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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, September 27, 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

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
2 moment of reflection observed.)

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with the
14 reading of the minutes.

15 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
16 ASSESSOR'S REPORT, HEARING DATES FOR AUGUST
17 31, AND OCTOBER 27, 2011.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AGENDA OF THE CITY
21 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER
22 21, 2011.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S

1 REPORT, COMMERCIAL APPEALS HEARING TO BE
2 HELD OCTOBER 26, 2011.

3 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
4 If not, received and filed. Do we have any
5 Clerk's notes?

6 MS. KRAKE: No, we don't have any
7 this evening, Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any
9 council members have announcements at this
10 time? It's that time of year again, the
11 Dunmore Cemetery Tour presented by the
12 Dearly Departed players under the artistic
13 direction of Ms. Julie Esty will be held at
14 the Dunmore Cemetery, 400 Church Street, on
15 Sunday, October 7 and again on Sunday,
16 October 9, 2011, beginning at 2 p.m.
17 Admission is free and no reservations are
18 required. Take a walk through time and meet
19 famous and not so famous departed
20 individuals who've had a lasting effect on
21 our local and national history. Actors
22 provide a live portrayal of highlighted
23 individuals and dress in style of the day.
24 In addition, Ms. Esty has partnered
25 with Ms. Gaus artistic director of the

1 Scranton Civic ballet, to add a touch of
2 dance to what promises to be the best
3 presentation yet. It's a perfect way for
4 family to spend a highly entertaining and an
5 educational afternoon. Hope to see you
6 there.

7 And this evening, I have asked
8 cooperation of council that we might alter
9 the order of the meeting. I am not feeling
10 well, and result we are going to begin
11 tonight's meeting with motions and comments
12 of the council followed by the voting
13 portion, and prior to each vote we will
14 provide an opportunity for speakers to voice
15 their concerns and thereafter citizens'
16 participation will be conducted in full.

17 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

18 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, do you have
19 any comments or motions?

20 MR. MCGOFF: In deference to your
21 petition to leave earlier, I'll pass this
22 evening.

23 MS. EVANS: Mr. Rogan?

24 MR. ROGAN: I would do the same. I
25 had a few things prepared, but they can hold

1 off until next week.

2 MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe?

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: I just have a couple
4 of comments. I had a couple of things
5 passed to me before the meeting, some
6 questions I will be asking here: How
7 difficult will it be for the fire engines to
8 respond to East Mountain Road in the
9 wintertime during icy conditions and snow
10 covered roads?

11 And the other question is on the
12 tree house, during thunderstorms and
13 lightning the pool is emptied, but yet
14 visitors are still allowed on the tree
15 house. Why don't the park employees remove
16 them to safety from the tree house at that
17 time. That's just something we can pass
18 onto Parks and Recreation to look at.

19 And as far as the fire trucks, it's
20 a lot easier going downhill than uphill
21 naturally, but I'll get you some more
22 information on that, also.

23 Quickly, it just seemed -- I
24 apologize for not being here last week. I
25 see Mrs. Evans is under the influence of

1 what I felt since last week, so I know what
2 you are going through. I'll still not over
3 it myself, but it's going around. But, you
4 know, I didn't have an opportunity to see
5 the meetings since I don't have the cable
6 channel, but, you know, I have been apprised
7 of articles in the paper this past week, it
8 seems like another week of bashing city
9 council, especially the women on city
10 council, our city clerk and our president
11 here. It must have been a slow news week.

12 And I don't know why they can't go
13 after the true stories, like Mrs. Evans
14 said, the truth, and I do not comment to the
15 newspaper anymore because they are not
16 telling the truth. They have to tell the
17 whole story to tell the truth, and
18 apparently that's not happening, and I
19 vented my frustration previously on this.
20 But, you know, when I read in the paper like
21 today and, you know, again the comments are
22 twisted and distorted and there was a
23 comment by Mr. McGoff today and I hope, you
24 know, it's not the full text of what he
25 stated or whatever, but it said,

1 "Mr. McGoff, the lone minority member, said
2 that Mrs. Krake has no legal rights to hold
3 up the contracts. It's not a decision for
4 her to sign, he said, it's an obligation
5 that comes from the job. Mr. McGoff
6 questioned whether Mrs. Krake is acting on
7 her on accord or on the authority of council
8 noting that there should be repercussions if
9 Mrs. Krake's actions caused the city harm
10 such as costing the city money."

11 And I would like to ask if the
12 repercussions go the other way, also. I
13 mean, we have an administration, should they
14 suffer the repercussions for their charter
15 violations, and for not following the budget
16 with our revenue initiatives in it? I would
17 hope that that would be the full gist of
18 your comment, Mr. McGoff because it's only
19 fair, but I don't think I would sign
20 anything without knowing the facts behind
21 it, and I know I had requested information
22 and part of what Mrs. Krake is holding up is
23 information -- is contracts because of
24 information that I requested that we have
25 not been able to get. We have not been

1 provided with.

2 And if I could just read a letter we
3 received from the OECD solicitor, "As per
4 our recent conversations," this was to
5 Attorney Boyd Hughes, "As per our recent
6 conversations, enclosed is provided
7 correspondence OECD has received from the
8 city clerk attaching the bid proposals.
9 While we no objections to sharing such
10 information -- as much as information as
11 possible, Mrs. Krake, we are a very busy
12 office and simply don't have the time and/or
13 resources to copy the clerk with bid specks,
14 etcetera. More importantly, each and every
15 contract which is sent to city council has a
16 bid form attached.

17 In addition, the solicitor's office
18 generally sends backup information along
19 with the legislation. At any rate, if the
20 clerk or any member of the council would
21 like to review any of the OECD files they
22 are more than welcome to come to the office
23 and go through the same."

24 Now, I don't know how much more
25 effort it is, but when people come in to

1 place a bid they have to have bid packets
2 ready. They don't know whether one person
3 is going to show up or ten people, so they
4 should have a at least a handful of bid
5 proposals ready. What we receive are the
6 people who have bid on it. We don't receive
7 -- what we requested, we don't want a
8 100-page document, we just wanted -- we
9 requested the scope of the work that was
10 bid.

11 In other words, if you are putting
12 sidewalks in, how many lineal feet of
13 sidewalks, how much gravel, the whole deal
14 what you're bidding on. We don't receive
15 any of that, and that's uncalled for.

16 And then additionally in the letter,
17 "In addition, I recently received a call
18 from Attorney Rocco Valvano in connection
19 with the Freckles and Frills loan.
20 Apparently, the City Clerk's office has
21 requested the principals of Freckle's and
22 Fills to appear at a public meeting and
23 discuss the particulars of their loan.
24 Attorney Valvano is reluctant to allow his
25 clients to discuss their finances and other

1 confidential information publically, and
2 quite frankly, I don't blame them. I would
3 suggest that the principals of Freckle's and
4 Frills meet with council privately in the
5 caucus before the meeting."

6 Well, if any of you who have
7 witnessed our caucuses at this meeting,
8 whenever somebody has applied for a grant or
9 is given a grant or a low interest loan, all
10 we request is for them to come here and
11 explain to the public what they plan on
12 doing with that. We are not asking for
13 financial records to be exposed, we are not
14 asking for anything private to be exposed.
15 If they can't come here and explain what
16 they are doing with the money that you, the
17 taxpayers, are providing them, then there is
18 something wrong.

19 All we are doing is opening it up so
20 that the public can see what's going on in
21 this city, so I don't understand what the
22 problem is here. I don't know these people,
23 I don't know where Freckle's and Frills is,
24 but this is a first time I have actually
25 seen any complaint about someone -- we have

1 had many people come here and tell their
2 project to us and make their presentation,
3 and I think it's great for the public to see
4 where their tax dollars are going.

5 So I don't understand their mindset
6 on this here. If they are too afraid to
7 come here there is something that they're
8 hiding. We are not asking riveting
9 questions about their background or their
10 money or whatever, we are asking what they
11 are doing with our money and what they plan
12 on doing with the building and that's it. I
13 don't think we are being that invasive.
14 It's for you, the public, to know where your
15 tax dollars are going.

16 And then lastly, "OECD is charged
17 with the responsibility of determining the
18 eligibility of the potential borrowers and
19 the strength of the deal. All of that due
20 diligence required by federal, state, local
21 government is done long before these matters
22 get to council. Council's attempt to micro
23 manage these projects slows the process and
24 causes problems for borrowers and other
25 lenders in the deal.

1 In addition, public appearances
2 could have a chilling effect on potential
3 borrowers. At any rate, council is more
4 than welcome to review any and all of the
5 loan files which should come to OECD to do
6 so. In addition, micro management of this
7 nature is well beyond the duties and
8 responsibilities of the City Clerk's Office,
9 Section 406 of the Home Rule Charter."

10 And lastly, is attached a list of
11 contracts being held up.

12 Well, let me say one thing, they are
13 charged with -- OECD is charged with the
14 responsibility of determining eligibility of
15 borrowers and the strength of the deal and
16 they are accusing us of micromanaging. It
17 never hurts to have extra eyes on a
18 projects. I have already looked at a few
19 documents and I have questions on it, that's
20 why I requested more information. I think
21 if we did micromanage a little better over
22 the past few years we wouldn't have this
23 audit result of over \$11 million in
24 unallowed expenses from OECD, so I think
25 more eyes are better than none, and on top

1 of that, I believe there is over \$600,000 in
2 their budget from their OECD funding for
3 administrative purposes. That should give
4 them a sufficient amount to provide us with
5 one copy of each of these specs, and I'm not
6 looking at 100 pages, I'm looking at the
7 scope of the work.

8 What are we trying to hide? All we
9 want to know is was the work done properly,
10 because there is quite a few change orders I
11 see in a lot of these projects, too, and
12 this is the stuff that comes back and haunts
13 us when we do get these HUD audits, and I
14 would hope that they could resolve this.
15 This here is one of the main basis as far as
16 OECD projects that are being held up that
17 Mrs. Krake is being accused of, but I
18 specifically asked her to hold some so the
19 documentation -- some information until we
20 receive the documentation and they seem in
21 no hurry to provide it to us.

22 And other things that are being held
23 up, I mean, they are saying we have no money
24 in the budget, well, how can we put out
25 contracts if there is no money to cover it?

1 You know, you can't go out and buy a new car
2 if you can't pay your mortgage. So, you
3 know, the newspaper can twist it and distort
4 it any way they want, the truth is here, the
5 facts are here, and I just -- those are just
6 some of my thoughts here.

7 Let me see if I had anything. I
8 guess that's it. But, you know, again,
9 don't believe everything you read in the
10 paper, and if Mrs. Krake is going to be held
11 accountable I would hope that everybody is
12 held accountable. That's all I have to say.
13 Thank you.

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

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I do. Recently,
18 there have been a few articles in the
19 Scranton Times, and I do realize in the
20 Scranton Times in two of those articles, one
21 dealing with Mrs. Krake, and another dealing
22 with the mayor's veto of the CDBG
23 amendments, they printed that I declined to
24 comment. The reason why I declined to
25 comment, was due to the fact that I did not

1 -- I had not yet received the mayor's veto
2 letter, and that I have -- that I had not
3 received the letters sent from Attorney
4 Kelly to Boyd Hughes at that time.

5 It wasn't simply I said, "No, I
6 don't want to talk about it," the reason was
7 I didn't have the documentation to actually
8 comment.

9 On other matters, the first thing I
10 wanted to talk about tonight is about casual
11 help. As you know, it's quite clear that
12 the mayor and the Scranton Times are trying
13 to pin the deficit on the council that
14 exists in renege 2011. In all of the
15 arguments that they use, they forget to
16 mention that we pay various expenses,
17 including the \$9.5 million TAN-B payment as
18 well as about \$2 million in other expenses
19 in 2011 that were from 2010.

20 If we were to -- if we were to try
21 to pay these expenses with the remaining
22 money that we had in 2010, we would have not
23 been able to do it as we would have been
24 between 6.5 and 7 million dollars short.

25 As of Mr. McGowan's latest cash flow

1 report, he projects that we will have a \$7.3
2 million deficit at the end of the year.

3 Interesting enough, the city's figures and
4 the figures produced by PEL differ by nearly
5 a \$1 million. It is clear that we have a
6 hole last year. It was carefully hidden
7 from council and everything was made to look
8 okay by the administration.

9 Anyhow, taking into account the
10 facts that I just mentioned, there are other
11 issues. The administration still fails to
12 follow the parameters of the 2011 budget as
13 amended by Scranton City Council. As you
14 know, earlier in the year, and frequently I
15 had mentioned that Mayor Doherty chose to
16 hire back four workers in the DPW that were
17 not budgeted for and provided them with
18 health benefits as well.

19 On September 22, as per a report
20 issued by Roseann Novembrino, city
21 controller, it is evident that Mayor Doherty
22 may have hired back more workers than the
23 four DPW foremen that I previously
24 mentioned. The reason I say this may be in
25 addition to the four DPW workers is due to

1 the fact that on the January 4 into July 7
2 article in the Scranton Times it is stated
3 that the city's budget contains \$245,000 to
4 fund lifeguards and four DPW foremen in the
5 other salary account in the Parks and
6 Recreation Department, which is a
7 subdivision of the Department of Public
8 Works.

