
25          aggressive philosophy and that's why the



1 city is in the shape it's in because we have  
2 a laid back, you know, attitude here and  
3 until the attitude is adjusted, and I'm  
4 hoping that happens next year, we are just  
5 going to continue the same course year in  
6 and year out and nothing is going to change.

7 The other question I have going back  
8 to this recovery plan, we spent all of this  
9 time last summer going back and forth on a  
10 recovery plan and the recovery of this city  
11 for the next three years. Revenue  
12 enhancements. We discussed a commuter tax.  
13 You know, whether you are for the commuter  
14 tax or not is irrelevant to this discussion,  
15 my question tonight would be we placed in a  
16 the recovery plan to petition the Court for  
17 the next three years a commuter tax. Why  
18 didn't we do that this year?

19 MR. JOYCE: The administration chose  
20 not to petition the Court.

21 MR. MILLER: So yet again, like 12  
22 years ago, this is another recovery plan  
23 that we are just going to blatantly refuse  
24 to follow. Why did we put all of that time  
25 and effort going back and forth with the

1 whole summer, we had employees making  
2 minimum wage, we were the laughing stock all  
3 over the nation on national TV to put this  
4 plan together and we don't even follow it.  
5 That's \$2.5 million in the next two years.

6 Let me move on here. PILOTS, my  
7 biggest pet peeve. There has been -- in the  
8 last 12 years there has been no aggressive  
9 pursuit, other than a few members of this  
10 council that went and knocked on their door,  
11 and you were accused of all sorts of illegal  
12 activity, which was a joke, but there has  
13 been no aggressive pursuit by this  
14 administration with the nonprofits in this  
15 community.

16 And again, I'm going to bring up the  
17 1 percent tuition. I know people don't like  
18 to hear it, but that's where we are right  
19 now, and I know I talk about the idea that  
20 there was a lot of legality involved and a  
21 lot of back and forth and it wasn't  
22 something as easy as just putting it in the  
23 budget, but you know, the more I think about  
24 it, if we have that aggressive attitude and  
25 that aggressive mindset and we truly cared

1 and we are really serious about turning this  
2 city around we would have done all the legal  
3 research by now. That should have been put  
4 in this budget. That's 6 to 8 million  
5 dollars that the city could bring in and  
6 annually, and that we don't have to raise  
7 the garbage fee, and that's my next issue.

8 This garbage fee it's completely  
9 asinine, and I apologize for the language,  
10 but I'm just so disappointed and disgusted  
11 that the mayor had the audacity to even put  
12 that in the budget. Last week I have talked  
13 to numerous senior citizens, I'm going to  
14 use them as an example, who just told me  
15 that there is no way they are going to be  
16 able to take that on. I mean, it's bad  
17 enough it's \$178 now, we want to increase it  
18 roughly 69 percent to \$300?

19 Just months back we saw the names in  
20 the paper from the people over \$7 million in  
21 delinquent garbage fees that the city didn't  
22 even collect, you think the people are going  
23 to pay \$300?

24 As we have said before, it's a  
25 taxation without representation. Speakers

1           have said it before me tonight. It's why  
2           people pay property taxes and pay for police  
3           protection, fire protection, and for your  
4           garbage to be collected each week, and with  
5           this plan we really putting the screws to  
6           the people and I don't think it's right.

7                         This can't happen. The rental  
8           registration, all we are doing here is  
9           passing this along to the tenants and the  
10          landlords are going to see this increase.  
11          Look it, it had good intentions of revenue,  
12          but we are to the point now where we are  
13          just driving people out of their homes and  
14          people are going to rent down in Old Forge,  
15          Taylor and Moosic. They are not going to be  
16          able to pay this.

17                        MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Miller.

18                        MR. MILLER: But these are things as  
19          this budget stands right now it's completely  
20          unacceptable and this council shouldn't  
21          stand for it. You need to go ahead a hard  
22          look. I want to Mr. Courtright come in. I  
23          want to see Mr. Weschler, Mr. Gaughan, all  
24          the people that are going to be piloting  
25          this ship next year let them come in and

1 let's hear their ideas, your ideas, because  
2 this budget can't fly as it is. Thank you.

3 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

4 MR. MILLER: We need to put the  
5 people first.

6 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker, I can  
7 make out the name, Gary War --

8 MR. WASSIL: Wassil.

9 MR. JOYCE: Wassil. Sorry, couldn't  
10 tell if they were R's or S's, that's all.

11 MR. WASSIL: Good evening. I hope  
12 you are ready for a change of pace.

13 MR. JOYCE: Pardon?

14 MR. WASSIL: I hope you are ready  
15 for a change of pace. I'm having problems  
16 with a condemned home on my property. I'm  
17 here to understand the status of the  
18 condemned home at the address of 1512  
19 Preston Place in West Side. The property  
20 was reviewed by the city inspectors about  
21 three years ago and was deemed unfit for  
22 human habitation. Two years ago the house  
23 was (unintelligible.) A year ago I filed a  
24 formal complaint with the city. Despite  
25 numerous attempts for me to ascertain the

1 status of this project via phone calls,  
2 e-mails and in person with Mr. Oleski and  
3 Mr. Seitzinger, I was unable to get any  
4 information about the property. The house  
5 is somewhat secure and I have seen various  
6 (unintelligible) in the premises.

7 I would like to help as to when this  
8 situation would be taken care of. I worked  
9 for the government for many years and it has  
10 been challenging and (unintelligible) I  
11 found that the project is now in the fourth  
12 year. I don't know what to do, I'm here for  
13 some help.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: It was a little bit  
15 hard to understand you, Mr. Wassil, but you  
16 mentioned about a property on Preston Place?

17 MR. WASSIL: Yeah, the property at  
18 Preston Place, 1512 Preston Place. It's  
19 condemned, it's been condemned for three  
20 years now and I want to know what the status  
21 of it is, when it's going to be torn down.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: We could inquire.

23 MR. JOYCE: Yes, we can send a  
24 request.

25 MR. WASSIL: I have reached out to

1 OECD and nobody has give me any solid  
2 answers.

3 MR. ROGAN: I think it would be best  
4 directed to Mr. Seitzinger, who will likely  
5 be out of a job in a month or so, so with  
6 the change of administration there is some  
7 department heads may change, some may not,  
8 but if you could provide that address to our  
9 office.

10 MR. WASSIL: It's on file  
11 downstairs.

12 MR. ROGAN: We will look into it,  
13 and I'm being honest with you,  
14 Mr. Seitzinger has not with forthcoming with  
15 information on these type of issues. I know  
16 Mr. Joyce and myself put a lot of time into  
17 a similar situation about a property in the  
18 Tripp Park section of Scranton or West  
19 Scranton, and we have been stonewalled as  
20 well, but if you leave the information with  
21 us we will definitely make sure that the  
22 right people are made aware and if the  
23 current administration is unwilling to act,  
24 you know, I'll be sure to bring it up with  
25 our new mayor when he takes office in

1           January.

2                       MR. WASSIL: Thank you. I do have  
3           comment in regards to the budget, has  
4           everyone ever thought about getting with the  
5           nonprofits to see if they could provide us  
6           with some help, like an advisory committee,  
7           people from business and industry, you know,  
8           economic department, finance department to  
9           see if they can come in and help us with the  
10          situation. Maybe like Detroit or Compton,  
11          California or Bridgeport, Connecticut and  
12          maybe to see to look what they have done in  
13          the past, maybe that help what they think.  
14          Get some fresh ideas and see.

15                     MR. ROGAN: That's a very good idea.

16                     MR. JOYCE: Yes.

17                     MR. WASSIL: Thank you.

18                     MR. JOYCE: If you can leave that  
19          address with our clerk we'll be glad to look  
20          into that for you.

21                     Our next speaker tonight is Les  
22          Spindler.

23                     MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
24          Council. Les Spindler, city resident and  
25          homeowner and taxpayer. I just want to say



1 a couple of words about Alexander's, I don't  
2 often disagree with Mr. Bolus, but I have to  
3 disagree with him tonight. To give them a 4  
4 1/2 percent drop on their interest rate I  
5 think is really unreasonable. As  
6 Mr. Loscombe said, everybody is going  
7 through tough times. I'm going through  
8 tough times, I lost my full-time job in  
9 April that I had for 21 years. Nobody is  
10 dropping my percentages 4 1/2 percent, so  
11 they charge \$30 for a haircut, I think they  
12 could pay 5 percent. Their prices are  
13 outrageous and I think they should be able  
14 to pay what they are now.

15 Moving onto the budget, as everybody  
16 else has said, I think it's unrealistic. 56  
17 percent is a lot for people to pay in  
18 property taxes. I have know we do have to  
19 raise the taxes because the banks have to  
20 see that we have some income coming in or  
21 we're not to get anything, but I think 30 or  
22 40 would be more reasonable.

23 And as other people have said, I  
24 have said it in the past, the garbage fee is  
25 illegal. We pay our property taxes for

1           that. This council should look to disband,  
2           get rid of that garbage fee because it's  
3           illegal. I wish somebody would take it to  
4           Court and get it thrown out, I'm sure it  
5           would get thrown out. That's why we pay our  
6           property taxes for fire protection, police  
7           protection and our garbage gets picked up.  
8           I don't know. It's very simple to figure  
9           that out. I don't know why we still have  
10          this and \$300 is way too much.

11                         There is a woman who lives behind me  
12          she is in her 80's, widowed, she puts out  
13          maybe a bag or garbage a week. She can't  
14          afford \$300. I was talking to her daughter  
15          last week, she can't do it. There is lot of  
16          people like that. I'm working for a temp  
17          agency now, I might not be able to pay it.  
18          You might see my name in the paper next  
19          year. It's just outrageous. People can't  
20          pay all of these fees. Something has got to  
21          be done.

22                         Moving on, on a brighter note, for  
23          the last 12 years there has not been too  
24          much to be proud of this city, but I think  
25          there is one thing to be proud of now and

1           that's West Scranton's Matt McGloin. I  
2           think he is a bright light shining from this  
3           city. He is kid that walked onto Penn  
4           State, turned out to be a record setting  
5           quarterback there, wasn't drafted by the  
6           NFL, which it turns out now was a big  
7           mistake. He was picked up by Oakland as a  
8           fourth string, and I read in the paper last  
9           week the only reason they picked him up was  
10          just give the other quarterbacks a rest and  
11          now he is starting in the NFL. That's an  
12          unbelievable accomplishment and I think  
13          every Scrantonian should be proud of Matt.  
14          I know his parents are smiling from ear to  
15          area and his whole family and everybody  
16          should be proud of him.

17                 You know what, he is a great example  
18          for kids that aren't physically talented as  
19          some other players. Matt doesn't have the  
20          physical abilities that a lot of other  
21          quarterbacks have, but he has got the heart,  
22          he has got the desire and he has got it up  
23          here. He has got the smarts that some guys  
24          with the athletic ability don't have.

25                 I think that's one thing to be proud

1 of and that's Matt McGloin. I know last  
2 year council was supposed to bring him in  
3 and give a proclamation, I know that didn't  
4 happen, so I'm asking -- this probably won't  
5 happen until the new council takes over, but  
6 I know, Councilman Rogan, we spoke about it  
7 and you were going to make a note.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yeah. Absolutely. It's  
9 something I wanted to do and not only for at  
10 the time it was just for Matt's Penn State,  
11 amazing Penn State career, but now we can  
12 also even include some of the great work he  
13 is doing in the NFL.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Just to make an NFL  
15 team is an accomplishment. There is  
16 thousands of players that come out of  
17 college football and don't make it, and to  
18 be a starting quarterback in the NFL, that's  
19 fantastic. Like I said, he is doing our  
20 city proud. That's one thing we can really  
21 be proud of and we'll talk about it again.  
22 After the season is over it would nice to  
23 get him down here.

24 And again, I will be here for the  
25 public meeting December 5, but I know you

1           have to introduce the budget tonight, but  
2           you've got to make some amendments to it  
3           when December 5 rolls around. Thank you for  
4           your time.

5                       MR. JOYCE: Thank you. And I just  
6           want to say that Matt McGloin is definitely  
7           a role model for many, many children in this  
8           city of someone who worked hard, wasn't  
9           given a lot of chances, and went out and  
10          there and really worked hard and got and  
11          earned his keep.

12                      And with that note, our next speaker  
13          is Andrew Porter.

14                      MR. PORTER: Good evening. My name  
15          is Andrew Porter. I'm a citizen of  
16          Scranton. A roll model is a great thing. I  
17          really came here after, you know,  
18          contemplating for approximately a month  
19          should I come, should I not come. I'm here.  
20          I'm here because I love this city. This is  
21          God's city. I wanted to particularly thank  
22          the president of the city council, Janet  
23          Evans, for her service for over the years  
24          and she is not here. I wish a speedy  
25          recovery for both Mrs. Evans and Mr. McGoff.

1                   We have a tendencies sometimes to  
2                   look at all bad and we need to look at good.  
3                   One of the things I'd like to thank city  
4                   council for as a unit is for keeping the  
5                   Pledge of Allegiance in the building.  
6                   Sometimes we have a tendency to forget that  
7                   we have made an oath to God and that all  
8                   that are here are supposed to represent the  
9                   citizens of this great city. This is God's  
10                  city in accordance to wishes of God.

11                  Now, we have a responsibility, I'm  
12                  very disappointed in the fact that there is  
13                  not as many citizens here as there should be  
14                  because the citizens I think should be out  
15                  every day because it's not over until it's  
16                  over, I think that was once said, and we  
17                  have until the end of the year to raise  
18                  certain funds.

19                  Now, I know you are probably  
20                  thinking that this is ridiculous and this  
21                  guy is a ridiculous person by even thinking  
22                  that, but we don't have -- we have a month  
23                  maybe to do this. We hired a mayor  
24                  previously. No matter what you may think of  
25                  him, he has been in the capacity of the

1           mayor for over a decade and we it's our  
2           responsibility as citizens to help as much  
3           as we can and this way politicians would be  
4           able to be in line with what is required by  
5           the city, and what we need I think is to  
6           take a different type of approach because to  
7           borrow, to continually borrow and to put  
8           God's city up for sale is I don't think the  
9           appropriate way to move.

10                         Now, we made another decision and we  
11           brought in Bill Courtright and the citizens  
12           of Scranton has spoken. If you tax the way  
13           it is intended to be then you take away  
14           homes of your seniors. You take away homes  
15           of the lowly, of the poor, and if you take  
16           those homes and you foreclose those homes  
17           you need to watch what is that you do  
18           because God does not look kindly on people  
19           who make profit of those less fortunate.

20                         I think what we need to do, if you  
21           remember correctly, we have so many people  
22           that love this city and do we as  
23           individuals, as citizens of Scranton, do we  
24           really love the city because if we did then  
25           what we need to do is we need to raise

1 funds. We need to stop borrowing. We need  
2 to let the world see that we are in need.  
3 We need to have Bill Clinton. We need to  
4 have his wife Hilary. We need have the vice  
5 president of the United States come in. We  
6 need to let them know that we need help. We  
7 need to let the University of Scranton, who  
8 has a fine tuition and some of the best  
9 students in the country here, as well as  
10 Lackawanna County, as well as the high  
11 schools, as well as Marywood University and  
12 others that I may not have mentioned, these  
13 people can raise funds.

14 Your media speaks of all of these  
15 different organizations that can raise  
16 funds. We need to get out here, and you say  
17 that it's not possible and you may think  
18 that it's not possible, but it is possible.  
19 With God all things are possible. And if  
20 you take the approach that this is and it  
21 will -- and we have elected Bill Courtright,  
22 and I'm sure his intentions are good, but we  
23 need to stay focused on the matter at hand  
24 and that is to help each other.

25 We are an angry people. Sometimes



1 if you look we use devices like the cell  
2 phone and we don't use it for good purposes  
3 in most instances. We drive with the cell  
4 phone in one hand and with the cigarette in  
5 the other hand, and where is the hand on the  
6 wheel? On a two-way street we are crossing  
7 over into the other lane and we are running  
8 into just about scaring whoever it is that's  
9 going the right way when the other people  
10 are going the wrong way.

11 I think that we need to take a  
12 different approach. I know that my time is  
13 up, I only have minutes to speak to you, but  
14 we have, as a city, as a unit, a month and  
15 that's a long time. We have 300 and how  
16 many days in a year and people are raising  
17 funds for Thanksgiving and for Christmas and  
18 when those two days are gone where are the  
19 people that are foreclosed out of this city?  
20 Where are they going to go? Where are they  
21 going to live? God will bless us if we do  
22 what it is that we need to do and don't you  
23 think that we can do it.

24 And that's what I say to you, I  
25 think that we should try as best we can to

1 do whatever we can to save our city. If you  
2 love your city, then you will do that. You  
3 need to come out. You need to let -- you  
4 need to help the people that you elected and  
5 the people that are elected should never,  
6 never, even the police department and the  
7 fire department, you have taken an oath, you  
8 have taken an oath to God that you would  
9 protect the citizens of this great city.

10 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Porter.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

12 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is  
13 Ozzie Quinn.

14 MR. QUINN: Good evening. Ozzie  
15 Quinn, Taxpayers' Association. I think I  
16 can tell you how Mr. Doherty came to that  
17 \$300 increase, okay? You know, going back  
18 to July of this year PEL reviewed and  
19 analyzed the budget for 2014 and they said  
20 at that time there was a going to be a \$18  
21 million deficit in the budget, older budget,  
22 and they said in order to be able to balance  
23 the budget you are going to have increase  
24 that 117 percent real estate taxes.

25 Now, I see where Mr. Doherty says, I

1 don't think it's a coincidence, you know, he  
2 said he wants to raise the taxes 49 percent,  
3 okay, and then he wants to increase \$122 on  
4 top of \$178 for \$300 increase to the garbage  
5 collection fees, which would amount to 68  
6 percent. Add the 68 percent to the 49  
7 percent, and you get 117 percent.

8 I think Mr. Doherty has deceived us.  
9 It's a sham. What he is using is the  
10 garbage fee, garbage collection fee, instead  
11 of increasing his taxes and I think a lot of  
12 the administration, since the garbage tax  
13 had come into -- garbage fee, excuse me, has  
14 come into existence, they have been able to  
15 use that increase in the garbage fees so  
16 they wouldn't have to increase the taxes,  
17 and that way they look good in the public  
18 eye. There is no doubt about it, that 117  
19 percent is what PEL had told Mr. Doherty  
20 that increase was needed and that's what he  
21 is giving them, 117 percent.

22 Now, if you look at the Scranton  
23 Times it's not a 117, it would be 125  
24 percent increase, you know? I think the  
25 Scranton Times is more accurate probably,

1 but there is no doubt about it that fee,  
2 that garbage collection fee if it walks like  
3 a duck and it quacks like a duck it's a  
4 duck. That's a tax. There is no doubt  
5 about it and they are using that as a front  
6 to get around so the people will pay this  
7 garbage fee and they will look good in the  
8 eyes of the people that they haven't raised  
9 the taxes. So I think if you go back in  
10 July you are going to see that that's what  
11 I'm speaking about is true, okay?

12 Now, you see a lot of foreclosures  
13 in the paper, no doubt about it, hundreds  
14 and hundreds and you see a lot of tax sales,  
15 hundreds and hundreds, 2/3 of them are from  
16 the City of Scranton. How in the heck are  
17 you going to raise taxes that much? You  
18 know, 117 percent, according to Mr. Doherty,  
19 117 percent, and be able to have people stay  
20 in the city?

21 You know, 33 percent of the people  
22 are on social security. It's unbelievable.  
23 Then you talk about another 35 percent are  
24 making less than 24 or 25 thousand dollars,  
25 so you can't get blood out of a stone. You

1 know, it's a shame it's like that, but we  
2 have been deceived ever since in  
3 administration has been on board. Not only  
4 that, we have been deceived from our  
5 administration for a long time back.

6 You know, that garbage fee, as you  
7 know, there is no doubt about it, it was  
8 always in the taxes. You paid your taxes  
9 you get your garbage hike. Some smart  
10 politician said, "Oh, let's go for a garbage  
11 collection fee and that way we can deceive  
12 the public."

13 And they have been doing it for  
14 years, but Mr. Doherty was really deceiving  
15 us because he is raising it 117 percent. If  
16 you look at the Scranton Times, it's a 125  
17 percent, and I don't think it's a  
18 coincidence.

19 Lastly, I want to say something  
20 about, you know, last year there was a  
21 federal audit on the Office of Economic and  
22 Community Development, and it was an \$11  
23 million finding, and that finding was to be  
24 paid if they didn't resolve the finding by  
25 nonfederal funds, meaning taxpayers' fund.

1 Now, I haven't heard hide nor hair from the  
2 OECD or anybody else or anybody about what's  
3 the status of that audit? I used to have a  
4 good rapport of trying to get information  
5 out of HUD then all of a sudden my wires  
6 were cut, they made me go through -- jump  
7 through hoops to try and get information and  
8 I thought it's not worth it. So I'd  
9 appreciate it, Mr. Rogan, you being the  
10 chairman of OECD up until January if you  
11 could look into that audit because a lot of  
12 that audit filings have to do with loans,  
13 and you had a caucus tonight about loans and  
14 I'm sure you are going to see a lot of  
15 discrepancies and I don't want to get left  
16 and the public don't want to get left  
17 paying, even it's not 11 million, whatever  
18 we have to pay to nonfederal funds and it's  
19 going to come out to haunt us, okay? So it  
20 might be another thing that would happen.

21 So I appreciate being here tonight  
22 and, you know, I just want to say one thing,  
23 you know, that's a sham, that fee is a sham,  
24 and there is no doubt about it and it can't  
25 be used, it can't be continually used to

1 help the politicians and then put the burden  
2 on the people and think that the people are  
3 so foolish that they won't understand what's  
4 going on. There are people out there that  
5 know what's going on and I appreciate coming  
6 in here and thank you for everything. Bye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next  
8 speaker is Dave Dobrzyn.

9 MR. DOBRZYN: Dave Dobrzyn, resident  
10 of Scranton, taxes paid, fees paid. Once  
11 again, I'm going to repeat myself while we  
12 still have a majority, at least a resolution  
13 no new tax exempts until the tax exempts  
14 form an association with the city government  
15 to gain compensation from the state over  
16 losses and that includes government  
17 buildings such as county and county jails  
18 and whatever else, nonprofit schools and so  
19 forth. I'm tired of paying everybody else's  
20 bills.

21 And once again, I'd like to note  
22 that we had a \$6 million debacle with the  
23 school board and please start to realize  
24 like our city is distressed.

25 And as far as the state legislature

1 is concerned, we were refused help and, once  
2 again, this is the latest information and  
3 I'm going to read it:

4 "Perhaps the most astonishing story  
5 main stream media has missed is how  
6 companies force consumers to pay tax dollars  
7 that never quite make it to the government's  
8 pocket. What began is an effort in Kentucky  
9 to help a single company in Appalachia to  
10 raise capital by keeping state income taxes  
11 withheld from it's worker's paychecks has  
12 grown to more than 2,700 companies in 19  
13 states when this book was first published.  
14 The big banks, carmakers, insurers and a  
15 host of Canadian, Chinese, European,  
16 Japanese companies all get to profit by  
17 pocketing taxes withheld from an America  
18 worker's paychecks. Since "The Fine Print"  
19 came out in hardback, two more states have  
20 joined this trend, Oregon and Pennsylvania.

21 Now the Pennsylvania law was  
22 designed initially to benefit one company,  
23 Oracle, a firm so rich it does not need any  
24 subsidies. If this pattern continues, I am  
25 confident it will then other forms will soon



1 join Oracle in pocketing tax dollars  
2 withhold from their employees' paychecks."

3 Now, that pertains to us in this  
4 respect, we were made fun of by the State of  
5 Pennsylvania when we asked for help over the  
6 firemen and the policemen's settlement in  
7 the arbitration awards.

8 And it was mentioned on a per bag  
9 fee, and I will mention that I helped at the  
10 polls with Pat Rogan in the spring, he  
11 didn't need my help in fall, so I supported  
12 him, but I don't support per bag fees and I  
13 don't know how that idea is going, but on  
14 trash I found 20 cardboard boxes, two by  
15 two, tied up and bundled at the trash  
16 pickup, and my advice to Scranton, with  
17 aluminum cans and bottles and so forth wise  
18 up and complain later. I don't support the  
19 \$300. I fully understand, and Ozzie was  
20 very enlightening, but a lot of people are  
21 failing to recycle, which is free, by the  
22 way, on tipping fees. It's free of tipping  
23 fees, its just costs us for the trucks and  
24 the people to pick it up.

25 And once again, I'm going to make a

1 golden parrot for Bill Clinton, he is not  
2 president anymore, but he is pushing trade  
3 packs and bending Obama's ear once again and  
4 poor old George Bush with all of his faults  
5 got blamed for a lot of the joblessness that  
6 came from his Chinese trade packs and NAFTA.

7 And Sara Palin, the welfare queen of  
8 the year, 165 paid out to Alaska for every  
9 dollar of federal government money paid in.  
10 I'll bet you the post office would never  
11 miss Alaska, they have to fly their mail  
12 around instead of delivering it by walking  
13 there. Thank you and have a good night.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

15 MR. JOYCE: Our speaker is  
16 Christopher Chime1.

17 MR. CHIMEL: Good evening, Council.

18 ALL COUNCIL: Good evening.

19 MR. CHIMEL: Chris Chime1, West  
20 Scranton resident and taxpayer and  
21 homeowner, my first time up at the council  
22 meeting here. I'm disgusted. I cannot  
23 believe the line is -- when I seen these  
24 runners out here I thought that maybe it was  
25 the line to get in here tonight. I can't

1 believe nobody is here with this mayor's  
2 proposal.

3 I have a couple of newspaper  
4 articles here, one from last year, with the  
5 taxes that are owed to the city. I got, you  
6 know, the recent one here, October 14, 15  
7 pages of -- I'm sure everybody has seen  
8 this, the garbage fees that are owed. Then  
9 one here from November 16 says, "Collection  
10 of delinquent wage tax and delinquent  
11 garbage fees are expected to rise by  
12 \$450,000."

13 What are we owed, about \$13 million  
14 in taxes and garbage fees combined? We are  
15 only going to get \$450,000 of that? That's  
16 a joke. It really is. This budget is a  
17 joke.

18 I have a pretty good job in this  
19 city. I turn down overtime. They say if  
20 you don't vote, you don't voice your opinion  
21 you don't get anywhere. It's my first time  
22 at council, came down on behalf of the  
23 citizens of the City of Scranton, I'm  
24 voicing my opinion and, like I said, this is  
25 a joke. I don't know how people are going

1 to afford it. You know, a lot of people on  
2 these pages are my family and friends and I  
3 don't know whose responsibility or job it is  
4 to, I don't want to use the word go after,  
5 but we all got to pay our fair share.  
6 People on these pages that owe the taxes and  
7 the garbage fee have to chip in, have to  
8 start paying a little bit. I got to pay, I  
9 don't mind paying a little bit of a tax  
10 increase, but these people can't just pay  
11 \$100 bucks and think, okay, I'm good for  
12 another year.

13 You know, it's ridiculous. They  
14 have to -- if everybody else has to start  
15 chipping in. I don't know whose job it is,  
16 if it's the tax collector's or council's or  
17 the mayor's, but these people have to start  
18 chipping in. I think if we collected all of  
19 this money that was owed to the city, you  
20 know, I don't think we would be in the debt  
21 we are in. I don't think we'd have to raise  
22 taxes as bad as we have to, if all of the  
23 fees were collected.

24 That's about it. I'd like to wish  
25 Mr. Joyce and Mrs. Evans good luck in your

1 next ventures, they won't be with us next  
2 year, and I'll be down to see the rest of  
3 you, Mr. Rogan and Mr. Loscombe. Thanks.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

5 MR. JOYCE: That concludes our  
6 sign-in sheet for tonight, would anyone else  
7 like to address council?

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Not really. I'd  
9 like to be home doing other things, but we  
10 are compelled. First of all, I'd like to  
11 note that last week, especially a councilman  
12 and from this podium, people have lambasted  
13 PEL. I'd like to point out that PEL has no  
14 power to directly force compliance.

15 Remember, that PEL works for and is  
16 paid by DCED. For the year 2003 through  
17 2010, the head of DCED was an appointee of  
18 Governor Rendell, the same Governor Rendell  
19 who sent lots and lots of millions of  
20 dollars into this city, I'm not sure what  
21 good it did, but he also managed to drain  
22 the rainy day fund, and so I would direct  
23 your issues to Governor Rendell.

24 Next, budget. First, I'd like to  
25 thank the Times-Tribune for making it

1 available on-line, that was a real help, and  
2 I think the only -- the only thing that can  
3 save many people, I think this is going to  
4 turn out, unless something drastic happens,  
5 the only thing that's going to save this  
6 city or many people from the greatest real  
7 estate land grab in the history of  
8 Northeastern Pennsylvania is if they get on  
9 the phone tomorrow and talk to their  
10 representatives and their state senator and  
11 tell them we need Senate Bill and House Bill  
12 76 passed and we need it this session. If  
13 people's school taxes were free and they  
14 only had to pay controllable sales taxes  
15 then they might have the money to pay some  
16 of this increase.

17 Mr. Flynn's number is 3 -- of course  
18 all are preceded by a 570, Mr. Flynn is  
19 342-4349. Mr. Haggerty is 342-2710. And  
20 Mr. Blake's number is 787-6481. I hope you  
21 will make their phones ring off the hook  
22 tomorrow.

23 Next, a couple of questions on the  
24 budget, so I guess, Mr. Joyce, you are in.  
25 Does the Court award line item in the budget

1           that is expending \$22.2 million satisfy  
2           fully the Supreme Court award to the fire  
3           and police? Maybe you could hold and do  
4           these doing motions since I'm on the last  
5           one, because I'd like to get through all of  
6           them.

7                       MR. JOYCE: I will say -- I won't  
8           take up any of your time when I'm speaking.  
9           Yes, that is intended to satisfy the whole  
10          Supreme Court award.

11                      MS. SCHUMACHER: And what was the  
12          assumed real estate tax collection in 2013  
13          and what is assumed for 2014?

14                      MR. JOYCE: As far as the collection  
15          rate?

16                      MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah.

17                      MR. JOYCE: I don't have --

18                      MS. SCHUMACHER: 87 or 88 last year  
19          percent.

20                      MR. JOYCE: It's basically in the  
21          same ballpark. It's going to be somewhere  
22          between 87 or 88, maybe 89.

23                      MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I don't  
24          really, again, it gets back to the great  
25          land grab that is going to occur in a couple

1 of years here unless something else drastic  
2 happens, but I just think something has to  
3 be done.

4 With respect to the meters, is the  
5 proposed lease available for review in the  
6 Clerk's Office and does the lease give  
7 Republic control of the hours and days of  
8 the operation and placement of meters and  
9 determination of the fines?

10 MR. JOYCE: Interesting enough, I  
11 have never seen the proposed lease, and I  
12 don't -- have you seen it, Councilman Rogan?

13 MR. ROGAN: I can answer that. I  
14 spoke with PEL today, there is currently no  
15 proposed lease. Something that was talked  
16 about, which is a ten-year lease of the  
17 meters, there is no legislation, there is no  
18 final deal. It will be up to the next  
19 administration and the next council if they  
20 want to pursue that item.

21 PEL further explains that I believe  
22 it's \$1.6 million that's included for sale  
23 of assets is for either a deal with the  
24 meters or a deal with the Sewer Authority.

25 MR. JOYCE: It's \$1.7 million. I



1                   didn't mean to correct you.

2                   MR. ROGAN: Thank you. And they  
3                   felt that was a safe number. It's one of  
4                   the concerns I have with the budget as well,  
5                   as well as some others that I will mention  
6                   during motions.

7                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, speaking of  
8                   the Sewer Authority, I would like to commend  
9                   them, I know I urged you all of up there,  
10                  all five of you, at various times over the  
11                  last couple of years to read the section of  
12                  the Sewer Authority's last presentation that  
13                  was made, a feasibility study of some sort  
14                  that was made and presented at Lackawanna  
15                  College, they have a section on  
16                  affordability. They base their fees on  
17                  affordability, and I doubt that any of you  
18                  ever took the time to do that, but I think  
19                  that's it.

20                  You know, it really irritated me  
21                  tonight to hear you talk to somebody, a  
22                  woman, I know it's totally unrelated, but I  
23                  believe the owner of Alexander's owned also  
24                  the lot that's kiddy-corner next to Buona  
25                  Pizza, not a very big lot, I believe they

1           were paid somewhere in the neighborhood of a  
2           quarter of a million or maybe even \$275,000  
3           by the Redevelopment Authority and yet they  
4           complain. I don't think the legislation  
5           that came here had a grant. I believe it  
6           was for a loan from day one. I think that's  
7           smoke screen. I think maybe when they were  
8           talking they were seeking a grant, but maybe  
9           I can go back and research it, although, I  
10          don't know the holidays is approaching, but  
11          I think that -- plus, would somebody who was  
12          concerned -- may I continue for a little  
13          bit?

14                         MR. JOYCE: Yes.

15                         MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. I don't  
16          think somebody who was concerned because a  
17          grant, a so-called grant was turned into a  
18          loan, and then would open a place in 2009 if  
19          they were worried about their cash flow. If  
20          that was 2007 through 2010, found out about  
21          it and yet opens a new place in Wilkes-Barre  
22          it makes no sense. I don't believe this and  
23          I wish that you all would give the same  
24          consideration to the taxpayers that you are  
25          willing to give to Ms. Tarapchak, is --

1 MS. JOYCE: That's correct.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- the

3 pronunciation.

4 MS. JOYCE: Ms. Tarapachak.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: But if you would  
6 ask the taxpayers what they could afford to  
7 pay and base it on that, I mean, it just --  
8 hard economic times for the next 25 years,  
9 is that we are really saying? I just --  
10 I'll have more to say on that, but just a  
11 couple more on the budget.

12 Why are two persons added to the  
13 collection department? Are there new  
14 residences that we don't know about that  
15 require two more trash collectors in that  
16 department?

17 MR. ROGAN: I actually, I don't  
18 believe I had a chance to talk to my  
19 colleagues about that yet, one of the things  
20 that I'm going to propose is that one of  
21 those positions is eliminated, one of the  
22 additional positions, and to -- actually I  
23 would like to put a supervisor in to oversee  
24 what's going on at the DPW, actually at a  
25 low pay scale than what we have currently

1           have. So there will be some savings and  
2           hopefully more efficiency.

3                       MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I'd like to  
4           know, also, what part of the \$300 is for the  
5           repayment of the abatement from last year  
6           that had to be repaid? I believe the  
7           abatement was \$1.5 million to be paid over  
8           the next 36 months or three years? I would  
9           like to know how many households are trash  
10          collected, residential households, what the  
11          landfill fee is, and if that's how we are  
12          paying back that one point -- well, it would  
13          be \$500,000, I guess, that half a million  
14          abatement that was given last year.

15                      And then finally, how many citation  
16          issuers are covered by the \$659,786.40  
17          included in the budget proposal. Do we  
18          know?

19                      MR. JOYCE: I don't know off the top  
20          of my head, but I will -- I don't -- well, I  
21          have an idea, but I don't want to just say  
22          out a number that is inaccurate, so I'll  
23          just speak with Republic and get that  
24          information.

25                      MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you,

1 and thanks for your indulgence on the extra  
2 time.

3 MR. JOYCE: Is there anyone else  
4 that would like to address council tonight?

5 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

6 MR. JOYCE: Councilman Rogan, do you  
7 have any comments or motions tonight?

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes. A few comments  
9 regarding the budget. I guess we'll start  
10 with one of the items that was talked about  
11 a lot today, which is the garbage fee, and I  
12 have been one of the few people that have  
13 been an advocate for a per bag fee, and many  
14 people have been upset with that idea. This  
15 is the other option, and it's not fair to  
16 people who only have one bag of garbage.

17 What I'm hopeful that can happen,  
18 and I don't know if it can, is that instead  
19 of imposing a \$300 yearly garbage fee that  
20 it can be broken out to become a quarterly  
21 fee where residents would pay \$75 every  
22 three months to the city to soften the blow  
23 on many people who are going to struggle  
24 with this bill. That's another reason why I  
25 like the per bag fee, which you are only



1           on some of the revenue items, one of them  
2           was mentioned already which is the sale of  
3           assets. I've stated before that the sale of  
4           parking meters isn't something that's  
5           financially wise because we can sell the  
6           meters and get a one-time cash infusion, but  
7           then we loose that revenue forever under  
8           that kind of agreement so that's something I  
9           would be opposed to and it does concern me  
10          that money is budgeted for that item when  
11          there may not be the support of the  
12          current -- of the new mayor and of the new  
13          city council to actually go through with  
14          that, and I also wonder if that did happen  
15          if we would lose control over the rates.  
16          The worse thing that could happen is if we  
17          sold the meters and a private company  
18          decided to charge \$5 an hour to park at a  
19          meter in the downtown. That would hurt the  
20          businesses as well.

21                        I noticed, and this ties into two  
22          state issues actually I want to talk about a  
23          little bit, one that Ms. Schumacher brought  
24          out and another one that wasn't brought up,  
25          there is additional money in this year's

1 budget that was projected assistance from  
2 the state for liquid fuels. Now, I may be  
3 wrong, but I am almost positive that the  
4 Transportation Bill that just passed does  
5 not include that increased money for  
6 distressed municipalities. If that's the  
7 case, the city would not be receiving this  
8 money.

9 Now, that bill, unfortunately, just  
10 passed, and I'm sure many of you have read  
11 about it, not only does it hurt the City of  
12 Scranton on this issue, but it also will  
13 increase your tax at the gasoline pumps by  
14 28 cents. Now, I would like to thank our  
15 two state representatives in the City, Marty  
16 Flynn and Kevin Haggerty for voting against  
17 it, unfortunately, our state senator once  
18 again left the city out in the cold.

19 And moving onto the other state  
20 issue that was brought up that would really  
21 help taxpayers in the city, which is Senate  
22 Bill 76. I have spoken about this at  
23 council many times, I spoke to one of the  
24 directors over the last week of the  
25 organizers that's really try trying to push



1 the state legislative or the state house and  
2 state senate to pass this bill, and what it  
3 would do is eliminate the school portion of  
4 your property taxes, which is by far the  
5 largest portion. If that bill were to pass,  
6 even with tax increases coming from the city  
7 and possibly the county your tax bill on  
8 your property would be less.

9 I know I spoke -- I know State  
10 Representative Flynn supports the bill. I  
11 believe State Representative Haggerty is  
12 opposed to it, and I know Senator Blake,  
13 once again, is staunchly opposed to it. It  
14 seems to be a pattern with Senator Blake  
15 that anything that helps the City of  
16 Scranton he is against, and it's very  
17 disappointing that our state senator hasn't  
18 done a thing to help the city.

19 To make matters worse, he was one of  
20 the guys that DCED when all of this started  
21 under Rendell's administration and previous  
22 to that that really brought the city into  
23 the position we are in.

24 I don't want to talk about state  
25 issues all night, but I did speak with



1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MR. JOYCE: In this budget? Yes,  
3 you are accurate. The debt service this  
4 year, so sorry I'm --

5 MR. ROGAN: Oh, that's fine.

6 MR. JOYCE: Was less because of a  
7 refinance, but --

8 MR. ROGAN: And when you are looking  
9 at a budget when you think of 14 -- just the  
10 \$14 million, which is a very large  
11 percentage of the budget, you are receiving  
12 no services for that money. It's only going  
13 to pay the banks for the mistakes of the  
14 past. You are paying for that dog park that  
15 Mayor Doherty built. At the time, it was  
16 the most expensive dog park in the country.  
17 You are paying for that tree house, you are  
18 paying for all of this waste in the past and  
19 because from the past elected officials  
20 didn't use the correct numbers or didn't  
21 pursue other revenue ideas, pursuing the  
22 nonprofits, pursuing enhancements of our  
23 parking meters. All of these things have  
24 come home to roost and the line of credit is  
25 due. We have to pay this debt service, and

1 on top of the city's debt service we also  
2 have Parking Authority obligations that need  
3 to be dealt with, and it seems that they  
4 only going to grow. I know in the reports  
5 that the garages are in disrepair, the  
6 occupancy rates are very low and they are  
7 losing money year in and year out.

8 The city needs to get out of the  
9 parking business, sell the garages and be  
10 done with it. We are going to have pay the  
11 debt regardless, but if we pay it at an  
12 accelerated schedule we will save a ton of  
13 money in interest, and I believe when  
14 Attorney Hughes did a presentation on this  
15 issue the city owes \$50 million in principal  
16 on the parking garages, but if we go out  
17 through the payment schedule we will be  
18 paying nearly \$100 million, so we could save  
19 a nice chunk of money by selling some of  
20 these garages that we are taking a loss on,  
21 paying down the debt a little bit sooner and  
22 we are still going to be saddled with the  
23 remaining debt because the assets are worth  
24 less than the debts, but because of the way  
25 this borrowing is written the city backed it

1 and previous council supported it. We built  
2 garages when we didn't have to, so that's  
3 another part on the expenditure side that  
4 you are not receiving any service for that  
5 money.

6 As far as police and fire go, in  
7 this budget there are no cuts to the police  
8 and fire as far as manning goes for the  
9 contracts, and I know the newspaper and many  
10 have tried to put the blame on the police  
11 unions and the fire unions, but these are  
12 Court awards, these salaries are due to a  
13 Court award. We could have negotiated a  
14 much better deal, and not us, but the  
15 administration, council doesn't have the  
16 power to negotiate contracts, but much  
17 better deals could have been negotiated if  
18 the administration, current administration,  
19 would have sat down with these guys and  
20 worked something out and we wouldn't be  
21 looking to borrow in excess of \$20 million  
22 to pay off this debt, and we wouldn't be in  
23 the scenario where the salaries are what  
24 they are and council and the mayor really  
25 had nothing to do with that. It was all

1 settled in the courts. We need to have the  
2 elected officials, citizens and our  
3 employees involved in decision making, not  
4 attorneys and judges.

5 I hate to get on a little bit of a  
6 rant, but these are the issues of why we are  
7 here, and we need to as a city, as residency  
8 understands it so these same mistakes aren't  
9 made again, but I will be continuing to  
10 review the budget, work with my colleagues,  
11 look for some changes that could be made. I  
12 know there are some smaller things that  
13 myself and Mr. Loscombe talked about a  
14 couple of them, and Mr. Joyce and I as well  
15 that can be made to help the city run more  
16 efficiently with what we have, because the  
17 manpower has decreased over the years, and  
18 people always say they don't mind paying the  
19 taxes as long as they are getting their  
20 services for it, and we have to look to do  
21 more with less, and that's what we have to  
22 do when we are looking through at these  
23 positions and in different ideas to run  
24 these departments better, so that is all I  
25 have for tonight.

1                   I do have two citizens' requests,  
2                   one is regarding the streetlight that is  
3                   out, I do have a pole number, I'll give it  
4                   to you after the meeting, Mrs. Krake, that's  
5                   on West Mountain, and also some potholes on  
6                   West Mountain as, I'll get both of those to  
7                   you after the meeting. Thank you.

8                   MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Councilman  
9                   Rogan. Councilman Loscombe, do you have any  
10                  comments or motions?

11                  MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you, just  
12                  a few brief things, and as Mr. Rogan said,  
13                  we are actively looking at the budget. I  
14                  won't belabor it this evening, there is a  
15                  lot of things, you know, line by line that  
16                  we are looking at to benefit the residents  
17                  and offset any large tax increases. I don't  
18                  think I'm going to kid anybody and say there  
19                  won't be a tax increase, it's inevitable  
20                  based on our situation, but there are some  
21                  things and over the past few years there  
22                  have been some ways to generate revenue that  
23                  were totally ignored or waited until the  
24                  last minute and we have gotten deeper and  
25                  deeper, but I hope the new administration is

1 more proactive on going after revenue that's  
2 laying out there without coming out of every  
3 taxpayers' pocket, and I'm looking forward  
4 to that.

5 But next, with the agreement of my  
6 colleagues, I would like to direct Mrs.  
7 Krake to send a letter of support to seek  
8 funding for the West Scranton Hyde Park  
9 Neighborhood Watch as they are looking for a  
10 local share account grant from Monroe County  
11 gaming funds to help with the renovations of  
12 the West Side Community Youth Center. If I  
13 have the agreement of my colleagues, I would  
14 like to have this Mrs. Krake send that?

15 MR. JOYCE: Absolutely.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you very much.  
18 And just lastly, I know that we have  
19 complained a lot about new streets  
20 blacktopped and being cut up and all of that  
21 but there are some projects going around  
22 through the city and I happen to witness one  
23 over in West Side where they have gone three  
24 blocks last week I guess it was they sliced  
25 their road with the saw all the way up, both



1 sides, I believe it's TSE Construction has  
2 the project, the problem is they do that and  
3 they leave. I don't know if it's in the  
4 agreement or whatever these companies have  
5 to clean the street after. There is so much  
6 dust in those neighborhoods for days after  
7 that it's just making a mess and there  
8 should be some type of street sweeper that I  
9 believe these companies own and maintain to  
10 do it. If not, then we should have other  
11 own street sweepers out there, but it's a  
12 nightmare, and now they are actually digging  
13 the street, and again, after they do that  
14 they should clean up after themselves, too.  
15 It's the least we can ask for the amount of  
16 projects.

17 But I would like to see down the  
18 road that we have some community meetings  
19 throughout the city on what's going on, the  
20 status of our utility projects in the city,  
21 so the residents know and know what to  
22 expect in their neighborhoods as far as the  
23 sewers, the water and the gas, the paving.  
24 I mean, there seems to be very little  
25 coordination, traffic coordination and



1 blocking our sewers, if they have any plans  
2 to pick up the leaves in the city and if  
3 they can notify us or put notice in the  
4 newspaper, so the public would know, so  
5 Chris doesn't burn them. Thanks for  
6 reminding me, Chris.

7 MR. SLEDZENSKI: You're welcome.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: And I believe that's  
9 all I have tonight. Thank you.

10 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Councilman  
11 Loscombe. Well, you know, it's really tough  
12 to look at the budget and see what it's  
13 going to come to. 56 percent tax increase,  
14 69 percent garbage fee increase, increased  
15 rental registration, parking meters. One  
16 thing that I do know is that the city is  
17 definitely revenue strapped and what's very  
18 scary is looking at the future and what it  
19 holds because one thing that will be a part  
20 of 2015 that isn't in this budget is the  
21 payment for the borrowing to pay off the  
22 Supreme Court award for the police and fire  
23 unions plus an extra increase of \$5 million  
24 or so to the MM0, which will go from 10 to  
25 15 million dollars.



1           yes based on any other amendments that are  
2           proposed. I am more than willing to work  
3           with any of my colleagues too talk about  
4           ideas that bring in revenue.

5                       As far as some of our newly elected  
6           officials, I'm more than willing to work  
7           with them, too. I did place a call out to  
8           our incoming mayor, Bill Courtright, to  
9           congratulate him and to ask him to give me a  
10          call if he wants to discuss anything with  
11          the budget, any ideas, because I know that,  
12          you know, he had mentioned during his  
13          campaign that he had spoken to a lot of the  
14          union members and they had mentioned that  
15          there were ideas that they had that could  
16          save the city money, so I think I would  
17          really like to hear those ideas and I'm sure  
18          some of my colleagues would, too.

19                      So I'll continue to work with my  
20          colleagues, and as far as the budget is  
21          concerned, I will vote either yes or no  
22          based on any amendments that are proposed,  
23          and that's all I have to say for tonight.

24                      MS. KRAKE: 5-B. APPROPRIATING THE  
25          FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE CITY

1 GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE  
2 FIRST DAY OF JANUARY 2014 TO AND INCLUDING  
3 DECEMBER 31, 2014, BY THE ADOPTION OF THE  
4 GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR  
5 2014.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
16 have it and so moved.

17 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. APPOINTMENT OF PAUL  
18 DEANTONA, 333 SUMNER AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
19 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER OF THE  
20 SCRANTON MUNICIPAL RECREATION AUTHORITY TO  
21 FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF THOMAS SMITH  
22 WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE JUNE 17,  
23 2016.

24 MR. JOYCE: At this time I'll  
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

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

11 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 54,  
12 2013 - AN ORDINANCE - TRANSFERRING THE FUNDS  
13 FROM FUND 02 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT WHICH  
14 FUNDS AND ACCOUNT LISTED BELOW ARE NO LONGER  
15 NEEDED FOR THE CONDUCT OF CITY BUSINESS, AND  
16 ABOLISHING AND CLOSING SAID ACCOUNT. THE  
17 FUNDS REMAINING IN THIS ACCOUNT SHALL BE  
18 TRANSFERRED TO THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND.

19 MR. JOYCE: You've heard reading by  
20 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

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

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

24 MR. JOYCE: On the question? All  
25 those in favor signify by saying aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
4 have it and so moved.

5 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.  
6 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
7 FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
8 53, 2013 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 77,  
9 2012, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY  
10 OPERATING BUDGET 2013" BY TRANSFERRING  
11 \$410,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NUMBER  
12 01.401.13090.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL  
13 OPERATING EXPENSES-CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT  
14 NO. 01.401.15319.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL  
15 EXPENSES-OPER TSF DEBT SERVICE-SCRANTON  
16 PARKING AUTHORITY) TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR  
17 THE SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY DEBT PAYMENT  
18 DUE DECEMBER 1, 2013.

19 MR. JOYCE: As the Chairperson for  
20 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
21 passage of Item 7-A.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

23 MR. JOYCE: On the question?

24 MR. ROGAN: Just very briefly, and  
25 this is exactly what I was speaking about



1           when I spoke under motions regarding the  
2           city funding Parking Authority obligations,  
3           this is not the first time that the city has  
4           had to transfer money to the Parking  
5           Authority, this time \$410,000, we have done  
6           it a few times before, and again, this is  
7           another one of those things where taxpayer  
8           dollars are being spent and the taxpayers  
9           aren't receiving any services for them. So  
10          I hope that in the future we can reform what  
11          we are doing, get out of the parking garage  
12          business, and pay off these debt  
13          obligations.

14                   MR. JOYCE: Anyone else on the  
15          question? Roll call, please?

16                   MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

17                   MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18                   MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

19                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

20                   MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

21                   MR. JOYCE: Yes. I hereby declare  
22          Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

23                   MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
24          BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR  
25          ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 46, 2013 -

1 AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 19, 2013, A  
2 RESOLUTION ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF  
3 SCRANTON TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE  
4 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF  
5 TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPROVAL  
6 FOR THE TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE  
7 INTERSECTION OF CEDAR AVENUE (S.R. 3023),  
8 SCRANTON EXPRESSWAY RAMPS (S.R. 8025) AND  
9 ORCHARD STREET TO REMAIN AS A PERMANENT  
10 TRAFFIC SIGNAL" TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE  
11 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT  
12 OF PUBLIC WORKS TO SIGN THE APPLICATION  
13 SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

14 MR. JOYCE: What is the  
15 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
16 Committee on Public Safety?

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: As Chairperson for  
18 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
19 final passage of Item 7-B.

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

21 MR. JOYCE: On the question? Roll  
22 call, please?

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

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

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

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.

8 MR. JOYCE: This meeting is  
9 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  
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