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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

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.)

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff. Mr.  
5 Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

12 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Dispense  
13 with the reading of the minutes. Actually,  
14 we will do the proclamation first. Because  
15 this month is for Pancreatic Cancer  
16 Awareness, we have former Mayor Connors and  
17 Mrs. Connors here today. We have a  
18 proclamation and then they are going to say  
19 a few words.

20 "WHEREAS, in 2011, an estimated  
21 44,030 people will be diagnosed with  
22 pancreatic cancer in the United States and  
23 37, 660 will die from the disease.  
24 Approximately 2,070 of those deaths will  
25 occur in Pennsylvania; and

1                   WHEREAS, pancreatic cancer is one of  
2                   the deadliest cancers and is the fourth  
3                   leading cause of cancer death in the United  
4                   States; and

5                   WHEREAS, when symptoms of pancreatic  
6                   cancer present themselves, it is usually too  
7                   late for an optimistic prognosis, and 74  
8                   percent of pancreatic cancer patients die  
9                   within the first year of their diagnosis  
10                  while 94 percent of pancreatic cancer  
11                  patients die within the first five years;  
12                  and

13                  WHEREAS, of all the racial/ethnic  
14                  groups in the United States, African  
15                  Americans have the highest incidence rate of  
16                  pancreatic cancer, between 34 percent and 70  
17                  percent higher than the other groups; and

18                  WHEREAS, there is no cure for  
19                  pancreatic cancer and there have been no  
20                  significant improvements in the survival  
21                  rates in the last 40 years; and

22                  WHEREAS, the Federal Government  
23                  invests significantly less money in  
24                  pancreatic cancer research than it does in  
25                  any of the leading cancer killers; and

1 pancreatic cancer research constitutes only  
2 approximately 2 percent of the National  
3 Cancer Institute's federal research funding,  
4 a figure far too low given the severity of  
5 the disease, its mortality rate, and how  
6 little is known about how to arrest it; and

7 WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer  
8 Action Network is the first and only  
9 national patient advocacy organization that  
10 serves the pancreatic cancer community in  
11 Scranton and nationwide by focusing its  
12 efforts on public policy, research funding,  
13 patient services, and public awareness and  
14 education related to developing effective  
15 treatments and a cure for pancreatic cancer;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer  
18 Action Network and its affiliates in  
19 Scranton support those patients currently  
20 battling pancreatic cancer, as well as those  
21 who have lost their lives to this disease,  
22 and are committed to nothing less than a  
23 cure; and

24 WHEREAS, the good health and  
25 well-being of the residents of Scranton are

1 enhanced as a direct result of increased  
2 awareness about pancreatic cancer and  
3 research into early detection, causes, and  
4 effective treatments.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that  
6 on Tuesday, November 1, 2011, Scranton City  
7 council wishes to designate the month of  
8 November 2011 as "PANCREATIC CANCER  
9 AWARENESS MONTH" in Scranton.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this  
11 Proclamation be made a permanent part of the  
12 Minutes of City Council.

13 MS. CONNORS: Members of city  
14 council, guests and Pancreatic Action  
15 Network volunteers, on behalf of the  
16 Scranton-Wilkes-Barre affiliate the  
17 Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, I would  
18 like to thank you for this opportunity to  
19 address your meeting. The Pancreatic Cancer  
20 Action Network is the only national  
21 organization hope in a comprehensive way  
22 through research, patient support, community  
23 outreach and advocacy for a cure.

24 We are here today because 17 years  
25 ago in 1994 Jim's sister, Tina Connors, died

1 of pancreatic cancer just ten days after her  
2 43rd birthday. It isn't only our lives and  
3 the lives of our family members who have  
4 been touched by this disease, this is a  
5 problem that can effect our entire  
6 community. In fact, estimates predict that  
7 the incidents of the pancreatic cancer cases  
8 is expected to increase 55 percent over the  
9 next two decades.

10 Moreover, it is estimated that  
11 nationwide 37,660 individuals will lose  
12 their battle to pancreatic cancer this year,  
13 2,070 of whom are Pennsylvanians.

14 Because there are currently no early  
15 detection tools or effective treatments,  
16 just 6 percent of those diagnosed will  
17 survive more than five years. By declaring  
18 November 2011 to be Pancreatic Cancer  
19 Awareness month in the City of Scranton,  
20 your are helping us do the critical work of  
21 making the public aware of this disease and  
22 it's truly lethal nature.

23 We hope that by working together we  
24 will be able to continue to raise awareness,  
25 support patients and their families and

1 raise funds to find a cure through both  
2 individual contributions and federally  
3 funding and legislation. Thank you again  
4 for supporting our cause and for helping us  
5 raise awareness of about pancreatic cancer.  
6 To make progress against this disease, it is  
7 imperative to know it and fight it, so that  
8 one day we can end it. Thank you again.

9 MR. ROGAN: Thank you very much.

10 MR. CONNORS: Thank you.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

12 MR. ROGAN: I'm sure that was very  
13 informative for everyone in the city and to  
14 increase awareness.

15 MR. CONNORS: And we are very much  
16 involved with Jay Saunders family, also.  
17 Thank you.

18 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you for  
20 everything.

21 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Krake.

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

23 MINUTES OF THE FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION  
24 MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 28, 2011.

25 MS. ROGAN: Are there any comments?



1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE  
3 POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETINGS HELD JULY  
4 27, AUGUST 24, AND SEPTEMBER 28 OF 2011.

5 MS. ROGAN: Are there any comments?  
6 If not, received and filed.

7 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE  
8 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON  
9 NOVEMBER 9, 2011.

10 MS. ROGAN: Are there any comments?  
11 If not, received and filed.

12 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
13 REPORT, APPEAL HEARING RESULTS FROM OCTOBER  
14 5, OCTOBER 12, AND NOVEMBER 16 OF 2011.

15 MS. ROGAN: Are there any comments?  
16 If not, received and filed.

17 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. AUDIT STATUS REPORT  
18 FROM ROBERT ROSSI & COMPANY AS OF OCTOBER  
19 25, 2011.

20 MS. ROGAN: Are there any comments?  
21 If not, received and filed.

22 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. REPORT FROM C.C.  
23 JOHNSON & MALHOTRA, PC DATED OCTOBER 26,  
24 2011 REGARDING "BRIDGE" AND "WEIGHT LIMIT"  
25 SIGNS MISSING FROM THE ELM STREET BRIDGE

1 OVER LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

2 MS. ROGAN: Are there any comments?

3 If not, received and filed.

4 MS. KRAKE: 3-G. REPORT FROM C.C.  
5 JOHNSON & MALHOTRA, PC DATED OCTOBER 26,  
6 2011 REGARDING "BRIDGE" AND "WEIGHT LIMIT"  
7 SIGNS EITHER MISSING OR DAMAGED FROM THE  
8 HOLLOW AVENUE BRIDGE OVER LEGGETTS CREEK.

9 MS. ROGAN: Are there any comments?  
10 If not, received and filed. Are there any  
11 clerk's notes this week, Mrs. Krake?

12 MS. KRAKE: None tonight, Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. FOURTH  
14 ORDER. CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION. Well,  
15 actually, do any council members have  
16 announcements tonight?

17 MR. JOYCE: I have two. The St.  
18 Patrick's Church Food Pantry is in need of  
19 replenishment as recent floods and the  
20 closure of their Angle Ministries increased  
21 the need of their food pantry services.  
22 They are currently looking for individuals  
23 to donate nonperishable food items.  
24 Donations can be made at the rear door of  
25 the rectory at 1403 Jackson Street. If

1 anyone listening tonight can make a  
2 donation, it will be greatly appreciated.

3 In addition to this, the Pancreatic  
4 Cancer Action Network will hold their Cheers  
5 to Hope event on November 5, 2011, from 6 to  
6 10 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel located at 300  
7 Meadow Avenue. Tickets for the event are  
8 \$25 and can be purchased at the door on  
9 event day or in advance. Pancreatic Cancer  
10 survivors can attend free of charge.

11 At this event there will be live  
12 music, a silent auction, light fare as well  
13 as beer, wine and soft drinks. There will  
14 be also a cash bar for other beverages and a  
15 signature cocktail with a portion of the  
16 proceeds benefiting the organization. For  
17 more information please e-mail Paul Savage  
18 at PSAVAGE@PANCANVOLUNTEER.ORG or call  
19 498-9488, and that's all.

20 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Loscombe, you have  
21 anything?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, I don't have any.

23 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Our first  
24 speaker tonight is Andy Sbaraglia.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,

1 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I  
2 wish somebody would tell us how much we  
3 actually owe the policemen and firemen. The  
4 figures that the paper put now is anywhere  
5 from 6 million to 30 million, so I guess  
6 it's going to be somewhere in-between, but I  
7 don't know if anybody really has the  
8 breakdown because you got lawyer's fees  
9 somewhere around there, you got Court costs  
10 somewhere around there, and all of those  
11 things have to be paid. I hope when they  
12 are talking about what we owe it's the total  
13 amount and not really -- how would you put  
14 it, pieces. Pieces of this and pieces of  
15 that just like it was in the beginning. It  
16 was 10 million and then all of a sudden that  
17 was 1 million. Then they had it up to 20  
18 million and that was another unit and the  
19 union people themselves say it could be up  
20 to 30 million.

21 The question is how are we going to  
22 pay it? That's the quirks. What we owe we  
23 owe, I can't do nothing about it because  
24 then the police and firemen were denied  
25 raises for a lot of darn years and how many

1 times they came before us and told us that,  
2 and then with this litigation you know it  
3 bounced back to every Court in Pennsylvania  
4 before it finally ended up with the Supreme  
5 Court? So somewhere along the line we are  
6 in deep trouble. We were in deep trouble  
7 even before. They were talking been 6  
8 million, 7 million, 11 million in the hole.  
9 Now, what are we 40 million in the hole, 50  
10 million in the hole? There is no wonder.  
11 How big is that hole we are talking about?  
12 It's sad. It's really sad. The elderly  
13 people in this city really are having a  
14 tough time on a fixed income. Obviously, we  
15 are going to end up with a tax raise. I  
16 don't see how we can avoid it, and I don't  
17 even know if we can borrow all the money we  
18 owe because our bond rating is down to  
19 almost negligible. They are saying that you  
20 got as much chance of being paid as a dollar  
21 -- or a coin thrown in the air and not  
22 falling to the ground. That's how they said  
23 it.

24 We are in bad shape financially.  
25 Who is to blame for it? I always say the

1 captain of the ship. The captain of the  
2 ship is to blame for everything, just like  
3 in the military, like the president, the  
4 buck stops here, and that's where it should  
5 have stopped, but unfortunately it didn't.  
6 It was allowed to continue and continue and  
7 continue until we are where we are now.