9 In Mrs. Novembrino's report, it is
10 reported that an additional \$64,360 has
11 spent on DPW casual workers or casual help
12 in the Bureau of Highways, though, this line
13 item was not funded in the 2011 operating
14 budget. Therefore, the mayor chose to spend
15 money on unbudgeted items.

16 Though Mayor Doherty will find an
17 excuse to defend the unbudgeted DPW casual
18 workers in the Highways Bureau, just as he
19 has had an excuse for hiring back the four
20 DPW foremen that were not budgeted for, not
21 following through on revenue generators and
22 providing his secretary a raise that was not
23 budgeted for, he will still continue to
24 blame Scranton City Council for Scranton's
25 problems.

1 I think the answer is clear though,
2 Mayor Doherty's excuses are running short.
3 Though Mayor Doherty will possibly continue
4 to lay off public safety workers, he still
5 continues to employ unbudgeted workers, and
6 that is very troubling.

7 With this in mind, Mrs. Krake, can
8 you send a Right-to-Know request on my
9 behalf listing -- requesting the names and
10 amounts paid to the all of the workers in
11 the DPW highway other salary account that
12 was not funded in which 64,000 thousand plus
13 dollars was drawn out of it.

14 Secondly, regarding the amendments
15 that I made to CDBG monies, I wanted to
16 address some issues in Mayor Doherty's veto
17 now since I did not have it when speaking to
18 the Scranton Times. The first point I
19 wanted to make is that Mayor Doherty stated
20 that only 15 percent of the CDBG monies can
21 be used towards public service purposes.
22 According to Ms. Aebli's worksheet, the
23 total amount of the funding to be allocated
24 was \$3,498,750. Out of this amount, the
25 amendment that was unanimously passed by

1 council allocated \$524,800 towards public
2 service purposes. \$524,800 is 14.9996
3 percent of \$3,498,750. So, therefore, where
4 that 17 percent number came from I am not
5 100 percent sure. Perhaps there was a
6 miscalculation somewhere on the
7 administration's behalf or perhaps they were
8 counting in our public service total fire
9 engine, which was deemed to be a nonpublic
10 service measure.

11 The second point that I wanted to
12 make is that the mayor stated that the use
13 of \$141,000 to fund the purchase of new
14 police cars to be used in low to moderate
15 income areas and stated that the MVP
16 neighborhood police patrol has been
17 eliminated and cannot be funded until 2013.
18 He states that this money cannot be used to
19 fund vehicles to be used in a program that
20 does not exist.

21 Contrary to this, though the program
22 does not currently exist, and I'll provide
23 the reason for that shortly, the
24 administration did not zero out any of the
25 funding for neighborhood police patrols and

1 the administration requested funding for
2 neighborhood police patrols and vehicles in
3 2012 for this program that cannot exist
4 until 2013, as stated in the mayor's veto
5 letter.

6 The reason why the neighborhood
7 police patrol program does not exist is due
8 to the administration's attempt to use
9 \$666,870 in funding to fund 13 regular
10 patrolmen in the 2011 operating budget.
11 This is actually what is violative of
12 regulations governing the use of CDBG
13 monies. Since we are not able to use the
14 \$666,870 to fund officer's salaries, as the
15 administration originally directed, which is
16 indicated on page 75 of the 2011 operating
17 budget document for anyone who wants to
18 research it, we had to pay the officers with
19 other money.

20 Ironically enough, Mayor Doherty
21 chose to layoff 13 officers. This could
22 very well be due to his costly error. Also,
23 since officers were eliminated from the
24 police force due to Mayor Doherty's public
25 safety layoffs, we cannot hire neighborhood

1 police patrols back until one year after
2 such layoffs according to HUD regulations.
3 So because of Mayor Doherty's actions we
4 cannot have a neighborhood police program
5 until 2013 because of these layoffs.

6 However, though he states funding
7 cannot be allocated for if it is not
8 current, the administration has asked for
9 funding for the program in 2012, a year in
10 which the program will still not be current,
11 so that the statement in the mayor's veto as
12 opposed to what the department at least sent
13 to us and what was requested is
14 contradictory.

15 The third point I wanted to make is
16 that Mayor Doherty mentioned that the United
17 Neighborhood Centers Condemnation Assistance
18 Program had its funding cut by \$9,200, in
19 the veto letter he states 20 percent and, of
20 course, using 20 percent instead of \$9,200
21 makes it look a lot more dramatic than it
22 really is, and he also stated that this
23 could be a financial burden for the city.

24 Though \$9,200 was cut in the
25 amendment, it was mentioned that there would

1 be -- that there may be money left over last
2 year, according to the CAPER, as presented
3 by one of the council speakers at last
4 week's meeting, not to mention that I would
5 choose the city spending \$9,200, if needed,
6 as a trade off to allocate over \$170,000
7 extra to demolishing blighted structures any
8 day.

9 Also, I must ask, since when has the
10 mayor been concerned about \$9,200? He was
11 not so concerned about the financial burden
12 when hiring DPW casual help or casual
13 foremen which have caused the city much
14 greater expenses in the Year 2011. For the
15 reasons that I mentioned, I'll be voting to
16 override the mayor's veto tonight, and I
17 encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

18 Finally, I did have some citizens'
19 requests. West Scranton residents have
20 reported to me that the stop sign at the
21 intersection of South Rebecca Avenue and
22 Jackson Street is eligible and the word
23 "STOP" can barely be read on the sign.

24 Mrs. Krake, if you could please
25 contact Mr. Brazil and inform him of this,

1 and ask him to have the matter rectified as
2 soon as he could.

3 North Scranton residents have
4 informed me that drivers are rarely stopping
5 at the stop signs at the intersection of
6 Kelly Avenue and Mary Street. The residents
7 that have informed me of this matter have
8 also informed me that the stop sign on Mary
9 Street section is almost faded to a plain
10 white color, and the words "STOP" is
11 eligible, maybe that's the reason why
12 they're running the stop sign. Anyhow,
13 these residents are afraid due to the fact
14 that many of them have children and are
15 afraid of potential accidents occurring
16 because of the cars running these since.

17 Mrs. Krake, can you please add this
18 to the issues to contract Mr. Brazil about
19 and contact Chief Duffy to inform him that
20 the officer -- to inform of this matter and
21 ask him to let the officer patrolling this
22 area know that this problem exists and
23 perhaps they could have keep an eye on it
24 and perhaps pull people over if they do
25 frequently speed through those stop signs.

1 Also, several North Scranton
2 residents have been informed me that the "Do
3 Not Enter" sign at the intersection of Kelly
4 Avenue and Gilbert Street is covered by
5 trees causing drivers who have not familiar
6 with the area to travel the wrong way down a
7 one-way street.

8 Mrs. Krake, please add this to the
9 issues to discuss with Mr. Brazil and ask
10 him to address this matter in the best way
11 that he sees fit.

12 A Scranton resident has also
13 informed me of very large potholes about six
14 inches deep on the 800 block of Powderly
15 Court, which is directly behind North Main
16 Avenue. The resident has informed me that
17 they contacted the pothole hotline several
18 times, however, action has not yet been
19 taken. These poor traveling conditions are
20 making travel difficult and they would like
21 to see this issue addressed as soon as
22 possible.

23 So, Mrs. Krake, if you can please
24 add this to the issues to address with
25 Mr. Brazil.

1 And, also, various Minooka residents
2 have informed that many of the travelers are
3 speeding on Birney Avenue, and this has lead
4 to some of the mirrors on resident's cars
5 being sideswiped and clipped off. If you
6 could notify Chief Duffy of this,
7 Mrs. Krake, and ask him to notify the
8 patrolman and in this area.

9 Also, I did want to make mention
10 that a Right-to-Know request was filed on
11 behalf of the city council to obtain
12 information on police staffing throughout
13 the neighborhood and on specific days, and I
14 know that one of our regular council
15 speakers that normally addresses council at
16 the meetings, Mrs. Schumacher, did ask this
17 on various counts, and I just wanted to
18 report that we did receive a response to the
19 Right-to-Know request and it was denied.

20 The Right-to-Know request was denied
21 because, in short, I won't read the whole
22 letter that Chief Duffy sent, but in short I
23 think his intent is not to let the criminals
24 know when there is going to be a low amount
25 of police officers on the streets, so

1 perhaps anyone wishing to know the number of
2 police officers on the street on a certain
3 day at a certain time or on a certain shift
4 could contact the police department for
5 further discussion and perhaps they would
6 release that information privately, however,
7 I'm not sure if they will, but in the denial
8 letter to the Right-to-Know request it was
9 stated that that information it's not
10 desired to be given out publically, and
11 that's all I have for tonight. Thank you.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I could just add
13 to that quickly.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: I forget to mention
16 that, but Mr. Joyce is correct and,
17 Mrs. Schumacher, I will be e-mailing you a
18 copy of that plus the other answers to your
19 questions which I just completed this
20 afternoon, but rather than -- because I have
21 them scattered around here, I will e-mail it
22 to you first thing tomorrow morning the
23 answers to your questions, but Mr. Duffy
24 also requested that I have a meeting with
25 him and he could go over that information

1 with me, so I'd like to -- I will be setting
2 up a meeting with Mr. Duffy seeing how he we
3 can accomplish that. I can understand his
4 concerns to a certain point, but, you know,
5 we have to see what works for everybody.

6 MR. JOYCE: Right, and I can
7 understand his concerns as well. Obviously,
8 since there were police layoffs there is
9 less police on the street and I'm sure that
10 the chief does not want to alert the
11 criminals when the city is going to be
12 shorter on police patrols as it may provoke
13 them to engage in extra criminal activity
14 that's all.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman
16 Joyce. Good evening. Following last week's
17 Scranton City Council meeting, Mayor Doherty
18 announced to the local media that he intend
19 to sell city-owned parking meters to the
20 Scranton Parking Authority for \$6 million
21 and for this purpose the Parking Authority
22 would borrow between \$12.4 and \$14 million.
23 He insisted these measures would occur
24 because council lowered taxes by \$3 million
25 and city council's budget was to blame.

1 solid revenue generators with a concrete
2 history of financial success in other
3 Pennsylvania cities like Wilkes-Barre and
4 Easton. Were it not for the unexpected
5 windfall of realty transfer taxes received
6 from the sale of the Mercy Hospital and
7 newly discovered revenue at the Scranton Tax
8 Office, the mayor's self-inflicted deficit
9 would have been \$2.5 million higher.

10 It seems clear that the mayor
11 devised his plan many months ago. When
12 Scranton City Council restored police
13 officers and firefighters in the 2011
14 budget, the mayor sabotaged revenue sources
15 that would be used to fund public safety
16 salaries.

17 Also, Christopher Doherty seemed
18 anxious to keep his Scranton Parking
19 Authority alive at any cost. For each of
20 the last three years, the Parking Authority
21 borrowed millions to balance it's annual
22 budget. The most recent deal involved a
23 note from Landmark Bank for \$2.9 million to
24 meet it's 2011 debt obligation, and it seems
25 that the same \$2.9 million will be paid off

1 through the newest deal to borrow 12.4 to a
2 maximum of 14 million.

3 The independent audit of the City of
4 Scranton, which coincidentally, the Doherty
5 administration has held up purposely in 2011
6 and 2010, isn't necessary for the Parking
7 Authority to Borough the 14 million.
8 However, if the city wishes to directly
9 borrow, float a bond, and secure a 2012 TAN,
10 the banks will request the missing audit.

11 Thus, let us off to Court the city
12 goes to borrow \$4 million where a judge
13 won't insist upon seeing the 2010 audit. It
14 certainly makes the borrowing process move
15 more quickly and conveniently for
16 Christopher Doherty.

17 The mayor's end props will be more
18 than sufficient money to fill his deficit,
19 the survival of his Parking Authority for
20 the next few years, and a Court mandated tax
21 increase for the taxpayers of Scranton.

22 Only Scranton City Council who must
23 vote "yes" or "no" stands in his way, and
24 here enters the final piece of the plan.
25 Make the taxpayers believe that this mess is

1 city council's fault and that payless
2 paydays will arrive on October 19,
3 conveniently about two weeks before the
4 election, almost as convenient as stalling a
5 new parking meter program for nine months in
6 order to sell the parking meters.

7 Ladies and gentlemen, it all stops
8 now. Mayor Doherty wants this council to
9 give him a blank check. His legislation
10 demonstrates only the revenue sources, there
11 is not one word as to the use of these funds
12 and the Home Rule Charter includes mandatory
13 words of direct obligation in the event of a
14 deficit.

15 In addition, the Parking Authority
16 wants a blank check. It will use \$6 million
17 to purchase the parking meters and \$2.9
18 million to pay it's Landmark Bank note or
19 bridge loan it recently took out, whatever
20 you care to call it, for what purpose will
21 it use the remaining millions?

22 Therefore, Scranton City Council
23 will not place the mayor's legislation to
24 sell parking meters, guarantee the \$14
25 million in new debt of the Scranton Parking

1 Authority, and petition the Court for \$4
2 million in borrowing on it's agenda until
3 the following occurs:

4 Number one, Mayor Doherty will send
5 his complete recommendations for the
6 reduction of the 2011 deficit, and for the
7 specific uses of all new revenue obtained
8 from the sale of the parking meters and the
9 petition to the Court of Common Pleas to
10 Scranton City Council, including the
11 budgetary accounts and the line items to be
12 funded by such revenue and copies of any and
13 all payments made in 2011 to Fidelity Bank
14 for the 2011 TAN Series B.

15 Second, the Scranton Parking
16 Authority will send a complete breakdown of
17 the uses of the \$12 to 14 million dollars it
18 asks the City of Scranton to guarantee with
19 it's taxing powers.

20 Third, Mayor Christopher Doherty
21 will appear at a Scranton City Council
22 meeting to justify his recommendations as
23 soon as possible. Scranton City Council
24 will not convene for an appearance by any
25 represent ive of the mayor and/or any

1 cabinet members and solicitors.

2 Because the mayor has attached a
3 fast approaching deadline to this
4 legislation, he must respond immediately.
5 As president of council, I will call a
6 special meeting of Scranton City Council as
7 soon as the mayor provides the required
8 information and sets the date for his
9 appearance before council. If necessary, I
10 will then call a second special meeting to
11 place the legislation on council's agenda
12 for a vote.

13 Mrs. Krake, please send this letter
14 from Scranton City Council to the mayor
15 tomorrow in compliance with the appropriate
16 sections of the Home Rule Charter.

17 The mayor liked to talk about the
18 big boy world during his past TV news
19 interviews and now let's see if he is a big
20 boy and will present his plan to city
21 council and the people.

22 Since 2004, I have been a constant
23 target of the Scranton Times newspaper, and
24 I have learned to expect it's never ending
25 series of attacks, however, I think I hit an

1 exposed nerve or an abscess when following
2 last week's council meeting. I politely
3 responded to Josh Mrozinski, "Josh, when you
4 start to write the truth, we'll talk."

5 I did not say, "When you start to
6 print the truth," because one must write the
7 news before one sends it to the press to be
8 printed.

9 Interestingly, in his rush to
10 misquote me, Josh Mrozinski didn't include
11 his own terse screaming response to me, "And
12 what version of the truth would that be?"

13 Mr. Mrozinski, the truth has no
14 versions. There is only one truth. Facts
15 are stubborn and twisting or admitting them
16 doesn't change them. And if you can bear
17 with me for a minute, I am going to provide
18 Mr. Mrozinski with just one example of the
19 many errors he has made.

20 (Ms. Evans leaves the dais and
21 approaches Mr. Mrozinski in the audience.)

22 MS. EVANS: You can read through
23 this. Mr. McGowan said, "The fund is now
24 back at the \$20.5 million level required by
25 the state," and I have here a letter from

1 Mr. McGowan in which he states, "The City of
2 Scranton's funding level is currently at
3 \$16,397,275. Based upon the balance that is
4 currently in these accounts, the City of
5 Scranton is funded at the 75 percent
6 threshold and cannot fall below this level."

7 That's nearly a \$5 million mistake,
8 and there is others.

9 (Ms. Evans returns to the dais.)

10 MS. EVANS: Now, if you did your
11 homework, you would also know that
12 Christopher Doherty borrows TAN-A in the
13 amount of \$5 million annually to slide that
14 money back into the Workers' Comp Fund. Try
15 to investigate that financial gain. Either
16 you choose not to write the facts or you
17 simply write what the administration tells
18 you without questioning and without
19 verification of accuracy. That's neither
20 good journalism nor balanced reporting.

21 Mr. Mrozinski, it seems that either
22 the newspaper editors feed off what you
23 write or your writing feeds off the editor's
24 opinions. Either way, the Scranton Times is
25 doing a great disservice to its readers each

1 and every time you fail to write the truth
2 and the management fails to print the truth.

3 And as for me, I'll endure being
4 painted as a grinch, a pirate, a superhero
5 or even a clown by the Scranton Times as
6 long as I keep fighting for the people and
7 to stop the fiscal mismanagement of our
8 city.

9 On a related topic, the city
10 administration continues to stall the 2010
11 audit of the City of Scranton which is
12 needed by local banks to determine decisions
13 on TANS and borrowing. This is a vital
14 issue that the newspaper ignores.
15 Meanwhile, Mr. Mrozinski was provided with a
16 copy of the Attorney Kelly's letter to
17 Attorney Hughes by someone other than
18 Attorney Hughes, city council and council's
19 office.

20 The letter concerns Mrs. Krake's
21 choice to withhold her signature from
22 several OECD and city budget contracts.
23 Mrs. Krake, a city official, is asked to
24 sign all contracts and attest to the mayor's
25 signature. When Mrs. Krake receives the

1 contracts, the mayor's signature has already
2 been provided, whether or not he has signed
3 it himself.

4 One week ago, Mayor Doherty himself
5 announced that the city has no money and
6 that payless paydays will begin effective
7 October 19. How can he then enter into any
8 new contract if the city really has no
9 money? The business administrator has the
10 obligation to forestall any contracts in the
11 event of a cash deficit and the city
12 controller certainly must be aware that the
13 budget accounts are bare, according to Mayor
14 Doherty.

15 If city hall employees, elected
16 officials, police and fire departments, DPW
17 and OECD workers will not be paid after
18 October 19, how can the mayor approve any
19 new contract? To quote the mayor, "You
20 can't pull money out of the air."

21 Further, the Office of Economic and
22 Community Development is under close federal
23 government monitoring. It has not given the
24 Office of City Council requested specs for
25 contracts funded by the HUD moneys in order

1 to that council may determine that funds are
2 properly spent in light of the numerous
3 findings against the city OECD.

4 As Mr. Loscombe said, we are trying
5 to safeguard spending by closely reviewing
6 all projects before approval.

7 Mrs. Krake appears to be the only
8 city official who is performing the duties
9 and responsibilities of her job properly,
10 particularly in light of this financial
11 crisis. She should not be threatened or
12 bullied by Attorney Kelly into providing her
13 signature on any document about which she
14 has serious questions and concerns.

15 Unfortunately, this has become the
16 infamous MO of the Doherty administration,
17 my way or the highway. Do as I say or I'll
18 take you to Court. When the city finances
19 are settled and Ms. Aebli provides requested
20 documents for HUD funded projects and
21 contracts, I have no doubt that Mrs. Krake
22 will be comfortable in providing her
23 signature when appropriate.

24 The newspaper should be more
25 concerned with holding the administration's

1 feet to the fire to produce the documents
2 for the audit that the banks are seeking now
3 than sniping at the city clerk for doing the
4 right thing.

5 If Scranton had more elected
6 officials who did their jobs the right way
7 and had a backbone for the last ten years
8 instead of blindly following the mayor's
9 orders or waffling on fiscal issues, our
10 city would not be in its current financial
11 disaster.

12 Now, finally, I want to report a bit
13 of good news. Mr. Shinnany of Northeast
14 Revenue Services, the firm council consulted
15 with and hired, worked with Mr. Kolajeski of
16 the County Tax Claim Bureau and
17 Mr. Courtright of the Single Tax Office in
18 preparation for the September 26 county tax
19 claim sale to gain delinquent real estate
20 monies that are owed to the city.

21 As a result, 27 city properties were
22 sold and \$21,048.51 in delinquent taxes owed
23 on these properties was recovered by the
24 city.

25 Now, much to our city's detriment,

1 if Christopher Doherty chooses to shut down
2 city hall on October 19, he will also hurt
3 the collection of delinquent real estate
4 taxes by Northeast Revenue Service, whose
5 local office is soon to be located
6 downstairs in the city hall in the
7 Treasurer's Office. And that's it.

8 MR. JOYCE: And Mrs. Evans, I heard
9 you mention a few things in your comments
10 tonight about coming into the year with a
11 deficit, and I have Mr. McGowan's cash flow
12 report in front of me, so I took the time to
13 look at what we paid out in January that was
14 due or that were claims from 2010. We have
15 some -- we have the TAN, which is the
16 biggest payment, that's \$5 million, and we
17 have some other items and altogether it
18 totals to \$11,313,226. We came into the
19 year with \$4,856,994 with \$11,313,226 to
20 pay, so the difference of that is
21 \$6,456,282, so that's the obligations that
22 we had to pay coming into the year according
23 to Mr. McGowan's cash flow report, and I
24 believe the report for January was submitted
25 to council in I believe it was late January

1 or February, so this is when this
2 information was received by us.

3 On another note, I know that Mayor
4 Doherty has made some threats of payless
5 paydays starting on October 19, and I
6 believe that was -- that he may have made
7 that comment on Channel 16, I'm not sure.
8 Here is some facts about October 19.

9 One, I wanted to mentioned that
10 October 19 isn't even a payday, it's on a
11 Wednesday. City hall employees are paid
12 every other Friday. October 19 isn't even a
13 day in which a pay period occurs.

14 Also, according to Mr. McGowan's
15 cash flow report and projections here, at
16 the end of the September the ending general
17 cash -- or the ending fund balance -- or the
18 ending general fund cash balance is
19 projected to be 7.99 million dollars. Due
20 to some payments including a large pension
21 payment that must be made in October, at the
22 end of the October that will go down to
23 \$2,961,993. In November that will go down
24 to \$1,489,318. That's what we'd start
25 December with. Of course, we would have

1 some revenue and expenditures and one of
2 those expenditures, of course, is the TAN
3 payment, which is the largest expenditure,
4 and that's when the city would be 7.347
5 million dollars in the hole.

6 So saying that the city has no
7 money, according to this report right here
8 from the BA's Office at the end of the
9 September we are going to have nearly \$8
10 million in the general fund. At the end of
11 October, we are going to have nearly \$3
12 million in the general fund. At the end of
13 November, we are going to have nearly \$1.5
14 million in the general fund, so it seems to
15 me that threatening payless paydays after
16 October 19, which I don't know the
17 significance of that date, perhaps it's
18 after a council meeting, I'm not 100 percent
19 sure, and that's when Mayor Doherty expects
20 us to just pass the legislation that he sent
21 before us, and, of course, there is many
22 questions about that as well.

23 The fact is that it looks to be from
24 this report that we are, in fact, going to
25 have money in the general fund according to e

1 Mr. McGowan's submission to the state, and
2 it looks like we are not supposed to run out
3 of money until December according to this
4 report.

5 Now, another thing this report -- is
6 this report doesn't take into account the
7 police and fire layoffs, I believe, which it
8 may or may not, but I don't believe that it
9 does, so there may actually be a little bit
10 more money in there than was originally
11 projected on these sheets, and that's all I
12 have to add.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. That was
14 very informative.

15 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. NO BUSINESS AT THIS
16 TIME. SIXTH ORDER. NO BUSINESS AT THIS
17 TIME. And turning to Seventh Order, Mrs.
18 Evans, did you want to call the speakers up
19 before we read them?

20 MS. EVANS: Yes. If there is anyone
21 who would like to comment on item 7-A,
22 please come up to the podium and address
23 city council at this time.

24 MR. JOYCE: And just to be clear,
25 7-A is establishing a special city account

1 for the department, "Be Part of the
2 Solution."

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes, I'll be brief,
4 and I apologize for the misunderstanding
5 last week that on the legal notice, but we
6 are establishing a lot of the special
7 accounts, and I wonder if it wouldn't be
8 wiser to just setup an escrow account until
9 such time as sufficient donations have
10 been -- have been received to establish a
11 new line item to at least pay off what it
12 costs to publish the legal notice for
13 establishing that account number. I know
14 it's only pennies, but mom raised me that if
15 you watch the pennies the dollars will take
16 care of themselves, and unless we have
17 people standing in the door wanting to
18 contribute to this fund, I think an escrow
19 account would make more sense. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
21 anyone else? Mrs. Krake?

22 MS. KRAKE: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION
23 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION-
24 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 54, 2011- CREATING AND
25 ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.

1 02.229601 ENTITLED "BE PART OF THE SOLUTION"
2 FOR THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF
3 DONATIONS RECEIVED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
4 AS PART OF THEIR CRIME PREVENTION CAMPAIGN.

5 MS. EVANS: What is the
6 recommendation of the Chair for the
7 Committee on Finance?

8 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
9 Committee on Finance, I do recommend final
10 passage of Item 7-A.

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

12 MS. EVANS: On the question?

13 MR. JOYCE: I just wanted to say,
14 creating an escrow account, that's very
15 noteworthy idea and that is something that
16 perhaps we could look into for the future,
17 however, I do want to approve this account
18 creation, "Be a Part of the Solution" so
19 they we can start receiving their donations
20 and these donations can be properly
21 advocated.

22 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?
23 Roll call, please?

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

6 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare

9 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

10 Prior to reading and voting on Item 7-B,

11 which is the override of the mayor's veto of

12 the 2011 CDBG amendments, is there anyone

13 who cares to address council? Mrs. Krake?

14 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION

15 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

16 FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 49, 2011

17 (AS AMENDED) (OVERRIDE MAYOR'S VETO) -

18 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 40, 2010,

19 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR

20 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY

21 OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO

22 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR

23 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

24 TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

25 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT

1 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
2 SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM, AS AMENDED
3 BY EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO."

4 MS. EVANS: What is the
5 recommendation of the Chair for the
6 Committee on Community Development?

7 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
8 Committee on Community Development, I
9 recommend we override the mayor's veto of
10 Item 7-B, as amended.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

12 MS. EVANS: On the question?

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question.
14 I'd just like to note, Mr. Joyce pretty much
15 summed it up. Council and I have spoke to
16 my colleagues about next year's as well.
17 You know, it's all about prioritizing the
18 resources. There is a limited amount of
19 funds for CDBG for the city's budget, and
20 when you are going through it you have to
21 look at what areas are going to help the
22 most people, and I think when we all look at
23 the budget and the spending money and the
24 community, that's the way we have to look at
25 it. It's your tax dollars, and as I

1 mentioned last week, just because this is
2 federal money doesn't mean it's free money.
3 It's still your tax dollars that are going
4 into the kitty, and I believe that council
5 has done that and council will continue to
6 do that in the future, so I will be voting
7 to override the mayor's veto.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Section 1 of the
9 ordinance halfway down says, "The city
10 reserves the right to amend this ordinance
11 or any portion thereof from time to time as it
12 shall deem advisable and in the best
13 interest," and it continues on. Does that
14 mean that that ordinance if, in fact, that
15 17 percent exists, that it's over the 15
16 percent amount, does that mean that we could
17 amend this?

18 MS. EVANS: Let's ask our solicitor.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Can this be amended,
20 you know, to meet the specifications?

21 MR. HUGHES: Any ordinance can be
22 amended. I don't know exactly what the -- I
23 think I know what the question is, but we
24 are here tonight to vote on the overriding
25 of the veto.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Right.

2 MR. HUGHES: You are talking about
3 trying to amend this before it's overridden?

4 MR. MCGOFF: No, no, I'm sorry. I
5 guess what I'm saying is that if we override
6 it and, in fact, there is problem with let's
7 say public services is 17 percent instead of
8 15, we can amend that to make it the
9 correct --

10 MR. ROGAN: If it was 17 it would be
11 less than anyway, so we would still be okay.
12 It just can't be over.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

14 MR. ROGAN: When I talked to Linda
15 last time, and nobody would want to do this,
16 but if we wanted to we could eliminate any
17 public service and vote for something else.

18 MR. MCGOFF: I guess I was just
19 asking, you know, if there were, in fact,
20 some problems with this if we could amend it
21 anyhow. That's all.

22 MR. JOYCE: I spoke about this for a
23 little bit and, you know, I'm looking
24 through the worksheet from Linda Aebli and
25 it's \$3,498,750 and our amendments it was

1 somewhere in the 530 some thousand dollar
2 range, and I know even if anyone wants to
3 take out a calculator and divide by 130 some
4 thousand by 3.4987 million it's going to
5 come out 14.99996 percent, so I would assume
6 in the case that the city doesn't receive
7 the amount of money that 3.498 million
8 dollars that's indicated on Ms. Aebli's
9 worksheet, perhaps they would make the
10 decision not to fund certain public service
11 items, perhaps, they would fund police cars,
12 for instance.

13 MS. EVANS: Well, they can't fund
14 the police. Is there anyone else on the
15 question? 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 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

25 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare

1 the mayor's veto of Item 7-B, File of
2 Council No. 49, 2011, as amended, legally
3 and lawfully overridden.

4 And I forgot to thank, please
5 forgive me, I forgot to thank our very
6 special friend for her thoughtful gift of
7 lovely flowers and kind words of the support
8 she delivered to our council office on
9 Monday. Apparently, she is very supportive
10 of all of the wonderful work that's done in
11 our council office by Mrs. Krake and Ms.
12 Carrera and Mrs. Marciano and she is very
13 support I have of council's work on behalf
14 of the people, so I didn't get her name, but
15 I wanted to make sure that she knew that the
16 flowers are received and we're so grateful.

17 And at this point I believe our
18 vice-president, Councilman Rogan, will take
19 over the meeting.

20 (Ms. Evans and Mr. McGoff leave the
21 meeting.)

22 MR. ROGAN: Our first speaker is a
23 Liz from Scranton Reads.

24 MS. DAVIS: Good evening. My name
25 is Elizabeth Davis, and I'm here on behalf

1 the Scranton Reads. Scranton Reads is the
2 annual community event organized by the City
3 of Scranton and the Albright Memorial
4 Library. Each year during the month of
5 October citizens of Scranton get together
6 and read a great work of literature. They
7 participate in book discussions and special
8 events related to the chosen work.

9 Scranton Reads has two main goals,
10 the first goal is to encourage reading among
11 the people of all ages, and the second goal
12 is to bring the community together through
13 sharing with the common experience.

14 Scranton Reads, one city, one book, enhances
15 the feeling of community by bringing people
16 from all different backgrounds and uniting
17 them through the local literacy, art and
18 culture.

19 This year is our tenth year and we
20 have selected Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451,
21 and the kickoff is on Friday, September 30,
22 at 4 p.m., at the Albright Memorial
23 Library, and we hope everyone can join us to
24 celebrate our tenth year and discuss the
25 importance of reading. And if we may, we

1 have copies of the book for council.

2 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

3 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

5 MR. ROGAN: Our next speaker is Andy
6 Sbaraglia.

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: Andy left.

8 MR. ROGAN: Bill Jackowitz.

9 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
10 South Scranton resident and member of the
11 Taxpayers' Association. Four April 2009,
12 Mayor Doherty sends out a campaign letter
13 stating that he has no intention of laying
14 off any firefighters or closing firehouses.

15 "Great things are happening in the
16 city every day and one of my top priorities
17 is public safety."

18 Question, did the Honorable Mayor
19 Doherty lie?

20 I have lived under the concept and
21 worked under the conditions that the person
22 at the top is responsible for the decisions
23 that they have made and the outcome of those
24 decisions. They must and should accept the
25 responsibility and accountability for the

1 good and bad choices and decisions. You
2 can't pick and choose accountability. The
3 honorable Mayor Doherty been mayor of
4 Scranton going on ten years, 117 months.
5 During these 117 months, the city has been
6 distressed, city-owned property has been
7 sold, golf course, South Side complex, DPW
8 site, and now the parking meters. Swimming
9 fees at Nay Aug Park increased to \$4 a day,
10 police officers and firefighters were laid
11 off, taxes increased by 26 percent, all
12 because of the mayor and his rubber stampers
13 for giving the orders and having their way.

14 Now we find the City of Scranton is
15 in a position where they are unable to pay
16 the bills and salaries. I must ask, who is
17 really responsible for this serious position
18 that the residents of Scranton Taxpayers
19 find themselves in?

20 Now, let's look at this situation in
21 the proper perspective. Mayor Doherty, 117
22 months as mayor, supermajority council 21
23 months as the supermajority. The mayor has
24 written a proposed ten budgets,
25 supermajority one budget which, by the way,

1 Mayor Doherty vetoed and Councilman McGoff,
2 I'm sorry he is not here, agreed with the
3 mayor's veto and cast his "no" vote on 28th
4 December 2010. He voted not to override the
5 mayor's veto. With this "no" vote,
6 Mr. McGoff also supported the mayor's budget
7 which called for layoffs and reductions in
8 management for the police department and
9 fire department.

10 Mr. McGoff stated, "It was outside
11 the realm of council's authority to
12 introduced a minimum manning for police and
13 firefighters."

14 A clear statement and vote to reduce
15 the public safety employees, close fire
16 stations, increase response times, and
17 remove fire apparatus from the streets of
18 Scranton. That is the way I comprehend,
19 Mr. McGoff, your "no" vote.

20 Now, the mayor has proposed to sell
21 the parking meters to the Parking Authority
22 for \$6 million which, by the way, the
23 Parking Authority does not have and will
24 have to borrow the money plus additional,
25 millions of dollars. The Parking Authority

1 currently has \$44 million in debt, not
2 including interest payments on current debt.
3 The citizens of Scranton taxpayers are
4 responsible for repaying this debt, not the
5 Parking Authority or the administration. I
6 must ask, after the 2000 bills are paid, how
7 Scranton will pay the 2011 bills? We know
8 longer have any assets to sell. Mayor
9 Doherty has sold all of them.

10 The propose revenue generating
11 projects have been stalled by the
12 administration along with Mr. McGoff, and
13 again, I'm sorry he is not present. Who am
14 I? I cannot create money, his words on a
15 recent TV news broadcast. Although, I can
16 can't create 9,000 new jobs in Scranton, his
17 words while running for mayor, governor,
18 lieutenant governor and state senator. I am
19 capable of keeping the City of Scranton
20 distressed for 117 months. I can layoff
21 police officers and firefighters, close fire
22 stations and remove fire apparatus from the
23 streets, and I only need two judges, one
24 council member, and a daily newspaper to do
25 so.

1 I can sell every asset the citizens
2 of Scranton own, I can run for several state
3 offices and lose, I can authorize the
4 authorities to borrow more money, although,
5 I know they did not have the means to repay
6 the loans and bonds, we will count on the
7 taxpayers to pay it back.

8 I do not have to accept
9 responsibility for my bad decisions and
10 choices, I will just have the newspaper
11 print stories blaming the city council
12 supermajority. I am not required to know
13 the qualifications and experience levels of
14 my appointed cabinet members, just refer to
15 my sworn deposition 14 September 2010.

16 Furthermore, I am not required to
17 know that I am being sued along with the
18 City of Scranton. You must remember, I am
19 only the chief executive of the City of
20 Scranton. I will give you a hint, it is not
21 Janet Evans or any member of the
22 supermajority city council. Should this
23 person suffer repercussions? Again,
24 Mr. McGoff is not here, for destroying the
25 City of Scranton, who is he? Mr. McGoff

1 questioned whether Mrs. Krake is acting on
2 her own accord or on the authority of the
3 council noting there should be repercussions
4 if Mrs. Krake's actions caused the city harm
5 such as costing the city money.

6 Mr. McGoff, again, I'm sorry you are
7 not here, may I remind that you are a
8 current member of the city council.
9 Furthermore, does your statement today also
10 reflect your opinion on the administration
11 cabinet members and past city council
12 members who have cost the City of Scranton
13 money.

14 Mr. McGoff, again, I'm sorry you are
15 not here, have your friends in the
16 administration submit information to Rossi &
17 Rossi so that the audit which is a required
18 to be completed in May can be completed in
19 October? Should your friends in the
20 administration suffer repercussions for
21 delaying a legal audit.

22 I hope you can provide answers to
23 the citizens so they can a better
24 understanding of where you stand on
25 repercussions. Do they only apply to

1 Mrs. Krake or everybody?

2 Please can somebody relay to
3 Mr. McGoff since he is not here and, you
4 know, I'll leave a copy of this so maybe
5 someone can -- maybe he can answer some of
6 my questions for me.

7 Unemployment 9.8 percent, highest in
8 the state again, city audit status being
9 stalled again, repercussions must be
10 administered according to Mr. McGoff. We
11 must do something with these people who are
12 delaying these audit reports, repercussions.
13 That's the name game, that's the word.
14 Repercussions.

15 Roseann Novembrino should suffer
16 repercussions and also be invited to attend
17 a city council meeting. I really hope city
18 council will invite her here to answer
19 questions.

20 And what is the status and the
21 bridge that is closed on Williams Street?
22 Is that bridge going to be open soon? Thank
23 you.

24 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

25 MR. JOYCE: I just wanted to say

1 something before the next speaker, and it
2 has to do, you know, I did get my hands on
3 copy of the letter sent from Mr. Kelly to
4 Attorney Hughes after I spoke to the
5 newspaper and declined to comment on it
6 because I had not yet received it, but in
7 regard to the word attest, Attorney Hughes,
8 when you are attesting to something, does
9 that have anything to do with the person
10 that you are attesting to or the signature
11 that you are arresting to? Is there any
12 requirement in that word for that person to
13 be present while they are signing the
14 document and you to actually see it in order
15 to attest to it?

16 MR. HUGHES: Yes. It's that simple.
17 That's what an attestation is. You are
18 personally there when a person signs it.
19 The city clerk has a responsibility to
20 attest to the mayor's signature, that means
21 she has to be present when it's signed
22 because how does she know it's the mayor's
23 signature and somebody else didn't sign it?
24 I'll say no more.

25 MR. JOYCE: Because I know when I

1 sign documents after the meeting, and they
2 are ordinances, as Chair of the Committee on
3 Finance, I am not -- I actually sign the
4 document in front of Mrs. Krake, who is
5 present while I sign that document, so I'm
6 wondering, you know, these contracts that
7 they are saying that Mrs. Krake is holding
8 up, I want to ask you, has the mayor been
9 present at any point with any of these
10 contracts and signed his name on a piece of
11 paper in front of you, meaning, you would be
12 attesting to his signature?

13 MS. KRAKE: Never.

14 MR. JOYCE: Okay. That's all I
15 would ask.

16 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Spindler.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
18 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
19 homeowner and taxpayer.

20 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

21 MR. SPINDLER: I'm sure everybody
22 knows in last Thursday's Doherty newsletter
23 editorial it says, "Our opinion," well,
24 their opinion sucks. If she can't handle
25 the truth, the editor of the Times-Tribune

1 wouldn't know the truth if it hit him in the
2 face. I just have to read one example for
3 you. This is all lies in their editorial
4 and they don't tell the whole truth.

5 "The supermajority rejected the
6 austerity budget proposed for this year by
7 Mayor Chris Doherty, and in the face of an
8 existing deficit and a projected higher one,
9 reduced taxes of penciled revenue from a
10 program that's still doesn't exist."

11 Write this down, Josh, the reason
12 the program doesn't exist is because of
13 Chris Doherty and Mr. McGoff. They wanted
14 it put it out to bid, which everybody knows
15 is a just a stall tactic, StreetSmart is
16 working in Easton, it's working in
17 Wilkes-Barre, and it would have worked here,
18 so Times-Tribune, print the truth.

19 I don't like to talk about selling
20 the parking meters, I think it's a huge
21 mistake, as Councilman Joyce and Councilman
22 Rogan said last week, it's a one-time
23 revenue source. We are going to lose \$2
24 million a year, it's just a waste of time,
25 and the Parking Authority has a reputation

1 of defaulting on loans, and the 14.6 million
2 I think it is that they want to borrow, who
3 is going to pay for it? The taxpayers. So
4 I hope this never gets passed and I applaud
5 council for not putting it on the agenda,
6 and with all due respect to Mrs. Evans,
7 Chris Doherty will never show up in these
8 chambers.

9 And about the \$4 million he wants to
10 borrow, hey, Mayor, that's why we are in the
11 trouble we are in now because of all of the
12 borrowing you did with your past rubber
13 stamp councils, with Mr. McGoff included. I
14 guess he knew everyone was going to talk
15 about him tonight, that's why he left.

16 Last week Ann Marie Stulgis talked
17 about her daughter-in-law walking her dog
18 and being attacked by two dangerous dogs,
19 and she called the police and they were told
20 that they don't respond to dog attacks.
21 That's the most ridiculous thing I ever
22 heard. I mean, my dog was attacked five
23 years ago by two pit bulls, I called the
24 police and they responded promptly, and
25 Mrs. Evans would remember the story, she was

1 on council then and thank God my daughter
2 was okay. Is this part of the solution now
3 where police don't respond to an animal
4 attack, viscous animal attacks? This is
5 ridiculous.

6 And just one thing about that about
7 Chief Duffy, you know, since he caught Bin
8 Laden he has really let it go to his head.

9 Something else Mrs. Stulgis said
10 last week about police officers getting
11 written up when they put sunglasses on their
12 head, is this a priority? This is
13 ridiculous. Let's work on solving crimes
14 not worrying about where police officers
15 wear their sun glasses. Come on, Chief,
16 let's get with the program.

17 Last week Carl Greco went before
18 Judge Mazzone to have Judge O'Brien's
19 decision of accepting a higher bid reversed
20 from the Scranton Sewer Authority, Carl
21 Greco left the courtroom with his tail
22 between his legs after Judge Mazzone told
23 him he couldn't reverse or modify the order
24 issued by another judge. Carl Greco should
25 be embarrassed. He can't even win a case

1 against a carpenter.

2 What I have to say is about
3 Mr. McGoff, maybe he'll watch the meeting
4 I'll say it anyhow. Last week Mr. McGoff
5 sent in two citizens' request from South
6 Side and said he would call DPW. That's
7 interesting, since earlier this year I came
8 before council with a problem with my
9 sidewalks being flooded, which DPW fixed
10 last year and it just fell apart, he didn't
11 volunteer to call DPW. I guess maybe you
12 have to be in South Side for Mr. McGoff to
13 work for you.

14 And one last comment about the
15 article about Mrs. Krake, the one comment
16 that people spoke about already. Mr. McGoff
17 questioned whether Mrs. Krake is acting on
18 her own accord or on the authority of
19 council, noting there should be
20 repercussions if Mrs. Krake's actions cause
21 the city harm such as costing the city
22 money.

23 Well, again, Mr. McGoff isn't here,
24 but the reason -- this is not costing the
25 city money, it's funny Mr. McGoff would say

1 that since he is the reason StreetSmart
2 isn't implemented yet and that's costing the
3 city money. Mr. McGoff is a hypocrite.
4 Thank you for your time.

5 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Spindler.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Spindler, just
7 for your information and the public's
8 information, when the last bids were taken
9 for the street meter program StreetSmart
10 declined to submit an individual bid. We
11 have bids received from IPS and Park It at
12 this time.

13 MR. ROGAN: Doug Miller.

14 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
15 Doug Miller, Scranton.

16 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

17 MR. MILLER: I'd like to begin this
18 evening by responding to the Times editorial
19 from September 22 entitled, "She can't
20 handle the truth." I find this editorial to
21 be completely unproductive, and once again,
22 an example of the disgusting yellow
23 journalism by our wonderful newspaper.

24 This editorial was written by Mr.
25 Pat McKenna, who wrote a lot of untruths and

1 made a lot of personal attacks towards
2 Mrs. Evans and the majority of council.

3 You know, Mr. McKenna wants to talk
4 about his facts and his truths in this
5 editorial, and he talks about Mrs.
6 Evans and the majority being clueless. He
7 talks about Mrs. Evans being an ineffective
8 leader, and he talks about Mrs. Evans and
9 the majority being incompetent.

10 Well, Mr. McKenna also goes onto
11 state that council penciled in revenue that
12 doesn't exist. He also says that they
13 failed to fight for public safety. He also
14 says that council attempts to craft
15 financial policy without consulting the
16 administration or anyone else and he also
17 goes onto mention that Mrs. Evans'
18 leadership is blind and she is leading us
19 into a deadened alley.

20 Well, he is partially right, but he
21 has got the wrong leader. The only blind
22 leader in this town is the mayor and he is
23 not leading us into a dead end alley, he is
24 leading us off a cliff.

25 Now, after having read and heard all

1 of that, all of this garbage, which is full
2 of untruths, I felt that it was important
3 for me tonight to talk facts and to talk
4 truth. So, Mr. McKenna let's talk facts
5 tonight. Council did not take \$5 million
6 from the Workers' Comp Fund to pay 2011
7 TANS. Council did, in fact, pencil in
8 revenue enhancements that, yes, Mr. McKenna,
9 you are correct they don't exist at this
10 time because the mayor failed to implement
11 them.

12 Council has always attempted to
13 consult the administration before making any
14 financial decisions, but unfortunately the
15 door gets slammed in their face by the
16 mayor. Council didn't cut 21 public safety
17 members, that was the mayor's decision. In
18 fact, council showed it's support for our
19 public safety by adopting the minimum
20 staffing requirements, but unfortunately, a
21 judge felt it was more important to harm the
22 residents of this city and to go along with
23 the mayor.

24 Council didn't shut down engine
25 companies affecting response times

1 drastically and putting people's lives at
2 the risk. That was our illustrious mayor.
3 Council did not reinstate positions into the
4 budget that were not properly funded, the
5 mayor chose to do that. Council has not
6 borrowed millions and millions of dollars
7 over the last ten years, that would be the
8 mayor and his cronies on the rubber stamp
9 councils from the past.

10 This council did not raise taxes,
11 that was the decision of our mayor and his
12 former rubber stamp council lead my
13 Mr. McGoff. Council did not award no bid
14 contracts to cronies, that was the mayor and
15 his rubber stampers. Council did not spend
16 millions on attorney fees to cronies like
17 Carl Greco, that was the mayor and his
18 rubber stampers, and council did not create
19 our estimated \$313 million long-term debt.
20 This is the result of the mayor and his
21 cronies and their fiscal mismanagement over
22 the last ten years.

23 I would certainly continue on, but I
24 believe we all get the idea here. The
25 critics need to open their eyes and you will

1 see that council did not cause our current
2 financial problems and that, yes, they did,
3 in fact, offer several solutions, but
4 unfortunately, they have fallen on the deaf
5 ears of the administration.

6 So, Mr. McKenna, when you want to
7 talk about the truth please have all your
8 facts straight. I find you to be a disgrace
9 to the community and I would ask that you
10 refrain from such editorials in the future.
11 I would advise anyone to disregard pretty
12 much everything you read in this paper
13 because the Times just doesn't tell what the
14 truth is about, and this editorial and this
15 newspaper is really only good for one thing,
16 I would recommend to anyone to just toss it
17 in the garbage can because the nonsense and
18 the garbage isn't worth our time.

19 I'd also like to comment on the
20 recent stories by Scranton Times regarding
21 Mrs. Krake and the six contracts that our
22 city solicitor is bullying her into signing.
23 Once again, the Times and the administration
24 feel the need to create another political
25 issue. This time they want to throw Mrs.

1 Krake into the mix. It just goes to show
2 how desperate they really are that they
3 can't look in the mirror and take
4 responsibility for their actions, so let's
5 throw somebody else in the mix that has
6 absolutely nothing to do with these actions
7 here.

8 I would also -- as Mrs. Krake stance
9 is be very cautious, and I wouldn't sign off
10 on anything, and we heard from Mr. Loscombe
11 tonight we are still waiting for answers
12 regarding these contracts. We have had
13 questions that remain unanswered here and
14 yet the solicitor is going to bully
15 Mrs. Krake into signing contracts. Are you
16 kidding me? But that's the way we do things
17 around here.

18 For weeks now we have heard the
19 mayor crying about potential payless paydays
20 and that we can't pay people with air, how
21 does he plan on coming up with over half a
22 million dollars for these contracts? Are we
23 going to pull that money out of the air.
24 Placing blame on council or Mrs. Krake is a
25 cowardly move and a lack of accountability.

1 Mr. Mayor, you have caused these problems
2 yourself and you have consistently failed to
3 take responsibility. Stop the finger
4 pointing and be a leader for once.

5 And regarding Mr. McGoff's comment
6 in the paper that Mrs. Krake should face
7 repercussions for not signing it, you know,
8 well then what do we call the administration
9 and his actions since he has been on
10 council? What did we call the fiscal
11 mismanagement? I think the mayor and
12 Mr. McGoff and the other cronies should face
13 repercussions.

14 Mrs. Krake, I want to thank you for
15 looking out for the taxpayers because, you
16 know, you have enough sense to realize that
17 we can't afford these contracts. We are a
18 city that's broke and I know you wouldn't
19 put that on the taxpayers' shoulders and
20 appreciate that. And that's all for
21 tonight. Thank you.

22 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Miller.
23 Ron Ellman.

24 MR. ELLMAN: Jack, Jack, Jack, my
25 friend.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

2 MR. ELLMAN: Your absence last week
3 was noted.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: You missed me, but
5 you didn't tell them --

6 MR. ELLMAN: And you kind of
7 resolved trying to keep up with superstar,
8 was it, the fundraiser, especially when
9 O'Brien was paying for the beer. You are
10 too old for that. Keep running the city
11 instead.

12 I know I'm going to be off the
13 subject tonight when all of the important
14 issues that everybody is talking about, but
15 I got a little article that's a great
16 sadness for me and it's important, it shows
17 what kind of community we have with people
18 in it. I guess about a month ago I told you
19 about my neighbor across the street that
20 wanders around town, well, he died. There
21 is his obituary. That's how good Scranton
22 Counseling was watching him and taking care
23 of him. This is just such a needless
24 situation.

25 Everybody let him down. Mr. Jarbola

1 didn't do anything. I have phoned everybody
2 trying to get him some help, you know, his
3 sister didn't even care. He had a sister
4 that lived in the Poconos someplace. What
5 are you going to do? I phoned Pat McKenna,
6 who was receptive to my phone call, and he
7 had me talk to a reporter, so the reporter
8 listened and he said, "I want to verify
9 this."

10 So he phoned Scranton Counseling and
11 I don't know 15, 20 minutes later he phoned
12 me back and he said, "I talked to Scranton
13 Counseling, they talked to Marcus, and he is
14 of sound mind and body, he is rational and
15 he knows what he is doing, if he wants to
16 sell or give anything away it's his
17 business."

18 See then you have the argument if
19 he is of sound mind and body why has the
20 state supported him for 61 years? Why is
21 Scranton Counseling taking his social
22 security disability and giving him \$50 a
23 month to live on, because he told me that?
24 This poor sole told me he eats a hotdog and
25 a Pepsi was his daily ration because he

1 tried to save money for cigarettes. He used
2 to walk all the way up to the convenient
3 store, I'd see him pretty often, and
4 sometimes he would stand there and go home,
5 so one night I asked if he wanted a hoagie
6 and he said, "No," he told me he has a
7 hotdog and a Pepsi. For one day that was
8 what he ate and he looked terrible. I mean,
9 this guy really looked terrible, just nobody
10 was taking care of him, so I bought him a
11 pack of those cheap cigarettes that night
12 for him, but I don't know why he didn't want
13 to eat a hoagie.

14 Anyway, here all of these
15 organizations they are not doing nothing.
16 This man's mother died two years ago and he
17 didn't take his medicine. Nobody from
18 Scranton Counseling they never investigated
19 that, the pharmacist told me because I use
20 the same pharmacist. He hadn't been in
21 there in two years, so I kept -- last
22 Monday, well, two Mondays ago, I phoned
23 Scranton Counseling and they put me on hold
24 and nobody picked up. I phoned them back,
25 they put me on hold and wouldn't pick up. I

1 was trying to find out if they put him in a
2 home because I hadn't seen them for two
3 weeks and I see him half a dozen times a day
4 because he just walks up and back all day
5 long. Didn't see him. I told Rosie, I
6 said, "I hope he is not dead in there."

7 So Thursday I had this in my notes
8 to say something to you all, but I ran out
9 of time, Thursday here comes the firemen and
10 everybody climb up in the house and he had
11 been in there two weeks dead. See, these
12 people next door that stole this man blind
13 they didn't report him missing. It didn't
14 mean nothing to them, you know, that they
15 didn't see him for two weeks. Just nobody
16 from Scranton Counseling looked for him for
17 two weeks. Just society let this poor guy
18 down. Nobody's family should be treated
19 like that.

20 I'm almost through, really. He
21 walked -- you know, they said this man was
22 rationale, he used to sit on that park bench
23 for the bus and stare at his shoes four or
24 five hours. He wouldn't even know people
25 around him and they said he is rationale and

1 can do what he wants. It's not right for
2 society to treat -- everybody let this man
3 down, including his sister who didn't visit
4 him after the mother died, but I don't know,
5 you know.

6 Scranton is such a good town and it
7 seems like it doesn't have leadership.
8 This Scranton Counseling it's just no reason
9 for them to allow this to happen. He'd walk
10 the street for months and months with big
11 rubber boots that come up to his knees and
12 one of them was split from the ground up so
13 he would have to shuffle and walk real
14 little.

15 These people next door that stole
16 everything the man has looked like they
17 would have bought him a pair or shoes, you
18 know. Looked like Scranton Counseling would
19 have sent to Sister Adrian's or somebody for
20 shoes. Everybody just let this poor guy go.

21 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

22 MR. ELLMAN: Pardon?

23 MR. ROGAN: I said thank you.

24 MR. ELLMAN: I don't know. I don't
25 mean to carry on about this, but this is too

1 good of city and nobody's family should be
2 treated like this. Nobody. And Scranton
3 Counseling is responsible for what happened
4 to him. They were supposed to overlook and
5 know everything he did and they told a
6 blatant lie to the newspaper. Not to me, to
7 the newspaper they lied that they talked to
8 when I see him walking up and back and up
9 and back.

10 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

11 MR. ELLMAN: I got one other thing
12 to say, somebody asked me this afternoon if
13 there had been any other Ronnie sightings,
14 there hasn't been. Goodness, I'd like to
15 say that. No more impersonations.

16 MR. ROGAN: Well, that's good.

17 MR. ELLMAN: Ms. Nancy ought to be
18 careful that Scranton Counseling don't blame
19 her like for anything. Thank you.

20 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mike
21 Passero.

22 MR. PASSERO: Good evening,
23 Council, Mike Passero.

24 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

25 MR. PASSERO: Life-long West

1 Scranton resident, city taxpayer. I meant
2 to before Mr. McGoff left, I made some
3 comments last week concerning a letter that
4 Mr. Loscombe got and Mr. McGoff's reaction
5 to it, and I wish he was here because I
6 wanted to offer him an apology for me
7 calling him a spoiled child. I didn't mean
8 to do that. It effects my credibility when
9 I come up to the podium and that's never
10 going to happen with me.

11 What I'm actually here for tonight,
12 I have a very short little thing that I just
13 wanted to talk about, the crime in the city
14 as a whole and anyone who has a police
15 scanner it's public knowledge that since
16 January 1 the calls as of this afternoon
17 were 42,650 in there, it's somewhere in the
18 670's, it's probably well over that now.
19 Those calls are traffic accidents, domestic,
20 bar fights, thefts, barking dogs, all -- you
21 know, things like that. The majority of the
22 phone calls involve youth problems, juvenile
23 problems and a disproportionate number of
24 the calls involve West Scranton, and it
25 should just be anyone who has driven down

1 South Main Avenue after dark from the
2 vicinity of Fellows Park straight through
3 past Walgreen's, DiBileo Insurance, A-Plus,
4 up to say that pink building on Main Avenue,
5 has seen roaming gangs of juveniles just up
6 to no good or just loitering and hanging out
7 doing a lot of nothing, you know, basically
8 up to no good all hours of the day and
9 night.

10 We don't leave our homes at night
11 anymore. I used to take my dog for a walk,
12 that doesn't happen anymore. I don't leave
13 my house after dusk, which it's sad.

14 The answer though the mayor has is
15 less police. What we need is obviously more
16 police and more detectives to take care of
17 the problem with the gang activity.
18 Detectives are important, an important asset
19 to us. My once peaceful neighborhood has
20 been systematically taken over by gangs, bad
21 juveniles, just people of that are up to no
22 good. The mayor when he cut the 13 police
23 officers basically rolled out a red carpet
24 for anybody -- his rolling out the red
25 carpet is going to be disastrous to the

1 entire city, specifically to my West
2 Scranton, my beloved West Scranton that it's
3 going to create a trend.

4 People, I'm sure everybody -- and
5 Chief Duffy's response to the right to
6 information concerning the police staffing
7 it's common knowledge, you know, what goes
8 on in Scranton goes all over the country. I
9 have a friend in Baltimore who mails me
10 every once in awhile, "This appeared in the
11 Baltimore --" I'm not even sure what the
12 name of the paper is, things that went on in
13 Scranton, and all are criminal, or anybody
14 of dubious activity has to do is just keep
15 their ear to the ground and Scranton is
16 ill-staffed, you know, there is no police.
17 There is no fire departments. Just go there
18 and we can just take over the city.

19 They're opportunistic to begin with,
20 they're opportunistic parasites and they get
21 wind of a lesser police department and they
22 are going to act on it to their gain.

23 Mr. Spindler said last week
24 something to the effect that go ahead and
25 build a park, but fire -- layoff police and

1 fire, close fire barns, layoff police and
2 the city will be burned to the ground and
3 overrun with crimes and gangs and there
4 won't be a city to put a park in.

5 The bottom line is simple. The
6 police layoffs have to stop. We kind of got
7 wind of that, more layoffs are going to
8 possibly happen in the future to balance a
9 budget. Not fair. It's a detriment to all
10 of the neighborhoods in the city.

11 Also, last week when I passed out
12 some pictures of Fellows Park in particular,
13 one of the pictures showed some pretty
14 graphic graffiti that was on the pavilion.
15 Now, one week has passed, I haven't been by
16 there since I have been sitting in this
17 room, but you would actually think that the
18 mayor watching this either live last week or
19 the many rebroadcasts would have picked up
20 the phone and sent somebody from DPW to run
21 over with a paint roller and just zip, take
22 care of the graffiti. Didn't happen.

23 Same thing with the sidewalks that
24 are a detriment at the park, at Fellows Park
25 that they are not being backfilled, I just

1 happened to be passing by and it was just
2 very coincidental that a lady with a double
3 stroller, a mother with a double stroller
4 and another lady with a single stroller were
5 passing on that sidewalk. The sidewalk is
6 kind of large. There was one wheel of the
7 double stroller off the sidewalk. Very
8 nice, very safe. Thank you, Council.

9 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Passero.
10 Mrs. Krake, could we please send a letter
11 to Chief Duffy, I know he doesn't want the
12 numbers of the police officers public, I
13 have heard from a few residents and officers
14 that are currently only two drug cops and
15 one supervisor. Can we ask him if that is,
16 indeed true, and give our assurances that it
17 will not be made public?

18 Mr. Passero, I live in West Side
19 myself and when you mentioned the A-Plus
20 store on Main Avenue, you know, I won't even
21 go in there because that's all it is is
22 drugs outside and people go inside to buy
23 the cigars for drugs, and just a few years
24 ago that's where I got my gas every day.
25 Now, I won't get my gas there because of

1 that element, so we certainly need to crack
2 down on the drugs in this city.

3 The next speaker is Josephine, and I
4 apologize but I'll butcher the last name.

5 MS. PREBISH: Okay, this my first
6 appearance at council. My name is Josephine
7 Prebish, I live in West Scranton. The
8 reason I'm here is I have been lived in city
9 for over 35 years in the same house. I feel
10 that I cannot no longer live there because
11 of the crime. My house has been broken
12 into, and this is the truth because you
13 could look at the police records.

14 Fortunately, for the last two times
15 I was broken into I was not in -- well, I
16 was in the house just last Saturday when it
17 was broken into at quarter after 12 I was
18 fast asleep. If I didn't have my alarm
19 system I could have been dead. I was in my
20 house by myself. 35 years ago I would have
21 went to bed with my door open. I can't even
22 go outside once it gets dark with the trash
23 that are walking the streets, and this is
24 during the day, too. They just took over
25 this city.

1 And maybe I'm also here because of
2 this talk about a park across my street.
3 Well, you know what, Mayor, you could put
4 that park next door to yourself because I
5 will stand over on that park in front of any
6 bulldozer that comes to knock that building
7 down. He wants to buy that building for a
8 dollar? How much is it going to cost him to
9 tear it down? And then how much is it going
10 to cost to put another park that we do not
11 need in this town? They can't maintain what
12 they got.

13 And believe me, you will know my
14 name real good if Mayor Doherty ever comes
15 across the street, that's where I live,
16 right across the street, and what I see over
17 there I cannot even say. Why isn't he here
18 tonight to listen to the people? He said he
19 is not going to do anything until he talks
20 to the people? We have not -- this has been
21 around for quite awhile about that park,
22 none of us, Mike lives near me, and he can
23 verify what I'm saying, not one of us has
24 ever been approached by anybody to ask if it
25 was a good idea.

1 What is he going to sign something
2 again without you, Mrs. Krake? What I can't
3 I understand is how could he sign something
4 without you verifying his signature, and why
5 do you sign anything you didn't see him put
6 his signature on something? No wonder this
7 town is the way it is.

8 I've had it. I will practically
9 give my house up for nothing because I'm
10 getting out of this town, I'm telling you
11 that, but before I go Mayor Doherty is going
12 to know who I am and he better not put that
13 park over there because I will camp over in
14 that school yard. Thank you.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

16 MR. ROGAN: David Dobrzyn. And I
17 would like to assure you that nobody on
18 council supports the park. It's only Mayor
19 Doherty that is supporting putting a park in
20 that neighborhood.

21 MS. PREBISH: Hmm?

22 MR. ROGAN: It's only the mayor that
23 supports the park in our neighborhood.0.

24 MS. PREBISH: I can't hear you, Pat.

25 MR. ROGAN: It's only the mayor that

1 supports the park going into our
2 neighborhood, it's not going to pass
3 council. I guarantee that.

4 MS. PREBISH: Thank you. That's
5 good to know, and you tell him he is going
6 to contend with me if he does try.

7 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

8 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
9 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton and
10 taxpayer.

11 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

12 MR. DOBRZYN: Last week I became a
13 little disturbed over some of the articles
14 also in the Times, and I tried to write a
15 letter to the editor and apparently they
16 wanted to install tracking cookies or
17 something in my computer, well, I don't know
18 if they really need tracking cookies in my
19 computer, so I'll read it here.

20 "Dear Editor, I am very disturbed
21 over your coverage of Scranton City Council.
22 Your editorials and cartoon depictions are
23 less than appropriate for an elected
24 official. Our council president declines to
25 comment because Janet has already commented

1 on ECTV and cannot be misquoted later."

2 I know your reporter Josh, and I'm
3 trying to cut the guy a break, but he has to
4 go by an editor, and what the editor does of
5 his reporting could be another story.

6 Tell the truth and run according to
7 George Stulkis, a famous newspaper man.

8 Now, in the past I have read
9 accounts vastly different than what myself
10 had witnessed and feel misquotes and
11 admissions are common. I also did not
12 believe Scranton University's official
13 account off the tax exempt donation issue.
14 That's what happened when you approach
15 people on the sly or on the side where it's
16 not documented and there is no -- no other
17 witnesses. Many times I have read different
18 accounts almost weekly. I attend the whole
19 meetings almost weekly. We have a vast or
20 array of issues in our town not present in
21 our communities, to wit, house fires in old
22 housing, gangs, home invasions, poverty,
23 homelessness flocking to gain help,
24 predatory utilities destroying our
25 infrastructure with poor repairs. Tax

1 exempt 30 percent plus and no respect for a
2 council majority elected to mitigate obscure
3 spending and poorly conceived projects that
4 enrich contractors of little value to the
5 taxpayers.

6 When will you criticize the late
7 audits often six months later than legal.
8 On Wednesday I read an article on the
9 Parking Authority, \$14 million scheme to buy
10 meters and noted legislation to put the
11 taxpayers on the hook for the bill. I would
12 propose no further sale of city assets and a
13 comprehensive account in all of the
14 liabilities and note frequently not reported
15 to council until they are a major issue.

16 I want to see all of these
17 authorities' assets put out in the public
18 and then we can decide what they want -- or
19 what they should do. Personally, I feel
20 that council should dissolve and borrow at
21 this time to solve the problems as they were
22 rightfully elected and legally obliged to
23 do.

24 And note, if any illegal problems
25 result for the administration or authority

1 let the ball fall where it may. Also, PEL
2 is often the facilitator instead of the
3 mitigator and needs review.

4 Now, on last week I spoke about
5 potholes, what I feel is that these potholes
6 are not inspected after the repairs and a
7 lot of the times the ground sinks in and the
8 majority of our bad roads are being caused
9 by utility work that later just falls apart.
10 It's crummy repairs and done cheaply and
11 personally I think that our newspaper
12 editors that seem to think they are like the
13 coal barons, well, at least the coal barons
14 would often have a job to offer with their
15 opinion and, you know, you could go down in
16 the mines and get killed and then the
17 troubles are over.

18 And finally these layoffs, once
19 again, are intolerable and personally I
20 think that it's time for the mayor to cut
21 the nonsense and payless paydays stuff, and
22 finally the only thing I would like to say
23 on privatizing, I'd like to say something on
24 privatizing, be careful what you wish for.
25 Do we want millions upon millions in the

1 coffers for this guy to do what he wants
2 with it? That's what happens. He is doing
3 what he wants and it's going to take a long
4 time for council to reign it in, and I
5 respect that, but just be careful because if
6 we have big windfall, look at the \$12
7 million windfall from tax office, where is
8 it? That could have covered the deficit?
9 And then on top of all of that it's gone.

10 And finally the golden parrot, I'll
11 make it quick, goes to the American
12 Legislative Exchange Council financed by the
13 Coke brothers, Kraft Foods, Coca-Cola, which
14 I'm no longer consuming anymore, and they
15 are submitting a lot of legislation to
16 various states to deny people the right to
17 vote unless they have good photo ID and all
18 kind of documentation. So thank you,
19 American Legislative Exchange Council, stay
20 out of my democracy and bawk, bawk. Have a
21 good night.

22 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Dobrzyn.

23 MR. JOYCE: Just to make a quick
24 comment before the next speak, I know
25 Mr. Dobrzyn mentioned something in regard to

1 the \$12 million from the Single Tax office.
2 Now, I wasn't on council at the time, but I
3 know this from looking over previous
4 budgets, I believe, I'm not sure if it was
5 it 2008 or 2009, it was one of the those
6 years between I would say '07, '08 or '09,
7 the city actually -- there was a line item
8 in the budget for \$5 million, I believe, in
9 expected revenue that we are supposed to
10 receive from that, however, I believe that
11 we only really received and I know,
12 Mrs. Krake, you were around at this time, so
13 I think it was somewhere about 2.6 or 2.7
14 million out of the 5 million that was
15 projected at the time that we would receive;
16 is that accurate?

17 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

18 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Gallagher.

19 MR. GALLAGHER: My name is Kevin
20 Gallagher, I live on Strom Street in West
21 Scranton. I represent the American Postal
22 Worker's Union, Scranton, and all of
23 Northeastern Pennsylvania. On behalf of my
24 members, I want to come and express their
25 thanks and my thanks for city council taking

1 the position at last week's meeting in
2 opposition to the possibility of the US
3 Postal Service moving the mail processing
4 operation on Davis Street to Lehigh Valley.

5 If that happens, you are facing an
6 economic hit of a loss of a minimum of 300
7 jobs. These are 300 jobs that provide
8 families a way to stay in the middle class,
9 raise their children, and provide a future.
10 The economic impact would be an immediate
11 hit of approximately \$15 million to our
12 city. The exponential hit, all the services
13 and the businesses that rely on them could
14 be as much as \$25 million. This economic
15 hit would start in the middle of the next
16 summer and continue every year and that
17 would just be on a continual basis, these
18 jobs will never come back.

19 The related impacts that will happen
20 to the citizens are the first of the month,
21 third of the month, middle of the month
22 checks, retirement checks, disability
23 checks, social security checks will not be
24 there on time. The postal service wants to
25 relax delivery standards and those checks

1 will be days and days later in arriving.
2 That will cause a severe hurt on a lot of
3 people who depend on those checks to be
4 there on time.

5 In addition, you have a lot of
6 senior citizens who depend on prescriptions
7 through the mail, that's going to be delayed
8 and that could have very serious medical
9 effects on them.

10 The postal service also announced
11 this morning that they want to close 8,500
12 post offices nationwide. That breaks down
13 to an average of 170 post offices per state,
14 and I can tell you if they did 170 post
15 offices in Pennsylvania, the City of
16 Scranton with five post offices would be
17 down to two or one.

18 That would mean somebody from North
19 Scranton would have to travel all the way to
20 Davis Street possibly in order to purchase
21 postal products and services, in order to
22 get postal stamps. A lot of senior citizens
23 don't have that kind of transportation
24 capability, many regular citizens don't.
25 The bus system, Colts, doesn't even go to

1 Davis Street to Stafford Avenue to the post
2 office, so it would be a real hardship and
3 that would hit the City of Scranton and all
4 of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

5 I'm requesting of city council if
6 you would consider writing -- well, let me
7 explain a little bit. I spent today
8 visiting with our US Congressmen and some of
9 my legislators explaining the situation,
10 asking them to involve themselves in our
11 situation. Their staffs were very
12 interested. What I'm asking city council is
13 would you write to our US Congressmen and
14 our US Senator and ask them to investigate
15 the situation to protect the interest of all
16 Americans, especially the citizens that they
17 represent.

18 And I would love to be able to sit
19 down with them, and I think I'm going to
20 have some meetings with them where I can
21 show them the documentation showing that
22 these moves are not necessary, they are not
23 justified, and they should be done away
24 with.

25 The postal service is trying to say

1 that because they are losing money they have
2 to do a massive restriction of the postal
3 system, mail processing, etcetera, and the
4 reality is the Office of Inspector General
5 of the United States has done an
6 investigation of the postal service payments
7 into the federal retirement service, the
8 civil service first. They determined that
9 the postal service, especially in the last
10 four years, has overpaid into those plans
11 about a 55 to 75 billion dollars. There is
12 legislation pending in Congress to force an
13 independent audit of those finances, and if
14 the postal service has overpaid they will
15 get back that money that will allow them to
16 meet all obligations right now.

17 The postal service is scheduled to
18 loss \$8 billion this year, but \$6 billion is
19 a mandatory payment into the retirement
20 system that is unnecessary. They would be
21 losing \$2 billion, but if they don't have
22 that mandatory payment into the retirement
23 system then they have cash reserves with
24 which to meet all obligations, weather the
25 current recession, make gradual changes and

1 build their business model for the future
2 without impacting Americans, workers, middle
3 class, as they are looking to do.

4 So if city council would consider
5 writing a letter to our US Congressmen and
6 our US Senator and ask them to investigate
7 the situation I would be very appreciative,
8 my members would be very appreciative, and I
9 look forward to sitting down with Senator
10 Casey, Congressman Barletta, and discussing
11 this and showing them the documentation and
12 having them investigate it. So my request
13 is, one, I want to thank you, and two, would
14 you consider writing the letter. Thank you.

15 MR. ROGAN: It was a pleasure
16 meeting with you earlier as well.

17 MR. GALLAGHER: Yes, and I want to
18 go on record Pat Rogan, when we went down to
19 meet Congressman Barletta Pat was there, we
20 discussed it with him and he is very
21 interested and I'm very grateful to him for
22 being interested, we gave him some
23 information there, we are gong to have more
24 meetings and I appreciate that very much.

25 If you would write a letter to

1 Senator Casey and ask him to involve himself
2 I think we have a chance to make this work,
3 stop the immediate impact of losing the mail
4 processing center on Davis Street, keeping
5 300 families within the middle class in the
6 City of Scranton, keeping Northeastern
7 Pennsylvania having good mail service, solid
8 mail service, and keeping jobs throughout
9 our area. So thank you very much.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you. And I
11 agree the loss of that many jobs is
12 devastating, and the large amount of elderly
13 and due to the economy that first and third
14 month checks you hit it right on the head
15 there also with 300 employees or plus losing
16 their jobs.

17 But, Mrs. Krake, am I correct did we
18 just send out letters? I saw them in our
19 mailbox? We have sent those letters out.

20 MR. GALLAGHER: Thank you.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: I did see copies in
22 our mailbox, but we will continue to pursue
23 it, also.

24 MR. GALLAGHER: We appreciate it.
25 Thank you.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

2 MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else who
3 would like to address council?

4 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, City
5 Council. My name is Dave Gervasi,
6 firefighter in the city of Scranton.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

8 MR. GERVASI: I have a couple of
9 observations and comments on what took place
10 here tonight. First I'd like to commend
11 Mr. Gallagher. This is just another example
12 of another of the systematic dismantling of
13 the middle class in this country. You know,
14 I think until the people get rid of the
15 mentality of, "I don't have it, why should
16 you," instead of trying to strive to get
17 what other people have. Because pretty soon
18 we are all going to be working for \$10 an
19 hour if we have a job at all, and the rich
20 are going to get even richer. Let's not get
21 into that.

22 A couple of observations tonight. I
23 was kind of curious if Mrs. Krake, I'm
24 really sorry you are being attacked and
25 welcome to the club. One question I have, I

1 wish Mr. McGoff was here tonight because I
2 don't want to talk about Mr. McGoff when he
3 not here, I'd rather talk to him
4 face-to-face, but after he beat you up in
5 the paper today saying there should be
6 ramifications for your lack of signing the
7 contracts, did he ever call you and ask you
8 why you didn't sign the contract if there
9 was a legitimate reason?

10 MS. KRAKE: No.

11 MR. GERVASI: So he just -- typical.
12 He usually gets angry with me when I call
13 him the runner stamper for the mayor, notice
14 he didn't -- I guess he voted against that
15 park in West Side, so I guess it's one vote
16 against the mayor so he is no longer a
17 rubber stamper, I can say now just say he is
18 in lockstep with the mayor, slightly under
19 100 percent of the time.

20 I had the occasion last week, a
21 happy occasion for us for the East Mountain
22 Neighborhood Association meeting where they
23 invited me up, the officials from the fire
24 and police department to talk about the lack
25 of manpower in the police department and the

1 closure of Engine 10. It was very nice for
2 the first time in a long time to have
3 residents grilling the city. We do feel
4 little vindicated because we said this was
5 going to happen and we were called liars and
6 scare tactics and things of that sort, but a
7 couple of observations.

8 I believe Mr. McGoff, I think he did
9 do it, he was supposed to go down to the
10 mayor because the people of up there at
11 least at minimum they don't want it closed,
12 but they at least want the firehouses to
13 have signs to say the firehouse is closed
14 for safety reasons.

15 Many people if they are driving down
16 the street and something happens to somebody
17 in the car or they're driving down the
18 street and they see an incident a lot of
19 them will, you know, geez, the firehouse is
20 right up the street let's go up there and
21 knock on the door. Why waste five minutes
22 knocking on the door when the place is
23 empty. I don't know how they made out. As
24 of right now I don't believe there is any
25 closed -- firehouse closed signs.

1 I had a million things to say
2 tonight, so many things that happened.
3 Crime in West Side, it's not just West Side,
4 don't feel alone. I had an opportunity to
5 speak to the police chief at the same
6 meeting in North Scranton -- or up in East
7 Mountain, I'm sorry, and I couldn't quiet
8 pin him down to what I believe was the case,
9 but I thought that those 13 officers that
10 were laid off I thought that the reason why
11 they couldn't use the federal money, the
12 CDBG money, to pay for them was because they
13 didn't put them in a neighborhood of low to
14 moderate income beat or they didn't put them
15 on bikes, they put them in cars which
16 violates, I think, the procedure. I was
17 told that's not correct, so I still think
18 I'm right, but what do I know?

19 But I was told it was because the
20 mayor allowed the police department to go
21 under 150 members, just like the ordinance
22 said, not only five under the ordinance but
23 he just did that, too. Once they want under
24 150 police officers, I believe they were
25 three under 150, at that point that violated

1 that money and the city could not longer use
2 that, so for the price of three officers we
3 could have had 13 extra for the price of
4 three. We could have had 16 officers for
5 the price of three.

6 I mean, correct me if I'm wrong,
7 but, I mean, that's a pretty bad thing to
8 do, but I believe that's what the chief said
9 to me and I believe it was verified that's
10 why that happened.

11 Financials, out the realm of what I
12 would normally speak about, but, I mean,
13 this whole meter thing, correct me if I'm
14 wrong, but let's say low end very
15 conservative figure, let's say that the city
16 forever, every year gets at least a million
17 dollars a year of revenue. I think if you
18 went to the bank and you said to the bank,
19 "Listen, I have a million dollars a year,
20 how much of a mortgage could I buy with a
21 million dollar payment per year?"

22 I would tend to think 30, 20-30
23 million dollars you would be able to get so
24 we want to sell this to the Parking
25 Authority which we have to backup their debt

1 and we are only going to get \$6 million and
2 just maybe over three years we'll never have
3 that revenue again? So how many police
4 officers is that going to be and how many
5 more fire stations and officers that's going
6 to be three years from now when that well
7 dries up and then hope that the Parking
8 Authority that's loaded with patronage
9 doesn't go under and default. May I just
10 have one moment?

11 MR. ROGAN: Yeah. I would just add
12 you are exactly right, if I could buy those
13 parking \$6 million I would do it in a
14 heartbeat.

15 MR. GERVASI: Yeah, we would
16 probably be interested in that. We would
17 give them \$7 million.

18 MR. ROGAN: I'll outbid you, I'll
19 pay eight, and we'll keep going.

20 MR. GERVASI: We could keep going.

21 MR. JOYCE: I'll just add a comment
22 to Mr. Rogan's statement, the City of
23 Chicago, I believe, I don't know the exact
24 figure, I believe it was \$1.16 billion, and
25 I think it was somewhere around 80,000

1 parking meters -- or actually I'll correct
2 that, they leased them for 75 years and they
3 received I think it was 54 percent of the
4 revenue that the city was -- or the city
5 would have realized in that span of time, so
6 if you drag that out in a situation like
7 Scranton, say, you know, we were to lease
8 the parking meters for "X" amount of years
9 to "Y" company and say we low it -- just say
10 we lowball it, say it was a one million
11 dollars like you are saying and that would
12 be 54 percent of \$75 million so that would
13 be, oh, about probably around 40 million
14 bucks, so you are seeing that that's why the
15 mayor needs to come to city council to
16 answer questions about this deal because
17 this is also not the same proposal that was
18 presented in the confidential meeting that
19 was held with me, Mrs. Evans, yourself, and
20 Chief Duffy along with police administrator
21 McGowan back in June. So it seems like some
22 things have changed from then to now, so
23 these questions need to be answered by the
24 mayor.

25 MR. GERVASI: It seems things to

1 change from week to week and I believe the
2 BA was off almost four or \$4 million with
3 the number he gave to the Times and then in
4 reality was, I mean, what's \$4 million when
5 you laying off cops and firemen and
6 threatening payless paydays.

7 By the way, payless paydays -- and
8 then I'm done, payless paydays that was I
9 believe it was two or three years ago,
10 Council Courtright was on council, our tax
11 collector, and the mayor I believe had a
12 meeting with him and threatened payless
13 paydays, that's what he was after, the CRF
14 loans or CFR loans, he was looking for that
15 \$5 million to be approved by council.

16 MR. JOYCE: Yeah.

17 MR. GERVASI: And he told him he not
18 only going to bring the unions to their
19 knees, but he is going to make sure there is
20 payless paydays if he doesn't get the \$5
21 million loan.

22 I did a little research on that, I
23 believe he has to pay his employees before
24 he pays himself, his cabinet members, and
25 any vendors, and I believe we have an

1 opportunity to have him in Court within the
2 hour because it's all bogus. This whole
3 thing is bogus. They are just threatening
4 more layoffs, they are threatening
5 employees, they are threatening everyone so
6 they can get their way, and I'm not on
7 council, I don't want to payless paydays,
8 obviously, but I wouldn't' play. I wouldn't
9 deal with this, you know, so hold by your
10 guns. Thank you.

11 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
13 Council. Marie Schumacher.

14 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'd like to start
16 off with two requests. One, again,
17 Mr. Loscombe, I'm very much looking forward
18 to your e-mails tomorrow, and I wonder if
19 you could ask the chief as well what kinds
20 of incidents will the police not respond to.
21 I know I have called about ATV's and
22 whatever you call those four-wheel things
23 that aren't supposed to be on the road doing
24 wheelies and they said they don't come out
25 for those. And now Mr. Spindler talked

1 about dog attacks, they won't come out for
2 and think that would be helpful if all
3 citizens knew what they will not respond to.

4 And, Mr. Rogan, I hope that next
5 week you will have the answers on the OECD
6 account balances that I asked for last week?

7 MR. ROGAN: Actually, I have some of
8 them for you now. It's thick and I'll make
9 copies for you.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Sure. And then
11 just briefly on the parking meters, the net
12 revenue loss aside and the possible or I
13 would say definite increase in parking fees
14 that would come with the sale of the parking
15 meters, to me it's absolutely ludicrous. We
16 already own them, why would we sell them to
17 essentially ourselves and pay interest on
18 that and -- well, first we would double the
19 sale price and then have to pay interest on
20 that? It just -- it's nothing short of
21 idiocy and I trust -- I would put it on the
22 agenda next week and vote it down were I --
23 but I will not and will never be on council.

24 So then tonight seems to be the
25 spotlight on the Times-Tribune, so I am

1 going to put my oar in the water, too.
2 First of all, I would advise, my mother
3 again always raised me to say you catch more
4 flies with honey than you do with vinegar,
5 and I would encourage them to stop the
6 bashing if they really and truly are
7 interested in one government.

8 And then I would also encourage them
9 to do something with the fire department
10 like they -- akin to what they do with the
11 police blotter with the City of Scranton and
12 that is start providing the publishing
13 response times to fires. I would very much
14 like to know. Last Wednesday Chief Davis
15 when asked what the response time would be
16 if our Station 10 was closed responded, "Two
17 minutes," and that, of course, broke
18 everybody up, but it would be nice to know
19 what the actual times are.

20 And then third, ironically, the
21 city's structural deficit is pretty close to
22 our debt service annually, and so what I
23 would like to request of the Times in
24 addition is back in my day, I'm going to
25 show my age, there was a popular song called

1 "Where have all the Flowers Gone," now I
2 would like to ask where have all of the bond
3 dollars gone? And I would like to see the
4 Times print an editorial or an article
5 showing how much bond money we have taken
6 out in the last decade and where those
7 dollars have been invested. I think that
8 would be very enlightening and very hopeful.

9 Now, that having been said, I spoke
10 awhile back about we are in desperate shape,
11 there is no question about it. Our
12 unemployment is up, it's harder and it's
13 going to get harder and harder for people to
14 pay their taxes and to do other things, and
15 we need hope. If we are going to stick
16 around and not put our houses on the market
17 and just leave town, we need to know that
18 the light at the end of the tunnel is really
19 just the end of the tunnel and not another
20 train approaching us, and toward that end I
21 think it would be reasonable to free
22 spending on nonessentials as of right now.

23 And again, as I said before, we need
24 at least a three-year budget. Five years
25 would be preferable to show that council and

1 the administration know where we are going,
2 how we are going to get there, and we can --
3 that we could use that as a yard stick to
4 measure progress, so we know if we are going
5 to ever get out of this mess or if it's time
6 to get out of dodge, and I spent a lot of
7 time and I was going to say this before and
8 I'm going to say it tonight because I really
9 did, I spent a lot of time speaking who
10 could be -- I'll finish with this, if I may,
11 who could be the mediator. Who is the
12 person both council respects and the mayor
13 respects? And I will also admit to some
14 awkwardness during the moment of silence
15 because I never know when it's over unless
16 you peek, and so I usually end the moment of
17 silence before you do you and I've noticed
18 you all cross yourselves when you finish,
19 and I know the mayor is also a Roman
20 Catholic. So I would like to suggest that
21 maybe you all request, start with the
22 Bishop. Ask the Bishop to sit down with you
23 and the be the mediator, so all six of you
24 respect the Bishop, I'm sure, and have a
25 commonality there, and if that's what it

1 takes we just -- we have to get it done,
2 guys. We can't be here on the 15th of
3 December haggling over numbers. We need a
4 three or preferably five-year budget and we
5 have to get working on it. Thank you for
6 your consideration.

7 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there
8 anyone else who would like to address
9 council?

10 MS. HAAS: Good evening. I didn't
11 intend to speak, so I have to get my nerve
12 back up. This is very minor compared to
13 everybody else's, but I have thought maybe I
14 should get the ball rolling. It's a normal
15 community problem, you have a street
16 problem. I live on South Sixth Avenue and
17 there is a small lot of property that has
18 been neglected for many years. A few years
19 back, the owners, I finally contacted the
20 city, and the owners after much, much, much,
21 you know, attention from, you know, the
22 bureaus here, they came, at one point they
23 cleaned up and what happens is if a property
24 is not maintained all you have to do is see
25 one person throw a couch, and then one

1 person throw a chair and a TV and tires, and
2 garbage bags and before you know it is a
3 dumping ground.

4 Well, that's what it was and in the
5 past few years I have been going out there
6 and to the best of my ability to the smaller
7 items going out there at some points picking
8 up the garbage, putting them in bags,
9 bringing them to, you know, to the street
10 area for the garbage men to pick up. There
11 is only certain things I can do that with.

12 Now, right now there seems to be a
13 little bit of a respite because as the
14 summer comes and the high foliage it covers
15 a lot of the material up, but that's only
16 temporary. Now, here is where it stands
17 with the city. I know the property owner, I
18 have gone to the city, you know, sometime
19 back to make sure that I have a good
20 argument, and so I knew the owners, and I
21 presented that and that's how the city was
22 in touch with them and that's how they gave
23 them a notice to clean up. And, as I said
24 it took a long time.

25 Now, again, I have to done that are

1 quite sometime now, and finally, though he
2 has been given notices the owner, the bottom
3 line has just occurred, and the bottom line
4 was this a few months back, the owner claims
5 he has turned over the property to the city,
6 but the city says, no. So it's kind of held
7 up. I don't think this makes any common
8 sense to me. In other words, it's held up
9 in a Court of such, you know, of a sort.

10 Now, I have been to the city and I
11 know that I can check the Recorder of Deeds
12 and find out who owns the property. If the
13 owner, as he claims, gave it to the city
14 then he should have proof that he gave it to
15 the city. There ought to be papers. If he
16 can present -- and again, and there is some
17 error in the city -- in the Recorder of
18 Deeds, doesn't that seem easy to clear up?
19 And if the city has such a big problem
20 saying that they don't own it, this seems to
21 be the solution, if it's not in the paper,
22 if it's not recorded in the Recorder of
23 Deeds, then that man still owns it if his
24 name is still on it regardless of any errors
25 that have happened.

1 So I'm wondering if you could look
2 into this because very shortly, you know,
3 the foliage will be gone and it looks like a
4 dump. Like I said, I have pictures of all
5 of the things that I had put to the curb in
6 the past, and can you please address this?

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: If you could give Ms.
8 Carrera the address of the property and --

9 MS. HAAS: Yes, I can.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: We can look into it.

11 MR. ROGAN: Can you please also
12 state your name for the record?

13 MS. HAAS: Oh, my name is Mary Ann
14 Haas, and I live at 1237 South Sixth Avenue
15 and the property is I think it's called 1219
16 South Sixth Avenue. I really wasn't very
17 prepared, but --

18 MR. JOYCE: If you want to leave
19 your contact information with --

20 MS. HAAS: Yes, I will.

21 MR. JOYCE: -- our clerk. Thank you
22 very much.

23 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

24 MR. JOYCE: No problem.

25 MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else who

1 would like to address council?

2 MR. NEARHOOD: Good evening, members
3 of council.

4 MR. ROGAN: Good evening.

5 MR. NEARHOOD: My name is Ray
6 Nearhood and I am a Scranton resident, I
7 live in South Side. I'm here this evening
8 to talk for a few moments about what's been
9 going on in the city. I sit here in the
10 audience and I hear that the city council
11 must have a Right-to-Know request given to
12 officials of this city to provide them with
13 information. I think it's the most
14 ridiculous thing in the world. I don't
15 think you should need to go through the same
16 thing that as a regular citizen does. You
17 are an official of the city, information
18 should be provided to you.

19 Now, it was earlier pointed out that
20 there was an article in the newspaper, there
21 was some misunderstanding in that article,
22 there is no doubt about that, about the way
23 city government works. I have been involved
24 in city governments across Pennsylvania for
25 many years. I have provided municipal

1 consulting services. You know, I hear you
2 talking about the Parking Authority and
3 parking meters, you haven't gotten to one of
4 the worst positions I have heard. A number
5 of years I was called by the City of Lebanon
6 to help them out, they had actually sold a
7 third floor of city hall, so talk about
8 selling assets off. So, remember, you do
9 have some floors here, you might be able to
10 sell them as well.

11 You are part-time legislators, and
12 that was pointed out in the article. Rather
13 than diminishing your role in the city, it
14 should in some way require those who are
15 full-time officials to provide you and to go
16 the extra the mile to provide you with
17 information because you are not receiving a
18 full-time salary here.

19 The city controller is the main
20 person who should be maintaining all city
21 financial records. I would think that the
22 city controller should be here providing you
23 with the information you need, especially in
24 light of the financial difficulty the city
25 is in.

1 Mrs. Krake, the duty that you did in
2 not signing the contracts really resides
3 with the city controller. If the money is
4 not available, the controller should not be
5 signing contracts. If people have not been
6 authorized in the budget or money has not
7 been authorized in the budget it is the city
8 controller's mandate not to allow that money
9 to be spent. Understand the city controller
10 audits all accounts and should keep all
11 accounting records and any time a line item
12 is to be exceeded the city controller is
13 obligated not to allow money to be spent
14 beyond what has been appropriated. Those
15 employees should not be paid. Ask the city
16 controller on what authority she is signing
17 those checks? She has no legal basis to do
18 that.

19 You know, the finances of this city
20 need to be pulled in, but most of all the
21 dysfunction of this government needs to be
22 brought together. Mr. Mayor, you need to
23 come to this city council chambers and talk
24 to council. City controller, you need to be
25 in this city council chambers and talk to

1 council because all of the elected officials
2 of this city need to work out the problems
3 that this city is facing.

4 The fact that there is bombs being
5 tossed one way or another has to end. The
6 citizens of this city deserve better. The
7 citizens of this city also deserve the
8 truth, and when I listen to council and I
9 listen to a variety of numbers being thrown
10 around here it doesn't make a lot of sense
11 to me. How can we logically make decisions
12 or how can you logically make decisions if
13 you don't have the information that's
14 necessary for you to make those decisions?
15 You are the legislative body. You are
16 part-time, that's correct, so that I will
17 say it once again, that puts even more of an
18 obligation on those full-time officials to
19 be in this chamber providing you with the
20 information necessary for you to make your
21 decisions.

22 You pass legislation, that
23 legislation needs to be executed and that is
24 the obligation of the chief executive is to
25 execute properly the legislation passed by

1 downstairs. That's what he's closing on
2 there. You know how he is, Jack, you know
3 how he is. What's up, Mr. Mayor? Keep the
4 firehouses open downstairs. Keep them open.
5 We need them open. That's it. Thank you.

6 MR. ROGAN: Thanks, Chrissy.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thanks, Chrissy.

8 MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else who
9 would like to address council? If not, I'll
10 entertain a motion to adjourn.

11 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

12 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.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER