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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE: FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 55, 2013 -
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE CITY
GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE FIRST
DAY OF JANUARY, 2014 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31,
2014 BY THE ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2014.

HELD:

Thursday, December 5, 2013

LOCATION:

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

2

3 JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

4

5 PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

6

7 ROBERT MCGOFF

8

9 FRANK JOYCE

10

11 JOHN LOSCOMBE

12 (Not present)

13 NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

14

15 JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

16

17 BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

18

19

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21

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25

1 MR. JOYCE: I'd like to call this
2 public hearing to order. Ms. Marciano,
3 could I have a roll call, please?

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

9 Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

12 MR. JOYCE: Notice is hereby given
13 that a Public Hearing of Scranton City
14 Council will be held on Thursday, December
15 5, 2013 at 5:15 P.M. in Council Chambers,
16 2nd Floor, Municipal Building, 340 North
17 Washington Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

18 The purpose of said Public Hearing
19 is to hear testimony and discuss the
20 following:

21 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 55, 2013 -
22 APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE
23 CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON
24 THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 2014 TO AND
25 INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2014, BY THE ADOPTION

1 OF THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE
2 YEAR 2014.

3 Mrs. Krake, do we have a sign-in
4 sheet? I do have the sign-in sheet and our
5 first speaker tonight is Marie Schumacher.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
7 Marie Schumacher, city resident and
8 taxpayer. I took the liberty of putting my
9 questions in writing, one for the chair and
10 for the Finance Chair in case I don't get
11 through, because I would like all of them,
12 and I must start in saying I think it's poor
13 that this meeting is starting 15 minutes
14 late. If we can get here, I don't
15 understand why our council members can't get
16 here.

17 Okay. Please provide the assumed
18 percent that property tax owners will pay
19 the property tax and garbage fee in 2014 as
20 well as the rate assumed in the 2013 for
21 this tax and fee. Please provide a
22 breakdown of the cost of the total garbage
23 fee by category and the number of fee payers
24 to whom the invoice will be sent. How much,
25 if any, is included in this line item for

1 repayment of the 2013 landfill forbearance.

2 What additional service will be
3 provided in 2014 that wasn't provided in
4 2013 that accounts for the increase in the
5 rental registration fee to \$50?

6 How many rental properties are
7 currently registered?

8 I recall the city having building
9 inspectors, but there are no building
10 inspections listed in the list of
11 inspections performed by the city on page 11
12 of the budget, why?

13 What is the amount of the booting
14 fee that Republic will be charging in 2014?

15 What is the intergovernmental
16 reimbursement split between CDBG demolitions
17 and the state's contribution to the pension
18 obligation?

19 From what entities and in what
20 amount for each will PILOTS be received?

21 The miscellaneous revenue/cable TV
22 revenue includes \$28 million to be borrowed
23 in 2014 for the public safety employees
24 payback award. It is my understanding that
25 there will be a \$100,000 penalty per month

1 for nonpayment of this back pay. When is
2 the 28 million expected it be received and
3 will it suffice to cover the interest?

4 Will there be a payment from the
5 liquid fuel tax fund and if yes, what is the
6 assumed amount?

7 Is there a lender for the tax
8 anticipation note, and if so what will be
9 the fee and interest charged?

10 Will the local tax amount budgeted
11 for 2013 be achieved, and if not how much
12 will the budget revenue be short?

13 Will we really have sufficient cash
14 to achieve interest income of \$10,000? It
15 appears we will not achieve the 2013 budget
16 amount.

17 Again, it appears that rents and
18 concessions will not achieve the budgeted
19 amount for 2013, so what is the basis for
20 optimism the identical budgeted amount will
21 be achieved in 2014?

22 Same questions on intergovernmental
23 reimbursement account where only 9,000 was
24 collected through September against a budget
25 of \$2.9 million which is being increased to

1 almost \$5 million in 2014.

2 The account description of the
3 departmental earnings say it is revenue
4 received from operations and it is noted in
5 the budget variance section that parking
6 meter rates will increase by 25 cents per
7 hour. I find this confusing as we have no
8 department that collects parking meter fees.

9 There is no explanation for a budget
10 variance and interfund transfer despite an
11 increase of \$1.5 million over last year's
12 budget. What accounts for the variance?

13 What accounts for the unpaid
14 bills/Court awards expenditure jump of \$7
15 million over the current year?

16 If we are going to borrow a TAN, \$16
17 million in TANS must be repaid in the year
18 received, why do we have a 2014 TAN expense
19 of \$17 million?

20 Why does the fire department require
21 their own payroll clerk? Why does the
22 payroll expense of the fire department
23 increase by \$2 million while the number of
24 employees decreases by three?

25 What is the Tax Collection

1 Committee? Who are the members and why do
2 they expect to incur expenses of almost half
3 a million dollars?

4 Why are they expenses of the three
5 additional neighborhood police officers
6 included as non-additive to the budget while
7 the CDBG funds for demolition expenses are
8 added to the budget? They come out of the
9 same account.

10 Why does the DPW administration
11 health care costs increase by over \$400,000
12 over last year? Why is there a 50 percent
13 drop in construction-paving materials
14 considering the condition of the road?

15 Why does the DPW require two
16 additional garbage collectors?

17 Does the cost of DPW workers setting
18 up and taking down the Nay Aug Christmas
19 lights get covered by the free will
20 donations? Is this something that could
21 take a hiatus to cut expenses?

22 And my final point, and then I'll
23 leave, how much is included in the budget
24 for the city's portion of buying and
25 demolishing the flood plain properties in

1 the Parker Street area? I'll look forward
2 to your answers. Thank you.

3 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Some of the
4 answers that you are seeking -- oh, I'll
5 just say this one thought, I will forward
6 your questions to the appropriate
7 departments for all questions that I do not
8 have the answers to tonight.

9 Our next speaker is Rubin Bario?

10 MR. BARIO: I'm going to be brief
11 and concise, the lady before me covered
12 everything pretty much as it is, but I'd
13 like to speak on bottom lines. I just moved
14 to Scranton five years ago and I find out
15 that we have been in a situation for 40
16 years at least, the depressed city and yada,
17 yada, yada, so 40 years ago something should
18 have, boing. Something is going to have 40
19 years from now.

20 If you make ten bucks a week, now
21 this would be low math, don't get your
22 calculators out, if you make ten bucks a
23 week and you spend 12, sooner or later it's
24 going to catch up with you. I didn't going
25 to college, but I know that much. Maybe if

1 I went to college I would understand it, so
2 that's what I'm saying is that we are
3 kicking the can down the road, we are
4 hitting a brick wall and now what? Are we
5 going to go the way of Europe or Greece and,
6 of course, right here Detroit.

7 If we are going to be heading that
8 way, I wish somebody would say we are not
9 and that's about all I have to say is the
10 bottom line is the brick wall has arrived
11 unless you -- if you don't get a hernia you
12 can move it back a little bit more that
13 might help. Thank you.

14 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

15 (While the speaker was speaking, Ms.
16 Evans takes the dais and joins the
17 meetings.)

18 MR. JOYCE: Is there anyone else who
19 would like to address council during this
20 public hearing?

21 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

22 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

23 MS. FRANUS: Mrs. Schumacher asked
24 numerous questions, and I know you said you
25 were going to forward those questions, but I

1 think every single one of those questions
2 should be answered next week with the
3 question and then the answer, not given to
4 her. I don't care if it takes you an hour
5 to get every single question that she asked
6 for and give an answer to every one of them
7 and I don't want to hear that the people
8 that she -- that the department heads that
9 you send them to didn't get back to you.
10 It's your job as council people, we are here
11 at a public hearing to get that information
12 that she wants. Just don't wait for them to
13 contact you, contact them and see what the
14 answer is so you'll have those answers for
15 next week's meeting.

16 This is too important not to get the
17 answers to those questions. That's what
18 your job is, to represent us, not to take
19 care of your political friends or any other
20 agenda that you have, and it's very sad to
21 see there is hardly anybody here, probably
22 half the people don't even know there is a
23 public hearing because I don't know if the
24 Scranton Times put it in the paper. It
25 should have been headlines in the paper this

1 morning, public hearing.

2 This budget is a disgrace. It's a
3 shame you are leaving, Mrs. Evans, because
4 if you were here this never would have been
5 taking place. Never. You are always for
6 the people and this council, that point is
7 not going to pass this budget. And,
8 Mr. McGoff, Mr. Rogan, and Mr. Joyce, I
9 don't know where Mr. Loscombe is, maybe he
10 can't make it, but I'm waiting to see how
11 they will vote. You are elected by the
12 people.

13 This budget will chase everybody out
14 of the city. People cannot afford this.
15 It's disgusting, it's disgraceful and you
16 should be ashamed of yourself to even
17 consider it. This is the first time in the
18 history of Scranton that such a budget has
19 come in front of you. We can't sustain it.
20 We can't afford it, there is no money, you
21 are going to be chasing people out of this
22 city. You are trying to get people in. You
23 are going to see many foreclosures. People
24 can't even sell their homes, they are going
25 to be losing them to the banks and then

1 what?

2 Anyway, I'll be back in the other
3 part of this and I ask some questions and I
4 want the answers while I'm here versus in
5 motions. And as I said, Mr. Joyce, it's
6 very important to every single solitary
7 question, I don't care if you have to split
8 them up amongst the council people, get the
9 answers to every one of those questions for
10 next week. I don't want to hear, "Oh, they
11 didn't get back to us."

12 You have time, that's what you are
13 getting paid for. You call these people and
14 you get the answers. This is a budget that
15 affects our money. We need the answers to
16 every one of those questions. Every single
17 one. Thank you.

18 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

19 MR. PORTER: Good evening. Andrew
20 Porter, Scranton. Before you start the
21 clock, I only have a few minutes and we have
22 until the end year. I'd just like to ask
23 one question, and that is how many people in
24 this room, by a show of hands, can afford to
25 pay the taxes that are proposed? By a show

1 of hands, how many people can afford to pay
2 the taxes that are proposed? Okay? And if
3 there are no hands up that means that that's
4 -- if there are no hands up there is no way
5 that we are to continue to move in a
6 direction that has been moved in for such a
7 long period of time and that is borrowing,
8 borrowing, borrowing. This is God's city.

9 You know, peer pressure is not
10 something that is just given to our kids.
11 You know, for many years I have seen things
12 go on. I have seen a lady that we have up
13 here, Mrs. Evans, work in an environment and
14 try to do as best she can as a
15 representative of the people and, you know,
16 I read where she is alleged to have jumped
17 ship, and Bill Courtright he needs to be
18 picked up and the citizens of Scranton have
19 come to make a decision and that decision is
20 for a change. Bill Courtright and the
21 citizens of the Scranton and this great city
22 has not fallen, so we don't need to be
23 picked upright now.

24 What I believe that needs to be
25 happening is that we need to acknowledge the

1 law of our God and we are in December, a
2 month where at the beginning of the month
3 and at the end of the month our most sacred
4 religious holidays are being celebrated.
5 From one end to the other end we should come
6 together. I believe that there should be a
7 Telethon. I believe there should be an all
8 out effort to give the people of Scranton a
9 chance, to give the new mayor a chance, the
10 people have spoken by their vote, but we
11 need more than that because they voted
12 before. They have voted more than 11 years
13 ago and it took 11 years to get the city to
14 where it is right now, so we need to bring
15 in an administration with a clean slate, and
16 the only way to do that I see is to ask God
17 to give us help and we need to help
18 ourselves, and the only way to do that is
19 for us to get out here, all the universities
20 pay their fair share, all of our students
21 come out and raise funds for the city. I'm
22 quite sure that if the checks are written,
23 if we come out here and do what it is that
24 we need to do and not be a -- because we
25 cannot profit from others demise, okay?

1 This city should not go into
2 foreclosure and if you continue in the way
3 that you have been doing this for over 11
4 years then this city will go into
5 foreclosure. Somebody has to profit from
6 that. The law of our God says we cannot
7 profit from that.

8 I would like to thank the body of
9 the city council for doing one thing, as I
10 mentioned the last time I was up here, which
11 I haven't been up here prior to that for
12 years, and that is keeping the Pledge of
13 Allegiance in the building. You swore an
14 oath, the mayor swore an oath, and all
15 politicians have sworn an oath to God that
16 we would represent the city. Is this the
17 City of God? I believe it is. Is this
18 God's city? I believe that it is?

19 I believe that we need to get out
20 here. We don't have to light up electrical
21 and run up the PPL bill, we can save that
22 money. If all of the churches and all of
23 the ministers were to bless candles and
24 bring these candles forth and congregations
25 come forth, and all of these professional

1 fundraisers that you have. Hilary Clinton
2 is from Scranton. Vice president Biden is
3 in Scranton. How many people are from
4 Scranton that needed Scranton's vote when
5 they need to be elected? These are the
6 people that can come and that can save this
7 city. If you say that it can be done with
8 God all things are possible. I truly
9 believe that we can get this done, but you
10 can't get it done, I believe, by going on
11 what you did before, okay? You have to look
12 and see what it is that we can do. We have
13 to do something new, and the people that are
14 home need to get here.

15 If you are in -- if you need a ride,
16 ask your neighbor for a ride. This is what
17 we are here for. We are supposed to be a
18 community. We are supposed to -- all
19 religions, all religions should be here.
20 This is -- if you believe that this is
21 God's city and if you believe that we are a
22 community, and if you believe that we are
23 neighbors then we should be here.

24 This city is worth fighting for,
25 this is God's city. You have no idea of the

1 wrath that God can put upon us. No weather
2 man can predict what it is that God can give
3 us. God can give us sunlight when the
4 lights go out on PPL. God can give us all
5 it is that we need. All we have to do is
6 ask for it.

7 And again, I thank the city council
8 and I pray that the people out there come.
9 Come. Show up. One candle lit can light up
10 ten, ten can light 100, a 100 can light a
11 1,000. Let the world see that we are a city
12 that's in need, not a city that is
13 prospering, and if we can do this businesses
14 would breakdown -- would run over each other
15 trying to come in, all banks -- if we were
16 to write checks to the city council for and
17 monies were coming into city council, I'm
18 sure city council would be glad to give it
19 to the new administration so that the mayor
20 would have -- our new mayor would have a
21 chance.

22 God bless the City of Scranton and
23 God bless the citizens and come and show
24 that you love your city and that the seniors
25 will not fall and that the lower people in

1 this city will not fall. I'm sorry that I
2 have taken so long, I apologize, but I think
3 that we all know that God is in charge. No
4 one politician can be in charge. We have
5 made an oath to -- you swore an oath to God
6 that you would represent this city and I
7 pray that you will do this. Thank you.

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

10 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

11 MR. MILLER: Other than the proposed
12 57 percent tax increase, increasing the
13 garbage fee and the rental registration and
14 a few other things, other than that it's
15 another day in the office.

16 You know, as I said two weeks ago I
17 have staunch opposition to this budget. It
18 certainly isn't in the best interest of the
19 residents of this city, particularly dealing
20 with all we have gone through the last year
21 and a half specifically dating back to last
22 year at this time and the challenges that we
23 faced throughout the summer and the
24 difficult decisions that the council and the
25 administration had to make together. And

1 all of that hard work and the effort that
2 you put into putting a recovery plan
3 together and, you know, doing the best of
4 your ability to, you know, come together and
5 implement revenue enhancements to better the
6 city and generate revenue for the city to
7 move us forward it seems as if we have,
8 unfortunately, gotten away from that. It
9 certainly looks that way when I look at this
10 budget proposed by the administration.

11 As I have said many times
12 repetitively, the tax increase I think we
13 all knew was inevitable. Unfortunately, you
14 know, the residents of this city have been
15 warned for years that this day was going to
16 come and, unfortunately, many sat back and
17 that's, you know, not to be disrespectful,
18 but many citizens sat back and yet they were
19 warned, you know, for the last 12 years that
20 these challenges were going to continue to
21 grow and now we are at the point where it's
22 time to pay the piper and, you know, we hate
23 to see this, but, you know, this day has
24 come.

25 But, you know, there is only so much

1 plan that had good intentions on, you know,
2 bringing in a great deal of revenue for the
3 city, but now, you know, we are asking an
4 awful lot of not just the landlords but more
5 importantly the tenants, because ultimately
6 this is going to be passed along to the
7 tenant by their rent being increased
8 dramatically. They are not going to put up
9 with that, they don't have to. They can
10 easily pack up and go right down to Old
11 Forge, Taylor, Moosic or any other
12 neighboring community within minutes of this
13 city. It's very simple.

14 So if we think we are accomplishing
15 something here we are only shooting
16 ourselves in the foot here -- the feet here
17 and it just doesn't make any sense
18 whatsoever.

19 I talked about a recovery plan that
20 we had obligations to follow certain
21 implementations of the recovery plan that we
22 have failed to do, and it reminds me 12
23 years ago when we blatantly ignored a
24 recovery plan that we adopted back then.
25 You know, whether you supported the recovery

1 plan or you didn't, you know, the council
2 and the administration worked tirelessly,
3 you know, for months last year to put this
4 plan together and to realize and see these
5 things through. And, as we said, when you
6 are in a city that faces the challenges we
7 face when you are putting the recovery plans
8 together you are taking chances, that's what
9 it is, but when you are desperate as we are,
10 you know, there comes a time where you have
11 to take a chance and have to hope that you
12 realize these things, but when you don't
13 even attempt, you know, there is no excuse
14 for not attempting. We may not be
15 successful, but at least at the end of the
16 day we can say that we put everything in it
17 and we tried. We can't say that we did
18 that.

19 And my number one biggest pet peeve
20 in terms of the recovery plan and our
21 inability to follow through is our inability
22 and our lackluster performance on dealing
23 with the PILOTS. You know, there is no
24 doubt the nonprofits play a very large and
25 play a very important role in the community

1 and they are an asset in the community, you
2 know, we talk about the University of the
3 Scranton. You know, I know I have
4 criticized in the past, and I'm not going
5 to, you know, downplay what they do, they do
6 a lot of good things, there is no doubt, you
7 know, I'm not going to deny them that, but I
8 also feel that they need to pay their fair
9 share. You know, this city provides many
10 services to them and their students daily.

11 You know, and it troubles me when an
12 institution that generates millions and
13 millions of dollars annually contributes
14 such a minimal amount to the city knowing
15 full well the situation and the challenges
16 we face financially it upsets me.

17 And, you know, it upsets me that I
18 feel that there is just no creativity in our
19 city government and, you know, a speaker
20 earlier tonight talked about bankruptcy.
21 You know, it's funny, when I look back at
22 all we have gone through, I think in the
23 four years of this council I think the
24 one -- the moment that we are going to
25 remember the most on this council is last

1 summer, the Summer of 2012 and what we went
2 through, and I think that had it not been
3 for the majority of this council we probably
4 would have fallen into a bankruptcy and, you
5 know, we think things look pretty nasty now,
6 you know, we can only imagine when a
7 bankruptcy would do and so that's why when
8 we hear that we should file for bankruptcy I
9 think, as I have said, that's the last
10 resort. That's obviously not something that
11 we are looking at.

12 But there is a lot of good things,
13 there is no doubt that have taken place, but
14 there is more, you know, bad than good at
15 this point. And to go ahead with the budget
16 as it stands, as I said, would be
17 unacceptable and it would be unfair to the
18 residents of this community and I'm
19 confident that this council will follow
20 through and take a close look at this and
21 make any necessary amendments so that we can
22 keep the best interest of the residents of
23 this city in mind because what's at stake
24 here. That's the most important thing, and
25 I'll reserve the rest of my comments to the

1 regular portion of this meeting.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. MILLER: And I appreciate your
4 time. Thank you.

5 MR. WALSH: Good evening. Could I
6 approach Mr. McGoff?

7 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

8 MR. WALSH: He was my tenth grade
9 basketball couch. My name is Jay Walsh.
10 Did I ever thank you for your service?

11 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know.

12 MR. WALSH: Let me thank you now for
13 your service, you were a good couch.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

15 MR. WALSH: Good evening. My name
16 is Jay Walsh.

17 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

18 MR. WALSH: I've lived in the City
19 of Scranton for the last 35 years, and I
20 have been a property owner for the last 19
21 years, okay? I'm the founder of Occupy Wall
22 Street. It's a worldwide spiritual movement
23 which is apolitical. My writings have
24 influenced the president of the United
25 States, President Putin, the Pope, Bill and

1 Melinda Gates, the Dali Lama, Warren Buffet
2 and a whole host of other people. The mayor
3 of New York City used my manifesto, which is
4 over there, to basically win by 50 points
5 for the mayorship of New York.

6 Something in the City of Scranton
7 stinks, and it's not rotting fish, okay?
8 The economic issue was brought to light last
9 year when the national news media showed up
10 at our doorstep. This is not the issue of
11 Mayor Doherty or you folks, it stretches all
12 the way back to the mercantile tax. I think
13 Mayor Doherty's dad was on the council at
14 that time, so there is lots of blame to go
15 around. I can't blame council and I don't
16 blame the city unions. I think it's a
17 collective of all of us.

18 I think, what can I say, the idea
19 that we didn't address issues at the time
20 when we sold off assets as the years
21 transpired was part of it. The convenience
22 of just basically doing what we did for the
23 time we pushed the can down the road.

24 I basically now think the ship has
25 sunk, but we have a couple of alternatives.

1 I mean, we can do the Chapter 9, we can
2 basically tax the well that's pretty well
3 dry. The status quo is over. The year of
4 politicians has to move to the year of the
5 public servants.

6 I think the mayor-elect, Mr.
7 Courtright, you know, he won, but a lot of
8 people voted for the lesser of two evils.

9 I'm not void of ideas to fix the
10 issues, I have studied the issues, and my
11 ideas have basically been implemented from
12 here to Moscow and actually there is a North
13 Korean leader that actually has my
14 manifesto.

15 Mr. McGoff, if you can pass that
16 down and let them read the cover letter?

17 MR. MCGOFF: Okay. Sure.

18 MR. WALSH: If you would? I have
19 been working on this project for a lot of
20 years, okay, and it's come to fruition now.
21 I'm hoping to publishing that some time in
22 March, my goal is March 21. There is I
23 think a few issues that we need to kind of
24 look at, I think if you back off and look at
25 the bigger perspective we have the County

1 Study Commission going on. We have a city
2 in a highly distressed situation, I think if
3 we can get our eggs in a row and in a basket
4 I think the idea of a consolidated county
5 government may be the way to go for both
6 economy of scales, for economy of impact,
7 just a whole host of reasons because we are
8 good people here. You know, 95 percent of
9 us or 98 percent of us, it's just a few bad
10 apples that have brought the national media
11 down on top of us.

12 Today as Occupy moves through we are
13 basically addressing the living wage today
14 across the country. I think we need to put
15 that on our agenda, the City of Scranton
16 should be thinking about making employers in
17 the city present a living wage, which is 11
18 to 13 dollars nationally, but the idea of
19 somebody getting paid \$7.25 living under a
20 bridge and going to work every day, I don't
21 think cuts it, and we have lots of people
22 under our bridges and along the river down
23 there. I have studied the homeless issue
24 quite thoroughly.

25 So the idea that you are raising the

1 garbage tax from \$178 to \$300, what I can
2 address to that is, first of all, Mayor
3 Bloomberg took my information and basically
4 all the restaurants in New York City are
5 made to compost now, and the savings with
6 that I don't know 235 million pounds of
7 garbage, compost that basically is not
8 winding up in the landfill, it's basically
9 winding up to be reused and restored.

10 The idea of so many people living in
11 the city that the city is not aware of, I
12 think that we need to make renter's
13 insurance mandatory, okay, and that it would
14 be the insurance responsibility to tell the
15 people living in the household, and I think
16 that would -- because I'm a landlord, also,
17 and I think renters insurance, I won't rent
18 to anybody unless they have it, and that ups
19 the type of people that you will have come
20 to the city because some people are going to
21 get their premium things and say, "Hey,
22 well, I can't live here."

23 I don't want to exclude anybody, but
24 if you haven't been responsible in your
25 past, I think that, you know, I mean, the

1 personal responsibility I think that's a
2 great idea. Am I done?

3 MS. EVANS: Yes, your time is up.

4 MR. WALLACE: But anyway, thank you
5 very much.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. The public
7 hearing will now conclude.

8 MR. HICKEY: Excuse me, Mrs. Evans,
9 may I speak?

10 MS. EVANS: Well, if you would
11 listen, please. Anyone who did not have a
12 chance to speak during the public hearing
13 may offer his or her comments regarding the
14 mayor's proposed budget during the citizens'
15 participation portion of tonight's council
16 meeting.

17 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, could I
18 suggest that we extend by 15 minutes because
19 we were about 15, 20 minutes late starting
20 the hearing. We didn't start until about
21 5:30.

22 MS. EVANS: Well, I believe that the
23 people who are here were are certainly able
24 to give them their five minutes under
25 citizens' participation.

1 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

2 MS. EVANS: I think many, in fact,
3 will choose to speak again.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Will we allow those
5 people to speak first?

6 MS. EVANS: Sure.

7 MR. MCGOFF: The people that were
8 waiting to speak on the budget would we
9 allow them to speak first before the sign-in
10 sheet?

11 MS. EVANS: Yes, that would be fine.
12 I thank you all for your participation and
13 city council will take your testimony into
14 consideration for the mayor's proposed 2014
15 operating budget. This public hearing is
16 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
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