8 Now, I got a little notation there  
9 from the tax office people are going --  
10 well, we knew this before, they are going  
11 down to have their property reassessed.  
12 This one I just got because it really stuck  
13 me, it's called Class of 550 Condominium  
14 Association who had a reduction in their  
15 taxes for \$18,514. Who is going down to  
16 represent the city at these tax assessments?  
17 Do we have somebody down there? I doubt it.  
18 They care little or nothing. This is a huge  
19 reduction. That's a lot of money coming out  
20 of your taxes. I think it's only like 13  
21 million or 14 million, all the real estate  
22 tax, and this guy got a reduction of  
23 \$18,514. There is lot of other reductions  
24 in it, too. That's destroying your tax  
25 base, all of these reductions because nobody

1 is going down there and fighting. It's  
2 nothing new though, it's been going on for  
3 quite awhile. I thought we were going to  
4 get a representative to represent the city  
5 down there at these tax hearings.

6 The worst part about it, there is no  
7 record of the hearing. At least if you  
8 could say there was a record of the hearing  
9 you can read it, you can see why they got  
10 the reduction. No. Does that smell? You  
11 better believe it does. There is a stink  
12 over that tax office you wouldn't believe  
13 for something like that. For a public --  
14 any reduction in the taxes there should be  
15 paperwork on it. There should be something  
16 that you can read to find out why. Down  
17 there, there is nothing.

18 I told you before, the whole mall  
19 was valued at \$400,000 on the tax rolls.  
20 Now, look at that mall, block after block  
21 after block 400,000. Do I believe something  
22 was wrong? You better believe I believe  
23 something is wrong. You are talking about a  
24 lot of the problems in the city from the  
25 authorities all the way. Thank you.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Sbaraglia, I just  
2 want to -- I do recall Mrs. Evans  
3 specifically through council sending a  
4 letter to the mayor and the city solicitor  
5 requesting someone be present at those  
6 hearings, but I don't believe we ever  
7 received a response.

8 MR. JOYCE: That is correct. I  
9 believe that was done roughly three to four  
10 weeks ago, and regarding the fees or costs  
11 that the Supreme Court hearing arbitration  
12 award is going to cost the city, we have not  
13 heard any figures that are set in stone yet  
14 and once we do we will report that to you.

15 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Les  
16 Spindler.

17 MR. SPINDLER: I'm going to wait,  
18 Pat.

19 MR. ROGAN: Okay. Bob Bolus.

20 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.  
21 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

23 MR. BOLUS: I definitely think we  
24 should support the pancreatic fund and the  
25 drive that they are doing and support Jimmy



1 and Susie for coming here tonight. I  
2 thought it was kind of comical actually  
3 seeing a real live mayor come here. In all  
4 the years he was here he never forgot how to  
5 find council chambers, good, bad or  
6 indifferent. I thought maybe we should have  
7 put Doug's chair up there for mayor and  
8 Jimmy could have sat in and shown him how  
9 it's really done. But, you know, maybe  
10 Chris Doherty will get the hint now. You  
11 know, it's not a fearful place, it's not a  
12 haunted house, it's just where people want  
13 answers, and I think if he sat down in the  
14 past and spoke with the firemen, the unions,  
15 the councils, I don't think we would be in  
16 the place we are in right now.

17 And it's not just him that put us  
18 here, we put ourselves here because we  
19 allowed candidates to come and take office,  
20 we allowed them to do what they did, and  
21 they put us here. It's time to bite the  
22 bullet. The games are over, the charades  
23 are over, the finger pointing is over, this  
24 is serious business now. It's not about  
25 politics, it's not about personalities, it's

1 about getting the job done and doing it  
2 right and putting your issues to the side  
3 and I think the mayor has to know that.

4 I have gone down and spoken with him  
5 on several occasions over the condemnation  
6 of my home to resolve the issue and as  
7 usual, just like he didn't do anything with  
8 the police and fire departments or anything  
9 else, he has ignored that, also. Now it's  
10 going to take the city into litigation and  
11 spend money and for what because you can't  
12 have a dialogue, you can't put your people  
13 in check? You know what they did is wrong  
14 and that's what's wrong here. You can't  
15 have a mayor put the blame and punish the  
16 people for his miscalculations and his  
17 misjudgment.

18 Remember, he sat on this council  
19 just like Kevin Murphy sat on this council,  
20 Kevin Murphy came up with a solution, a  
21 suggestion, good, bad or indifferent. You  
22 follow through on every source out there to  
23 pull the city out of the debt it's in. Get  
24 rid of PEL, straighten it out, go after all  
25 of those that gave us the bad advice and

1           come on, we are big boys and girls here.  
2           It's time to do the job we are paid to do  
3           and now that somebody else is doing it and  
4           taking advantage of the city. We can pull  
5           the city out, but we all got to pull it  
6           together. You can't have a team of horses  
7           and one going in the opposite direction.

8                         Some of the things that have gone on  
9           that's really annoying me, and last week I  
10          brought up about signs, Jack, that you had  
11          that were taken that you had given me to put  
12          up, they were taken from my residence. Now  
13          we are in a property dispute up there.  
14          There is a neighbor next door who decided he  
15          was going to take the signs down and I told  
16          you we had video of him. The police  
17          department went over last week, last Tuesday  
18          after I left the meeting, and they  
19          confronted him and he came out of his garage  
20          with five of the six signs.

21                        Now, we have a dispute on the land,  
22          there is an easement that we have a right to  
23          use that it's in my deed. There is another  
24          part of the land that's an adverse  
25          possession and it hasn't been adjudicated as

1 to whether he owns it or I own it and signs  
2 are on part of that, but the interesting  
3 part is, and I brought it up, I put a  
4 \$50,000 offer on it, it's a 16 1/2 foot  
5 deeded waterway that runs through the land,  
6 through the easements and everything else,  
7 it comes from the East Mountain dam and it  
8 comes right across the properties. Well,  
9 the signs were on that property because we  
10 had it surveyed, I know where they were.  
11 That's city-owned property until Paul Kelly  
12 could prove by deed, not by his opinion, the  
13 city does not own that property, this was  
14 city-owned property that this individual,  
15 and I filed a report on it so it's public  
16 knowledge, he is he professor, Michael  
17 Oakes. He has got a doctorate in psychology  
18 and he is employed by the University of  
19 Scranton. Now, this is one heck of a way  
20 for an employee at the University to treat  
21 our legislative body that's protected that  
22 University from paying taxes or paying a  
23 fee. They have had a free ride on the  
24 taxpayers of this city a long, long time and  
25 now their people, he is a coward, come out

1 and take campaign signs off of property he  
2 doesn't own. It's owned by the City of  
3 Scranton and that's why I filed the police  
4 report and it's going to come up and we are  
5 going to do with it and Paul Kelly is going  
6 to get his opportunity to prove whether the  
7 city owns it or not, but to take these  
8 signs, he is a transplant from another  
9 state, I wonder if they did business like  
10 this in his home town where he came from and  
11 Michael Oakes has a doctorate, he teaches  
12 psychology, is this how we teach, lead by  
13 example? Do by example? Do unto others? I  
14 don't think so. This is Scranton and I  
15 think he and others like him that have taken  
16 political signs, because I have been a  
17 candidate in the past and have them taken,  
18 are cowards. Stand up and be gentlemen, but  
19 don't take something that doesn't belong to  
20 you and take it off property you don't own.

21 And, Mr. Loscombe, I'm going to  
22 pursue him to the end. I think we have to  
23 reconsider how we deal with the University  
24 from here on in because if they employ  
25 people like this we don't want them in our

1 town. Thank you.

2 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

4 MR. ROGAN: Doug Miller.

5 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

6 Doug Miller, Scranton. I'll be somewhat  
7 brief here tonight. I just had a few issues  
8 that I wanted to address here, a lot of them  
9 are repetitive as to what we've been dealing  
10 with here the last few weeks regarding  
11 public safety unions and the budget and  
12 other issues, but I just want to start  
13 tonight by just saying that it was an honor  
14 and a pleasure to have the former Mayor  
15 Connors here in attendance with his wife  
16 Mrs. Susie Connors, to reflect on the  
17 pancreatic cancer, I thought it was a very  
18 nice think for council to do to honor them  
19 with a proclamation and I just wanted to  
20 commend them for their efforts.

21 I want to start here tonight with an  
22 issue that came out recently in the GO  
23 Lackawanna newspaper, I believe it was on  
24 Sunday, regarding city equipment being used  
25 for personal use. We have had issues with

1           this in the past with the Sewer Authority,  
2           and now once again out of DPW. This time an  
3           individual took a DPW vehicle for his son to  
4           take CDL driver's license test at the  
5           Dunmore Driver's License Center, and I just  
6           have to say that learning this I'm certainly  
7           appalled. I don't feel that anyone should  
8           be using city vehicles on personal time. If  
9           you are not employed by the city then you  
10          should not be doing that and I just feel  
11          that there should be some consequences paid  
12          here, I don't think we should just slide  
13          this under the rug like past councils would  
14          do. I think the mayor needs to stand up and  
15          hold Mr. Brazil accountable because  
16          Mr. Brazil allowed this to take place. I  
17          believe he made a comment, well, it's right  
18          here, that he authorized it because the  
19          father who is the employee is one of those  
20          guys who when in the middle snowstorm and  
21          everyone is going home he is guy who asks,  
22          "Do you need me for a few more hours?"

23                       Well, first of all, it's his job to  
24                       go out there and plow snow so I don't think  
25                       we should be rewarding people, well, you go

1 out and plow the city streets, I'll allow to  
2 use one of you vehicles for your son to take  
3 a test. That's not the way we do business  
4 here and I just don't feel it should be  
5 tolerated and I perhaps think we should  
6 really seriously consider the termination of  
7 this employee because I just don't  
8 understand how we can continue to allow  
9 individuals in this city to take advantage  
10 of the taxpayers, using vehicle on their own  
11 time. We have had problems with people in  
12 the Sewer Authority who are allowed to take  
13 Sewer Authority vehicles home with them when  
14 they are off the clock and I feel that that  
15 should not be tolerated, and these are just  
16 things that I would ask council to look  
17 into. I'm quite confident you will, and we  
18 need to start holding people accountable  
19 here because this has been going on for far  
20 too long and we had way too many taxpayers  
21 taken advantage of it.

22 Moving onto the Supreme Court  
23 ruling, you addressed a lot of this last  
24 week, but I just want to kind of repeat a  
25 lot of what I said last week. As I stated,



1 I feel a lot of this could have been avoided  
2 a long time ago had the mayor been willing  
3 to sit down with both sides and work out a  
4 fair deal for both the unions and the  
5 taxpayers. Unfortunately, because he failed  
6 to do that, we are left in the quite a  
7 predicament here and a situation where  
8 council is going to have some tough  
9 decisions to make as well as the mayor  
10 because he allowed this to happen.

11 And, unfortunately, yet again his  
12 solutions is -- the three famous solutions  
13 are more layoffs, more jeopardizing the  
14 health, safety and well-being of the  
15 residents of this city, he wants to shut  
16 down more engine companies effecting  
17 response times even though in his mind he  
18 feels it doesn't, I'm still curious to see  
19 where his expertise came from and his degree  
20 in that area because I don't feel he is  
21 qualified to make those decisions.

22 Number two is tax increases, we have  
23 heard a rumor of 100 percent, as I stated  
24 last week, when are we going to stop placing  
25 these burdens on the residents of his city.

1           They work hard for their money. We saw the  
2           front page of the paper, the unemployment  
3           rate. I mean, there aren't any jobs out  
4           there. People are struggling right now and  
5           to expect taxpayers who struggle to get by  
6           each day, to expect them to take on a tax  
7           increase in excess of 100 percent is just  
8           not realistic.

9                         And the third solution is borrowing.  
10           Well, we've let that go on for ten years.  
11           Council -- rubber stamped council's let it  
12           go by, they approved borrowing, they  
13           approved tax increases and Mr. McGoff was  
14           quoted in the paper that he would consider  
15           another tax increase. I mean, he has no  
16           problem doing that, he rubber stamped one in  
17           2007, 26 percent, so he has no -- he has no  
18           sympathy for the residents of this city and  
19           he has shown that time and time again, but  
20           the borrowing has to stop, and I'm confident  
21           that this council won't let that happen and  
22           we have given out way too many blank checks.  
23           We are well over 300 million in long-term  
24           debt, that's not even including the  
25           authorities, so the games and the nonsense

1 has to stop. The taxpayers work too hard to  
2 allow a mayor to come in and hammer them  
3 with all of these taxes and fees and it's  
4 just got to stop.

5 We need to find real solutions.  
6 Unfortunately, we had them in the 2011  
7 budget, this city council, but that was all  
8 ignored.

9 And regarding the University, lastly  
10 tonight the University of the Scranton, I do  
11 believe we need to go over after them more  
12 aggressively, and that's not a criticism of  
13 this council because last summer Councilman  
14 Loscombe, Councilwoman Evans had several  
15 meetings with the University to try and work  
16 out a fair deal for the city, but the  
17 175,000 they give us each year I just find  
18 to be a complete joke, and I believe they  
19 should be contributing a lot more, you know,  
20 we are talking about public safety, services  
21 that our hardworking taxpayers pay for that  
22 this University doesn't contribute a thing  
23 to and they are effected and the residents  
24 are effected, but I would just ask that we  
25 continue to pursue a payment, an impact fee

1           that we have talked about because they need  
2           to be paying their fair share, the free ride  
3           has got to stop and that's something that we  
4           hopefully for 2012 can pursue a lot more  
5           vigorously and get that accomplished.

6                         And just lastly tonight, obviously  
7           next Tuesday is election day, I would just  
8           encourage everyone to exercise their civic  
9           duty, obviously there is a lot at stake  
10          here. We can ill afford to go back to the  
11          old days of rubber stamp councils when you  
12          continue moving full speed ahead where we  
13          are today and I would just ask everyone that  
14          the best thing that we as Scrantonians can  
15          do is go out on and vote next Tuesday. And  
16          that's all for tonight. Thank you.

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

18                        MR. JOYCE: Before the next speaker  
19          comes up, I just wanted to address what you  
20          stated about the DPW worker and explain the  
21          whole situation. What happened was city  
22          council's office received an anonymous tip  
23          from someone that a DPW worker was lending  
24          the vehicle, a city vehicle, to his son to  
25          take a CDL license exam, and we had our city

1 controller Roseann Novembrino investigate  
2 this issue and from what you said she did  
3 confirm that Mr. Brazil gave him the  
4 permission to do so, which I think is very  
5 inappropriate for a number of reasons:

6 One, the city is struggling for cash  
7 so any extra use of a city vehicle is going  
8 to incur extra fuel charges and if God  
9 forbid if something ever happens to the  
10 vehicle there is extra maintenance charges.

11 Now, the other issue that I see with  
12 this is the insurance liability aspect of it  
13 because, you know, God forbid if something  
14 ever happened and that person were to get  
15 into an accident I highly doubt that the  
16 insurer for the city would be very pleased  
17 to know than a nonworker was driving the  
18 city vehicle, and I think this could -- that  
19 would have a huge impact on future premiums  
20 and also our coverage requirements.

21 MR. ROGAN: If I could also add to  
22 what Mr. Joyce said, I think you are exactly  
23 right and I have been very critical of the  
24 DPW, I think in this case you can't blame  
25 the employee because he went to his

1 supervisor and asked for permission and in  
2 my opinion Jeff Brazil should be fired.

3 MR. MILLER: I agree with you.

4 MR. ROGAN: He should be fired or he  
5 should resign. There is absolutely no  
6 excuse for letting someone who is not a city  
7 employee bring a city vehicle to take a  
8 driver's license test when the person  
9 doesn't even have a driver's license to  
10 begin with. So thank you, Mr. Miller.

11 MR. MILLER: I appreciate it. Thank  
12 you.

13 MR. JOYCE: I agree with you,  
14 Mr. Rogan, it's not the fault of the  
15 employee, because at least the employee went  
16 to ask, but the director of the department  
17 should have said, "No, we are sorry, we  
18 can't permit you to use that vehicle, you  
19 will have to find another vehicle that you  
20 could take or that you can have your son  
21 take the exam with."

22 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: And it goes further  
24 than just this issue. I mean, apparently  
25 Mr. Brazil is the head of the department and

1           they are actually tearing down buildings for  
2           private individuals, too, on or dime,  
3           something we are looking into at this point.  
4           I mean, that's your tax dollars, but if you  
5           had to tear your building down you would  
6           have to pay for the necessary permits and  
7           hire a contractor. We have evidence that  
8           there is some buildings that are being torn  
9           down for private individuals at the  
10          Department of Public Works. At the same  
11          time we have the West Lackawanna bridge, who  
12          Mr. Brazil was on TV in the newspaper  
13          stating he would close those sidewalks  
14          because there was a safety issue and nothing  
15          has been done up there to this point. So, I  
16          mean, I don't know what to say, you know. I  
17          would have to concur with my colleagues  
18          here.

19                       MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Locsombe.  
20                       Ron Ellman.

21                       MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

22                       MR. LOSCOMBE: Hello.

23                       MR. ELLMAN: I had my usual bunch of  
24                       nonsense to talk about tonight and I went  
25                       over to the Giant this morning to get some

1 strawberry milk and this young fellow, I  
2 guess he is the housing project Romeo, he  
3 jumped all over me for my statement last  
4 week about unwed mothers having all of these  
5 kids. Well, I stand by my statement, I had  
6 six, eight, ten people mention it.

7 You know, people are tired of seeing  
8 is someone at the grocery store by \$300  
9 worth of groceries and having an Access  
10 card. They are tired of hearing about  
11 people getting free rent and utilities and,  
12 you know, it's just -- it just got to stop  
13 and that's all. I'm not going to get into  
14 no more controversy about un wed mother, but  
15 anybody -- there is not many people naive  
16 enough to think if they have to chose  
17 between milk and cigarettes what they are  
18 going to take.

19 He called me a disgrace to the city  
20 and I guess he seen some of these meetings.  
21 You want to know what a disgrace to the city  
22 is that man downstairs. There is a disgrace  
23 to the city. This city is in the worst  
24 shape it has been in in 150 years. It just  
25 can't be in no worse shape than it is.



1                   The school board, there is a  
2                   disgrace to the people in this city. Just  
3                   finished a \$28 million school and talking  
4                   about another one. They never confronted  
5                   one KOZ years ago when they infested the  
6                   city with KOZ's, didn't contest a one, then  
7                   they wonder why there is no money for  
8                   anything.

9                   The University of Scranton is my  
10                  favorite deplorable disgrace. There just  
11                  couldn't be -- they have taken these  
12                  billions of dollars off our tax rolls and  
13                  they still going. They will never have  
14                  enough. It's like I said years ago, they  
15                  are like a big octopus going around this  
16                  hill section. Lackawanna College, they told  
17                  you guys to go to hell when you asked for a  
18                  donation. That's not a big enough disgrace  
19                  for the city to suffer when they take over  
20                  property and buildings and have an attitude  
21                  like that?

22                  What about this Goodwill? They got  
23                  2 1/2 million dollars of tax money they  
24                  don't want to account for, they have tied up  
25                  that building for ten years, they are

1           probably -- that building should have been  
2           sold to somebody eight, ten years ago to  
3           make apartments and been on the tax rolls.

4                       CMC is a disgrace. For years they  
5           haven't paid the taxes on the garage. Why  
6           doesn't the city attach the garage? You are  
7           not going to get no where as long as Doherty  
8           is in office because these are all his  
9           financial backing to run for office. You  
10          know, this city just reeks from the smell of  
11          stench and graft and corruption and cronyism  
12          and nepotism and it just doesn't stop. I  
13          imagine that you guys have heard people  
14          complain like I'm doing right now.

15                      And the one thing that everybody has  
16          in common they say we are talking about the  
17          future of our children, the future of this  
18          city. There is no future like this. You  
19          got houses that people are losing. I was  
20          told by a real estate person that probably  
21          an eighth of the houses in this city are for  
22          sale, a third of the city is KOZ and  
23          nonprofit and tax exempt. Where is the  
24          income going to be? How are going to keep  
25          young people here, you know?

1                   It's like I have said several times,  
2                   my two boys don't even want my house. They  
3                   tell me to sell it any time I want. They  
4                   don't want to live here. This isn't a town  
5                   for young people the way things are going.

6                   You know, last week you were talking  
7                   about this Parking Authority, that boy  
8                   wonder at a \$100,000 a year job has driven  
9                   the Parking Authority into the toilet. Look  
10                  at the money they owe and they want to  
11                  borrow more and buy more? Just like CMC,  
12                  they haven't paid for a taxes they want free  
13                  parking meters, and that school, you can't  
14                  go on. You just can't go on and keep  
15                  thinking like everybody says in the papers  
16                  we'll just go to the taxpayers, we got to  
17                  raise taxes.

18                  There is just nothing left in the  
19                  well when you go anymore in this city, you  
20                  know. You're just going to have more  
21                  abandoned property, more foreclosed houses  
22                  and it's just not fair to do this to the  
23                  people anymore.

24                  MR. ROGAN: Thank you for your  
25                  comments, Mr. Ellman.

1 MR. ELLMAN: We just have to have  
2 some leadership in this city. We have to  
3 have somebody come and govern this city that  
4 knows what they are doing. It's just ashamed  
5 to listen to people cry their hearts out  
6 and, you know, there is people from that  
7 University go over there in the morning for  
8 lunch at the Radisson and spend more money  
9 than most of the people that are paying  
10 taxes make a day, you know, that have to pay  
11 taxes on them.

12 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Ellman --

13 MR. ELLMAN: You know, they have to  
14 pay taxes on them.

15 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Ellman, your time is  
16 up.

17 MR. ELLMAN: People know this, they  
18 say it to me. It's just got to end  
19 somewhere. You know, it's not my fault  
20 there is no future for the children --

21 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Ellman --

22 (Mr. Rogan bangs the gavel.)

23 MR. ELLMAN: It's not council's  
24 fault.

25 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Ellman, your time is

1 up.

2 MR. ELLMAN: It's just time  
3 something was done for the people of this  
4 city and worrying about this --

5 (Mr. Rogan bangs the gavel.)

6 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Ellman, your time is  
7 up.

8 MR. ELLMAN: I'm sorry.

9 MR. ROGAN: It's okay. We'll be  
10 here next week. Actually, we won't be here  
11 next week.

12 MR. ELLMAN: Well, I'm on my soap  
13 box now. Thank you very much.

14 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Bill  
15 Jackowitz and then Mr. Spindler if you would  
16 like to go, you wanted to go later.

17 (While Mr. Ellman was speaking Mr.  
18 McGoff took the dais and joined the  
19 meeting.)

20 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,  
21 South Scranton resident and member of the  
22 Taxpayers' Association. Today is the first  
23 of November and the audit still has not been  
24 presented to the Scranton City Council. The  
25 Home Rule Charter, the law, states that all

1 information must be provided by May of every  
2 year. How can the mayor and Scranton City  
3 Council possibly come up with a truthful and  
4 balanced budget if the audit is not  
5 completed on time?

6 Again, I must hold the Honorable  
7 Mayor Doherty and his appointed business  
8 administrator, Mr. Ryan McGowan, responsible  
9 for intentionally delaying the audit. This  
10 is my opinion and my opinion only. I cannot  
11 think of any valid reason why this  
12 information would be six months late.

13 GO Lackawanna newspaper, Sunday 23  
14 October, 2011, the Honorable Mayor Doherty  
15 is quoted as saying, "Hopefully by the end  
16 of next week we will have it all taken care  
17 of. We understand everybody's concern and  
18 we have been very forceful. In the past, we  
19 have always had it done earlier."

20 Maybe earlier, but never on time, 30  
21 May. Come on, Honorable Mayor Doherty, you  
22 can do better than that.

23 Mr. Chris Kelly, Times-Tribune staff  
24 writer wrote an article 30 October 2011, it  
25 was nice to see that the Times-Tribune

1 finally put some of the burden for  
2 Scranton's financial situation and poor  
3 decisions on the shoulders of the Honorable  
4 Mayor Doherty. In my opinion he is the one  
5 who chose to listen to Harrisburg and  
6 challenge the public safety unions along  
7 with his rubber stampers who included  
8 Mr. McGoff, Mrs. Gatelli, Ms. Fanucci,  
9 Mr. Pocius and Mr. McTiernan, Mr. Gilhooley,  
10 Mr. Murphy, Mr. DiBileo and Mr. Hazzouri.  
11 They are all should be held responsible for  
12 the financial disaster of Scranton.

13 My hope now is that the Scranton  
14 Times-Tribune will rally around the  
15 residents/taxpayers of Scranton and write  
16 articles urging the Honorable Mayor Doherty  
17 to sit down with city council and public  
18 safety unions in public and discuss the  
19 distressed status of Scranton. Maybe the  
20 Times-Tribune can hold a public town hall  
21 meeting and invite the Honorable Mayor  
22 Doherty and all the other elected and  
23 appointed officials of Scranton to attend.

24 The time has come for everyone,  
25 including the newspaper, to come together

1 and help with resolving the problems that  
2 the residents/taxpayers are faced with. The  
3 fighting must stop now and cooperation must  
4 start now. Time has run out for the  
5 residents/taxpayers of Scranton.

6 I'm going to wait for the sirens to  
7 go. I hope my time is stopped. There goes  
8 the bravest men in Scranton right there, the  
9 Scranton firefighters.

10 The residents/taxpayers cannot  
11 afford to pay the salaries that have been  
12 awarded, but then again, the residents/  
13 taxpayers and the firefighters and police  
14 officers are not the ones responsible for  
15 these salary awards. The Honorable Mayor  
16 Doherty and his advisors are responsible so  
17 they must be willing to sit down and work  
18 out a compromise for the well-being of the  
19 taxpayers. Personalities must be put aside.

20 The residents have suffered far too  
21 much and we cannot afford higher taxes nor  
22 cuts in public safety and reduction of the  
23 services. It was not the fault of the  
24 residents and the taxpayers. The blame  
25 falls squarely on the shoulders of the



1           Honorable Mayor, rubber stamp city council  
2           members, PEL and other state organizations  
3           including elected governors, state  
4           legislators and state senators. The time  
5           has come to help the residents/taxpayers of  
6           Scranton out of this mess. Cooperation is  
7           the word of the day and for the future of  
8           Scranton.

9                         In my opinion, the Honorable Mayor  
10           Doherty will not attend the meeting in city  
11           council chambers, so Times-Tribune, schedule  
12           the news coverage somewhere else, possibly  
13           one of the high schools or maybe the  
14           University of Scranton. ECTV can still  
15           broadcast along with the news stations.

16                        "We have to deal with it." No,  
17           Honorable Mayor Doherty, you have to deal  
18           with it. You are the cause, not the  
19           residents/taxpayers, you and your rubber  
20           stampers.

21                        Does state Senator John Blake live  
22           in Scranton? No. Remember, the Honorable  
23           Mayor Doherty wanted this seat. Does  
24           Representative Smith live in Scranton? No.  
25           Does he pay his taxes? No. Does

1 Representative Murphy live in Scranton?

2 Yes. Remember, he was president of city  
3 council and supported the Honorable Mayor  
4 Doherty and the expired Recovery Plan. On  
5 the other hand, Mr. Reap did not.

6 Now I understand that the city DPW  
7 vehicles are used for private citizens  
8 driver's licenses exams. Mr. McGoff, I hope  
9 you look into this matter. Did he at least  
10 pay for the fuel that was used for his  
11 driver's license exam? We need to find that  
12 out. If he didn't, then he needs to be  
13 billed for it along with Mr. Brazil.

14 DPW director Jeff Brazil estimated  
15 the city spent \$3,000 on Saturday alone, but  
16 costs are secondary to clear roadways and  
17 safety. "Safety first. We are going to do  
18 what we need to do."

19 Mr. Brazil, that is why Scranton  
20 taxpayers pay you. \$100 of overtime on  
21 Saturday. That equates to 12 people working  
22 eight hours a day on overtime plus four  
23 hours extra to pick up tree branches from  
24 the City of Scranton? I think that's a  
25 little overkill, Mr. McGoff. You are in

1 charge -- you are the guy for DPW, I hope  
2 you look into that matter because I think we  
3 overpaid. \$100 of overtime in one day to  
4 pick up tree branches? Come on, we are in a  
5 distressed city and we are in a budget  
6 crises.

7 Unemployment drops to 9.7 percent.  
8 Reason for the drop, school bus drivers  
9 return back to work. Still the highest  
10 unemployment in the state for the 18th  
11 consecutive month and we are paying \$100 in  
12 overtime for one day to pick up tree  
13 branches for one storm?

14 Quote. That's comes right out of  
15 today's newspaper, and I hope the Scranton  
16 Times' writes an article about the guy using  
17 the flatbed truck to take his private  
18 driver's license test. I didn't see anything  
19 in the paper. If I missed it, I apologize  
20 to the Times-Tribune, but, Josh, I hope you  
21 write an article on that.

22 MR. ROGAN: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Jackowitz. Les Spindler.

24 MR. SPINDLER: Les Spindler, city  
25 resident and homeowner and taxpayer. It's

1 no secret, it's been said here many times,  
2 have been a distressed city for 19 years now  
3 since 1992, and all the while PEL has done  
4 nothing but collect millions of dollars from  
5 the city. As I have said in the past, they  
6 don't want us to get out of distressed  
7 status because their gravy train would be  
8 over. They wouldn't be stuffing their  
9 pockets with money like they did all of  
10 these years.

11 Last week Mrs. Evans asked her  
12 colleagues to send a letter to the mayor --  
13 to the governor, I'm sorry, the governor of  
14 Pennsylvania to replace PEL and Mr. McGoff  
15 is the only one that said no. Mr. McGoff,  
16 why was that?

17 MR. MCGOFF: I didn't think it was  
18 appropriate.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Why?

20 MR. MCGOFF: Because I didn't think  
21 it was appropriate.

22 MR. SPINDLER: PEL is supposed to be  
23 trying to turn our city around for 19 years  
24 and we are in worse shape now than we were  
25 in 1992 and you don't think it's

1           appropriate? I don't think it's appropriate  
2           that you are sitting up there on city  
3           council because you don't give a darn about  
4           the taxpayers of this city if you can make a  
5           comment like that. That's ridiculous.

6                       And also, Mr. McGoff, while I'm  
7           talking to you, last week you said why would  
8           you ever negotiate because arbitrators most  
9           of the time side with the unions. Well, you  
10          are wrong again, Mr. McGoff, because our  
11          unions were more than willing to sit down  
12          with this mayor for ten years and he never  
13          once sat down with them. A few years ago  
14          there was a handshake agreement between the  
15          unions and the city and your mayor, Chris  
16          Doherty, reneged on it, so it's not the  
17          arbitrators, Mr. McGoff, it's your mayor and  
18          it's people like you and Mrs. Gatelli and  
19          Mrs. Fanucci and Mr. Pocius, and so on and  
20          so forth, all of the rubber stampers in the  
21          past years. You are the problem and I hope  
22          the people remember next Tuesday on election  
23          day who the problem really is.

24                      Moving on about the Supreme Court  
25          decision again, the mayor loses the decision

1 and instead of taking offers from the union  
2 to sit down and try to work out a fair  
3 agreement, which the unions want to do and  
4 they offered the mayor to sit down and even  
5 forgive some of award, and the mayor in his  
6 own egotistical way says, no. He would  
7 rather raise taxes, layoff more police  
8 officers and firefighters, put the city --  
9 the people of this city in danger.

10 You know, it's time for the people  
11 of this city to speak up. You know, when  
12 people speak up their voices are heard and  
13 it's just proved on the news tonight that I  
14 think everyone knows about the outrageous  
15 fees the Bank of America wanted to charge  
16 their customers, well, it was on the news  
17 tonight, all of the people spoke up and said  
18 they are going to take the money out of the  
19 bank now Bank of America said they are not  
20 going to raise those fees. They are not  
21 going to charge all of these fees. So, see,  
22 it's pays to speak of. Maybe if more people  
23 besides us few that come here every week  
24 came here and talked to the mayor and said,  
25 you know, we are not going to put up with

1           it, maybe things will change, but if people  
2           sit home and just let this man do what he  
3           wants to do nothing is going to change and  
4           it's a darn shame because it's the taxpayers  
5           that are suffering.

6                        That's all I have for now. Once  
7           again, I want to say next Tuesday is  
8           election day, I hope everyone gets out there  
9           and votes. It's supposed to be a pretty  
10          nice day, I think, and get out there and do  
11          your civic duty. Thank you.

12                      MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Spindler.  
13           Lee Morgan.

14                      MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

15                      MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

16                      MR. MORGAN: You know, I came here  
17           and missed a couple of meetings, I thought I  
18           would take a little break, listened to  
19           comments tonight and, you know, maybe it's  
20           that I just generally have just different  
21           ways of looking at things. I think there is  
22           more than enough blame to go around here and  
23           we can blame everybody for where the city  
24           is, and I think I have said it before, the  
25           residents voted for every individual who sat

1 in the council seat or in the mayor's  
2 office. Now, you know, we can agree or  
3 disagree about many things, but we can't  
4 disagree about that.

5 You know what, it really amazes me  
6 that, you know, we have people actually  
7 sacrificing their lives for our right to  
8 vote and so many people just have just a bad  
9 taste in their mouth as far as voting is  
10 concerned and I just think you can't change  
11 anything at all unless you vote.

12 Now, next Tuesday is election day.  
13 You know, I'd like to read in the Scranton  
14 Times and GO Lackawanna that more Scranton  
15 residents came out and voted for whatever  
16 candidate they care to vote for than ever  
17 before because if there is going to be a  
18 mandate given on the direction of this city  
19 the people for once have to stand up and  
20 make it quite clear what we they want to go  
21 in. I think that they voted for the  
22 Recovery Plan, I think they voted for a lot  
23 of things. Why they did it, I can't really  
24 say that because I'm only one individual.

25 And in regards to the settlement or



1 the court case with the fire and police, I  
2 think it's a lot more complex issue than  
3 what we presented here tonight. I think the  
4 legislature was trying to find out what the  
5 parameters of Act 47 were. And, look it, I  
6 don't work down in the mayor's office and I  
7 have no idea who called him from the state  
8 or what happened, but I think the Scranton  
9 Times did report that a lot of cities  
10 besides Scranton were locked in labor  
11 negotiations and trying to figure out what  
12 Act 47 would allow them to do, and I think  
13 the City of Scranton moved forward as a test  
14 case, and I think now we found out what's  
15 happened.

16 The only problem is, you know, we  
17 are where we are and we can all talk about  
18 what somebody else should have did because  
19 there were prior councils that sat there and  
20 said they were going to try and negotiate  
21 and work out a deal. I mean, I was in  
22 possession of a contract that was allegedly  
23 brought to the fire and police and there  
24 might have been some movement on it.

25 I just think we are blaming the

1 wrong people here. I think we have to blame  
2 the residents for not voting or for voting  
3 for the wrong people and I just in my own  
4 opinion, I don't know how they determine  
5 what course they want to take or who they  
6 want to vote for, but, I think they need to  
7 really reexamine what their place is in the  
8 elective process, and like I said before, I  
9 don't think elections are about Democrats  
10 and Republicans, I think they are about  
11 people, all right, and I just hope that they  
12 get back to the basics, and next election  
13 day, even though Mr. Rogan you wanted to  
14 have a meeting, we are not going to be able  
15 to do that, they need to really come out  
16 and, look it, it doesn't matter who they  
17 vote for. It's not only a council race or a  
18 controller's race it's everything. And  
19 really, it's time for people to stand up.  
20 The right to vote didn't come cheap, don't  
21 forget we through the British out of this  
22 country and it's been an ongoing process as  
23 we have made it possible for more and more  
24 Americans to vote, and I just hope that they  
25 do it. Thank you.

1 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.  
2 Marie Schumacher.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
4 Council. Marie Schumacher, city resident  
5 and taxpayer.

6 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: First I would like  
8 before you take your vote on 7-B tonight for  
9 someone to explain why we need a new  
10 substation when it's not even been I believe  
11 five years since we built our fire or police  
12 station. I thought that was supposed to be  
13 comprehensive and take care of everything  
14 and everybody and now we have one in West  
15 Side and now we are going to have one, I  
16 believe that property is on Keyser Avenue,  
17 and I would like a justification and I would  
18 like to know how much it is going to cost to  
19 run that substation per annum before you  
20 vote, obviously.

21 And I know I'm going to sound like a  
22 broken record, but I don't understand why it  
23 is so difficult for this council to tell me  
24 what happens to minutes. Minutes are  
25 received, and it was my understanding you

1           operate with Robert's Rules of Order, which  
2           I believe requires you to amend errors and  
3           to pass -- actually approve the minutes. Do  
4           you ever approve minutes?

5                     MR. ROGAN: No.

6                     MS. SCHUMACHER: You need to check  
7           with your solicitor on that then.

8                     Next, Andy Sbaraglia talked about  
9           all of the appeals for real estate. I don't  
10          blame those people. The property  
11          assessments in this town are so out of whack  
12          and we had two county commissioners who  
13          stepped on the third rail and actually went  
14          forward with a -- with a countywide  
15          reassessment and so we flushed it there in  
16          the county, it was several millions of  
17          dollars, somewhere between four and nine  
18          millions of dollars down the tubes on what  
19          had been done for the county reassessment.

20                    Now, you had PEL in here last fall  
21          telling you that part of your problem is the  
22          lack of a reassessment. You are having all  
23          of these individuals reassessments or  
24          appeals, I think that you really need to  
25          write a letter to the county and ask them to

1 get off the dime and do their assessment and  
2 from what I have read in the media their  
3 problem -- or they state their problem in  
4 addition to no money, but then what's new,  
5 they seem to be able to find money for  
6 stadiums and for all kinds of other things,  
7 I think this is probably more important, but  
8 if they are looking for a statewide solution  
9 then I think you all need to contact the  
10 county and get together with them and  
11 perhaps with the school board and get  
12 letters out to all of our elected state reps  
13 and tell them what you think needs to be  
14 done so we get this off ground zero. This  
15 is something that is just abhorrent. I  
16 don't know how it can go on this long and a  
17 lot of people are suffering because of it.

18 And then the audit, I, too, was told  
19 that pee were going to have the audit within  
20 a week and that was longer than a week ago,  
21 so I hope tonight we are going to get a firm  
22 date and I hope that we are going to see it  
23 before any action is taken this year that  
24 it's not just privy to the city council  
25 members prior to voting for a budget.

1                   On the police and firefighters'  
2                   settlement, I understand you may not know  
3                   all of what the total amount is going to be  
4                   because of one time charges such as lawyers'  
5                   fees, but it certainly seems to me you  
6                   should know what the recurring costs are  
7                   going to be as far as police and  
8                   firefighters' salaries and I would certainly  
9                   hope you have that. If you don't have it  
10                  tonight, I'm shocked, but if you don't I  
11                  certainly hope you have that in two weeks  
12                  when you return to a council meeting. I  
13                  think we need to know that very soon.

14                  I also would like to know if that  
15                  is -- if that court case cleared up all of  
16                  the open items for the police and  
17                  firefighters or are there still things  
18                  hanging out there, how many, what's the  
19                  dollar value on those.

20                  And then finally, when will we --  
21                  when we will get to see the new Recovery  
22                  Plan from PEL? Do we have a date scheduled  
23                  for them to make a presentation?

24                  MR. ROGAN: I don't believe so.

25                  MR. JOYCE: I don't believe so, and

1           actually in my absence Mrs. Krake attends  
2           the PEL meetings and I get an update on them  
3           and from what I am understanding PEL is not  
4           going to present a Recovery Plan this year;  
5           is that correct, Mrs. Krake?

6                       MS. KRAKE: At first PEL remarked  
7           that there would not be a Recovery Plan  
8           forthcoming, and then the representative  
9           from DCED said the state had decided they  
10          there would be a moratorium on the Recovery  
11          Plan until they reviewed the ramifications  
12          of the Supreme Court decision.

13                      MR. JOYCE: I believe in lieu of  
14          this, Mrs. Krake, did they not say that they  
15          are going to submit a document, a longer  
16          document, regarding the upcoming budget and  
17          their beliefs and ideas on what we should be  
18          doing?

19                      MS. KRAKE: Yes. Gerry Cross said  
20          he would be doing a 20-page letter to the  
21          administration and council in light of the  
22          fact that this is the 2012 budget season.  
23          It will include parts of the Recovery Plan  
24          and they will make recommendations as to how  
25          PEL feels the city should move forward with

1 the 2012 budget.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. So we will  
3 not have a multi year-budget, be able to see  
4 a multi-year budget at all this year then.  
5 Well, I certainly think that's unfortunate,  
6 but I'll stop there for tonight.

7 MR. ROGAN: Before you leave, I have  
8 answer on 7-B, it's \$1 per year.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Say what?

10 MR. ROGAN: 7-B, the cost is \$1 per  
11 year. That was the question.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: The cost is \$1?

13 MR. ROGAN: \$1 per year. It's  
14 basically a donation.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Airline Petroleum  
16 basically donated the unit for just a  
17 dollar.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: But there is not  
19 going to be any maintenance? There is  
20 nothing -- there is not going to be any --

21 MR. JOYCE: I think that's --

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: I mean, I can see  
23 it might be a lease -- the lease may be \$1 a  
24 year, but you have got to put in equipment,  
25 you have got to maintain it and 00.



1 MR. JOYCE: Yes, you were referring  
2 to electrical and maintenance charges and so  
3 on and so forth.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, what it takes  
5 to operate. You get a bare building, yeah,  
6 that's fine, or I don't even know if it's a  
7 bare building or if it's just land, but it's  
8 not going to be a dollar a year if you have  
9 people there, I'll tell you that.

10 MR. ROGAN: And I'll also comment, I  
11 agree with you completely what you are  
12 saying about the reassessment from what  
13 Mr. Sbaraglia said, and just to clear it up,  
14 I know you can correct me if not, it's not  
15 for tax collector's office. Mr. Courtright  
16 gets the taxes, it's the assessor's office  
17 which is in --

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: It's the county.

19 MR. ROGAN: -- through the county and  
20 the problem is if you believe your taxes are  
21 assessed -- your property is valued too high  
22 you are going to go and get it reduced. If  
23 you believe your property is valued too low,  
24 you are not going to say anything and you  
25 are going to keep paying the lower rate and

1           that's why we need a reassessment.

2                     Mr. Munchack and Mr. Cordaro were  
3           pursuing it and then when the new majority  
4           came in they put a squash on it. It's the  
5           one thing I agree with PEL we do need a  
6           reassessment in the city and the county.

7                     MS. SCHUMACHER: And, as I say, they  
8           are blaming the state and everybody is  
9           pointing fingers, but let's get some letters  
10          out and urge somebody to take some action.  
11          Personally, I think they are looking for a  
12          handout, but, you know, it's still all tax  
13          dollars so we just have to bite the bullet  
14          at some point. Thank you.

15                    MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

16                    MR. JOYCE: I agree with what they  
17          stated at least in the past, I believe they  
18          said that the total cost countywide  
19          reassessment would be somewhere in the \$8  
20          million range from what I understand.

21                    MR. ROGAN: Yeah, it would be very  
22          expensive, but in the long time it has to be  
23          done eventually because property values do  
24          change over the decade.

25                    MS. SCHUMACHER: Somebody is going

1 to get sued one of these days.

2 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: That will be  
4 expensive, too.

5 MR. ROGAN: Adam Gault.

6 MR. GAULT: Good evening, Council.

7 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

8 MR. GUALT: My name is Adam Gault,  
9 and I am the student government president at  
10 the University of Scranton for this year. I  
11 just wanted to come before you tonight to  
12 remind you that recently the University and  
13 it's student body has reached out to you to  
14 attend the upcoming event on our campus  
15 starting next week, election day, and to the  
16 following Tuesday the 15th.

17 We are sponsoring a political  
18 engagement week encouraging and attempting  
19 to encourage students that would be  
20 registered to vote to vote next Tuesday, to  
21 come to one of our meetings, a series of  
22 films, and then more importantly the think  
23 global, act local panel discussion political  
24 engagement on November 14, Monday, where we  
25 would have local elected officials and

1 student leaders discuss why and how public  
2 service as well as the role of the  
3 University students in the City of Scranton.

4 The panel discussion is taking place  
5 at 7:00 p.m. in the new Loyola Science  
6 Center, Room 133, which was different from  
7 the original invitation, so again, 7:00 p.m.  
8 in the new Loyola Science Center, Room 133.

9 Just to kind of elaborate on the  
10 purpose of this panel discussion, it is not  
11 so much about the University and the city  
12 relations, but more of why you, as elected  
13 officials, got involved in politics or  
14 public service and the hope is that through  
15 a conversation between students and local  
16 elected leaders we can spread greater  
17 political engagement.

18 Some of the questions that we will  
19 be planning to ask is: Why did you get  
20 involved in politics and public service?  
21 What did you do in your role? And what do  
22 you see as the potential for engagement by  
23 University students in the City of Scranton?

24 So we hope you can make it, consider  
25 it, and we appreciate that, appreciate the

1 time, and I have some contact information  
2 and thank you.

3 MR. GAULT: Thank you.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Adam, what was the  
5 name of that -- where the --

6 MR. GAULT: Loyola Science Center.  
7 The new Loyola Science Center, Room 133.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Science Center?

9 MR. GAULT: Yeah, the Loyola Science  
10 Center, yes. Room 133.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Okay. I got your  
12 memo and the paperwork here. I was going to  
13 respond today and I got a little tied up.

14 MR. GAULT: No problem. Thank you,  
15 that's why I came and reminded you.

16 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. We  
17 appreciate it.

18 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

19 MR. ROGAN: Dave Dobrzyn. If you  
20 have a flyer as well you can put that up in  
21 our office if you would like, if you would  
22 like to leave that as well.

23 MR. GAULT: Thank you.

24 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
25 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton and

1 taxpayer. I'm also interested in an  
2 accounting on that arbitration award.  
3 That's the very first of what we have to do  
4 and I'm sure you people know that and  
5 hopefully the administration cooperates.

6 I'm also disturbed every week by  
7 grants that are available and are not being  
8 applied for. I have heard of two instances  
9 now where extra firemen could be hired with  
10 grants or jobs maintained and also this  
11 health insurance issue, which is a big  
12 issue, and more your work force and people  
13 get laid off according to seniority, the  
14 more expensive your health insurance gets.

15 For instance, up in Clarks Summit a  
16 few years back there was a company, nobody  
17 was under 50 years old, well, their health  
18 insurance went up 30 percent, so that's a  
19 big consideration.

20 And I have a -- I did that research  
21 a few weeks ago and Pat didn't hear this, I  
22 wanted to repeat it for him. The  
23 Wilkes-Barre trash removal is \$160 a year,  
24 but it's \$9 for five bags and if you  
25 recycling the stuff it's no further charge.

1 In other words, you have to have a bag, so  
2 it is egregious that it's hitting people in  
3 the pocketbook, it may be an issue that  
4 could be possibly explored to force people  
5 to recycle as opposed to taking and driving  
6 up our tipping fees up at the landfill.

7 Now, I have a little message for the  
8 public employees, trade packs devastate the  
9 working class and their taxpaying abilities.  
10 Please, tell all of Congress to enforce a  
11 freeze on all trade agreements. Last week I  
12 mentioned 400,000 workers are coming down  
13 from North Korea and their wages are being  
14 paid to the government in North Korea who,  
15 of course, don't give a damn whether they  
16 starve to death or not, obviously, and they  
17 have lots of time and money to play with  
18 nuclear devices and try to build rockets and  
19 that make delivery possible and so forth,  
20 please contact your congressman because if  
21 we don't have jobs to pay the taxes then  
22 something is going to break. No matter how  
23 much we are on your side, no matter how much  
24 we are sympathetic to your ideals, the  
25 average person I just have a personal thing

1 at home where my wife lost her job, now she  
2 is starting back with the same 40 hour a  
3 week \$6,000 a year less. That's less money  
4 coming into you people in wage taxes and so  
5 forth and unless ability to pay property  
6 taxes and such, and we are just glad that  
7 she got the job.

8 Also, on one of the news pundits I  
9 seen movement with Jimmy Williams, a former  
10 lobbyist, his in Washington D.C., you go  
11 on-line and Getmoneyout.com, and it's  
12 proposing a constitutional amendment to stop  
13 all of these shadow groups and organizations  
14 from being able to buy candidates for their  
15 own interest. That's where a lot of our  
16 trade packs come from. We just seen where  
17 the unemployed were held hostage to trade  
18 packs allegedly, so if we don't solve this  
19 problem of unemployment, and I would predict  
20 that it's never going to be solved under the  
21 current situation, so if we don't solve that  
22 it's going to be just keep getting worse and  
23 worse for everybody.

24 So, please, if you could, contact  
25 your trade -- local representative in



1 Congress and Senators and tell them, please,  
2 no more trade packs until we get back on  
3 your feet, and I think we will back off our  
4 feet once somebody starts working once again  
5 at the end of a machine gun.

6 And one quick thing, the school  
7 board, please contact them and ask them to  
8 skip the new schools. Fix something for  
9 five or six million dollars, but don't build  
10 another one for 30 or 40.

11 And the golden parrot goes to  
12 Whirlpool Corporation, they bought out  
13 Maytag and they are laying off hundreds and  
14 thousands of American workers in Iowa and  
15 Arkansas and shipping the jobs out, they  
16 bought Maytag, who used to be a dream  
17 company to work for so, thank you, Whirlpool  
18 and I won't be buying your products if  
19 possible. Bawk. Bawk. Have a good night.

20 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there  
21 anything who wants to address council?

22 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city  
23 council. I'm Tom Ungvarsky. I wish to  
24 thank Mr. Rogan for sitting down and talking  
25 to the mayor. It's been four weeks since

1           you have done that and so far nothing has  
2           come of it. Perhaps during motions you  
3           could tell us just what transpired and what  
4           we can expect from the mayor.

5                     MR. ROGAN: Sure.

6                     MR. UNGVARSKY: Thank you. Several  
7           months ago, city council took over control  
8           of the checkbook for the RE-RE fund.  
9           Perhaps it was, Mr. Joyce, you can tell us  
10          finance the mayor has been writing out any  
11          other checks and what they are for?

12                    MR. LOSCOMBE: He just went to the  
13          men's room.

14                    MR. UNGVARSKY: Do you have any  
15          information on that?

16                    MR. LOSCOMBE: He just stepped out,  
17          Mr. Ungvarsky. He should be right back.

18                    MR. UNGVARSKY: Thank you. Last  
19          January, city council asked the mayor to get  
20          bids for the insurance for the city.  
21          Three-quarters of a year has passed by and  
22          so far there is nothing on it. Another year  
23          will go and we'll still have the same  
24          insurance broker. Does the City of Scranton  
25          have an insurance advisor working for them?

1 Does anyone know?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Not that I'm aware  
3 of.

4 MR. UNGVARSKY: Well, the county  
5 does, perhaps you can talk to him and see  
6 what can be done about getting some broker  
7 in to give the City of Scranton a  
8 competitive bid on their insurances. It  
9 seems like we can always find money or find  
10 ways to spend money, but when it comes down  
11 to saving a dollar for the taxpayers we seem  
12 to have a hard time doing things like that.  
13 Thank you, Council, and I wait for your  
14 answers, Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there  
16 anyone else who cares to address council?

17 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Quick one, Pat,  
18 last one.

19 MR. ROGAN: Hey, Chrissy.

20 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Last one.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

22 MR. SLEDENZSKI: You know something,  
23 Jack. Bring Jack back forever. Thank you.

24 MR. ROGAN: Thanks, Chrissy. Is  
25 there anyone else who would like address

1 council?

2 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.

3 MOTIONS.

4 MR. ROGAN: Mr. McGoff, do you have  
5 motions or comments?

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I do. First,  
7 procedural, I would like to make a motion to  
8 appoint Mr. Rogan as the Temporary Chair on  
9 Rules.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye. So ordered.

16 (Mr. Joyce not present for vote.)

17 MR. MCGOFF: Next, just a couple of  
18 responses because I was asked why I voted  
19 against sending something to PEL or asking  
20 for PEL to be removed. I guess I've  
21 criticized at times what PEL has done, I  
22 have also attended a number of meetings with  
23 PEL, with the representatives from PEL.  
24 They are a state appointed group under the  
25 Recovery Plan, the Recovery Plan that is

1 approved by the citizens of Scranton. We  
2 are still in that distressed status and I  
3 think that, you know, PEL has made attempts  
4 to deal with recovery. I think the problem  
5 has been that in some cases both the mayor  
6 and the council have refused to listen to  
7 suggestions from PEL.

8 Last year when PEL came before  
9 council and presented some numbers to us, in  
10 hindsight what they presented was probably  
11 the most accurate statistics on the finances  
12 of the city, so maybe they should have, you  
13 know, been listened to, again, by both the  
14 mayor and council.

15 And if you really want to spin on,  
16 you know, what PEL has done, you know,  
17 basically by adhering to whatever adherence  
18 to the Recovery Plan put forth by PEL,  
19 basically if we look at whatever the award  
20 is going to be from as result of the Supreme  
21 Court decision, that's money that was saved  
22 under the Recovery Plan. That's money that  
23 we did not pay during that period of time.  
24 I'm just saying, you can put a very positive  
25 spin to what they have done over the past

1 year, so I just believe that we need  
2 someone, advice from places and I believe  
3 that the representatives from PEL are well  
4 intentioned and what I can see over the past  
5 number of weeks, you know, work hard to try  
6 and provide information to the city.

7 Secondly, I would like to thank Adam  
8 Gault for coming to council and I had met  
9 Adam before at a meeting that was held at  
10 the University of Scranton when we were  
11 planning this political awareness week,  
12 political engagement week, I think this is  
13 an important step for both the University of  
14 Scranton and for the City of Scranton. The  
15 students at the University play a  
16 significant part in our city. There are  
17 from September through May or June 4,000  
18 some students that matriculate at the  
19 University of Scranton, and I think it's  
20 important that there is better understanding  
21 between the role and relationship that  
22 students have with the city and that the  
23 city has with the University, and I think  
24 something like this program that they have  
25 put together will go a long way towards

1 bringing about a better understanding and  
2 hopefully it's successful and hopefully it's  
3 followed up by future programs that further  
4 enhance the relationship between the school  
5 and the city.

6 And maybe I was going to mention  
7 this, maybe I'm overstepping here, it is my  
8 understanding that the mayor and  
9 representatives from the public safety  
10 unions are meeting this Thursday to discuss  
11 the settlement or the Supreme Court  
12 decision. I don't know if that's a result  
13 of Mr. Rogan meeting with the mayor, I don't  
14 know if it's a result of --

15 MR. ROGAN: If you want me to take  
16 the credit I will.

17 MR. MCGOFF: I'm just saying that I  
18 think that, you know, any steps, certainly  
19 any steps that were taken towards trying to  
20 get a better understanding between council  
21 and the administration was a step toward --  
22 a step in the right direction and I think  
23 that, you know, Thursday hopefully there  
24 will be some --something fruitful from that  
25 meeting. It was something that was asked

1 for and it is being accomplished.

2 And the last thing that I did want  
3 to mention, we seem to have -- I think we  
4 have two major problems before us, and I  
5 think that we have pushed one aside in order  
6 to deal with the one, but I think dealing  
7 with the deficit that existed for 2011 is a  
8 greater importance and greater urgency than  
9 dealing with the Supreme Court decision and  
10 the settlements there. We need to take care  
11 of the deficit for 2011 first. That has to  
12 be settled. We need to do something. We  
13 need to come up with a plan for dealing with  
14 that, whether it's the one put forth by  
15 council, whether it's something put forth by  
16 the mayor, and/or some combination thereof,  
17 but we need to do something quickly.

18 And it's for that reason that it's  
19 been asked in the past I believe that we  
20 need to put on the agenda what was sent to  
21 us from the mayor's office and vote on it.  
22 Whether we agree with it or disagree with  
23 it, we need to start dealing with that issue  
24 and until we do it just creates a greater  
25 emergency. We are in danger of, you know,



1 getting to a point in time where bills are  
2 not being paid, perhaps payroll is not being  
3 met, and certainly the one thing that is  
4 very critical is that unless there is some  
5 settlement to this quickly the possibility  
6 of receiving the TANS for the next year is  
7 extremely limited, and without that then  
8 certainly we have some problems to look at  
9 in 2012 that we don't want to face.

10 And so I would urge council that we  
11 get to work on dealing with this first and  
12 certainly the other financial issue that is  
13 going to confront us we will learn more  
14 about as the numbers are varying from person  
15 to person and who you talk to, certainly we  
16 will have to deal with that in the future  
17 and it may be an important thing to deal  
18 with before the end of the year and looking  
19 into the budget year. But again, I stress  
20 the importance of dealing with the 2011  
21 deficit and then attacking the other  
22 problem.

23 And again, as people have said from  
24 the podium, we will not meet next Tuesday,  
25 it is election day, and I urge everyone to

1 go out and perform their civic duty and it's  
2 a duty and a responsibility of all citizens.  
3 It may be the greatest right that we have,  
4 the right to vote, and I urge everyone to go  
5 to the polls on November 8 and do that duty.  
6 Thank you.

7 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. McGoff.  
8 I guess I will start off with the meetings  
9 that I had with the mayor. At the time,  
10 this is -- the time we met was before we  
11 knew of the court award that came down, so  
12 obviously we didn't talk of anything of that  
13 nature, but when you talk about the deficit,  
14 you know, we spoke about a few different  
15 options that we had in front of us, the  
16 first one and the one that's been in the  
17 newspaper the most is the selling of the  
18 parking meters, and I told the mayor, just  
19 like I said to all of you here, I completely  
20 oppose that idea. The parking meters are a  
21 money making machine, you put money in them.

22 Although, I would vote that  
23 legislation down, I do agree with Mr. McGoff  
24 that we should vote on the legislation. I  
25 believe that all legislation deserves an up

1 or down vote. It's our job to vote. It  
2 shouldn't be approved, but I think it should  
3 be shot down through the process of voting  
4 instead of just leaving it off the agenda.

5 The mayor and I did talk about, you  
6 know, just different things that we each  
7 believe in, you know, I stressed my  
8 commitment to being fiscally conservative  
9 and keep taxes relatively low. You know, we  
10 are looking for alternatives moving forward  
11 in the future.

12 I hope to continue to talk to the  
13 mayor and talk to all my colleagues, talk it  
14 other elected officials. We do have a huge  
15 burden ahead of us and we have to work  
16 together to try and get it solved. I don't  
17 agree that in tax increases or massive  
18 layoffs in public safety are the answer. I  
19 have said that probably a thousand times  
20 until I'm blue in the face up here, but we  
21 do need to look at some creative ideas. We  
22 need to get out of the hole.

23 As much as I oppose borrowing, if we  
24 have to borrow if there is some way it could  
25 be legislated that the city can never borrow

1           again until the long-term debt is paid off  
2           or something of that nature. I'm open to  
3           suggestions from the public and from my  
4           colleagues as well.

5                       Moving on, I was saddened to learn  
6           of the death of Hilary Clinton's father, but  
7           it did bring --

8                       MR. JOYCE: Mother.

9                       MR. ROGAN: Mother. Mother. But it  
10          did bring an issue to light that has been  
11          brought up at council over and over and it's  
12          the Washburn Street Cemetery.

13          Mrs. Clinton's father is buried in the  
14          Washburn Street Cemetery, so I would assume  
15          that now that her mother passed away she  
16          would as well.

17                      Mrs. Krake, could we please send a  
18          letter to Mr. Seitzinger saying that the  
19          owner of that cemetery asked acts very  
20          swiftly to have that area cleaned up, and  
21          not just the area in the front, the entire  
22          cemetery, so that everyone is respected.  
23          This is an issue that all of us on council  
24          have talked about through the years and that  
25          the previous council has dealt with. You

1 know, it seems to be a never ending problem  
2 that keeps bringing being brought back up.  
3 It was reminded me of it, you know. I don't  
4 know of any funeral plans or anything, but I  
5 would assume it would be in the area and  
6 just for the city's sake and for the sake of  
7 the Clintons as well.

8 Moving on to city equipment once  
9 again being used by private individuals, I  
10 did read the article in GO Lackawanna, it  
11 was a great piece of reporting, good  
12 investigative reporting. That's how I  
13 learned of the issue in the newspaper, and  
14 with my colleagues' approval I will ask for  
15 a poll, I would ask that we send a letter to  
16 the mayor urging a full investigation as to  
17 whether Director Brazil did authorize an  
18 employee to use public property for personal  
19 use, and if so he should be fired if that is  
20 determined to be the case, so I would just  
21 ask for an informal vote by my colleagues on  
22 that letter. All in favor? Aye.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

24 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Opposed?

1 MR. MCGOFF: No. And I would say I  
2 would agree with the first part, you know,  
3 let's investigate. The firing part I think  
4 is something that's separate and dealt with  
5 at, you know, that's the role of the mayor  
6 to discipline workers, not the role of  
7 council and I think that is something that  
8 is separate and should be dealt with by the  
9 administration.

10 MR. ROGAN: Thank you for your  
11 comments. Mrs. Krake, can you please send  
12 that letter? I apologize, I didn't write  
13 anything up. It was, you know, since it was  
14 brought up by so many people it got me  
15 thinking.

16 Finally, as many speakers and I'm  
17 sure all my colleagues agree that next  
18 Tuesday is election day, everybody should  
19 get out and vote. Many people have fought  
20 and died for that right for us and it's very  
21 disappointing to see the returns come in and  
22 see 30, 40, 50 percent voter turnout when it  
23 should be at 95 percent or even 100 percent,  
24 so we urge everyone to go out and vote for  
25 the candidates they believe will be the best

1 to lead the city and the county government  
2 and the state judicial level as well, and  
3 that is all I have for tonight.

4 Mr. Loscombe, do you have any  
5 motions or comments?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, very briefly. I  
7 really wasn't going to say anything, but,  
8 you know, we agree and disagree on a lot of  
9 things, but when it comes to PEL I would  
10 have to disagree with Mr. McGoff on their  
11 actions. For 19 years, PEL has been here  
12 and I believe they are been a dismal failure  
13 at this point and they made recommendations  
14 that were done throughout the years under  
15 Mayor Connors I believe he was sanctioned  
16 because he negotiated a contract, then they  
17 eliminated a public safety director, under  
18 this current mayor he appointed a public  
19 safety director, it just seemed that, you  
20 know, they haven't stayed on focus to do it.  
21 They are here 19 years. If we were in this  
22 position after 19 years you think any of us  
23 would be sitting here? We would have voted  
24 out a long time ago, but we don't have the  
25 ability to vote them out, all we have done

1 is asked to have them replaced, and I think  
2 that's a fair thing. Let someone else in  
3 there that may be a little bit more -- you  
4 know, yes, they are nice gentlemen and such,  
5 but it hasn't benefited us at all.

6 I think we are a lot deeper now, and  
7 I don't think I know we are a lot deeper now  
8 than we were 19 years ago and their  
9 recommendations all along, again, look for  
10 yourself. Are we a success or a failure? I  
11 mean, they make the recommendations to the  
12 mayor and, you know, he picks and chooses.  
13 He is the mayor. We don't have the ability  
14 to, you know, go against anything that way  
15 other than what we have to vote on, but we  
16 had a plan that was put out there, that was  
17 supposed to be followed and, you know, just  
18 little items are chosen out of it, but I  
19 think it was bad advice, especially in the  
20 last ten years, to hold off any negotiations  
21 or not hold them off but just ignore  
22 negotiations and reach a fair settlement  
23 that would been a lot better for us today,  
24 probably half of what's going to be paid  
25 out, so I don't think we should continue



1           that or pay for that kind of incompetence,  
2           and that's my belief.

3                     I just feel anybody that's been here  
4           19 years and has put us in this position  
5           shouldn't be here anymore, and that's all I  
6           have to say on that.

7                     MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.  
8           Mr. Joyce?

9                     MR. LOSCOMBE: Oh, excuse me, I'm  
10          sorry, I did forget to mention one thing.  
11          We had a request to look into permit parking  
12          in the 700 block of Olive Street and we did  
13          receive a response. "Dear Chief Duffy, per  
14          your request for me to look into the permit  
15          parking petition for the 700 block of Olive  
16          Street from Moir Court west to Jefferson  
17          Avenue, this petition does not meet the  
18          residential permit requirements due to the  
19          fact that this area is not residential.

20                     The area in question is a business  
21          area. The area in the 700 block of the  
22          Olive Street from Moir Court east to Madison  
23          Avenue is residential and this area already  
24          has permit parking signs in place. I went  
25          to this location, 700 block of Olive Street

1 on this date at 10:03 hours. Any questions,  
2 please feel free to contact me. Richard  
3 Backman."

4 And we'll have a letter on file here  
5 if anybody has any questions on that.

6 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.  
7 Mr. Joyce, before you go, one comment I  
8 forget to make, something Mr. McGoff said, I  
9 am pleased to hear that the unions and the  
10 mayor are going to be meeting to discuss  
11 hopefully some type of an agreement other  
12 than just paying all the money out in one  
13 lump sum.

14 Again, that wasn't something that  
15 was discussed when I met with the mayor, so  
16 take it --

17 MR. JOYCE: Yeah, it didn't happen  
18 yet.

19 MR. ROGAN: But, yeah, it is  
20 encouraging to hear and I hope that some  
21 type of agreement could be made that will,  
22 you know, not only benefit the public safety  
23 employees, but benefit the taxpayers as  
24 well. And, Mr. Joyce, do you have any  
25 motions or comments?

1 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Last week I  
2 encouraged Mayor Doherty to engage in a  
3 meeting with union representatives in order  
4 to mitigate the fire and police award that  
5 was confirmed in the recent Supreme Court  
6 ruling in the best interest of the people.  
7 I still encourage the mayor to do so and I  
8 understand that is now happening and  
9 hopefully that will be some sort of  
10 agreement that could be arranged in  
11 conclusion to that meeting.

12 However, should Mayor Doherty fail  
13 to mitigate this award, city council members  
14 will sit down at the table with  
15 representatives of the IAFF and FOP as well  
16 as their attorney in order to discuss  
17 potential resolutions to the multi-million  
18 dollar Supreme Court decision which was a  
19 direct result of Court battles pursued by  
20 the mayor, PEL and DCED. Council will then  
21 take this plan directly to the mayor and  
22 thereafter be released to the public in the  
23 meeting.

24 Tonight, I would also like to  
25 commend the Department of Public Works for

1           their recent action -- for the recent action  
2           in regard to this past week's storm. When  
3           driving on Saturday, it was evident that  
4           roads were salted, which prevented snow from  
5           sticking to the ground. Also, throughout  
6           the course of the year, I recognize that we  
7           have encountered many adverse weather events  
8           which are not typical of Scranton. For  
9           example, a large wind storm that took out  
10          many trees throughout the city. While I do  
11          not agree -- or while I don't always agree  
12          that the DPW acts in the most efficient  
13          manner, which is a result of the management,  
14          I will say that throughout the year our DPW  
15          workers have handled all adverse weather  
16          events appropriately and, therefore, have  
17          done a good job.

18                        Last week Scranton city Council  
19                        received a letter from the President of  
20                        Madison Government Affairs informing us of  
21                        recent House and Senate actions in regard to  
22                        our CDBG funds. From the letter received,  
23                        Paul Birch, president of the organization,  
24                        has informed that the House of  
25                        Representatives funded the CDBG program at

1           \$3.5 million, which is approximately  
2           \$200,000 million over what was funded last  
3           year. The Senate funded the CDBG program at  
4           \$2.85 million, which is nearly a \$500,000  
5           million decrease from 2011.

6                     As one knows, Scranton took a large  
7           hit in the amount of CDBG funding received  
8           in 2011. CDBG funds are very important to  
9           our community as many of those funds are  
10          allocated to fund programs such as paving  
11          issues in low to moderate income  
12          neighborhoods, blight issues, as well as  
13          provided assistance programs that benefit  
14          senior citizens, children and the poor.

15                    With this in mind, with the  
16          agreement of my colleagues, please send  
17          letters to Senators Casey and Toomey as well  
18          as Congressman Barletta and Marino  
19          encouraging them not to cut federal CDBG  
20          allocations any further. Since \$600 million  
21          was cut from the CDBG program in 2011 on a  
22          national level, the impact of an additional  
23          \$500 million cut in 2012, which would be a  
24          38 percent reduction in CDBG funding over a  
25          two-year span, would have a profound impact

1 on Scranton and OECD's ability to fund  
2 necessary community programs.

3 Scranton cannot afford to lose this  
4 necessary funding and I would like to  
5 encourage our local congressmen as well as  
6 our state senators to fight for us.

7 As one knows, since I have brought  
8 this up numerous times at previous council  
9 meetings, the annual audit for the previous  
10 year is to be completed by May 31 the  
11 following year as directed by the Home Rule  
12 Charter. It's now November 1 and we still  
13 don't have a completed audit. On January 26  
14 of this year, Rossi & Rossi sent a timeline  
15 that the business administrator's office  
16 needed to follow in order to have a  
17 completed audit by May 31.

18 To this date, there are number of  
19 outstanding items that are holding up the  
20 process. Two weeks ago I asked our city  
21 clerk, Mrs. Krake, to send a request to  
22 Mr. McGowan asking him to provide us a  
23 status update on all open items. This  
24 request was unanswered.

25 To this date, there are nine

1 memorandums that were sent by Rossi & Rossi  
2 that the business administrator's office has  
3 failed to respond upon. In addition to  
4 this, responses have not been received from  
5 the necessary attorney letters to complete  
6 the audit.

7 I see this as a very problematic  
8 issue. An audit needs to be completed by  
9 the necessary due date every year. Being  
10 able to provide an audit to announce at  
11 lending agencies such as a bank who will  
12 issue tax anticipation notes to us it's  
13 vital and provides an overall view of the  
14 fiscal status of the city.

15 An audit is also important because  
16 it ensures that the city is following legal  
17 requirements as well as following generally  
18 accepted accounting practices.

19 In addition, an audit identifies  
20 problems and a thorough review of the cities  
21 financial control procedures and makes  
22 recommendations that the city can use to  
23 improve it's operation.

24 Finally, an audit provides valuable  
25 information to community residents as it

1            assures residents that public funds are  
2            being well managed by the municipal  
3            government, and it alerts them to problems  
4            such as poor bookkeeping or mismanagement of  
5            funds that need to be fixed.

6                            With all of this being said, Mrs.  
7            Krake, please request a status report on all  
8            outstanding items from Mr. McGowan and ask  
9            that he provide council with the status  
10           update prior to next Tuesday.

11                           MR. MCGOFF: Could I interrupt one  
12           second?

13                           MR. JOYCE: Yes.

14                           MR. MCGOFF: I believe that question  
15           was asked of Mr. McGowan at the PEL meeting  
16           the other day and did he provide a response?

17                           MS. KRAKE: He said they are working  
18           on it. This has been the same response to  
19           every request.

20                           MR. JOYCE: Well, simply saying we  
21           are working on it, I don't think that is  
22           really a comprehensive status update, and I  
23           think that the public as well as the rest of  
24           the council needs to know concrete dates  
25           that are set in stone as when we can expect



1 information to be delivered to Rossi & Rossi  
2 so we could accurately project a date that  
3 we might be able to have an audit for the  
4 public. And also --

5 MR. MCGOFF: I would just for  
6 clarification, I believe that it was also  
7 indicated at this meeting that the city was  
8 waiting on information from NCC and when  
9 that was received that they have been  
10 waiting on that and that was all that was  
11 needed on behalf of the city.

12 MR. JOYCE: I did read the report  
13 from Rossi & Rossi and while I understand  
14 that they are waiting on information from  
15 NCC, that's one of the topic areas, there  
16 are also many outstanding issues that still  
17 have not been resolved to this date as  
18 evident by Rossi & Rossi's most recent  
19 status report.

20 Also, while we are on the subject of  
21 PEL and the figures, I just want to say in  
22 response to comments made by Mr. McGoff  
23 about PEL's figures being more accurate,  
24 I'll point to some of the figures that  
25 council amended in the 12011 operating

1 budget and what we are expected to receive  
2 as per Mr. McGowan's latest cash flow  
3 report.

4 For instance, real estate tax  
5 revenue, we are supposed to receive 205,000  
6 more than what we originally projected.

7 Current wage tax revenue with 888  
8 funds, we're expected to receive about  
9 100,000 less than what we projected. PEL's  
10 figure they presented was actually higher  
11 than ours, therefore, it wasn't more  
12 accurate.

13 Local service tax, we're projected  
14 to receive 50,000 more than what we actually  
15 projected it as.

16 Business privilege tax, we are  
17 expected to receive \$49,000 less than what  
18 we projected at.

19 And also the mercantile tax, we're  
20 projected to receive \$27,194 more in revenue  
21 than what we projected as per Mr. McGowan's  
22 latest cash flow report.

23 Perhaps, the numbers or the revenue  
24 figures that PEL may have projected better  
25 than -- that was actually in the budget were



1 will see \$827,000 for a deficit of \$147,747.

2 So when you look at the revenue  
3 figures that we altered and some of the  
4 numbers that I have read, for instance, real  
5 estate tax, LST, business privilege and  
6 mercantile, we are very close. We are very  
7 close to what we projected. We are either,  
8 you know, maybe 40 or 50,000 dollars higher  
9 or lower than what the administration  
10 actually says we are going to bring in, so I  
11 think some of the projections on the revenue  
12 side from the administration are what's  
13 falling short, not city council's  
14 projections.

15 So perhaps in PELS's presentation, I  
16 don't have it in front of me, perhaps they  
17 were more accurate than the administration's  
18 figures, but for the revenue figures that we  
19 adjusted, we are pretty much on point at  
20 this point of the year, and that's all.

21 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.  
22 Mrs. Krake?

23 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. NO BUSINESS AT  
24 THIS TIME.

25 SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO BUSINESS AT

1 THIS TIME.

2 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
3 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR  
4 ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 55, 2011-  
5 AUTHORIZING THE EXTINGUISHMENT OF THE  
6 PERMANENT EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS AT  
7 THE CORNER OF MARION STREET AND NEW ROSS  
8 AVENUE AND TO ANNEX SAID LANDS TO BE  
9 CONVEYED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO RONALD  
10 F. KITLAS AND MARY ANN KITLAS.

11 MR. ROGAN: As Temporary Chairperson  
12 for the Committee on Rules, I recommend  
13 final passage of Item 7-A.

14 MR. JOYCE: Second.

15 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll  
16 call, please?

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

25 MR. ROGAN: I hereby declare Item

1 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. KRAKE: 7-B.FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
3 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY FOR ADOPTION-  
4 RESOLUTION NO. 50, 2011 - AUTHORIZING THE  
5 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
6 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND  
7 ENTER INTO A LEASE WITH AIRLINE PETROLEUM  
8 COMPANY OF DUNMORE TO PROVIDE SPACE FOR THE  
9 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO OPERATE A  
10 SUBSTATION.

11 MR. ROGAN: What is the  
12 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
13 Committee on Public Safety?

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: As Chairperson for  
15 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
16 final passage of Item 7-B.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

18 MS. ROGAN: On the question? I  
19 would just like to mention that although  
20 there isn't a cost, a fixed cost mentioned  
21 for the operation of the substation, being a  
22 resident of West Side I know this is sorely  
23 needed in our community. Just in the last  
24 few years the amounts of the crime that has  
25 occurred in West Side and just driving down

1 the streets you can really see the  
2 difference, and I definitely think the lease  
3 rate of \$1 per year is a steal and we need  
4 to do everything we could to crack down on  
5 crime and especially since it's for West  
6 Side I absolutely support this.

7 MR. JOYCE: And I would also like to  
8 say actually the cost of operation most of  
9 them I'm sure would be variable costs, but,  
10 Mrs. Krake, could you please send a letter  
11 to Chief Duffy and also a copy to Ryan  
12 McGowan's just for our knowledge and  
13 somebody report back to the public what the  
14 cost will be to operate the station.

15 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please?

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

23 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

24 MR. ROGAN: I hereby declare Item  
25 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

1 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
2 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
3 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 51, 2011  
4 - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE  
5 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD  
6 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF  
7 APPROPRIATENESS FOR HEMMLER + CAMAYD  
8 ARCHITECTS, 409 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
9 PENNSYLVANIA FOR REMOVAL OF DETERIORATED,  
10 SINGLE PANE WOOD WINDOWS; REPLACEMENT WITH  
11 NEW, ENERGY EFFICIENT, ALUMINUM CLAD,  
12 MAINTENANCE-FREE WOOD WINDOWS; REMOVAL OF  
13 OVERHEAD DOORS AND REPLACEMENT WITH NEW,  
14 ENERGY-EFFICIENT OVERHEAD DOORS AT THE  
15 CENTRAL FIRE STATION, 518 MULBERRY STREET,  
16 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

17 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
18 Committee on Community Development, I  
19 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

20 MR. JOYCE: Second.

21 MS. ROGAN: On the question? Roll  
22 call, please?

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.



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MR. ROGAN: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

MR. JOYCE: Yes.

MR. ROGAN: I hereby declare Item  
7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

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

MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MR. ROGAN: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER