

0001

01

01

02 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

02

03

03

04

04

05

05

06

06

07

07

08 Held:

08

09 Thursday, February 10, 2005

09

10

10

11

11 Time:

12 7:00 p.m.

12

13

13

14

14

15

15 Location:

16 Council chambers

16 Scranton City Hall

17 340 North Washington Avenue

17 Scranton, Pennsylvania

18

18

19

19

20

20

21

21

22

22

23

23 Lisa M. Graff, RPR

24 Court Reporter

24

25

0002

01 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

02

03

04 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

05

06 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

07

08 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

09

10 MR. JOHN POCIUS

11

12 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

13

14 MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

15

16 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

17

18 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

0003

01 MR. DIBILEO: Please stand for the

02 Pledge of Allegiance. Please remain standing for a

03 short prayer. Kay, can we have a roll call, please?

04 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

05 MR. McTIERNAN: Here.

06 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

07 MS. EVANS: Here.

08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

09 MR. POCIUS: Here.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Here. Mr. Walsh, if

14 we can dispense with the reading of the minutes?

15 MR. WALSH: Certainly. 3-A, third

16 order. There is no business, except for 3-B, which is

17 clerk's notes.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Saunders, if you

19 would, please.

20 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, I

21 was in contact with Don Davis, from the recycling --  
22 he's the recycling coordinator from DPW. He said that  
23 DWP will out all day Saturday picking up their  
24 Christmas trees.

25 He did want to tell me that the  
0004

01 drop-off points that the city had, it was very  
02 successful. A lot of people took their trees there and  
03 the city got rid of them in a timely fashion.

04 So now they're actually going out  
05 curbside this Saturday, so if your tree is covered up,  
06 get it out so they can pick it up this weekend.

07 MR. DIBILEO: I understand, also,  
08 Mr. Saunders, that this will be the final Christmas  
09 tree pickup.

10 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes.

11 MR. DIBILEO: And the drop-off  
12 points are still open?

13 MR. SAUNDERS: The drop-off points  
14 are still open, yes.

15 MR. DIBILEO: And you would need  
16 to get them there by Saturday, if possible?

17 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

19 MR. SAUNDERS: But, also, don't  
20 get that confuses with -- they will be out to the  
21 houses to do curbside pickup this weekend.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Saturday.

23 MR. SAUNDERS: Saturday. 1440  
24 Cornell Street, I received correspondence from  
25 George Parker about that. He went out and investigated  
0005

01 the situation. He has passed that on to  
02 Jack Lennox from the Scranton Sewer Authority, and they  
03 are scheduling that for work.

04 The lighting situation that we  
05 discussed last week, on 7th Avenue and Olive Street  
06 near Scranton High School, Mr. Parker said the city has  
07 been in discussion with MEM for over a year over this  
08 project.

09 They put in for a grant through  
10 PennDOT for this. The grant was accepted, but they  
11 will not -- it wasn't in the first round of projects  
12 being done for this year. They are hoping they will  
13 be in the second round of projects for the upcoming  
14 year. I will keep --

15 MR. DIBILEO: Speaking of MEM,  
16 Mr. Saunders, did you have any luck yet setting up a  
17 public caucus meeting with members of MEM regarding the  
18 street lighting?

19 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes. I received an  
20 Email from Bob Kearns today, as a matter of fact,  
21 discussing dates that they are available for a caucus.  
22 He indicated in the Email that they deal with a lot of  
23 municipalities, and like us, they deal -- their  
24 meetings are at night, so he would like us to pick a  
25 date and we can schedule it with him.

0006

01 Them coming at the spur of the  
02 moment is a difficult thing for them to do. They do a  
03 lot of work at night. So, I will run those dates by  
04 Council and then I will discuss that with MEM to  
05 coordinate that.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

07 MR. SAUNDERS: That's all I have,  
08 Mr. President.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very  
10 much.

11 MR. WALSH: Fourth order, citizen  
12 participation.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Before I call up the  
14 first speaker, I'd like to just ask speakers to be  
15 mindful of our time constraints by not exceeding the  
16 five-minute time limit.

17 That was brought up this evening.

18 Last week one of the speakers actually said that they  
19 thought that more than five minutes is needed, and it  
20 was brought up in caucus this evening, and currently  
21 there's no one in favor of actually extending that time  
22 period, so we think it's a fair time limit and we're  
23 going to stick with that, so I just wanted to make that  
24 announcement.

25 And please keep your remarks

0007

01 related to business matters of the city, if you would,  
02 and also please refrain from any remarks of a personal  
03 nature, and that would be greatly appreciated.

04 And with that said, Les Spindler,  
05 please.

06 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
07 Council, Les Spindler.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

09 MR. SPINDLER: First of all,  
10 Mrs. Evans, I want to commend you on making a motion

11 last week of sending this deed situation to a judge and  
12 have a judge make a decision.

13 MS. EVANS: Well, actually, Les, I  
14 was referring to a declaratory action. I was hoping  
15 that as a last resort, Council can file a declaratory  
16 action, whereby the question is placed before a judge.  
17 I believe the only requirement is  
18 that there's agreement on both sides concerning an  
19 issue and the judge would then render a declaratory  
20 judgment.

21 But I just wanted to clarify, I  
22 didn't make it in the form of a motion, I was making  
23 the suggestion at the time pending the opinions of the  
24 solicitor of the Recreation Authority and the city  
25 solicitor.

0008

01 We had received the response of  
02 the solicitor of the Recreation Authority in a very  
03 timely fashion.

04 MR. SPINDLER: You did?

05 MS. EVANS: Yes, we did.

06 MR. SPINDLER: That's a surprise  
07 to me.

08 MS. EVANS: And we will be  
09 requesting the opinion of the city solicitor early next  
10 week.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Can I ask  
12 what his opinion was?

13 MS. EVANS: That the fixing and  
14 collection of reasonable rates at the Nay Aug Park swim  
15 complex complies with Resolution of Council No. 174 of  
16 2003 and the Municipal Authorities Act, 53 PA SCA  
17 Section 5607, and is not inconsistent with the deeds  
18 conveying the lands to the City of Scranton.

19 But you know, Les, I just wanted  
20 to tell you I found out something fairly interesting  
21 about the pool, because so many citizens, like  
22 yourself, are so concerned about this issue, they're  
23 actually conducting research independently, and I  
24 learned that, I think it was in, let me just check  
25 here, actually I don't have it, but I'm going to

0009

01 approximate here, I think it was maybe 1904 or 1914,  
02 one or the other, that the citizens of Scranton donated  
03 \$11,000 to build that pool, and it was in the 1920s,  
04 either 22 or 24, I have the exact information at home,  
05 and I'd be very happy to share it with you, if you  
06 desire, but it was in the 1920s, that the bottom of the

07 pool was actually paved.

08 So, that pool was not constructed

09 through taxpayer dollars, but rather the donations of

10 the residents of the City of Scranton, and most

11 donations were collected not too many years after the

12 original deeds that conveyed the land and contained

13 those restrictive clauses.

14 So, it appears that it really

15 wasn't 30, 40, 50 years later when a pool was

16 envisioned, it really wasn't that great amount of time.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Well, it doesn't

18 matter --

19 MS. EVANS: And at that time for

20 many, many decades, I'm sorry to interrupt you, for

21 many, many decades, no fees were charged.

22 MR. SPINDLER: Right. And it says

23 right in the deed free and public forever with -- it

24 allows for improvements. Could I have more time?

25 Mrs. Evans used my time.

0010

01 MR. DIBILEO: Sure, go ahead, Les.

02 That was the one-minute.

03 MS. EVANS: Yeah, I'm sorry. I

04 ate his time.

05 MR. SPINDLER: That's okay.

06 Anyway, I still commend you for having the backbone to

07 do that, Mrs. Evans. And I have some more

08 information. I was approached by a very formidable

09 attorney this week, he came to me, and he said there's

10 two ways that Council can order the Recreation

11 Authority to stop these fees, and the first way is to

12 file a writ of mandamus, M-A-N-D-A-M-U-S, I'm sure

13 Mr. Walsh knows what that is, and he said the second

14 way is to file an injunction. He said you have the

15 authority to do this.

16 I brought this up six, eight

17 months ago, and I think it's time -- you know, I've

18 given you more information here. I think it's time to

19 do something now.

20 Three of you up there said -- you

21 expressed interest in getting rid of these fees, so I'm

22 giving you two instances what an attorney said you guys

23 can do.

24 This is an attorney, unbiased

25 attorney, who was never here, but he has kept track of

0011

01 what is going on here. It's not the first time he's

02 approached me. So, here is two things you can do, so I

03 hope you do something tonight about it. If someone can  
04 make a motion to have one of these two things done.  
05 Mr. Walsh would have to write these things out.  
06 MS. EVANS: Oh, yeah.  
07 MR. SPINDLER: If he wants to  
08 explain what they are.  
09 MS. EVANS: Well, I'm sure the  
10 attorney knows exactly what each of these measures  
11 would be, and I think, you know, as I explained  
12 earlier, we're waiting for that second written opinion  
13 from the city solicitor, and at that point Council, I'm  
14 sure, will discuss the issue, and, if necessary, I'm  
15 very supportive of making a motion to -- well, we'll  
16 discuss it with our solicitor what the most appropriate  
17 legal approach would be.  
18 MR. SPINDLER: I don't see why  
19 it's necessary to wait. I mean, I have this  
20 information right here. Like I said, an attorney came  
21 to me and gave me this information. He doesn't want to  
22 be recognized, that's why he doesn't want to come here.  
23 MS. EVANS: I'm not saying it  
24 can't be done, I'm just saying I'm awaiting the  
25 official written opinion of the attorneys, although I'm  
0012  
01 sure we can all predict --  
02 MR. SPINDLER: I think it's going  
03 to be a while until you get it, because they're going  
04 to drag their feet and drag their feet until it's  
05 summertime again and these fees are still charged.  
06 It's ridiculous.  
07 MS. EVANS: Well, if we don't  
08 receive that -- I mean, this was a very timely response  
09 on the part of Attorney Kelly, and we hope we'll  
10 receive the same consideration from Attorney Farrell.  
11 If we don't, then I'll proceed.  
12 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Something  
13 else. Another citizen came up to me this week and  
14 asked if I could say something. Where the Southern  
15 Union building is going up, that has been fenced in,  
16 they needed it fenced in when they had the big crane  
17 there, the crane has been gone for months, and the two  
18 lanes are still fenced in.  
19 I don't know if any one of you  
20 drive up that way, but the traffic is terrible. It's  
21 backed up a lot of times from Washington all the way  
22 back to Wyoming.  
23 Buses can't make the turn from  
24 Wyoming onto Lackawanna, and it's fenced out for no

25 reason at all now. They could at least move it in one  
0013  
01 more lane. I don't know what you can do about that.  
02 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Les.  
03 Appreciate that.  
04 MR. SPINDLER: I have one more  
05 thing, Mrs. Evans used a lot of my time. I have a  
06 safety issue. Where the new building is going in at  
07 Prep now, they fenced in that whole area, and I just  
08 went by the other day, they fenced in a fire hydrant.  
09 If there's a fire there, the firemen can't get to the  
10 fire hydrant. The fence is about 6, 8 feet high, and  
11 the fire hydrant is inside the fence.  
12 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Courtright is  
13 making a note of that. He is going to run that by the  
14 fire department now.  
15 MR. SPINDLER: I don't know if  
16 anybody knows, I just happened to have driven by there  
17 the other day and noticed that. I was stopped at the  
18 red light. I think that's a real safety hazard.  
19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Les.  
20 Appreciate it.  
21 MR. SPINDLER: All right. Thank  
22 you. There also could be another reason why a motion  
23 regarding pool fees might not be needed, and that is it  
24 could turn out that the mayor of the Scranton  
25 Recreational Authority may decide not to charge fees  
0014  
01 this year at Nay Aug, so we can always hope.  
02 Andy Sbaraglia.  
03 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
04 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, you've got  
05 to remember, too, there's other concessions up there  
06 charging fees, too. You can't just say the pool is  
07 just one concession, you also got that sort of  
08 playground that's there, too, and that's charging  
09 money, and that's a concession, too. So, you have to  
10 look into a lot things.  
11 Okay. I've got a hold of the  
12 general obligation bonds Series 2001A and 2001C.  
13 That's the money that's up in Fidelity up there in  
14 Dunmore, okay?  
15 Now, basically there is a notation  
16 that bonds have to be in effect until 2011 on one page,  
17 but then we turn to another page, this is all part of  
18 the same, purchase in lieu of redemption.  
19 The city may purchase the bonds in  
20 an open market and apply these bonds with the same bond

21 requirement pursuant to an ordinance and agreement; in  
22 other words, we can buy -- we got the money up there to  
23 buy the bonds, and we can go out into the open market  
24 and buy them.

25 The only person that's making out  
0015

01 on this money is the bank in Dunmore, Fidelity. The  
02 Scrantonian taxpayer is not making out money.

03 If we can buy the bonds, even if  
04 we have to give them a premium, we can save millions  
05 and millions of dollars, and that should be looked  
06 into.

07 I talked to the business agent on  
08 this when this first came out, and he just shaved it  
09 away, but it is written here. And I believe that's one  
10 avenue you should look into.

11 You're talking about millions of  
12 dollars, if we can purchase back or bonds. Since we  
13 have the money already up there, it's just sitting  
14 there. As Mrs. Evans pointed out, it's drawing  
15 pittance in interest, where we can be getting millions  
16 in tax savings if we're able to purchase these bonds.

17 But that's in there. If you want  
18 to look at this piece, you can have it. This is out of  
19 the legislation. It's only a small part of it, because  
20 it's a booklet like that.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: I think you have  
24 it in your office. Okay. The second thing that came  
25 up is our DPW old site.

0016

01 As you know, the Times printed a  
02 huge article in the paper about it. But it does say  
03 this, The contractor says -- the contract says that  
04 Mr. Burke must pay \$600,000 within 30 days of the DPW  
05 vacating the land and the city completing the  
06 redevelopment process.

07 This land is a KOZ. This land is  
08 the responsibility of the person buying it to develop  
09 it. It's not up to the City of Scranton to develop  
10 this property.

11 We can help them with loans, but  
12 as I said, the process includes the city planning  
13 commission certifying land that's a redevelopment area.  
14 When you designate it as a KOZ,  
15 you already designate it as a redevelopment area, and  
16 the Redevelopment Authority and the City of Scranton

17 approving a related contract.  
18 Okay. The Redevelopment  
19 Authority, I told you once before many, many times,  
20 before they have to pay the money, they must get -- the  
21 contract must be approved by the city, by them, by  
22 Burke and the Redevelopment Authority.  
23 Now, what I'm saying is this, and  
24 what I brought out when this originally came out, if  
25 the man is buying the property, why are we putting all  
0017  
01 these little side deals in there, these little  
02 kickers?  
03 Every contract that the mayor put  
04 out has kickers in it, and the light fixtures has a  
05 kicker in it, too, and they're in here. And there's no  
06 reason why the Redevelopment Authority should have  
07 anything to do with this property.  
08 It's a KOZ, it's the  
09 responsibility of the developer to develop the land,  
10 that's what a KOZ counts for.  
11 What is he going to give us  
12 \$600,000, and we're going to take a million dollars  
13 from different funds and pour it into his property?  
14 This is what this contract is like. I didn't see it,  
15 but I will read it very, very careful.  
16 Loans, I can see, but I do not  
17 approve of any more grants going to KOZs. That was the  
18 reason we gave them the KOZ. We gave them tax  
19 abatements.  
20 You didn't give any tax  
21 abatements, even to the flood victims where the county  
22 did, but you didn't. You didn't vote anything for  
23 them, and you could have gave them a tax abatement,  
24 too.  
25 It's not just for certain  
0018  
01 individuals, it's not for politics, it's has to be for  
02 the people and the whole people. And I thank you.  
03 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Andy.  
04 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. President,  
05 could I?  
06 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, sure.  
07 MR. COURTRIGHT: Excuse me,  
08 Mr. Sbaraglia, you know, if I could just ask you a  
09 question. Each week you have a lot of financial  
10 questions, and obviously you know what you're talking  
11 about, would you be willing, if we set up a meeting  
12 with Mr. Kresefski, that you could ask him directly,

13 because we ask the questions for you, and it's a  
14 go-between, would you like if he can tell you  
15 firsthand?

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: It's not that I  
17 didn't ask all of these questions.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Pardon?

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: I did ask him  
20 these questions.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: You asked him  
22 personally?

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: Sure, I did, when  
24 this came out. This was --

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: And he didn't  
0019

01 give you any answers?

02 MR. SBARAGLIA: Shoved it off, you  
03 know what I mean? He never discussed the open market  
04 provision, and I didn't really know about it until I  
05 read the whole legislation on the borrowing.

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: I just thought  
07 maybe you talked to him directly, it'd be easier.

08 MR. SBARAGLIA: I can talk to him  
09 directly, but I already have.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. I didn't  
11 know that. All right.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Andy, one last thing  
13 I'd like to make a note of is the fact that that  
14 \$600,000 that is coming from the developer of the  
15 Ice Box area, that \$600,000 is coming into the city  
16 coffers now, that \$600,000 was a part of the  
17 City Council's -- please, you have to stay back there,  
18 Andy, because the five minutes is up, but that \$600,000  
19 was part of City Council's amended budget, which we  
20 were hoping to use and hopeful that there would be less  
21 need to borrow money.

22 So, in our efforts to eliminate  
23 the borrowing in the mayor's budget, that was one piece  
24 of the pie that City Council was using. Just wanted to  
25 mention that.

0020

01 MR. SBARAGLIA: I'll mention it  
02 next meeting in more detail about that whole contract.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.  
04 Lee Morgan.

05 MR. MORGAN: Good evening,  
06 Council.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

08 MR. MORGAN: We were talking about

09 legal maneuvering recently about a mandamus and an  
10 injunction, and I really think that before you do that,  
11 somebody should go down and try to talk to the mayor,  
12 you know what I mean?  
13 Because evidently he's the one  
14 that's deciding what the Recreational Authority  
15 solicitor is going to say and what the city solicitor  
16 is going to say, and I really think it's just a cat  
17 chasing its own tail, and I think unless somebody is  
18 willing to go down to the mayor, and I'm not talking  
19 about confronting him, I'm talking about let him  
20 explain where he thinks he finds the language in that  
21 deed or those documents that says that he can charge at  
22 that pool, okay?  
23 Because all this paperwork going  
24 back and forth and waiting for all this is just a --  
25 it's a waste of time.

0021

01 The other thing I'd like to say is  
02 that on, I guess it's 5-B, we're talking -- and you  
03 were talking about this in caucus about consolidating  
04 these funds, and there's \$236,000.  
05 Now, I don't know who has control  
06 over these funds, but I really think that \$30,000  
07 should go to the Hill Neighborhood Association, because  
08 they need money to do their second floor, and I think  
09 that \$50,000 should go to the B Levy building that's  
10 for senior citizens in downtown Scranton, because  
11 they've asked for that money and they need help.  
12 And if \$236,000 is sitting here  
13 and it can be maneuvered for the benefit of the  
14 residents of this city, I think it's a good idea.  
15 The other thing I'd like to say  
16 is, Mrs. Williams came here last week, you know, and  
17 I'd like to say that, you know, I really appreciate her  
18 coming here, even though her opinions seem to be  
19 contrary to my own.  
20 Because I think freedom of speech  
21 covers everybody, and I think you have to respect  
22 everybody's ideas, everybody has a right to an opinion,  
23 but I think that all of us want the same thing for the  
24 city. She just sees growth and change different than I  
25 do.

0022

01 I see it as that -- and don't get  
02 me wrong, the building is nice, some of the things that  
03 have gone on at Nay Aug Park are absolutely fantastic,  
04 but I just think the funds could have been spent in a

05 more prudent manner, and I think that we have so many  
06 people that are losing their homes to sheriff sales or  
07 foreclosures, and we're wasting so much as far as  
08 community development funds that are going the wrong  
09 way.

10 You know, we're talking about jobs  
11 that are not really happening. There's just -- there's  
12 no -- I think that everybody has to sit down and get a  
13 game plan, and I think that she fails to realize, and  
14 maybe some other people fail to realize that basically  
15 every bit of development that has been done in this  
16 city is not going to generate income for the city.  
17 We've KOZ'd all the supposed growth we're going to get  
18 for ten years, and that's a real problem.

19 That is not a way to build a  
20 viable tax base. And there are a lot of directions the  
21 city can go in where something productive could be  
22 done, but I think we're serving the same people too  
23 often.

24 And, you know, I had an  
25 opportunity to talk to a congressional aid this week  
0023

01 for over an hour, and I would have to say that I find  
02 our Congress, and I'm not picking on them, they're  
03 getting ready to play with Social Security, they're  
04 talking about malpractice reform, I talked to a guy who  
05 was in charge of trade, judiciary, Social Security.

06 And I hate to say this, but I knew  
07 more than the man I was talking to. And, you know,  
08 that'd be humorous if it wasn't for the fact that he is  
09 talking to the Congressmen. And it's really -- it's  
10 disheartening.

11 I mean, most people don't realize  
12 that when you're talking about Social Security, that  
13 the plan the president has envisioned, two  
14 industrialized countries have tried that plan and  
15 scrapped it because it couldn't work. You can't put  
16 your Social Security funds into the stock market or the  
17 bond market, it just can't work.

18 I intend to send them a packet and  
19 explain how to make changes, and I'll just be brief and  
20 say that I think that students loans should be borrowed  
21 out of the Social Security fund and guaranteed, because  
22 the more money you earn when you get out of college,  
23 the more you can contribute.

24 I think that you should be allowed  
25 to take 10 percent of your wages, put them in a fund of  
0024

01 your own choosing, a safe bet, a certificate of deposit,  
02 whatever. No tax out and no tax back to you when  
03 retire.  
04 Because, you know, when you talk  
05 about all the money they've borrowed, they're just  
06 clueless, and I really can't expand on that too much.  
07 I've got one more thing here. The  
08 \$4.38 million for the Scranton Electric Building, you  
09 know, we need to realize that the county, the school  
10 district, the city, the federal government, the state  
11 government, they just can't keep expanding like this,  
12 because there's no room left in the tax base.  
13 I mean, it's just obvious that  
14 there's no more revenue. People have to realize that  
15 we've reached the saturation point and we have to begin  
16 to -- if somebody says to you, you've got to save for  
17 your own retirement, they've got to stop taxing us to  
18 the point where we have no money.  
19 And anybody who thinks that Social  
20 Security, you can live on that, I dare anybody to try  
21 to live on that. That's why the elderly high-rise is  
22 across the street. You can't live on it. Thank you.  
23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Morgan. Regina Yetkowskas.  
25 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Regina

0025

01 Yetkowskas, Scranton resident and taxpayer. Last week  
02 I suggested points of reference or benchmarks for  
03 Scranton's residents to decide if the mayor is carrying  
04 out his duties to improve the people's quality of life  
05 or otherwise.  
06 I discussed the mayor's duty to  
07 stop the old political practice that you must pay to  
08 play and the absolute necessity and reasons for  
09 Mr. Doherty to stop creating false budgets and present  
10 truthful operating budgets.  
11 Now to continue. How does one  
12 accurately estimate revenues for the next year's  
13 operating budget and prevent deficit spending?  
14 You must rely on the actual money  
15 brought in during the current year, because it will  
16 most likely be substantially the same in the coming  
17 year, unless the administration can show new facts  
18 which will cause a large change up or down in the  
19 projected revenue for the coming year.  
20 Examples of facts which could make  
21 for a large change in projected revenues are, increased  
22 or new sources of large amounts of revenue, examples of

23 large changes in spending are caused by a natural  
24 disaster or a widespread disease.

25 The spending side is where

0026

01 everyone looks when trying to balance a budget. This

02 is important, but only after you make sure the

03 projected revenues are honest and true.

04 I leave the reduction in spending

05 up to the people involved more intimately with the

06 details of budget, but one area on which the mayor

07 should concentrate to reduce spending is in his

08 excessive use of consultants.

09 The mayor should compare the

10 consultants' duties to the duties of the department

11 heads. I believe that if the mayor has well-qualified

12 department heads, as he states, then there must be an

13 overlap of duties and functions; therefore, the

14 consultants and their expensive contracts can be

15 eliminated. Mr. Doherty does not need experts to

16 advise his department head experts on the same

17 subjects.

18 Recently a consulting firm who has

19 been paid \$60,000 a year for the past three years

20 appeared before City Council to renew its contract for

21 the fourth year.

22 \$60,000 a year means Scranton pays

23 the company \$1,153.85 every week, whether it works for

24 the city or not. The firm's representative gave a nice

25 speech on what the firm can do for Scranton.

0027

01 The question is not what the

02 consulting firm can do, but rather what did the firm

03 do -- actually do for the \$180,000 Scranton paid the

04 firm?

05 The actual facts are that for an

06 expenditure of \$180,000 over three years, it helped

07 start five small businesses in the city, mostly

08 restaurants with very few new jobs.

09 That meant it cost Scranton

10 \$36,000 for each small restaurant or business started.

11 Then on top of this, the firm loaned the businesses

12 money and collects interest over long terms, in

13 addition to the \$180,000.

14 The OECD office must do this work

15 or the city could obtain the work elsewhere for a lot

16 less or no cost and prevent excessive spending.

17 The next point of reference is if

18 the mayor publicly committed himself to live within his

19 budget and does. Whatever is the end result of the  
20 budget process, it is nothing more than a piece of  
21 scrap paper if the mayor does not publicly commit  
22 himself to living within its contents.

23 The only exceptions, as I said  
24 before, are natural catastrophes, like floods or  
25 serious city-wide emergencies, like fires or the spread  
0028

01 of disease.

02 The next point of reference for  
03 the people to judge the mayor is if a city law was  
04 passed which prohibits the mayor and local authorities  
05 from selling city assets, special revenue-producing  
06 assets without City Council's prior written approval,  
07 City Council will receive no cooperation from the mayor  
08 for this kind of law.

09 It would be interesting, however,  
10 if Council let it be known it will not approve any  
11 renewal of a consultants' contract unless the mayor  
12 will not veto such a law, good old quid pro quo, local  
13 politics, but for the benefit of the people. I just  
14 have one paragraph.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Finish your thought,  
16 Regina.

17 MS. YETKOWSKAS; City Council  
18 should very carefully draft and all-inclusive  
19 appropriate resolution for the mayor to seriously  
20 consider add advance. I'll stop here and conclude next  
21 week with my presentation. Thank you.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, very  
23 much. Thank you. Larry McAndrew.

24 MR. McANDREW: Good evening,  
25 Council. Larry McAndrew, Scranton resident and  
0029

01 taxpayer. You know, I've been told that this  
02 Mayor Doherty is a businessman and he likes to run this  
03 City of Scranton as a business.

04 What I have to say to Mayor  
05 Doherty is, we're the customers, the taxpayers. And  
06 rule one in business is, the customers must be  
07 satisfied and their wants and demands must be met.  
08 I don't see this happening here.

09 Last week we had a senior citizen that lived in this  
10 city for 44 years putting in a complaint because her  
11 street was not plowed. This is basic service. This  
12 should have been done.

13 I see these people coming up to  
14 the podium saying that the city looks great, Nay Aug

15 Park is wonderful, the downtown area is all redone, but  
16 there's a problem here.

17 When a mayor has to take

18 \$4 million to plug a budget, there's a problem here.

19 This mayor calls this a model city for the State of

20 Pennsylvania. It's some model.

21 I mean, I disagree in the way he's

22 trying to operate things. My understanding is that

23 he's supposed to make a major announcement come the

24 spring of the year, that industry is coming into this

25 area.

0030

01 I say to Mayor Doherty, Where was

02 this industry two, three years ago when our college

03 students had to leave this area after they graduated

04 because there was no jobs here?

05 Mayor Doherty also says that we

06 need this consultant firm from New York City that we

07 pay \$60,000 to, because they're knowledgeable and they

08 have resources to do things.

09 I say, We're paying the director

10 right now \$57,000 a year, she's been paid this three

11 years, her assistants have been given a raise of

12 \$5,000, if these people are not qualified to do their

13 job, get rid of them.

14 Get people in here that could do

15 the job. We don't need outside consultants paying

16 \$180,000 of taxpayers' money.

17 I also seen recently where our

18 firemen applications was taken out, Civil Service

19 tests, for 109 individuals, and there's -- the way I

20 understand it, there's a possibility of three positions

21 opening.

22 These people are going to risk

23 their lives for a starting salary of only \$30,000 and

24 dollars. This is not right.

25 This is not right, Mayor Doherty.

0031

01 These people should be compensated for risking their

02 lives for danger that they have to do go under. This

03 is not right.

04 I also seen other things happening

05 here in this city that has to be changed. The League

06 of Women Voters just recently had a conference where

07 over 40 individuals were there.

08 Former Mayor McNulty said this is

09 great, this is great that we have this many people

10 showing up. I wish there was 100 or so mover people

11 there.  
12 We need knowledgeable, intelligent  
13 people that are going to work for the people of the  
14 City of Scranton. But I wish all the people well that  
15 are making and attempt to make changes here. It's  
16 encouraging.  
17 I also want to say something about  
18 our neighborhood associations. I just attended one  
19 Tuesday evening in North Scranton. What was there was  
20 an update from PennDOT on Providence Square, the  
21 improvements that are being done and the Market Street  
22 bridge project.  
23 I think that more citizens should  
24 get involved with your neighborhood association. For  
25 an hour once a month, you get an education and a  
0032  
01 valuable experience here of what insight is going on in  
02 your city's government and city.  
03 So, I urge you, for your bang for  
04 your buck, it only costs three to five dollars for  
05 membership. That's what I'm speaking for North  
06 Scranton citizens.  
07 I don't know about the other  
08 associations, but I do know that February 12, we're  
09 supposed to have a meeting to get ideas, to get input.  
10 Please, I beg the citizens, try to make an effort to  
11 attend this. Thank you.  
12 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
13 Mr. McAndrew. Erik Johnson.  
14 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening,  
15 City Council and Lisa and staff.  
16 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.  
17 MR. JOHNSON: I want to give a  
18 brief history of Nay Aug Park and its struggles and  
19 successes. We're just very lucky to have Nay Aug Park  
20 today from what has happened to it in the past.  
21 Nay Aug means roaring creek or  
22 roaring brook, by Indian language. The land purchased  
23 for the park was in 1893.  
24 On October 23, 1894, Nay Aug Park  
25 was first opened. It was a pay and toll roadway to the  
0033  
01 park. It was opened to horse and buggy traffic. The  
02 toll roadway was called Elmhurst Toll Roadway.  
03 The museum opened May 30, 1908.  
04 The sloping sandy beaches to swim was open July 5,  
05 1909. It was called Lake Lincoln. The zoo opened in  
06 1917. On July 15, 1968, the swimming complex first

07 opened. It was called the Kennedy Lincoln Swim  
08 Complex, an improvement from Lake Lincoln.  
09 The cost of this swimming complex  
10 was a total of \$640,569, from which the City Council  
11 allotted \$655,500. There was \$6,931 in the black to  
12 spare, which is rare today to have money to spare for a  
13 project with a certain allowance.  
14 For years, Nay Aug Park had the  
15 only zoo for 100 miles with many sorts of animals. In  
16 1929, concrete replaced the natural dug-out pool bottom  
17 and a water recirculation was added in 1932.  
18 In its hey day before the sudden  
19 decay of the park in the 1980s and the 1990s, the Nay  
20 Aug Park was a center for local recreation and a  
21 recipient of local leisure for the residents of  
22 Scranton.  
23 The Throop memorial fountain was  
24 once a gift that no longer was located. It is the  
25 truth that if the past decaying of Nay Aug Park would  
0034  
01 have continued to the present day, it would be a dump  
02 or wasteland or even a hangout for thugs and  
03 criminals. But today it is one of the best recreation  
04 parks in Pennsylvania.  
05 In 1988, Steve Levy, chairman of  
06 Nay Aug operations, stated that more intensive  
07 rehabilitation was needed to restore Nay Aug Park to  
08 its past efficiency of greatness.  
09 On of November 4, 1990, the  
10 Scranton Now committee stated that at their present  
11 time that Nay Aug contained a small remaining bit of  
12 what once existed of its own amusement park of bygone  
13 days, let alone Luna Park and the Walsh Swim Complex is  
14 the only play time attraction.  
15 Also stated, the zoo is gone, so  
16 are the amusements that the Strove family once operated  
17 there with a charged fee.  
18 Times are changed drastically  
19 since 1894, when only Scranton residents were able to  
20 go swinging. Lake Lincoln's sandy beaches, today it is  
21 a first-rate amusement park from the promises of  
22 yesterday, which wasn't done, to the present day of  
23 vast improvements of a park that has it almost all.  
24 It must be remembered that outside  
25 the city residents swim and use the park, along with  
0035  
01 city residents, who are paying taxes for Nay Aug, and  
02 outside residents who do not pay any taxes for the

03 improvement of Nay Aug Park, which includes swimming  
04 and the waterslides, which city resident/ taxpayers pay  
05 for.

06 Yes, 2005 is in a different  
07 category of how the system of everyday life runs  
08 compared to the year of 1894 horse and buggy days.  
09 Thank you.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Erik.

11 That's a good history of Nay Aug. Many things I didn't  
12 know. That's it for the sign-in sheet. Are there any  
13 other speakers?

14 MR. DAVIS: My name Jim Davis,  
15 I'm from Scranton. I come here, first of all, in the  
16 beginning of our celebration of our freedoms, which  
17 comes about every year about this time, the second  
18 month of the year, and I come to report that the  
19 diversity in Scranton has not changed in the last three  
20 year.

21 I checked the results of  
22 employment, job, business ownership among minorities, I  
23 found them to be the exact same. Number of children  
24 graduating from school is another question that -- I'm  
25 waiting for the report card to come out to let me know  
0036

01 exactly where we are there. I will report that, also.  
02 We need help. We need help in  
03 that field of diversity. I don't think we really know  
04 what it is. I think we were just putting another name  
05 to the problem which has existed for so long, which is  
06 segregation.

07 Now we have a way of saying it can  
08 happen, it can happen and it can happen legally, and  
09 that's what we're doing.

10 I just heard a numerous amount of  
11 facts stated by this young man about Lake Lincoln.  
12 Well, since I was born in Scranton in 1936, I remember  
13 going to Nay Aug Park in 1954, when the whole idea  
14 desegregating the pool actually occurred.

15 We could no go into the pool until  
16 after 5 p.m. daily, and we could only swim from five  
17 until eight, at which time they recycled the water and  
18 put the pH -- or the chlorophyll content back to a  
19 certain level.

20 They would go through the levels,  
21 they would -- well, they said they were going to  
22 scientifically -- they were making the chlorophyll  
23 level of the pool a certain level at all times, so they  
24 did this at eight o'clock every evening, they had a

25 staff that did this.

0037

01 I could remember that. So, I've

02 seen Lake Lincoln change, and it had something to do

03 with the federal grant that was coming through at that

04 time to restore Lake Lincoln.

05 Mr. Morgan has been very

06 consistent. I really enjoy coming here, but I enjoy

07 better coming here than listening to it at home,

08 because there's nothing like a discussion that occurs

09 or the feeling that is absorbed by the people.

10 This is real Democracy. I have

11 never seen it expressed in other cities. I've heard it

12 being done, but I've never felt it. I've never really

13 been approached by it as much as I do here. Maybe it's

14 because I have so much invested in it. That could be

15 it.

16 My last point is, this is very

17 informative, but I'd like to find out, what are we

18 going to do about the painting of the public safety

19 streets -- or crossings -- our public safety crossings

20 on Washington Avenue from Vine Street all the way to

21 Gibson?

22 Are they going to be done before

23 we paint that green stripe down the middle? If we can

24 paint that green stripe down the middle of the street,

25 I'm quite sure we can go ahead and paint the safety

0038

01 lines that are necessary for the kids to cross.

02 This shouldn't be a problem with

03 this. I don't know what we're waiting for. We've had

04 excellent -- oh, the weather -- God has really given us

05 a beautiful winter, but I don't know if we're using it

06 properly.

07 And if we have any children that

08 can be lost or senior citizens because of the traffic

09 problems on this avenue, please, beware. It doesn't

10 feel good. There's something that's very unsafe about

11 watching an 80-year-old or a 70-year-old trying to

12 cross Washington Avenue after getting off a bus and not

13 being able to see around the corner.

14 So, thank you very much. I think

15 the white lines do stop people, I really do. I believe

16 that they were put there for a reason and the logic

17 behind it is excellent.

18 As a driver myself, I know that I

19 slow down, I know that I look twice when I see those

20 lines in front of my car. So, I know there's a reason

21 for it. So, let's keep it up and keep up the good  
22 work. Thank you.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

24 Mr. Davis. And you bring up excellent points regarding  
25 the crossing lines at the intersection, Jim. The green  
0039

01 line that you're talking about is absolutely not more  
02 important than the crossing lines at intersections, and  
03 let's hope that this coming spring we can see a lot  
04 more lines repainted.

05 MR. DAVIS: Before the green line.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Even before the  
07 green line.

08 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

09 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus,

10 Scranton. This morning's newspaper brings me here  
11 tonight. I was reading the article in the paper about  
12 Chief Elliott and Director Evans, and I more or less  
13 wanted to clarify a couple of things.

14 Since Mrs. Evans has been a  
15 Councilwoman, all the people in the City of Scranton  
16 realize that she's for the people, and if they have  
17 some problems, like myself, or anyone else, they tend  
18 to call her, because nothing has been getting done in  
19 certain departments.

20 Like, if you call certain  
21 departments, you can call all you want. Like, I've  
22 called Chief of Police Elliot about the trucks in my  
23 neighborhood, and nothing has been done about that for  
24 ten years, and nobody has gotten back to me on that,  
25 and it was a law that was passed. I'd like that  
0040

01 followed up on, but that's not what I'm here about.

02 My point is, certain people call  
03 departments and nothing is getting done. Maybe they're  
04 too busy, I can understand that, as well. So, then  
05 they tend to call you Council people. I'm sure all of  
06 you get calls.

07 Well, I know Mrs. Evans goes out  
08 every night of the week for a meeting, to go to a  
09 neighbor's to check on something. She's never home. I  
10 couldn't tell you the last time I saw a Councilperson  
11 that does this for the people.

12 And what I see is what appears to  
13 be the Scranton Times, now that an election year is  
14 coming, is a chance to smear Mrs. Evans and try to make  
15 her look bad in the light, for people to possibly  
16 think, Oh, maybe she doesn't know what she's doing and

17 she's doing things without checking. That's not true.  
18 All Mrs. Evans did was try to help  
19 a person on a certain circumstance with the cars and  
20 called an inspection person about the cars, which was  
21 her job, which is what she did, went out of her way to  
22 try to help someone, and it was twisted completely by  
23 the newspaper or whatever.  
24 I would just like the people to  
25 know that all of you are here to help the people, and  
0041  
01 that's what you try to do. Nothing is being done to do  
02 anything wrong or go against the city or go against the  
03 mayor. It's just that you're doing a good job and  
04 you're trying to help the people, that's why you were  
05 elected.  
06 So, I would hope that the people  
07 when they read the newspaper, that they don't believe  
08 everything that they read and they know that you're  
09 doing the best you can.  
10 And you have regular jobs that you  
11 go to every day and you work hard and you want to come  
12 home and you want to, you know, relax, like I do.  
13 I don't have to go out like you  
14 do. I don't know how you can do it, but I give you  
15 credit. And I'm sure the people appreciate,  
16 Mrs. Evans, every night of the week that you're out,  
17 every Saturday, every Sunday, even your mother.  
18 I mean, you're only one person,  
19 but you're spread thin, and I wish I could help you and  
20 I wish other people could help you.  
21 Could I just ask one more thing?  
22 I don't know who to call, because, again, this is a  
23 department that was called and nothing has been done  
24 for years.  
25 920 Moltke Avenue, it's my  
0042  
01 sister's house, naturally she wouldn't come, but  
02 there's, like, ice, not just a runoff, it's, like,  
03 unbelievable. It's, like, you'd have to go there to  
04 see it. It's like Something Should Be Done.  
05 This should be on television every  
06 week. It's like crevices, mountains of ice. It's  
07 never gone and there's never been anything done about  
08 it. There's even a policeman that lives across the  
09 street, and he can't get anything done. So, what does  
10 that tell you?  
11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Fay, I've been  
12 there on more than one occasion. There was a woman

13 here last week speaking about that. The DPW and the  
14 city engineer are very aware of it. I know --

15 MS. FRANUS: What is being done?

16 I mean, I can't believe something wouldn't be done,  
17 Billy.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: They went there

19 at one particular time, and I happened to be there, and  
20 they had backhoes and dump trucks and -- and, you know,  
21 it is, it's a terrible situation. There's thick ice  
22 and --

23 MS. FRANUS: Awful.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: And they dug it

25 up, and it's happened again, and I don't know if  
0043

01 they've gone up there, but I'm not quite sure what  
02 they're doing to remedy that problem.

03 MS. FRANUS: They're doing  
04 nothing.

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, I don't  
06 know.

07 MS. FRANUS: I can guarantee you  
08 that.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Let's hope not.

10 Let's hope they're trying to do something. I will ask  
11 Mr. Parker if there's any ongoing investigation, what  
12 they're trying to do to remedy it. It's a severe  
13 problem.

14 MS. FRANUS: Very serious.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: I believe it and  
16 I've seen it, but --

17 MS. FRANUS: Could something  
18 please be done about this? I mean, you can't tell me  
19 something is being done, because I'm there all the  
20 time, and nothing is being done.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: I've made them  
22 aware of it. They went up and temporarily fixed it,  
23 and it happens again.

24 MS. FRANUS: That's not good  
25 enough, Billy.

0044

01 MR. COURTRIGHT: I understand  
02 that.

03 MS. FRANUS: What are our tax  
04 dollars for?

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: We're asking them  
06 to try to find a permanent fix, and, you know, I'll  
07 speak with them and see if they are doing something. I  
08 don't want to say they are or they aren't, because I

09 don't know for sure, you know?  
10 MS. FRANUS: No, they're not. How  
11 could they possibly be if nothing has changed for  
12 years?  
13 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't know. I  
14 do know they're aware of it, though. I made them aware  
15 of it.  
16 MS. FRANUS; That doesn't make any  
17 difference. Being aware and doing something are two  
18 different things.  
19 MR. COURTRIGHT: I can only ask.  
20 MS. FRANUS: Same thing with the  
21 trucks in my neighborhood, nothing is being done.  
22 MR. DIBILEO: Fay, Mr. Courtright  
23 is going to try to help you.  
24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll do my best  
25 to, you know --  
0045  
01 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.  
02 MS. FRANUS: Okay. Thanks.  
03 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.  
04 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,  
05 Charlie Newcomb. Before I get into what I wanted to  
06 say, Mr. Morgan wanted me to remind everybody about the  
07 meeting this Saturday at the Hill Neighborhood  
08 Association at 419 Prescott Avenue from ten to two.  
09 Did we, for the sixth week now I'm  
10 asking, did we get a copy of the electric bill for Nay  
11 Aug Park yet?  
12 MR. DIBILEO: No.  
13 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: I think maybe  
14 somebody should step up to the plate. We should start  
15 maybe contacting the Attorney General or something  
16 here, because this is nonsense.  
17 I asked for a piece of paper that  
18 comes from upstairs, and I can't get any answers.  
19 That's why I come here to ask. Six weeks is absurd.  
20 MR. SAUNDERS: Charlie, did you go  
21 to the --  
22 MR. NEWCOMB, JR: I send a letter,  
23 but I don't get any responses.  
24 MR. SAUNDERS; -- to Rob Farrell?  
25 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: They go on deaf  
0046  
01 ears. They don't like me, so I thought maybe I could  
02 go through you. So, it's pretty disgusting, I guess,  
03 to say the least, but six weeks is a little absurd,  
04 but it's not the first time or the last.

05 Also, was a letter sent to the  
06 mayor regarding the QRS system that I brought up a  
07 couple of weeks ago?  
08 MR. COURTRIGHT: Charlie, when  
09 it's my turn to speak later on that, I'm going to speak  
10 on something. I think I found a little bit different  
11 avenue that I'm going to try to explore, and I'll  
12 explain it the best I could tonight.  
13 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Okay. I don't  
14 buy the newspaper, but somebody cut this out for me,  
15 and I'd like to touch on it, also. Blight at core of  
16 fight.  
17 And it's an article that was  
18 slipped under the door for the newspaper, which other  
19 things have been given to people of the Scranton Times  
20 and don't get done, because I guess they're not  
21 newsworthy, but pieces from the administration are,  
22 which is fine.  
23 But I think Fay summed it up a  
24 lot, and there's just one thing that stands out in this  
25 article, if you read it, and it's actually a comment  
0047  
01 that you said, Mrs. Evans, and it is, Hopefully the  
02 chief is more concerned with cleaning up blight than he  
03 is with nitpicking on a process.  
04 And I have to agree with you  
05 there. It seems to be when you look at this process  
06 that he, nor the mayor, is concerned about blight, but  
07 only trying to damage, I guess we'll use the term, your  
08 reputation.  
09 And why are they trying to damage  
10 your reputation? Maybe because, in my personal  
11 opinion, you do a lot for the residents of this city  
12 and they're scared.  
13 Election time is coming up, as we  
14 saw last week, people have to come out of the woodwork  
15 to say things, and people that come to the podium get  
16 intimidated because they try to shut us up because the  
17 truth hurts and it hurts a lot. And when people do  
18 their homework, like you do, it bothers them.  
19 So, I hope this is just more fuel  
20 to add to your fire to fight for the residents of the  
21 city, because I know when people like Mrs. William  
22 comes to this podium, like she does all the time, like  
23 she did last week and criticizes me, it just gives me  
24 more energy to come up to this podium with facts and  
25 state to the people so they could be educated of what  
0048

01 actually goes on in this city.  
02 So, I urge you to continue the  
03 fight and fight harder when garbage like this appears  
04 in the newspaper.  
05 While on the topic, I don't think  
06 it's fair for citizens, whether it's myself or anybody  
07 else, to get criticized at this podium by other  
08 people.  
09 Unfortunately when you took  
10 office, you took on the task of being criticized by  
11 people, because that unfortunately comes with the job.  
12 I don't get paid by the city, so I  
13 don't think it's fair for an individual to come up to  
14 this podium and criticize me, but on the other hand,  
15 I'm glad that people like that. I bother them.  
16 It irritates me, I guess, to say  
17 the least, because I don't want to bash anybody, but it  
18 irritates me more to know that the people that come up  
19 to this podium are getting paid by me, so in one hand  
20 I'm paying their salary to come up to this podium,  
21 anybody that pays the school district tax puts food on  
22 their table, and to criticize people for what they say  
23 here.  
24 And when I turn on the TV, and I  
25 see a program that's on the television that I don't  
0049  
01 like, I flip the channel.  
02 When I turn on Channel 61, and I  
03 see all these scripted conversations with the mayor, I  
04 don't listen to them, I flip the channel.  
05 So, I'm upset that Mrs. Williams  
06 isn't here, because I'd like to see some positive  
07 things happen at this meeting, but a suggestion to her  
08 is, don't watch something that you don't like. Why do  
09 you criticize yourself if you don't like it? I don't  
10 watch what I don't like. But, whatever.  
11 And finally before I step down, a  
12 couple weeks ago at a caucus meeting it was brought up  
13 about a situation on the corner of Main Avenue,  
14 South Main Avenue and Dartmouth Street regarding a  
15 parking situation that's happening on the corner and  
16 also a hair salon that is there, and that there was no  
17 permits for anything there. Did we find out anything  
18 on that? Did we find out if permits was done for that  
19 or if an investigation happened or what happened?  
20 MR. DIBILEO: We've disgusted that  
21 situation a little bit. I know it's complicated and  
22 really out of our hands. Mr. Saunders is dealing with

23 the zoning board, but we're trying to get information.  
24 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: I guess a  
25 question would be, could we find out if they got the  
0050  
01 right permits for the work that got done?  
02 MR. SAUNDERS: I believe they were  
03 cited for -- or about to be cited for some of the work  
04 that was done without permits.  
05 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Okay. All  
06 right. Thank you.  
07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.  
08 MR. SLEDZINSKI: To the team, good  
09 luck Saturday. Thank you.  
10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Chris.  
11 MR. LYMAN: Raymond Lyman. I just  
12 have a few questions. Gary, I see that we have a Cosmo  
13 Drive, you know, Street, and we have a Munchak Street,  
14 Drive, you know, at the high school.  
15 Now, I'm asking if we have one for  
16 Spindler. He's a football player and he was better  
17 than Munchak and he played better than Munchak and he  
18 was from Scranton, and he should be recognized.  
19 MR. DIBILEO: He's very deserving,  
20 Ray, and possibly some day you will see him honored  
21 over at West Scranton.  
22 MR. LYMAN: But I'm asking, I'm  
23 asking the Council, and he should be given. He's been  
24 retired for years and years and years, and Munchak is  
25 just retired just recently, and they just gave it to  
0051  
01 him. And I don't think that's right.  
02 MR. DIBILEO: I think maybe one  
03 big reason why Mr. Munchak was honored is because he's  
04 in the Pro Football Hall Of Fame, Ray, and, you know,  
05 very well deserved.  
06 MR. LYMAN: I know, but Spindler,  
07 he played football, too, and he was from this area,  
08 too, and he should be given a street. You could rename  
09 Lackawanna Avenue Spindler's Avenue. You can dedicate  
10 it and say Raymond Lyman named it after him.  
11 MR. DIBILEO: I wouldn't be  
12 surprised if something like that happens over at West  
13 Scranton High School someday, Ray.  
14 MR. LYMAN: Well, you should. I  
15 mean, that should be named after the guy. I mean, my  
16 God, he played football, it's an honored, and it should  
17 be named after this guy. You're robbing the guy.  
18 You gave it to Cosmo and you gave

19 it to Munchak. My God, if I was playing football, how  
20 would you feel if I was a professional football player  
21 and I was robbed like that and I was in the NFL and I  
22 was, let's say, if I was in the Eagles, won the  
23 Super Bowl and that?  
24 MR. DIBILEO: If you were on the  
25 Eagles, we would definitely name a street after you,  
0052  
01 Ray.  
02 MR. LYMAN: And I won the Super  
03 Bowl, I wouldn't be here in Scranton, that's one thing.  
04 MR. DIBILEO: I'd do that  
05 tomorrow.  
06 MR. LYMAN: Now, I have another  
07 thing. Now, I don't want you hollering or stomping on  
08 your thing or nothing, but a few years ago the former  
09 City Council took our right to, you know, they  
10 wouldn't let us speak, and Bolus went to court to  
11 Judge Minora, and we -- the Sunshine Act and we got it  
12 back.  
13 Now Dickson City is doing the same  
14 thing, not Dickson City, Duryea, and now, like I said,  
15 now they have to do the same thing.  
16 Now, I said, Now they're feeling  
17 what we're feeling what the former City Council were  
18 doing.  
19 Now, I said, now, I said to them,  
20 Now you know how stooges are, the former City Council  
21 was. They took these people's right to vote. They had  
22 a police officer they eliminated and they hired five  
23 garbage workers and they deputized them, okay?  
24 That's like if Mayor Doherty  
25 eliminated five police officers in Scranton and hired  
0053  
01 five DPW workers and hired them as cops. And let's say  
02 three Council members okayed this and two went against  
03 it.  
04 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Ray.  
05 Appreciate that.  
06 MR. LYMAN: That would be -- that  
07 would be --  
08 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.  
09 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.  
10 My name is Nancy Krake.  
11 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.  
12 MS. KRAKE: I would also like to  
13 say that I was disappointed in the article that  
14 appeared in this morning's paper concerning

15 Councilwoman Evans.

16 I know that her intent was simply

17 to help the citizens of Scranton, and I just didn't

18 think that article was anywhere near factual.

19 And I do have another topic to

20 speak about this evening. It was interesting to read

21 an article in the paper, another article this morning,

22 about the settlement the state insurance commissioner

23 brokered with the Pennsylvania Blue Cross

24 Organizations.

25 The Blues agreed to pay \$1 billion

0054

01 over the next six years to Community Health Programs.

02 While the payments are admirable in helping these

03 worthy causes, the reasons that precipitated these

04 agreements are much less than admirable.

05 The Blue Cross Organizations were

06 brought to task because of alleged overcharging in

07 excesses in the reserve funds.

08 The reason I'm speaking on this

09 issue tonight is because of the correlation this issue

10 has with the City of Scranton. Years ago, and because

11 of the first recovery plan, the unions in the city

12 created a health care cost containment committee whose

13 purpose was to join together and develop ways to get

14 the city's health care expenses under control.

15 Once the committee was educated on

16 health care issues, the unions discovered a possibility

17 of the same organization overcharging the taxpayers of

18 the city on premiums and contributions of the

19 employees.

20 After further investigation by the

21 unions, we discovered a possible deliberate attempt to

22 dump Worker's Comp. costs into our health care system.

23 The unions did not get much cooperation from the

24 city-side of the committee, and subsequently was forced

25 to file for arbitration to in fact investigate the

0055

01 anomalies taking place.

02 The unions were successful after a

03 year and an audit company was hired to audit the health

04 care records. A cursory audit was performed, and its

05 findings indicated that possibly the employees and the

06 taxpayers were overpaying the premiums by approximately

07 30 percent.

08 This calculation in real dollars

09 could have been up to \$5 million of overpayments in the

10 years in question. After further research by the

11 union's counsel, it was decided to do a full-blown  
12 audit of Blue Cross records, and it needed to be done  
13 quickly.

14 Every day that passed was one less  
15 day of pavements that could have been recooped because  
16 of the alleged overcharges.

17 Soon after the investigation was  
18 started, this current administration took office. One  
19 of the first decisions they made was to fire the health  
20 care consultant and the auditing firm.

21 The delay caused the statute of  
22 limitations to run out and in effect caused the city to  
23 be unable to recoop the overcharges that the city  
24 desperately needed. The unions took the city to  
25 arbitration again, and predictably won the case for the  
0056

01 second time.

02 It was also interesting to read  
03 the article in the paper last week concerning the  
04 above-mentioned arbitration. The city once again and  
05 predictably had the audacity to call the arbitration  
06 loss and the subsequent loss of possibly \$5 million of  
07 employees' money, and more importantly, taxpayers'  
08 money a win.

09 My question is, A win for whom?

10 Badly needed tax dollars were lost. Not exactly a win  
11 for the citizens or the employees.

12 Blue Cross was let off the hook  
13 statewide, and the people who were overcharged were not  
14 given back their money, as it was funnelled into a  
15 program.

16 Some of the questions I have are  
17 these, How did they get away with the overcharging?  
18 Why were they left off the hook? And basically, How  
19 could this happen?

20 In my opinion, possibly take a  
21 look at the campaign contribution list here in the city  
22 and statewide and see if the Blue Cross' packed funds  
23 donated any money to various elected officials here in  
24 this city and statewide.

25 I wonder if that had anything to  
0057

01 do with this. The old, Pay To Play System. So much  
02 for restoring my pride. Thank you.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

04 Mrs. Krake. Are there any other speakers. If not --

05 MR. WALSH: 5-A, Motions.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. McTiernan,

07 do you have any motions or comments at this time?

08 MR. McTIERNAN: Just a comment on

09 the support group for the Armed Forces return from Iraq

10 that Mr. Saunders is continuing to work, and as we

11 spoke in Council, that Council will continue to try to

12 welcome them back when they do return. That's all,

13 Mr. President.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much,

15 Mr. McTiernan. That's something that we have to follow

16 up on for sure. Mrs. Evans, any motions or comments?

17 MS. EVANS: Yes. First I'd like

18 to ask for your prayers for a very humble modest man of

19 God, Bishop Doherty, who was hospitalized last week.

20 Jay, have we received a response

21 from the mayor regarding the use of the South Side

22 Complex in April 2005?

23 MR. SAUNDERS: No, not as of yet.

24 MS. EVANS: I would ask you,

25 please, send another letter certified return receipt.

0058

01 Also, please compile all the letters sent by myself or

02 Council to the mayor regarding the South Side Complex

03 since we took office in January 2004.

04 MR. WALSH: Mrs. Evans, perhaps

05 that should be done by motion, because you want to send

06 the letter.

07 MS. EVANS: Oh, another letter

08 fine.

09 MR. WALSH: By certified mail, but

10 also which would create an expense, so perhaps it

11 should be done by motion.

12 MS. EVANS: If you would like I,

13 can pay the expense and I can delete that from my

14 motion and just make the motion to send the letter.

15 MR. WALSH: That's fine.

16 MS. EVANS: Okay. I move to send

17 yet another letter to Mayor Doherty inquiry as to his

18 intended use by city leagues of the South Side Complex

19 in April 2005.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

21 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on

22 the floor and a second. On the question? All those

23 in favor, signify by saying aye.

24 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

0059

01 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

02 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
04 ayes have it and so moved.  
05 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I would  
06 also like to make a motion that City Council honor the  
07 West Scranton High School Wrestling team by means of an  
08 official proclamation.  
09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.  
10 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on  
11 the floor and a second. On the question?  
12 MR. DIBILEO: They're very  
13 well-deserving. It's something we talked about in  
14 caucus, and I think after March the 10th,  
15 Mr. Saunders --  
16 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah. I discussed  
17 it with -- their coach is Rob Butka, and he said he is  
18 honored by the request and doesn't want to take their  
19 minds off wrestling, so he said after March the 10th,  
20 he would love to come in.  
21 MS. EVANS: And we wish them the  
22 best of luck at States in Hershey.  
23 MR. DIBILEO: All those in favor,  
24 signify by saying aye.  
25 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.  
0060  
01 MS. EVANS: Aye.  
02 MR. POCIUS: Aye.  
03 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.  
04 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
05 ayes have it and so moved.  
06 MS. EVANS: I would also wish to  
07 make a motion to honor the Cub Scout pack of  
08 Holy Rosary Church in order to officially commemorate  
09 the 75th Anniversary of cub scouting by means of a  
10 proclamation.  
11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Seconded.  
12 MR. DIBILEO: We have another  
13 motion on the floor and a second. On the question?  
14 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
15 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.  
16 MS. EVANS: Aye.  
17 MR. POCIUS: Aye.  
18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.  
19 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
20 ayes have it and so moved.  
21 MS. EVANS: Also, I do have  
22 requests that I received this week that I will hand  
23 over to Kay.  
24 A handicapped accessible curb on

25 Harrison Avenue; a copy of the ADP contract; copies of  
0061

01 all the letters involving the South Side Complex, which  
02 we just went over; a large pothole at the intersection  
03 of Grandview and North Washington.

04 I've added to that list some of  
05 the complaints that I've heard this evening, the  
06 fenced-in fire hydrant in front of Prep; the painting  
07 of crosswalks at intersections, particularly in the  
08 area of schools and high rises prior to March 17, and  
09 an update on the situation for 920 Moltke Avenue.

10 And I'll just end by saying in  
11 response to what some of the speakers said this  
12 evening, thank you very much, and you can rest assured  
13 that I'm never deterred. I'm the eternal optimist.

14 And if anything, I redouble my  
15 efforts every time I face an obstacle, because I'm just  
16 going to keep pushing and pushing and pushing for the  
17 people of this city, pushing to help make their lives  
18 better.

19 And I won't stop that pushing for  
20 as long as I sit here and I won't stop, regardless of,  
21 as I said, any obstacles that might be thrown in my  
22 path.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much,  
24 Mrs. Evans. We're happy to hear that. Mr. Pocius, any  
25 motion or comments?

0062

01 MR. POCIUS: Just a brief comment,  
02 Mr. President, and fellow Council people. I've never  
03 believed, I've heard some comments, like, the freedom  
04 of speech at the podium, and we've always been a  
05 proponent of that.

06 The five-minute rule, I think that  
07 five minutes is a more than adequate time to get one's  
08 thoughts across at a meeting.

09 I was giving a talk today to a  
10 group of people in a leadership course, and after five  
11 minutes, I kind of ran out of what to say, not really,  
12 but it is a long period of time.

13 I don't believe anyone should ever  
14 been intimidated when they step to that podium, no  
15 matter what they have to say.

16 We sit up here as a body and as  
17 individuals and listen openly to what everyone has to  
18 say, and that's their right under the First Amendment.

19 As Mr. Walsh had told us, they  
20 have the freedom of speech no matter what they -- as

21 long as it pertains, like Council President DiBileo  
22 says, it pertains to city business matters and doesn't  
23 stray into personal attacks or, you know, criticism or  
24 actually pure political speeches or whatever.

25 But I don't think anyone should  
0063

01 ever feel that their thoughts aren't listened to up  
02 here. Again, like people say, there's always room for  
03 disagreement, and I don't think you're ever going to  
04 get everybody to agree on everything that's said at any  
05 one time, but as long as the discussion is kept open  
06 and people continue to talk and discuss matters, then  
07 there can always maybe be a compromises and some kind  
08 of resolution, and even a most severe case where it  
09 seems like there' no resolution.

10 So, I've been quiet the last  
11 couple of weeks, so I just figured I'd say a little  
12 something tonight. That's all. About a minute and 30  
13 seconds maybe, Jay? Tops. Thank you, Mr. President.  
14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. And I  
15 think what the one speaker might have been referring to  
16 as far as his or any speaker's speech being taken away,  
17 is the fact that there was going to be -- a motion was  
18 made at one point where any talks from the podium would  
19 be limited to only agenda items only, and I think that  
20 was the --

21 MR. POCIUS: I think you're right.  
22 I wasn't sitting on Council at that time, but I do  
23 remember that, yeah. I think that's when I kind of  
24 left the last time, and it was to agenda items only,  
25 but I think it may say that in the Home Rule Charter or  
0064

01 the Council's rules, but I think that's a direct  
02 violation of the State Sunshine Law, which kind of says  
03 any matters pertaining to -- any matters of pertinency  
04 to the city government or a municipal's government.  
05 So, it was rightfully won.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah. And Judge  
07 Mazzone found it that way and declared that. And  
08 people have a right to talk about whatever they'd like  
09 to, as long as it's related to city business.

10 MS. EVANS: If I may. I know that  
11 Mr. Courtright has some very important and exciting  
12 news about QRS, but there were just two quick items  
13 that I forgot. I'm very sorry.  
14 I believe that Mr. Saunders told  
15 me this week, if citizens are still experiencing  
16 problems with leaves at their curbs, they're to call

17 the DPW directly, and apparently the DPW will come out  
18 and collect those leaves.

19 But, Mr. Saunders, I do have some  
20 areas that I'd like to suggest quickly. I'm focusing  
21 on East Mountain. The top of East Locust Street,  
22 Cherry Street, and the 1400 of Brook Street, please.

23 Also, I had mentioned last week  
24 about a corner abandoned lot, apparently city owned,  
25 corner of Lafayette Street and Bromley.

0065

01 And what has happened since I last  
02 mentioned it, is that a 77-year-old woman fell there on  
03 Wednesday. She doesn't drive, she has to walk to and  
04 from, you know, grocery stores, doctor's appointments,  
05 etc., and due to the deteriorating condition of the  
06 area because neighbors are parking vehicles on that  
07 abandoned lot now, unfortunately, she tripped and she  
08 was hurt, and I'm just going to reemphasize to the  
09 proper department if they could please make an attempt  
10 to speak with the neighbors and, you know, put an end  
11 to that type of parking there, and maybe, you know, get  
12 to the bottom of this and let's do something with that  
13 lot before someone else is hurt again. That's all.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. DIBILEO: You're welcome.

16 Thank you. Mr. Courtright, any motions or comments?

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes,

18 Mr. President. Jay, if you could get this information  
19 for me, I'd appreciate it.

20 A while back when we had that hole  
21 open up on Pittston Avenue, I believe the  
22 administration appropriated maybe \$400, \$480,000 to  
23 repair that hole. I don't know if the city has to  
24 match any of that funds, if we have to use some of the  
25 money, all of it, or maybe even none of it, I'm not

0066

01 aware of that, but I do know that some members on this  
02 Council had an interest if we do not need to use all of  
03 that money, that maybe we, I know one of the places we  
04 want to see that money was the downtown senior citizen  
05 center. I can't recall, but I think there's two  
06 other -- does anybody remember?

07 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah. I believe  
08 that the North Scranton Neighborhood Association has a  
09 project that we'd like to see if we can lend some help  
10 to regarding some of those funds, also.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: But whatever. If  
12 we don't have to kick in any money for that or if

13 there's any of that \$400,000, could we find out where  
14 we stand with that, and if we do have money remaining,  
15 what is going to be done with it?  
16 MR. SAUNDERS: I'll check on that  
17 tomorrow.  
18 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right.  
19 Thanks. Mr. Newcomb brought up about quick response.  
20 We had, what I thought, was a very good meeting here a  
21 while back, Mr. Hayes, Chief Davis, some members of the  
22 fire department, myself, and we thought we had  
23 something that was going to go.  
24 And when Mr. Hayes took it down to  
25 the administration, they didn't want to do it until the  
0067  
01 fire department had a contract.  
02 But the concern didn't go away,  
03 and I kept getting calls on it, so I just -- I was  
04 trying to explore if there was another avenue that we  
05 could take to try to get something done here.  
06 And Mr. Dubas from the comm  
07 center, I asked him for a series of reports, and he did  
08 a great job sending them back in a very quick fashion  
09 and really nice reports, and I have a copy for all the  
10 council members, and I left them home, I'll put them in  
11 your boxes, but a lot of reports took me a little while  
12 to understand, I got some help from some other people  
13 on some other items, but there was one report in  
14 particular that shows the national average, I believe,  
15 and if I'm wrong, I'm sure I'll get called up by  
16 somebody about this, but I believe the national average  
17 to response time is 8 minutes or under, and so that was  
18 one of the things -- one of the reports I asked him.  
19 And in there, I believe I left my  
20 copy home, also, I believe there was 85 percent of the  
21 time, the call was responded to in eight minutes or  
22 under, and which I thought was pretty good.  
23 To find out that the national  
24 average they like to see is 90 percent or better. So,  
25 I guess we can do a little bit of improvement in  
0068  
01 there.  
02 What I'm going ask Mr. Dubas is to  
03 send me is another report that would show maybe for the  
04 month of January, being that we're in February, a daily  
05 report.  
06 Because what happens is when we  
07 get these reports, say, for instance, there's a call  
08 right here in City Hall and the ambulance is only a

09 block away, then the response time would be a minute.  
10 So, if we have a couple of those  
11 that are a minute, and then we have a couple that are  
12 15 minutes, when they group it all together, that might  
13 be making up our 85 percent.  
14 And I'm not saying that's the  
15 case, but I'd just like to know for sure, so I will ask  
16 for another report giving me a breakdown of day to day  
17 and the response of each call.  
18 Now, in the process of looking up  
19 all this information, I haven't been able to find where  
20 they do this in Pennsylvania, because I looked in  
21 Philadelphia, and I believe Philadelphia has their EMS  
22 right in their fire department, and I think maybe  
23 Wilkes-Barre is the same thing, but I'm being told by  
24 this individual that's looking into this for me that  
25 outside of the State of Pennsylvania, what some places  
0069  
01 do is that if there's not an ambulance, and, you know,  
02 we have this GPS system and the Comm Center knows where  
03 all the ambulances are, if there's not an ambulance in  
04 close proximity, that they could dispatch the fire  
05 department, and when the fire department would get  
06 there, they would take care of the situation until a  
07 time the EMS got there.  
08 But the thing that I found  
09 interesting, and I'm not 100 percent sure, but people  
10 were really waiting for me to do something, so I'm  
11 bringing it up today, I'm not 100 percent sure we can  
12 do this in Pennsylvania, and I'm looking into this  
13 further, but if we do that, if we send the fire  
14 department until a time the ambulance gets there, it is  
15 very possible we could be reimbursed for the cost of  
16 the fire department going there. So, actually it would  
17 cost this city nothing.  
18 My understanding is that in the  
19 past that maybe that couldn't be done because that  
20 might be, I don't know, maybe, like, considered  
21 something like a kickback, but I think things have  
22 changed and I'm still looking into it.  
23 So that I don't have to make a  
24 motion, I'm going to -- I'll just ask Jay or Kay maybe  
25 tomorrow, I'll send a letter on my own, so I don't have  
0070  
01 to make a motion to do it, to ask the administration if  
02 they would be acceptable to something like that, if  
03 that in fact could happen and maybe we could do it that  
04 way.

05 So, maybe tomorrow, Jay or Kay, I  
06 will give you and I can just send a letter down and see  
07 if the mayor is interested in doing something like  
08 that.  
09 I spoke with not as many  
10 firefighters as I would like to have, because I didn't  
11 get the information until today, they seem to think  
12 it's a good idea.  
13 I haven't had a chance to talk  
14 with Director Hayes or with Chief Davis, but they were  
15 for the last idea, so hopefully they'll be for this  
16 one. Sorry I took so long on that particular thing  
17 there.  
18 Two other items, and I'll be  
19 done. I was in the post office and I got  
20 semi-attacked, and then I was in Price Chopper, and  
21 people are coming up to me yelling at me because their  
22 taxes went up 48 percent at this City Council, you  
23 know, and I tried to explain, but they weren't  
24 listening too well.  
25 This City Council has nothing to  
0071  
01 do with the 48 percent tax increase. That was the  
02 county. So, I'm sure we could be blamed for a lot of  
03 things, but we certainly did not raise your taxes 48  
04 percent. That was the county. So, give me a little  
05 break there next time.  
06 Now, NCC is sending out some  
07 notices, I guess, on some delinquent payments. And I  
08 spoke with the treasurer's office. And I've got to  
09 tell you, that's the most cooperative office in the  
10 city. They never ever not give me a nice smile and all  
11 the information I need.  
12 And more of the concerns were of  
13 the people that are calling me recently, I have three  
14 calls only, but still three, wasn't the fact as much as  
15 that somebody telling them they're delinquent, even  
16 though they believe they weren't, was they were very  
17 concerned that their credit rate was going to be ruined  
18 by it.  
19 So, I spoke to the treasurer's  
20 office, they said that when you get that notice, you  
21 don't need to be that concerned, because they give you  
22 approximately 60 days leeway before that would have any  
23 effect on your credit.  
24 And the other thing that was told  
25 to me, I spoke to Mrs. Krake and I also spoke to Ms.  
0072

01 Ruane, who runs the department, when you have a  
02 problem, your best line of defense, first, should be to  
03 call the treasurer's office or perhaps go in and see  
04 them, because they have the power to resolve the  
05 problem.

06 If you go to NCC, they're only the  
07 collection agency. So, if in fact you have a double  
08 home, say, for instance, and there was nobody living on  
09 the one side for two or three years and you're still  
10 getting a garbage bill for it, you can't go to NCC and  
11 ask them to excuse you from that, you need the  
12 treasurer's office to do that.

13 So, that's probably will be your  
14 best bet if you have any problem, to go and see the  
15 treasurer's office or call them, and they're always  
16 very helpful. And I believe that's all I have. Thank  
17 you.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
19 Mr. Courtright. And your comments on the quick  
20 response system are very encouraging. It seems as  
21 though the problem calls would be those few calls where  
22 it's an extended period of time until an ambulance  
23 could arrive at the scene.

24 I'm sure that's where you're going  
25 to find most of the problem situations occurring. And  
0073

01 if this can be implemented, I think it would be a  
02 tremendous service to the people of Scranton if we can  
03 get an ambulance there quicker or the fire department  
04 quicker when an ambulance isn't in the immediate  
05 vicinity. So, thank you and continue looking into  
06 that.

07 MR. COURTRIGHT: You're welcome.

08 MR. DIBILEO: I just have two  
09 quick comments. I know we talked about the speakers at  
10 the podium a couple of times this evening, the length  
11 of time they talk and what they might speak of, but I'm  
12 not looking to have our meetings extended any longer  
13 than they already are, but there's one area that I'd  
14 like to see if we can get more input from the podium  
15 on, and that would be input from our neighborhood  
16 groups.

17 I'm wondering if we can reach out  
18 to -- extend an invitation to our neighborhood groups  
19 and ask them if they're interested in sending a  
20 representative from the neighborhood groups to our  
21 meetings periodically whenever they'd like and actually  
22 see if we can get some feedback on anything they would

23 like to speak about.

24 They might like to make an

25 announcement here, they might like to talk about some  
0074

01 neighborhood concerns, they might want to talk about

02 some of the problems that they're experiencing in the

03 neighborhood, but that's just one area that I think

04 that additional input, if they'd like to provide it, is

05 more than willing to be listened to.

06 So, if, Jay, we can send an

07 invitation out to each of the neighborhood groups and

08 just invite them to send a representative periodically

09 and talk about anything that they'd like to, we'd be

10 more than willing to listen. Thank you.

11 MR. SAUNDERS: I'll send that out.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. The

13 other thing that I wanted to mention is that I got a

14 few calls this week from parents of the Sloan Baseball

15 Association group concerned about the fact that the

16 Scranton School District will be possibly buying the

17 fields at Sloan Little League and Teener League.

18 So, I called the School District

19 Superintendent Mike Sheridan this week, and I spoke to

20 him, and he explained to me that there's absolutely no

21 reason for people from Sloan Baseball Association to be

22 concerned at all about the children of that

23 neighborhood using those fields.

24 It will absolutely not affect them

25 in any way. It's simply going to be a win/win

0075

01 situation. The school district having ownership down

02 there would be willing to do a lot of maintenance

03 that's required.

04 And actually Sloan Baseball is

05 just not able to afford to put the maintenance into the

06 field that's required, so the school district is going

07 to be willing to do that. People are going to have

08 access to those fields every bit as much as they do

09 now, and also Superintendent Sheridan told me that they

10 actually will be attending the Sloan Baseball

11 Association meeting this Sunday evening at the

12 St. Ann's Cafeteria.

13 So, I'm sure they're going to work

14 everything out between them, and I just wanted to

15 mention that I had that discussion with him this week.

16 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, I

17 spoke to Harry McGrath and Director Brian Jeffers about

18 that. I think Director Jeffers is actually

19 spearheading this, and that was his main concern, was  
20 the people at Sloan, the little league, the teener  
21 league, that everything remains the same out there.

22 MR. DIBILEO: That's great. And  
23 it appears as though that's going to be absolutely the  
24 case.

25 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes.

0076

01 MS. EVANS: And that will be in  
02 writing?

03 MR. SAUNDERS: I would imagine  
04 that would have to be in writing. It's going to be an  
05 agreement between the city and the school district.

06 MR. POCIUS: We'd have to transfer  
07 it by ordinance over to the school district, because  
08 it's city owned.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Many months ago  
10 Director Jeffers brought up to me, and they never, ever  
11 had any intentions on putting anybody off that field.

12 MS. EVANS: No, no, I'm not  
13 suggest that they're not, but -- or that they would,  
14 I'm sure that they wouldn't, and I really think this is  
15 a win/win situation; however, we've had an instance,  
16 let's say, in the past with the South Side Complex,  
17 where we've had verbal agreements or promises, but  
18 nothing will be -- nothing would have been committed to  
19 writing.

20 And my mother always taught me, if  
21 it's in writing, if it's in black and white, then it  
22 can't be broken. And another thing, too, which is  
23 neither here nor there, always be careful what you put  
24 in writing.

25 MR. DIBILEO: And I might be

0077

01 speaking out of turn here, but I would think that the  
02 school district would be more than happy to do that,  
03 put that in writing to really ease the concerns of the  
04 people down Sloan baseball Association. And that's all  
05 I have under fifth order.

06 MR. WALSH: 5th order. 5-B, FOR

07 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - TRANSFERRING THE FUNDS  
08 FROM FUND 02 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNTS WHICH FUNDS AND  
09 ACCOUNTS LISTED BELOW ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR THE  
10 CONDUCT OF CITY BUSINESS, AND ABOLISHING AND CLOSING  
11 SAID ACCOUNTS. THE FUNDS REMAINING IN THESE ACCOUNTS  
12 SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND.

13 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

14 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into its

15 proper committee.

16 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

18 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

19 On the question, I think that this particularly

20 ordinance is dealing with nine different accounts

21 totalling about \$177,000, and we certainly could use

22 them over in the general budget. Any other questions?

23 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

24 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

0078

01 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

02 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

04 ayes have it and so moved.

05 MR. WALSH: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION

06 - AN ORDINANCE - TRANSFERRING THE FUNDS FROM FUND 02

07 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT WHICH FUNDS AND ACCOUNT LISTED

08 BELOW ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR THE CONDUCT OF CITY

09 BUSINESS, AND ABOLISHING AND CLOSING SAID ACCOUNT. THE

10 FUNDS REMAINING IN THIS ACCOUNT SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO

11 THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND.

12 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

13 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be introduced into its

14 proper committee.

15 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

17 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

18 MS. EVANS: Yes. This ordinance

19 in conjunction with the prior ordinance will transfer a

20 total of \$236,097.80 into the city's general fund.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

22 Mrs. Evans. Anyone else? All those in favor, signify

23 by saying aye.

24 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

0079

01 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

02 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

04 ayes have it.

05 MR. WALSH: 5-D, FOR INTRODUCTION

06 - AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT

07 LIQUOR LICENSE IN THE NAME OF ABB'S INC. T/A ABB'S,

08 BOROUGH OF MAYFIELD, LICENSE NO. R-15256 TO THE STILL,

09 INC., FOR USE AT 335-339 ADAMS AVENUE, SCRANTON,

10 PENNSYLVANIA, 18503 AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA

11 LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

12 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

13 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced into its  
14 proper committee.

15 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

17 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

18 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

19 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

20 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

21 MS. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
24 ayes have it and so moved.

25 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, at  
0080

01 this time I make a motion that City Council hold a  
02 public hearing on 5-D next Thursday, which is February  
03 17, 2005 at 6:45 p.m., and that Mr. Saunders be  
04 authorized to advertise this public hearing in the  
05 local newspaper.

06 MS. EVANS: Second.

07 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on

08 the floor and a second? On the question? All those in  
09 favor, signify by saying aye.

10 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
15 ayes have it and so moved.

16 MR. WALSH: 5-E, FOR INTRODUCTION

17 - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

18 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A PERFORMANCE

19 LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR MUNICIPALITIES WITH SESAC, INC.

20 TO LICENSE THE PERFORMANCE OF MUSIC IN CITY OF SCRANTON

21 EVENTS FOR A FLAT ANNUAL FEE OF \$717.00.

22 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

23 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be introduced into its  
24 proper committee.

25 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

0081

01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

02 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

03 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

04 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

05 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

06 MS. EVANS: Aye.

07 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.  
08 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
09 ayes have it and so moved.  
10 MR. WALSH: Sixth order. 6-A,  
11 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 104, 2005 - AN  
12 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 231, 2003, AN  
13 ORDINANCE ENTITLED 2004 OPERATING BUDGET BY  
14 TRANSFERRING \$10,342.47 FROM ACCOUNT  
15 NO. 01.401.15230.4299 (TAN SERIES A) AND \$1,657.53 FROM  
16 ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.10140.4299 (CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
17 OPERATING EXPENSES) FOR A TOTAL TRANSFER AMOUNT OF  
18 \$12,000.00 TO ACCOUNT NO. 01.051.00082.4446 (CITY  
19 STEAM).  
20 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading  
21 by title of Item 6-A. What is your pleasure?  
22 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move  
23 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.  
24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.  
25 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?  
0082  
01 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
02 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.  
03 MR. POCIUS: Aye.  
04 MS. EVANS: Aye.  
05 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.  
06 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
07 ayes have it and so ordered.  
08 MR. WALSH: 6-B, READING BY TITLE  
09 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 105, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE -  
10 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 189, 2003, AN ORDINANCE  
11 ENTITLED SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT PIKE, IRON  
12 AND SENECA STREETS, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA TO SALE OF  
13 TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT HB ROCKWELL TR, SCRANTON,  
14 PENNSYLVANIA, TO LCL MORGAN 2 ASSOCIATES, LLC, 322  
15 ROUTE 46 WEST PARSIPPANY, N.J. 07054-2397 FOR THE SUM  
16 OF \$14,000.00.  
17 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading  
18 by title of Item 6-B. What is your pleasure?  
19 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move  
20 that Item 6-B pass reading by title.  
21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.  
22 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?  
23 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
24 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.  
25 MR. POCIUS: Aye.  
0083  
01 MS. EVANS: Aye.  
02 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
04 ayes have it and so ordered.

05 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President,  
06 before you move on to 7th order, I have to say that  
07 somebody that called our office this week checking on  
08 the -- checking my work with this ordinance, I'm not  
09 going to say, it's Helen Cook, she was actually  
10 checking the ordinance, and Iron Street, she was  
11 actually asking about Iron Street.  
12 I checked with the administration,  
13 they're confident that that's the street. All right.

14 MS. COOK: I thought it was Steel.

15 MR. SAUNDERS: Right. Well, I  
16 really do appreciate you looking at that.

17 MR. POCIUS: Well, you know where  
18 it is, Helen, right? Pike Street goes off Morgan  
19 Highway in between Fiegleman's and the other. That's  
20 where Pike Street is, and there's probably streets back  
21 in there. That's where this is up on the Morgan  
22 Highway section of the city, between there and the  
23 Expressway.

24 Because I looked at the map that  
25 was provided. I know where Pike Street is, you don't  
0084

01 even know -- it's hard to tell it's a street, but it's  
02 in between where the two metal places are up there.

03 MR. SAUNDERS: But we do  
04 appreciate that, Helen. Thank you.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
06 Mr. Saunders. And I'm just shocked that anybody would  
07 question your work.

08 MR. SAUNDERS: I was shocked, too,  
09 but I still appreciate it.

10 MR. DIBILEO: I'm surprised by  
11 that. But thank you very much.

12 MR. WALSH: Seventh order.

13 7-A, FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -  
14 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 102, 2005 -  
15 SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 2126 JACKSON STREET,  
16 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO GREGORY GULA AND CARLENE  
17 GULA, 2122 JACKSON STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,  
18 18504 FOR THE SUM OF \$3,000.00.

19 MR. DIBILEO: What's the  
20 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on  
21 finance?

22 MS. EVANS: As chair for the  
23 committee on finance, I recommend final passage of  
24 Item 7-A.

25 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.  
0085  
01 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?  
02 Roll call, please.  
03 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.  
04 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.  
05 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.  
06 MS. EVANS: Yes.  
07 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.  
08 MR. POCIUS: Yes.  
09 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.  
10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.  
11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.  
12 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby  
13 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.  
14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Chairman,  
15 before you read 7-B, I make a motion that we table  
16 Item 7-B.  
17 MR. McTIERNAN: Seconded.  
18 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a  
19 motion on the floor and a second. On the question?  
20 The reason for the tabling is the fact that a public  
21 hearing will need to be held.  
22 MR. WALSH: That's correct,  
23 Mr. President.  
24 MR. DIBILEO: So, we'll -- the  
25 first motion will be to hold or table 7-B, and then  
0086  
01 we'll make a motion to hold a public hearing.  
02 MR. WALSH: Initially, right, we  
03 just have to vote on the motion to table first.  
04 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a  
05 motion on the floor and a second. On the question?  
06 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
07 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.  
08 MS. EVANS: Aye.  
09 MR. POCIUS: Aye.  
10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.  
11 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
12 ayes have it and so moved.  
13 MR. COURTRIGHT: And,  
14 Mr. President, I make a motion that we hold a public  
15 hearing on Item 7-B.  
16 MR. WALSH: And ask that it be  
17 advertised.  
18 MR. COURTRIGHT: And it be  
19 advertised accordingly.  
20 MR. SAUNDERS: And the time, 6:15.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: 6:15, on what  
22 day, Jay?

23 MR. SAUNDERS: The 17th.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the 17th of  
25 February. Thank you.

0087

01 MS. EVANS: Second.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a  
03 motion on the floor and a second. On the question?

04 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

05 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

06 MS. EVANS: Aye.

07 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

08 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
10 ayes have it and so moved.

11 MR. WALSH: 7-C, FOR CONSIDERATION

12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR  
13 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 125, 2005 - AUTHORIZING THE  
14 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF  
15 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A SUB GRANT AGREEMENT WITH  
16 NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING OF SCRANTON REGARDING THE  
17 EMERGENCY HOUSING REPAIR PROGRAM.

18 MR. DIBILEO: What's the  
19 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on  
20 community development?

21 MR. McTIERNAN: Mr. President, as  
22 chairperson for the committee on community development,  
23 I recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

24 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

25 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

0088

01 Roll call, please, Kay.

02 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

03 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

04 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

05 MS. EVANS: Yes.

06 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

07 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby  
12 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

13 MR. WALSH: 7-D, FOR CONSIDERATION

14 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION -  
15 RESOLUTION NO. 126, 2005 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
16 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER

17 INTO SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT NUMBER  
18 048511-A WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
19 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INCREASE CONSTRUCTION  
20 FUNDING TO PAY FOR THE SCRANTON "K" ROUTES PROJECT.

21 MR. DIBILEO: What's the  
22 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on  
23 public works?

24 MR. POCIUS: I move for final  
25 passage of Item 7-D.

0089

01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Seconded.

02 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

03 MR. POCIUS: Just on the question.

04 I learned a very interesting fact today and what a K  
05 route is, if you want know.

06 Back in the 1950s with the

07 Department of Highways, there was a special designation

08 given to various streets. At that time the secretary

09 for the department of highways was Joseph Lawler from

10 Jessup, and a lot of streets, they were basically

11 streets that weren't state highways, but by this

12 designation, they were eligible for federal funds.

13 And I was at the Lackawanna County

14 Regional Planning Commission today and there was

15 discussion on K routes, and that's really what they

16 are, just a special designation.

17 And I guess because of the

18 influence at the time, a lot of routes in the northeast

19 were given a K route designation, which was kind of

20 lost for a long time, and now we've paved a lot of

21 streets with K route money last year, and it's

22 getting -- the pot is slimmer this year, and we're in

23 there for our share this year. Mike Luciani already

24 met with the county for this, for the plan, for the

25 tip. So, it looks -- hopefully we'll get some more

0090

01 streets paved this year.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

03 Mr. Pocius. I believe this legislation is increasing

04 the reimbursable amount from \$425,000 to \$730,000.

05 MR. POCIUS: I think that matches

06 basically what was constructed this year. We had a

07 basic number to start with, and then when the actual

08 bids came in to do the job properly, I think the

09 stadium had kicked in \$25,000 in the new agreement to

10 help us out with this, PennDOT. We paid 20 percent and

11 matched up to the 80 percent federal, so it was a good

12 deal.

13 Luzerne Street was done, Hickory,  
14 Duncan, and there's more. There was a lot of streets  
15 paved that wouldn't have been paved without this  
16 designation, and I think George Parker and Mike Luciani  
17 were the two that sniffed this out and really brought  
18 it to fruition, you know?

19 MR. DIBILEO: That's good, and  
20 we'll be getting help to pave more streets and we look  
21 forward to do doing it. Anyone else on the question?

22 Roll call, please, Kay.

23 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

24 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

25 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

0091

01 MS. EVANS: Yes.

02 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

03 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

04 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

06 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby

08 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

09 Seeing no further business on the agenda, I'll

10 entertain a motion we adjourn.

11 MS. EVANS: So moved.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

13 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.

14

15 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

0092

01 C E R T I F I C A T E

01

02

02 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

03 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

03 notes taken by me on the hearing of the above cause and

04 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to

04 the best of my ability.

05  
05  
06  
06  
07  
07  
08 LISA M. GRAFF, RPR  
08 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER  
09  
09  
10  
10  
11  
11  
12  
12  
13  
13  
14  
14  
15  
15  
16  
16  
17  
17  
18  
18  
19  
19  
20  
20  
21  
21  
22  
22  
23  
23  
24  
24  
25  
25

---

LISA M. GRAFF, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER