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02 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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08 Held:

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09 Thursday, February 24, 2005

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11 Time:

12 7:00 p.m.

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15 Location:

15 Council chambers

16 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

17 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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23 Lisa M. Graff, RPR

24 Court Reporter

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01 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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05 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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09 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

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13 MR. JOHN POCIUS

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17 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

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19 MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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21 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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23 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Please stand for

02 the 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 Mr. Pocius.

08 MR. POCIUS: Here.

09 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Here. Let the

13 record show, Kay, that Mrs. Evans is unable to be here

14 this evening because of a death in her family. She's

15 actually out of town as a result. Mr. Walsh, please.

16 MR. WALSH: Third order. 3-A,

17 MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON

18 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2005.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

20 comments on 3-A? If not, received and filed.

21 MR. WALSH: 3-B, MINUTES OF THE

22 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE AUTHORITY

23 MEETING HELD JANUARY 20, 2005.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

25 comments on 3-B? If not, received and filed.

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01 MR. WALSH: 3-C, MINUTES OF THE

02 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY,

03 JANUARY 26, 2005.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

05 comments on 3-C? If not, received and filed.

06 MR. WALSH: 3-D, MINUTES OF THE

07 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON

08 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2005.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

10 comments on 3-D? If not, received and filed.

11 MR. WALSH: 3-E, AGENDA FOR THE

12 MUNICIPAL PENSION FUND MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 23,

13 2005.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

15 comments on 3-E? If not, received and filed.

16 MR. WALSH: 3-F, MINUTES OF THE

17 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY,

18 JANUARY 26, 2005.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

20 comments on 3-F? If not, received and filed.

21 MR. WALSH: 3-G, AGENDA FOR THE

22 ZONING BOARD HEARING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9,

23 2005.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

25 comments on 3-G? If not, received and filed.

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01 MR. WALSH: 3-H, Clerk's notes.

02 Mr. Saunders, please, if you would.

03 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, last

04 week we sent a letter out to Mr. Parker about Fellows

05 Street and South Tenth Avenue by the stop sign. I

06 received correspondence back from Mr. Parker, and

07 they're going to put a stop sign up on that street.

08 They will schedule that this week sometime.

09 The second and last thing I have

10 under the direction from Councilman McTiernan

11 initially, he discussed about getting involved in a

12 parade to bring the troops home from Iraq. The rest of

13 Council had talked to me throughout this whole process

14 on, you know, how to deal with certain situations.

15 I sat down with Sergeant White

16 from the Pennsylvania National Guard, I sat down with  
17 Casey Newcomb from the Scranton Police, and also  
18 Bob Cetta, from the fire department, along with J.R.  
19 Davis, Chief Davis and Terry Osborne, and discussed  
20 some of the upcoming events that will happen on  
21 Saturday at ten o'clock in Downtown Scranton that will  
22 be bringing the troops home.  
23 The Scranton High School Band, the  
24 West Scranton Band, Scranton Police, Pennsylvania State  
25 Police, will all be involved. It's a big day. I would  
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01 hope that everybody would come out and support this  
02 cause. This is a big day for the City of Scranton.  
03 There's two Scranton police  
04 officers returned, one fireman, Carolyn Lee that used  
05 to work in our office, her son, Donny Lee is returning.  
06 There's a lot of people that are not only in Scranton,  
07 but also very close to City Hall.  
08 So, I would appreciate anybody  
09 that would show up at ten o'clock on Saturday in front  
10 of -- it's in front of -- on the Central Expressway  
11 coming into the City of Scranton on Linden Street, I  
12 believe it's Linden Street and Jefferson Avenue. That  
13 will be, once again, Saturday at ten o'clock. That's  
14 all I have, Mr. President.

15 MR. DIBILEO: That's wonderful  
16 news, Mr. Saunders. So, that's ten o'clock Saturday  
17 morning at the intersection by the station hotel?  
18 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, but more  
19 towards Rocky's and the doctor's office right there and  
20 the funeral home. That's where they're going to  
21 station.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Jefferson and Spruce  
23 corner.

24 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes.

25 MR. DIBILEO: That's great news.

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01 I want to thank you also, because I know that you  
02 worked together with members of our military to set  
03 this up. I want to thank you publicly for that, doing  
04 a good job, and I understand that we have members here  
05 this evening that before we get into our normal  
06 citizens participation, I'd like to, you know, offer  
07 you an opportunity to come and speak first to us.  
08 I also would like to thank you for  
09 all that you did for us in defending our freedom and  
10 serving your country. We greatly appreciate it.  
11 And if you would, if you'd like to say a few words.

12 MR. WHITE: Also tonight with me I  
13 have Gina Sebastianelli, who is very active in our  
14 family readiness group, keeping the families informed  
15 and together while our soldiers have been deployed.  
16 The first thing I'd like to talk  
17 about, a little bit about the soldiers. These  
18 soldiers, National Guard soldiers, come from all walks  
19 of life.  
20 They're professional people,  
21 they're medical people, they're truck drivers, they're  
22 contractors, they're firemen, they're policemen,  
23 they're state police men, and they've all left their  
24 careers, their families and deployed to Iraq to defend  
25 our freedom. And these are your hometown heroes, and  
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01 we need to show them we support everything that they've  
02 done.  
03 Some of them are students that  
04 have left school, gave up their schooling, deployed,  
05 and now are going to return and go back to school.  
06 I would like to talk a little bit  
07 about Saturday. We are going to start to form up about  
08 ten o'clock. We anticipate their arrival from Fort Dix  
09 somewhere between 10:30 and eleven o'clock.  
10 They're scheduled right now to  
11 leave Fort Dix at 8:30 Saturday morning. Tentatively  
12 they will have a state police escort once they cross  
13 the PA border all the way up the turnpike into the  
14 northeast here.  
15 The Scranton Police will then pick  
16 them up on Davis Street and bring them into the city.  
17 The fire department is going to be involved, they're  
18 going to be the color guard, they're going to carry the  
19 colors up Jefferson Avenue.  
20 From the intersection of Jefferson  
21 Avenue and Spruce Street, we're going to parade up  
22 Jefferson Avenue all the way up to the armory.  
23 There will be a fire truck -- the  
24 soldiers -- the troops will stay on the buses, the  
25 buses will be part of the movement up Jefferson Avenue.  
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01 The Scranton High School Band, the West Scranton High  
02 School Band, the Scranton Fire Department, the Scranton  
03 Fire Department is going to have two hook and ladders  
04 on the intersection of Linden Street and Jefferson  
05 Avenue by the University of Scranton Bookstore.  
06 They're going to put the ladders up into an A frame and  
07 we're gong to have a flag hanging from the ladders and

08 the buses will pass through there.  
09 We'd like to -- we can't emphasize  
10 how much support we need to go out and support these  
11 guys and show them that we deserve everything they've  
12 done. They deserve serving we've done, and we can't  
13 say too much anymore about it.  
14 Last I'd like to thank the City of  
15 Scranton for the outstanding support that you've given  
16 us with the police, fire, letting us do this movement  
17 up Jefferson Avenue, and now I'd like to have Gina talk  
18 just a little bit briefly about the family readiness  
19 group and what they do.  
20 MS. SEBASTIANELLI: The family  
21 readiness group for the Second 103rd battalion is made  
22 up family members, wives, sons, daughters,  
23 sister-in-laws, sisters, mothers and fathers of the  
24 deployed soldiers.  
25 It doesn't end when the soldier  
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01 comes home. We continue. So, at this time I want to  
02 thank all of the community that actually came out and  
03 helped support us.  
04 We had a very wide base of people  
05 donate to us to help support those that are over there,  
06 and hopefully that that support will continue once they  
07 are -- they have returned on Saturday.  
08 We have, like Sergeant White has  
09 expressed, we have a huge day planned for Saturday, and  
10 we wish that the local community does could out. The  
11 more people that we have lined up on Jefferson Avenue  
12 from Linden Street to the armory, the better our  
13 soldier is going to feel, and right now we want them to  
14 get that huge welcome home. So, if we can put forth  
15 that, that will be great. Thank you.  
16 MR. WHITE: And the last thing is,  
17 if anybody would like to get any additional information  
18 about what is going to go on Saturday, any information  
19 about the Pennsylvania National Guard, I can be  
20 contacted at (570) 840-3230.  
21 If we have any volunteer groups  
22 that would like to participate on Saturday, they will  
23 be more than welcome. Thank you very much.  
24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very  
25 much. We appreciate you being here tonight. This is  
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01 great news and a great event, and we certainly  
02 encourage everyone in our community to please consider  
03 coming out Saturday morning, say, starting around ten

04 o'clock to welcome home our members of our military.

05 And, again, we thank you and we

06 thank them for everything they did for us and

07 everything they did for their country, and we

08 appreciate it very much.

09 And that phone number that you

10 gave, Officer White, again, if anybody has any

11 questions that would like to call him, it's 840-3230,

12 840-3230. So, thanks a lot, and we hope to see you

13 Saturday.

14 MR. WHITE: Thank you very much.

15 MR. WALSH: Fourth order, citizen

16 participation.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Before I call up the

18 first speaker, I just wanted to make a statement. Last

19 week I requested more communication from our

20 neighborhoods, and I think better communication is

21 obviously always a good thing, we hope to work more

22 closely with the neighborhoods, we want more input

23 from them and updates from them on what is happening,

24 if they'd like to provide that information, and last

25 week I invited members of our -- representatives, I

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01 should say, of our neighborhood groups if they

02 contacted the city clerk's office in advance, to take a

03 little extra time being that they would be representing

04 a number of people, and obviously instead of having the

05 whole group of neighborhood people come and spend five

06 minutes, we would give one representative a little bit

07 more time, and I thought ten minutes was appropriate.

08 I think I actually have a better

09 solution to that, if I might mention it. I think that

10 what we can do is actually offer representatives from

11 the neighborhood groups extra time in our caucuses,

12 whether both are public caucus meetings, but whether

13 it's back in Mr. Saunders' office or whether it's going

14 to be out here televised, I think we can give members

15 of our neighborhood representatives extra time that

16 way.

17 And I think it's more fair

18 actually if we allow just five minutes for everyone

19 that speaks here, whether they're representing a group

20 or just representing themselves.

21 So, I think that's actually a

22 better solution and one that I'd like to suggest that

23 we do and change from what I said last week.

24 And now I'll call up the first

25 speaker, but earlier when I mentioned that Mrs. Evans

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01 had a death in her family, I didn't say anything about  
02 extending our condolences to the Evans family, so we'd  
03 like to extend our condolences to the Evans' family on  
04 Mrs. Evans' uncle's passing. And with that said, Les  
05 Spindler.

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

08 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

09 MR. SPINDLER: I'm glad you  
10 changed your mind about that, Mr. DiBileo, because I  
11 thought that was wrong letting them speak for ten  
12 minutes here, when everybody else can speak for five,  
13 so I'm happy of that.

14 MR. DIBILEO: I thought the same  
15 thing.

16 MR. SPINDLER: First of all, I  
17 want to straighten something out from last week I  
18 stated, something that, I forget my exact words, maybe  
19 Council wasn't following through with certain things,  
20 such as the deed at Nay Aug and this and that, Council  
21 wasn't doing their part and trying to do something,  
22 well, I didn't mean all of Council, I just meant maybe  
23 some specific people I don't want to mention. So, I  
24 just want to straighten that out. I don't want any  
25 hard feelings.

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01 Okay. Next thing, so I saw an  
02 article in the paper by the mayor saying that it was a  
03 mistake not hiring NDC, it could hurt the small  
04 businesses in the city.  
05 Well, I don't think we need any  
06 more small business in the city that are employing two  
07 or three people. I think we need businesses that hire  
08 two and 300 people like they are up on Montage now,  
09 getting Geisinger up there with 300 people. Again up  
10 at Montage, they're getting a new strip mall up there.  
11 Dickson City they're getting Kohl's is going up there.  
12 We need big business here in the city.  
13 I have nothing against small  
14 businesses, but we have enough cafes in the city now, I  
15 think. That's all I have on that subject.

16 Another thing, there was a picture  
17 in the paper, I think it was Monday night, of the DPW  
18 men cleaning off the Linden Street bridge, is that dual  
19 responsibility, because I've seen PennDOT doing it  
20 also. I was just wondering. I thought it was  
21 PennDOT's responsibility.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Well, we were just

23 told it was PennDOT, I believe.

24 MR. SAUNDERS: It is a PennDOT

25 responsibility, but there's a piggy-back program that  
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01 the city and PennDOT use one another for different

02 situations.

03 MR. SPINDLER; Because in Monday

04 night's paper there was a picture of three DPW

05 employees shoveling the bridge, which I think is hard  
06 work.

07 MR. POCIUS: Mr. Spindler, if I

08 could interject something, there's some -- usually it's

09 the local's option whether sidewalks are placed on

10 bridges that are on state routes inside of the

11 municipal limits, and probably when this bridge was

12 done, that was probably the case.

13 There are at times where the city

14 enters in a sidewalks maintenance agreement with

15 PennDOT on various projects. There may be one in place

16 on this bridge, I can't say for sure, but again like

17 Jay did say, some bridges, even though they're state

18 bridges, the local municipality may have responsibility

19 for sidewalk cleaning and so on and so forth.

20 but with the, I think it's called

21 the Agility Program, they may be sharing, like, doing

22 work, they will do work that the state would normally

23 do or the state would maybe, you know, rather than pick

24 the plow up on a block of a city street as they would

25 cross over, they would plow that street or cinder it or

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01 whatever, so maybe that would help you out with your

02 explanation.

03 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I just thought

04 that was kind of hard work for the guys to shovel that

05 long bridge, where I seen PennDOT come, they have this

06 big machine that just scrapes the sidewalk clean. It

07 saves a lot of work.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Absolutely.

09 MR. SPINDLER: I was just

10 wondering. Okay. Next thing, there was a question

11 asked last week by somebody, Are we better off now than

12 we were three years ago?

13 Well, I don't think we are. Three

14 year ago we had a surplus, now we have a deficit. The

15 wage tax is one of the highest in the state. We don't

16 have any jobs downtown, except for Aventis and Southern

17 Union, which they're just jobs that people are moving

18 from one place to another. They're not new jobs.  
19 We have potholes that rival the  
20 Archbald Pothole. And last but not least, we have Nay  
21 Aug Park with its million-dollar landscaping, its  
22 illegal five-dollar pool fee, and the breathe taking  
23 Davis Trail, which somebody said last week.  
24 Breathe taking. Niagara Falls is  
25 breathe taking, the Grand Canyon is breathe taking. I  
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01 don't think the Davis Trail is breathe taking. Anyone  
02 that thinks that might not have ever left the city  
03 limits.  
04 Last thing, Mr. Courtright, last  
05 week you were asking about who mentioned about the fire  
06 hydrant at Prep, that was me, and I'm glad to see that  
07 it was taken care of. When I went by it, it was fenced  
08 in.  
09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. They must  
10 have watched the meeting.  
11 MR. SPINDLER: Maybe even the fire  
12 department heard about it and they went over and had  
13 them do it, because I heard you say last week that it  
14 wasn't fenced in.  
15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah. I'm not  
16 aware of when they did it, but I did go over there and  
17 it wasn't.  
18 MR. SPINDLER: And I went by this  
19 week, too, and I was glad to see the fence was moved.  
20 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Well,  
21 whatever, somebody took care of it.  
22 MR. SPINDLER: Because it was  
23 straight, like, around, and now I see it's curved  
24 around it.  
25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Correct.  
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01 MR. SPINDLER: I was happy to see  
02 that was done. That's all I have. Thank you.  
03 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
04 Mr. Spindler. Andy Sbaraglia.  
05 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
06 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, on your  
07 7-E, the lease agreement, you call them packmasters,  
08 right, but in the original order they sent down from  
09 the city, your work order, they call them trash  
10 trucks.  
11 Now, is there a difference? Am I  
12 to assume that anything that you pick up trash with  
13 could be called a trash truck? Is it really a

14 packmasters or three trash trucks, which could be dump  
15 trucks?

16 MR. DIBILEO: I was told that  
17 they're the actual large trucks that pick up the trash,  
18 Andy, which I would refer to as a packmaster. That's  
19 what I understood it to be.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: I understand that.  
21 I just wanted to clarify it to make sure they are  
22 packmasters, because the price seemed a little cheap.  
23 \$365,000 to lease these packmasters over the distance  
24 of time would seem like, you know, a great deal  
25 considering how much it would cost to buy one. So,  
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01 that's what made me wonder if we were talking about  
02 packmasters or trash trucks.

03 MR. DIBILEO: I understood it to  
04 be packmasters, the large trucks.

05 MR. SBARAGLIA: I don't remember  
06 what we made paid to when we went to, I think, where  
07 did we go, New York, remember when we went to New York  
08 to buy them used packmasters? Does anybody -- I don't  
09 remember what it cost, I wish I did, because that would  
10 clarify this problem real fast.

11 MR. DIBILEO: They were much less  
12 expensive, but -- Mr. Saunders, are you familiar with  
13 what the cost was?

14 MR. SAUNDERS: No, not exactly.

15 MR. DIBILEO: I'm not sure.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, I just hope  
17 they are packmasters and not dump trucks. Okay. New  
18 subject. I saw that, of course it didn't come before  
19 you yet, but I seen the article -- it seems like the  
20 Times gets the news before anyone else, that they want  
21 to expand one of our parking garages.  
22 Now, as you know, the city is  
23 committed already with meters, parking meters from one  
24 parking garage. They want to borrow \$4 million, and  
25 then they said something that they want to use \$2  
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01 million that they set aside to pay off a bond, which  
02 troubles me.

03 If they have \$2 million they're  
04 sitting on and want to use that for this garage, are  
05 they going to be able to generate enough revenue to pay  
06 back this bond or are they going to come before us and  
07 want to borrow another two, four, six or whatever  
08 million to keep doing this?

09 I wish you, if you get a chance,

10 ask Mr. Wintermantle and his accountant to come before  
11 you and explain to you the financial structure and if  
12 these parking garages are feasible and they will  
13 generate the income to pay off the bonds. That's all I  
14 ask.

15 They can build 100 parking  
16 garages, I can care less, as long as they can pay for  
17 them, but this city has, you know, the city for some  
18 reason or other wants to borrow money, borrow money,  
19 borrow money for this that and whatever project.  
20 But when they had the opportunity,  
21 they use CommD funds maybe to buy a couple packmasters  
22 or police cars or something in that order. That wasn't  
23 even in their thoughts.

24 For some reason they think that  
25 CommD money is for projects and not for the  
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01 infrastructure of the city and to really help out the  
02 taxpayers.

03 You can never, never lower the  
04 rate on anything within the city, unless you lift the  
05 burden of some of these projects.

06 Now, I have nothing against  
07 private development, that's what America is for.  
08 America is built on private development, but we're  
09 heading into give-a-ways.

10 Every project you see in the city  
11 either is getting like -- take your Lackawanna Avenue,  
12 the 500 projects, the state gave them, what,  
13 \$9 million? You gave them \$180,000? They didn't even  
14 have enough money to do their engineering, and that's a  
15 sad point when they have to borrow money to do  
16 engineering on a project. They should have that much  
17 money; in other words, they shouldn't even think about  
18 a project.

19 But these things are what is done  
20 in the city. They want us to pay for everything,  
21 engineering and all kinds of grants and God knows what  
22 else, maybe even all new -- probably all new sidewalks,  
23 too. I don't doubt that one bit, that we're going to  
24 be ripping up all the sidewalks and replacing them all  
25 again.

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01 This is the way it goes in this  
02 city. But if you leave the city, you're tripping on  
03 our sidewalks because they're slate and they're  
04 cracking throughout the whole city.  
05 You got to do something for the

06 neighborhoods, and I believe you should have a  
07 neighborhood meeting, but it should be maybe an hour  
08 before the Council sits and let them express what is in  
09 their neighborhoods, that's the only way you're going  
10 to find out.

11 Get them together, get before your  
12 meeting and give them whatever time they need to  
13 explain what they need in the neighborhoods, because  
14 they really do need -- I attend my meeting up there in  
15 North Scranton, and I guess a lot of people maybe  
16 attend the others.

17 And it's the only way we're going  
18 to get ahead in this city. Either that, or we're going  
19 to sink, but we're all going to sink together. Thank  
20 you.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

22 Mr. Sbaraglia.

23 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, I

24 spoke with Mr. Wintermantle about the parking project,  
25 he said that that project itself won't sustain itself,  
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01 but it's connected to the parking garage that's down  
02 there now, and with the revenue from the parking garage  
03 that stands there now and the new revenue from the new  
04 parking garage that's being built, it will cover the  
05 bonds taken on that garage.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

07 Mr. Saunders. Lee Morgan.

08 MR. MORGAN: Good evening,

09 Council. The first thing I'd like to start with is,  
10 Ray was asking -- Mr. Sbaraglia was asking about  
11 7-E, and I'd just like to know that in the course of  
12 this lease agreement when this lease ends, are we going  
13 to have to purchase these trucks or will they become  
14 the city's property at the end of that lease?

15 MR. DIBILEO: Is anyone aware of

16 that? I'm not certain, Mr. Morgan, but it looks like  
17 Mark's in the back now.

18 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, it's a

19 lease purchase agreement, so I assume at the end of the  
20 five years we'd probably end up owning them. I'm just  
21 looking at the ordinance.

22 MR. DIBILEO: That's got to be

23 what that refers to, lease purchase.

24 MR. MORGAN: At the end of the

25 five years?

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01 MR. POCIUS: Five years, yeah.

02 MR. MORGAN: Then will there be a  
03 balloon at the end of the five years, do you think, or  
04 it'll just be finished and we'll take title to these  
05 vehicles?

06 MR. POCIUS: These are state  
07 contract priced through the thing. I imagine it's --  
08 what does it say here, it says a lump sum payment --  
09 annual payments -- lump sum annual payments over a  
10 five-year period, so I imagine there's a -- probably  
11 I'd say equally divided.

12 MR. MORGAN: Okay. I'd also like  
13 to say in regards to these parking garages, I think  
14 what the president of the United States is trying to do  
15 with the community development funds is trying to  
16 funnel them into what they should be really used for,  
17 which is infrastructure of this city.

18 We all want people to come here  
19 and develop the city, but what we're doing is we're  
20 borrowing money, we're taking parking meter revenue,  
21 we're borrowing from the Scranton Sewer Authority to  
22 build a DPW compound we already borrowed from.  
23 Everything is one layer of borrowing on top of another  
24 layer of borrowing.

25 You know, I had the opportunity  
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01 today to go to see Mr. Santorum speak at the University  
02 of Scranton about Social Security, and not in a  
03 negative light, but I really find that there's not  
04 really a lot of reality in government, because the  
05 federal government is saying to us that we should save  
06 money for our own retirement, but they don't seem to  
07 realize that we're so heavily taxed that we can't save  
08 anything even for ourselves.

09 The whole system is falling on its  
10 own weight. I mean, it's obvious what is going on  
11 here. Real development in the city, like Mr. Spindler  
12 said, you know, we appreciate every single job that  
13 comes here, I think every job is important, no matter  
14 what happens, but we do need some major employers here  
15 and we need some major employers here that are going to  
16 come because of our work ethic and our ability to work  
17 because we've been educated to a certain level and we  
18 have something to offer.

19 But it seems to me that everybody  
20 who comes here wants a handout, and I think we're  
21 running out of stuff to give away.  
22 I mean, we're a city who sold all  
23 of its assets and we've given everything away we can

24 give, and there's almost nothing left.

25 And everybody wonders how the

0026

01 miracle in Dickson City took place. And we continually

02 come here and we listen that maybe we should do

03 something with the wage tax or some of these other

04 taxes, but really nothing is ever done, and nobody can

05 come to the conclusion that, you know, and I'm not

06 going to knock Mr. Doherty on this, but Mr. Doherty one

07 time said that he's a democrat and he does what

08 democrats do, and that's spends money.

09 Well, you know, it's nice to spend

10 money you have, and we all wish we had money that we

11 don't have, but until Council and the mayor come

12 together, and maybe not this mayor or the next, maybe

13 not this Council, but the next Council, but, you know,

14 everybody has got to come to the table together and

15 offer something, and maybe it would be a good idea to

16 bring the neighborhood groups into caucus and get a

17 good feel of what is going on actually in these

18 neighborhoods, because we all know, as it has been

19 stated here, the neighborhoods are in really bad shape.

20 What can we do to restore the neighborhoods? What can

21 we do to take the tax burden off the people?

22 I mean, you know, it just comes to

23 a thought. Like, we're talking about cleaning bridges

24 off, well, why couldn't the city buy an ATV with a plow

25 on the front of it, send one guy out with a DPW truck

0027

01 with a ramp on it, pull it off the ramp, plow the

02 bridge off, put it back on the truck and go to the next

03 bridge?

04 I mean, why do we have three guys

05 out there with a shovel? It's counterproductive,

06 because three people cost the wages that three hourly

07 people receive, when you can have one truck with one

08 person do five times the amount of work if somebody is

09 thinking.

10 And that's what good government

11 is, it's about thinking, it's about anticipating

12 things, making changes that are conducive with good

13 business. But government isn't a business, it offers a

14 service, and we've got to quit being under the false

15 idea that government is business, because it's not.

16 I mean, this city is looking at a

17 lot of problems. And I asked previously, and maybe

18 somebody can tell me, what is the debt of all the

19 authorities operating in the City of Scranton? I know

20 I've asked that question, and I'm just curious, did  
21 anybody get back to us and tell us where we stand?

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

23 I've sent some letters out on that and some responses  
24 that I have received back are that they're doing  
25 audits, they're in the process of doing audits and they  
0028

01 will send us the audit and we will be able to find out  
02 exactly where they're in debt, where they're not in  
03 debt.

04 Some of the authorities that  
05 we've -- when we actually checked out, some of the  
06 authorities don't carry any debt, some do carry debt,  
07 so the ones that do carry debt, we did send that out to  
08 and they are in the process of doing audits now. So,  
09 when the audits come in, I will report that back.

10 MR. MORGAN: Okay. And do you  
11 think that maybe by the next term of Council that  
12 somebody can come up with some kind of a fee for  
13 non-profits in this city to try to take some of the  
14 burden of taxation off of -- actually off the taxpayers  
15 and maybe we could actually do something with the wage  
16 tax then?

17 I mean, we have to look at what  
18 these non-profits, what services they offer in the  
19 city.

20 And, you know, the Hill  
21 Neighborhood Association that I met with recently, they  
22 want something absolutely done with the University of  
23 Scranton, they want them to be operating within a  
24 certain parameter, they don't want them to expand out  
25 of where they are, they think it's absolutely  
0029

01 ridiculous that they're going to take the South Side  
02 Sports Complex and they may take the Salvation Army  
03 building. They want them contained, they want them to  
04 give legitimate money to the city, like the \$15 fee  
05 they should be paying on every one of their parking  
06 spaces, that all their dormitories should be paying  
07 something to the city.

08 \$118,000 from a multi-million  
09 dollar operation is ridiculous, and that's another way  
10 to take some of the tax burden off the average  
11 taxpayer.

12 And the other thing is this, they  
13 also feel that landlords who rent to University  
14 students shouldn't be held liable for the actions of  
15 the students, the University should be held liable

16 because they should have a code of conduct for their  
17 students, and when their students violate that code of  
18 conduct, then they should reprimand them, instead of  
19 going to the property owner who rents a property and  
20 hold him responsible for the actions of a tenant.

21 I mean, if they commit a crime,

22 the Scranton police should arrest them. But the  
23 University of Scranton is conducting a business here  
24 and they're telling us they are our neighbors, and from  
25 what I see, they want the South Side Sports Complex,  
0030

01 they want everything else they can grab and take off  
02 the tax rolls, and when their students commit -- just  
03 have total disregard for the neighborhoods where they  
04 are, the University of Scranton does nothing. They  
05 need to come up with a code of conduct and enforce it.

06 Thank you.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

08 Mr. Morgan. Mr. Morgan, in some communities non-profit  
09 organizations are actually offering money to their  
10 community, their municipality, such as in Pittsburgh,  
11 and perhaps that type of arrangement can be made.

12 That's something I'd much prefer see, as opposed to  
13 some kind of fee that's imposed on people, if it can be  
14 done.

15 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.

16 Bob Bolus.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

18 MR. BOLUS: I'd just like to touch

19 on one thing you just said, Gary, about KOZs and  
20 non-profits just making contributions, I don't think  
21 that's really where we need to go. We need a  
22 structured fee to pay what a fair share is, not just a  
23 token contribution here or there.

24 We need a structure for the KOZs  
25 and non-profits to pay their fair share, it's as simple  
0031

01 as that. I don't think there's an in between, no more  
02 than Mr. McTiernan offered a structured fee at Nay Aug  
03 Park. It's either there's a fee or there isn't a fee,  
04 it's not in between games.

05 And we've had KOZs and non-profits  
06 too long taking advantage of the people in the city of  
07 Scranton. Mr. Doherty had spoken that we can't live  
08 off of Southern Union.

09 Well, to the contrary, Southern

10 Union, the KOZs, the University, non-profits, etc.,  
11 etc. are living off the taxpayers in the city, the

12 senior citizens, those trying to make a living here  
13 that can't even find a quality job.  
14 You look at the money they pay  
15 their employees and they're on a free ride. They  
16 should be structured. They get police, they get fire,  
17 they get road maintenance, they get everything else,  
18 they should be paying, and that's what we should be  
19 looking for is to file -- make a motion to actually  
20 look at how we structure it and not just take a token  
21 50 here or 25 there. We had that with CMC with the  
22 parking and all.  
23 So, we do need a structure that  
24 benefits the people who have been supporting all these  
25 people for a long time.

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Just for the record,  
02 when I mentioned non-profits, I was referring to not  
03 KOZs tax-free companies, but more or less schools,  
04 hospitals, that type of non-profits.  
05 MR. BOLUS: I understand. My  
06 comment is everybody should pay. I mean, there should  
07 be no difference between who you are or what you are,  
08 they should all pay. What is the U going to give us,  
09 \$50,000 on a \$100 million a year business?

10 Let's be realistic. We need to  
11 support the people who are supporting them, and that's  
12 the taxpayers in the city that the mayor wouldn't  
13 charge a fee to come into the city.  
14 The mayor took assets out of this  
15 city. You've got to stop somewhere and let them start  
16 paying their fair share. They're taking the city, and  
17 where are we going? We're going nowhere.

18 I want to speak a little bit about  
19 Mr. Pocius last week, he made a statement, I think it  
20 was a politically correct statement, insofar as you  
21 don't take a pension, and I think that was correct, but  
22 I believe you contributed to the pension fund, I  
23 believe that after 15 years of service in the city,  
24 that you would be able to buy the next five years out  
25 and take a pension, so by contributing to the pension

0033

01 fund, whether you are at the present time or you've  
02 contributed up to this date, pending the legal  
03 litigation that has been filed against you and  
04 Mr. Hazzouri about the pensions, it's still in direct  
05 violation of the Home Rule Charter that says you are  
06 not entitled to a pension fund or a pension or  
07 whatever, and that's the whole issue we have.

08 We believe -- we listened about  
09 the Home Rule Charter here, that's the bond of the  
10 city, and I think everybody should adhere to it, and  
11 that's the comment I had on that.  
12 So, I believe if you are  
13 contributing or you've taken it, take out what you have  
14 in and put this issue to rest and let us all move  
15 forward and get on to more important things. I think  
16 that's the credible thing to do.  
17 We look at what's been going on in  
18 the city, we look at Nay Aug Park, Janet brought it up,  
19 Mr. Courtright, Mr. DiBileo, we have a fee there  
20 because two individuals on Council voted against it and  
21 allowed the mayor to veto it.  
22 But remember, the deeds at this  
23 juncture should speak for themselves, and I believe  
24 that's where this whole issue has to go once and for  
25 all.

0034

01 I think you three in the middle  
02 have done an admirable job as far as the people in the  
03 city go to try to stop what's going on, as you did with  
04 South Side and other issues, we saw the golf course go  
05 away, and then we see Dunmore buy Dickson City's golf  
06 course, so it tells us there's money in golfing,  
07 unfortunately Chris Doherty didn't believe that, so he  
08 gave something that made money away.  
09 The money still hasn't done  
10 anything for us. It's sitting really unproductive. If  
11 the neighborhoods want to come here, and I think the  
12 neighborhoods should. We look at the potholes, we look  
13 at all the money we're spending, but how much is going  
14 really into the neighborhoods anymore where we really  
15 need the infrastructure? They're the people that need  
16 the police protection.  
17 I mean, in a city we pay taxes for  
18 what? Public safety, a clean community, and  
19 employment. Anyone tell me where we have quality jobs,  
20 other than McDonald's or at Burger Kings for our  
21 seniors that are out there working again because they  
22 have no choice because we have a mayor who's a deficit  
23 spender that just spend, spend, spend, doesn't care  
24 where it's coming from, could care less where it's  
25 coming from, put money into Nay Aug, into the pool, we

0035

01 had to take a liner that's no good.  
02 We can go on and on and on about  
03 the deficit spending in this city, could have combined

04 the DPW police and fire department for a quarter of the  
05 cost that he is spending, put a parking garage where  
06 he's putting a police station, if that made any sense.  
07 We have more parking spaces, and  
08 his attitude is if we build parking garages, they will  
09 come, like, who is coming here? Where are the jobs  
10 that he's bringing to this community that are going to  
11 come in here and pay the tax base in this city? I'd  
12 like to see them. Thank you.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

14 Mr. Bolus. That's it for the sign-in sheet. Any  
15 other speakers?

16 And just for the record while

17 Mr. Davis is on his way up here, I don't know if anyone  
18 up here will collect a pension in the future, that  
19 might be up to the courts, but I think what Mr. Pocius  
20 was referring to last week by saying he's never  
21 collected a pension, I don't think that anyone collects  
22 a pension until they turn age 55, and that's, I think,  
23 what he might have been referring to. I don't know if  
24 he'll collect it or not.

25 MR. BOLUS: I'm fully aware of it,  
0036

01 that's why I made the comments I did, Mr. DiBileo --

02 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

03 MR. BOLUS: -- that I know he's  
04 not taking a pension.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Yes,  
06 Mr. Davis.

07 MR. DAVIS: First of all, I want  
08 to thank God that I'm standing here. I'm glad I'm able  
09 to stand here. On January the 14th, I was walking  
10 across Wyoming Avenue on my way down to Boscov's to  
11 catch the van that goes down to the V.A., and a hit and  
12 run got me, broke my ankle.

13 The ambulance system in this city  
14 that took me away was excellent. I heard Mr. Newcomb  
15 last week report how very efficient they were, how  
16 very -- I agree with him, and kudos to you guys, I'm  
17 seniors.

18 But there's another person that I  
19 don't know whose name it was, there's a lady, I guess  
20 she was about 50, 40 years old, and when it happened,  
21 she got out of her van, stopped the traffic, called the  
22 ambulance. She didn't -- I didn't know her. I still  
23 don't know what she looks like.

24 But whoever you are out there, I  
25 want to thank you. I want to thank you for your kind

0037

01 generosity, because I was moved, it worked.  
02 I came in here two weeks ago, and  
03 the next day my doctor said, Where was your walker?  
04 You're not supposed to be there without your walker.  
05 Where is your cane? What is wrong with you? I do good  
06 work and then what are you going to do, you're going to  
07 ruin it? You think you're T.O. or something?  
08 No. But I really want to thank  
09 the Scranton people that I don't know that came to my  
10 aid, not knowing even who I was or cared.  
11 There's a reason, there's a  
12 reason. God is -- you know, God has design on all  
13 things, and when you think about it, I'm sitting right  
14 in front of the Cathedral when all of this is  
15 happening, it's right on Linden Street and Wyoming  
16 Avenue, and I'm saying to myself, Wow, this is just too  
17 cryptic.  
18 That was when I was in the  
19 hospital bed laying there. I don't ever want to ride  
20 in an ambulance again. It was wonderful, I'm glad it  
21 was there, I'm glad they took me, but I don't want it  
22 again, believe me. It's a heroing experience.  
23 Number two, I wanted to know if  
24 you had any word at all about Mrs. Wardell, have you  
25 heard of her condition at the present time? I know if  
0038

01 she's able to listen, I know she's listening to us.  
02 MR. DIBILEO: I've gotten just a  
03 couple of very brief updates from Andrea Mulrine with  
04 the league of women voters, and she sends out Emails to  
05 a whole bunch of members, and she about a week ago, I  
06 think it might have been earlier this week, said that  
07 she wasn't doing well, but I haven't heard since then.  
08 It's been a few days.  
09 MR. DAVIS: Well, Mrs. Wardell, my  
10 prayers are sent out to you. You're a very strong  
11 person, you're a person that brought a lot of truth  
12 here to City Council in your questions, in your  
13 answers, and we appreciated you, and we still  
14 appreciate you, and we want you to come back.  
15 We want you to get well, fight  
16 whatever you have to fight and come on back as strong  
17 as you were then.  
18 Last but not least, Saint  
19 Patrick's Day. Last week you said that they were not  
20 going to paint anything until the 12th, well, the 12th,  
21 the only thing they're going to be able to paint is a

22 green stripe.

23 Fine, you know, it's -- I've been

24 through too much to worry about a green stripe, but I

25 think it's time, and I've heard this before tonight,

0039

01 it's time for us to start prioritizing those things

02 that are important to us.

03 Is public safety now less

04 important than celebration? Do we prefer to celebrate

05 as opposed to making sure our streets are safe for the

06 residents of Scranton? I don't know. I'm hoping not.

07 It seems as though we're having a

08 problem prioritizing where we put our money, where we

09 put our efforts, and I'm afraid if we don't, because it

10 could mean something very disastrous for somebody, for

11 somebody's family, as we've seen in the past.

12 Thank you for your time, and I

13 thank God. First and foremost, I thank him at the

14 end. I know, I know it had to be his hand really,

15 because if I had been a minute later, if I had been a

16 minute shorter, I wouldn't be here, and that's the

17 truth. Thank you very much.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Jim, and

19 we're happy you're doing good since the accident, Jim.

20 And, also, Mrs. Wardell, of course we're hoping the

21 best for her and a speedy recovery and we do want her

22 back.

23 MS. PILOSI: Good evening,

24 Council, Violet Pilosi, taxpayer, resident.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

0040

01 MS. PILOSI: You know, for years I

02 come to these Council meetings or I sit home in the

03 comfort of my home and I watch, and I wonder, and I

04 wonder, and I wonder, I wonder what you're thinking in

05 some of the statements that are said.

06 Gary, you mentioned 98 percent

07 approval of all of the issues that administration sends

08 down, you said it like if that was something to be

09 proud of. The previous administration was bashed for

10 being rubber stampers. Well, let me tell you, you guys

11 have surpassed the previous Council.

12 I understand that the mayor has

13 the veto power, but you're handing him these items on a

14 silver platter without any resistance whatsoever.

15 Also, you approved all of these

16 KOZs which eroded the tax base for us property owners

17 that have to pay these taxes. You wonder why people

18 are leaving this city, why people aren't coming here?  
19 Maybe you need to think.  
20 Another thing, I'm here to express  
21 facts and also state my rights to my personal opinion,  
22 it comes from here where I live, where I come from.  
23 You can disagree with me or you cannot disagree with me  
24 or agree with me, however, if the shoe fits, wear it  
25 I'm wondering why people are

0041

01 speakers are discriminated against. I watched  
02 Mrs. Williams come here and over and over again  
03 bash Mr. Charlie Newcomb, Jr., that gavel did not hit  
04 once.

05 Another speaker got up here and  
06 mentioned the name Joanne Williams in his first  
07 sentence, and bam, bam, bam. That's discrimination.

08 Another thing about the five  
09 minutes, I have to agree with Mr. Pocius, the  
10 neighborhood people should only be allowed five  
11 minutes. Where are they? You know what you tell the  
12 speakers, finish up next week. Well, they can come,  
13 have their five minutes and finish up next week.

14 If you want to allow them back at  
15 your caucus, that's your -- but it was my understanding  
16 that nobody is supposed to say anything except you  
17 people, that the citizens are not supposed to --

18 MR. DIBILEO: No, that's not  
19 true. They're public.

20 MS. PILOSI: Oh, well, thank you,  
21 I was not aware of that. And I think that you seem to  
22 have your favor of people who you allow to go over the  
23 five minutes and those that you stop.

24 I don't know whether you use two  
25 different clocks or what it is, but some people in the  
0042

01 middle of them speaking, you thank them. Well, you  
02 shouldn't thank them until they're done saying what  
03 they have to say. And that's about it for tonight, and  
04 I thank you for listening to me.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. And  
06 just for the record, Violet, when I mentioned that 98  
07 percent, I didn't mean it as a proud statement, I was  
08 just stating it as a fact, for the record.

09 MR. O'SHEA: Good evening,  
10 Council. My name is Kevin O'Shea, city resident,  
11 taxpayer, homeowner. I always wanted to say that. I  
12 pretty much came tonight to tell everybody about the  
13 soldiers coming home on Saturday. My brother is part

14 of that.  
15 Mr. White covered everything  
16 pretty much I had to say. I felt obligated to come up  
17 and say thank you to Council, and Mr. Saunders did a  
18 great job getting that together for them. I'm sure  
19 everybody will appreciate it. I can't wait to go home  
20 and tell my brother.  
21 My mom is watching, and she'd be  
22 mad at me if I didn't come up and say anything and say  
23 thank you.  
24 But I'd also like to thank Council  
25 for their support in the fall with helping me out with  
0043  
01 a benefit for my fiancée Mary Ann. We didn't get a  
02 chance to publicly thank or presently thank every one  
03 of you, but we appreciated it. So, thanks again.  
04 I think you guys are doing a great  
05 job. You guys take a lot of heat, but all and all, I  
06 think you're for the best of the city. And it could be  
07 worse, you could be commissioners. But thanks again  
08 for everything, and I'll see everybody on Saturday.  
09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Kevin.  
10 Thank you very much, Kevin, we appreciate that, and  
11 you're welcome for whatever we do.  
12 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,  
13 Council. Charlie Newcomb.  
14 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.  
15 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: First, I think  
16 it's a great thing to have the homecoming for the  
17 troops, and a job well done to all of those that put  
18 this together.  
19 I'll ask again, beating a dead  
20 horse, I think, but did we get any response regarding  
21 the electric bill yet?  
22 MR. COURTRIGHT: There you go,  
23 Charlie. We finally got it. If you want to come up  
24 and get it, you're welcome to have it. It took a  
25 little while, I understand, but we lit a fire under Jay  
0044  
01 there and he got it for us.  
02 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Thank you.  
03 MR. COURTRIGHT: You're  
04 welcome.  
05 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: I asked a  
06 couple weeks ago about the -- or I spoke about the  
07 intersection of Keyser Avenue and Oak Street regarding  
08 that, I don't know what word to use, I guess rumble  
09 strips or anything, I don't know if we heard anything

10 back on that.

11 Also, I see or I heard in the

12 newspaper that the mayor will veto possibly the

13 legislation regarding the interdepartmental transfers.

14 I just don't understand why anybody would think it's a

15 problem to watch where our money goes and to keep tabs

16 on it.

17 I mean, with your own personal

18 finances, don't you know where everything goes and how

19 everything is juggled at all times? I don't know, I

20 just don't understand that.

21 First I have to say that it was

22 spoke on here before, I usually don't agree with you,

23 Mr. Pocius, but I agreed with you last week on the five

24 minutes.

25 MR. POCIUS: Good.

0045

01 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Yes. I think a

02 lot of people did. But where you said the statement

03 last week regarding the pension, I understand that you

04 just pay into it, and I guess it's just a basic

05 question, and it doesn't have to be for you, it could

06 be for anybody, you already answered one of my parts of

07 the question, Mr. DiBileo, that you have to be 55 to

08 receive that, I wasn't aware of that, I thought after

09 you were done with Council regarding your age, you were

10 able to collect it, but you verified that for me, but

11 is it obvious, like, if you're longer on City Council,

12 for example, like, if somebody is on for four years,

13 they only pay into four years, but if you're on over

14 that, do you get paid more money than that?

15 MR. DIBILEO: I think the amount

16 varies based on your time of service for an employee or

17 anyone.

18 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: So, you can't

19 collect it until you're done with Council, is that how

20 it works? Like, if you turn 55 while you're on

21 Council, would you be able to receive your pension or

22 do you have to wait until your term expires on Council?

23 MR. DIBILEO: I assume that would

24 mean you're not retired yet if you're still a

25 councilman.

0046

01 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Okay. I

02 received a numerous amount of calls this week, people

03 stopping me on the street, and I wasn't going to talk

04 on this, because I wanted to let it go, let it to be a

05 dead issue, but a lot of people were upset at what

06 happened at this podium last week.  
07 And I guess while I was sitting  
08 here, I really didn't take it all in, until I heard the  
09 comments from what people had to say. So, I caught it  
10 on the replay, and I was dumfounded.  
11 And a lot of people, and when I  
12 say a lot, I mean more than a handful of people, were  
13 very upset with what went on here.  
14 And I would just like to let you  
15 know that I firmly believe, Mr. DiBileo, that you and  
16 others need to start bringing your backbone to these  
17 meetings.  
18 If find it personally appalling  
19 that you allowed a speaker to stand at this podium and  
20 bash me for a complete five minutes. You have hammered  
21 me out of order on several occasions for doing what you  
22 called the same thing.  
23 The fact that you apologized to  
24 this woman for not dealing with me while I was coughing  
25 in the audience, is totally, totally unacceptable.  
0047

01 I do not stand at this podium and  
02 bash anybody for any length of time. If I have  
03 somebody to speak about, I mention his or her name  
04 once, not nine, and certainly not for a complete five  
05 minutes.  
06 I firmly believe you have a lot of  
07 nerve apologizing to her, when she is the one who feels  
08 that she needs to come here and publicly humiliate me.  
09 This is where I believe a backbone  
10 is crucial. Since when am I city business, and  
11 whatever happen to the rule of please keep your  
12 speeches about city business?  
13 I was absolutely floored and  
14 flabbergasted when I heard you say that you were sorry,  
15 when all I did when I sat here was cough. All I did  
16 was cough.  
17 However, why is a cough considered  
18 to be rude, when on numerous occasions Council members  
19 whisper to each other and even get up and walk out of  
20 the room while citizens are speaking? To me, this  
21 defines rude.  
22 I would like to also say that  
23 Mrs. Evans is the only person up there who defended me  
24 last week, as well as protecting the city.  
25 I would also like to thank her for  
0048  
01 answering Mrs. Williams' question about being better

02 off now than three years ago. I agree with her. I am  
03 not.

04 Despite what the newspapers say  
05 about the three people being the majority on this  
06 Council, I have to disagree. Everybody has their own  
07 majority within, and it seems that Mrs. Evans goes out  
08 on a limb with nobody to back her up. She makes a  
09 motion to try to better Council, and what happens, it  
10 goes on deaf ears. If you are part of a majority, then  
11 why don't you back each other up?

12 This is just food for thought and  
13 it is my personal opinion, and thank you.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Thank  
15 you, Mr. Newcomb, and I'm sorry you feel that way.

16 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, ladies  
17 and gentlemen, my name is Dave Gervasi, I am a  
18 firefighter and a spokesman for firefighters union.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

20 MR. GERVASI: I am not going to  
21 beat you up tonight, Mr. DiBileo, I promise. I kind of  
22 took exception to an editorial that I read the other  
23 day, it was the editorial about the majority of  
24 Council, and they came right out and said that you were  
25 against economic development.

0049

01 Well, I mean, welcome to my  
02 world. During the referendum, they had editorials on  
03 the front page against the unions, and I kind of know  
04 how you feel about that.

05 And I actually remember a few  
06 years back, remember, Mr. DiBileo, during the  
07 referendum, you were gentleman enough out of the last  
08 Council to actually give us five minutes to speak to  
09 you and just hear our concerns before you voted on  
10 that?

11 And I don't want to put you on the  
12 spot, but I believe if I'm correct, correct me if I'm  
13 wrong, that you went down to the mayor and you asked  
14 him one question about one thing in the entire recovery  
15 plan?

16 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

17 MR. GERVASI: Am I correct on  
18 that?

19 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

20 MR. GERVASI: And what happened to  
21 you the next day in the paper? You were against  
22 recovery, right? Was that correct? Is that --

23 MR. DIBILEO: I really don't

24 recall, to be honest with you.

25 MR. GERVASI: I remember it well.

0050

01 MR. DIBILEO: I wouldn't be

02 surprise if that were the case.

03 MR. GERVASI: I remember it well.

04 You were against recovery because you asked one

05 question of the mayor.

06 Maybe the newspaper ought to,

07 like, realize that, you know, hey, you know, the mayor

08 allocated money away from the downtown senior center

09 and put it into facade grants for, you know, people

10 that own buildings downtown. Maybe he's against senior

11 citizens. I don't know.

12 Maybe when he diverts money from

13 little leagues and puts it into economic development,

14 maybe he's against children.

15 When he diverts money from social

16 programs, people that depend on that money for social

17 programs, I know this Council fought for.

18 And even the last Council, who we

19 all called rubber stampers, fought for -- to save some

20 of these monies, some of these vital social programs

21 and diverted that.

22 Maybe he's against people with

23 problems. Maybe the way he treats us, he's anti-labor.

24 And, you know, as ridiculous as that sounds, maybe the

25 newspaper, the editorial board of the newspaper should,

0051

01 you know, maybe they want to name call, I mean, come

02 on. This is -- they're starting to ridicule months

03 before the election already. This is what they do.

04 And what really gets me mad about

05 that, and I was watching a show the other night and I

06 saw a Congressman speaking, I think it's pretty obvious

07 that, you know, the liberal network media, as opposed

08 to right wing radical Fox network, whatever happened to

09 the fair and balanced media?

10 And this Congressman made a really

11 good statement where he said, like, you know, the

12 intention of the founding fathers was that we place

13 check and balances between the executive branch and the

14 legislative branch in all forms of government from

15 municipal to federal, and that was supposed to be the

16 right -- that's what democracy is all about, and that's

17 the best form of government that we can obtain attain.

18 And the Congressman also said

19 that, But when you take media, when media takes a side

20 or becomes bias, it hurts democracy in our system of  
21 government.

22 When are people going to start

23 being outraged at our newspaper for taking sides? I

24 mean, how obvious do they have to be?

25 During the referendum they

0052

01 ridiculed my family, they had the News Alliance news

02 cameras outside ridiculing the head of the police

03 union.

04 You mentioned one statement, one

05 question you had out of the entire recovery plan, and

06 you were against recovery.

07 You guys voted on something that,

08 as far as I'm concerned, sounded like a, I don't want

09 to say what it sounded like, on the NDC, and I think

10 you had concerns about it. I mean, these services are

11 provided for free, and they said that you three people

12 up there are against economic development.

13 I mean, give me a break. I think

14 you made it pretty clear last week, Mr. DiBileo, when

15 you said how many times you did vote in favor of the

16 mayor's agenda, and I was the first one to admit --

17 we're all the first ones to admit that not everything

18 the mayor is doing is wrong, but it's just -- it just

19 get my goat, it really does.

20 I also think that, and I have to

21 agree with Mr. Pocius also about the five minute rule,

22 but I also have to agree, I think that's a very good

23 idea, I think in the last three years, the neighborhood

24 groups haven't really had a say.

25 Neighborhood groups were always

0053

01 strong groups. They filter a lot of complaints, no

02 matter how small or large within their neighborhoods,

03 and I think giving them a chance to come up here and

04 voice their concerns.

05 Now, if there's some things that

06 may be a little touchy that they wouldn't want to speak

07 to, I think that's great that they can do it in the

08 private of the caucus and you guys can take care of

09 that.

10 And I think that's the best thing

11 I've heard in the last three years is getting the

12 neighborhood groups back involved.

13 That's all I had to say. I just

14 get frustrated sometimes when I read this newspaper,

15 because I've been the brunt of some of their articles,

16 and it was completely unfair. They put words in my  
17 mouth, and they always take one side.  
18 They've been carrying the water  
19 for this mayor for how long, and it just seems that no  
20 matter -- you ask one question, you're on the outs.  
21 And I don't think it's right.  
22 I don't think it's fair to the  
23 citizens if they're not getting the whole story or both  
24 sides of the story. And thank you very much for  
25 letting me speak.

0054

01 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. While  
02 we're waiting for the next speaker, I wasn't going to  
03 comment on what was in the newspaper, but apparently  
04 98 percent in favor of the mayor's agenda isn't good  
05 enough.

06 We were referred to as  
07 ineffective, and apparently if you don't vote  
08 100 percent with the mayor, you're ineffective. So, I  
09 guess that what they're saying is that they want a  
10 rubber stamp City Council, and that's their opinion,  
11 and that's fine. I guess everyone has an opinion, and  
12 they can have theirs. Mr. McAndrew.

13 MR. McANDREW: Good evening,  
14 Council. Larry McAndrew. I think the time has finally  
15 come, and what I'm referring to is I think it's time  
16 that this newspaper, the Scranton Times and the  
17 Tribune, what they said in their editorial about the  
18 majority Council members was unfair here.  
19 And when the mayor says that we  
20 cannot live with only Pasteur and the Southern Union  
21 companies here, when he makes a statement like that,  
22 he's admitting that we need industry here, that we need  
23 more jobs here, and it's his responsibility to create  
24 them jobs.

25 You know, I don't agree with

0055

01 President Bush in most of his legislation, but maybe  
02 what he's trying to do now, get away from giving out  
03 handouts to cities.  
04 Maybe this is the right way to go,  
05 because it's going to force the mayor, it's going to  
06 force Council, it's going to force the Chamber of  
07 Commerce to get off their duffs and to take action and  
08 to create jobs here to increase our tax base. This is  
09 what is needed. This is what we need here.  
10 Week after week I hear different  
11 people come to this podium requesting information.

12 Mayor Doherty and his administration refuses to give  
13 this information.

14 This information that we're  
15 looking for as taxpayer is basic information on how  
16 much it costs to light Nay Aug Park during the  
17 Christmas season.

18 Mr. Newcomb requested this now, as  
19 far as I can count, eight times, there has not been an  
20 answer to his request.

21 MR. DIBILEO: He just got it  
22 tonight.

23 MR. McANDREW: I'm sorry. I've  
24 been late.

25 MR. DIBILEO: You came in late.  
0056

01 MR. McANDREW: I came in late.  
02 But there's also other issues. Spring is around the  
03 corner, these baseball team, these softball teams,  
04 where are they going to play now that the University of  
05 Scranton has the South Side Complex? Nothing is said  
06 about that.

07 There's numerous, numerous issues  
08 here that has to be taken. I think it's important that  
09 the Council if they have subpoena power to initiate  
10 that subpoena power, have that mayor, have his  
11 administration staff come in here and answer our  
12 questions.

13 I personally have a ton of  
14 questions. I know at a caucus I'm not allowed to  
15 address them as a taxpayer, but through the Council  
16 members, I'm sure my questions could be addressed.  
17 That's what has to be done. And  
18 like I said, now is the time to start this and do it.  
19 I encourage you to do that, start the subpoena power.  
20 If you have the authority to do  
21 it, do it. Get this mayor in here and question him.  
22 Find out what his intentions are and what his  
23 administration is going to do for the taxpayers of  
24 Scranton. Thank you.

25 MS. KRAKE: My name is Nancy  
0057

01 Krake. Good evening, Council.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

03 MS. KRAKE: I just wanted to  
04 address a few of the remarks that were made this  
05 evening. First of all, most of the legislation that  
06 the mayor wanted, he got passed by the previous Council  
07 before this new majority was seated. That's the first

08 issue.

09 The second is, as Dave Gervasi was  
10 speaking, I remember several incidents during the  
11 referendum, and one of them was they were always moving  
12 the Council meetings so we wouldn't know where they  
13 were until the last minute, and it was one night at  
14 Scranton High School and the last Council stopped us  
15 from speaking, they just stopped it, they didn't like  
16 what was being said.

17 And Mr. DiBileo waited until  
18 everybody left, and he was kind enough and courteous  
19 enough to listen to what I had to say, and I will never  
20 forget that.

21 Another thing that happened was  
22 the machinist unions did a commercial because the mayor  
23 had commercials on TV telling everyone to vote for the  
24 referendum, and he had the newspaper printing whatever  
25 he wanted whenever he wanted, so our union did a  
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01 commercial, and it was very simple and very straight  
02 forward, and it was brought to Channel 22, which is  
03 part of the News Alliance, and they said they couldn't  
04 run it because the disclaimer was too small.

05 Well, first of all, it didn't need  
06 a disclaimer because it was not about a person, it was  
07 only about a referendum, but our machinist union had  
08 put a disclaimer on it anyway.

09 So, they had it remixed, and they  
10 flew it up from Washington, and we brought it to  
11 Channel 22, and they told us they lost it. So, so much  
12 for freedom of speech.

13 The point is that this new Council  
14 allows us to voice our opinions, whether we agree with  
15 each other or not. Government and the alleged free  
16 press in the city have the power, and they should not  
17 abuse it. Thank you.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Are  
19 there any other speakers? If not --

20 MR. WALSH: 5-A, motions.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. McTiernan, any  
22 motions or comments?

23 MR. McTIERNAN: Nothing at this  
24 time, Mr. President.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
0059

01 Mr. McTiernan. Mr. Pocius, any motions or comments  
02 this evening?

03 MR. POCIUS: Yes, I have a

04 comment, and I'll start off right here. There's been  
05 much said about the funding of the downtown senior  
06 citizens center over the past month or so, and I was  
07 wondering what the problem was, so I took it upon  
08 myself to do a little initiative and find out what was  
09 going on.

10 So, I placed a couple calls to  
11 Mayor Doherty, and he did get back to me, and I  
12 explained to him the situation is to was there a chance  
13 that there was any way to fund the downtown senior  
14 citizens center for their \$55,000 grant for the  
15 sidewalk improvements at their property, and at that  
16 time he said he would get back to me, and he had  
17 Ms. Hailstone call me, and we were in quite a few  
18 discussions today over the phone.

19 The reason why it cannot be funded  
20 through the OECD block grant is that there was less  
21 funds were made available to the city for this year  
22 than were actually needed.

23 We talked about to take it from  
24 OECD funds would require us to either cut back on other  
25 programs or eliminate entirety some other projects  
0060

01 which were previously approved, and I did not want to  
02 take anything away from that.

03 And for the record, this project  
04 was not either in the mayor's or the revised OECD block  
05 grant fund from last year.

06 Ms. Hailstone did inform me, she  
07 said, we did have this project kind of targeted over  
08 here as a wish list kind of thing, if you wanted to go  
09 that way, and there was -- I received a commitment  
10 today that this project can be funded from the UDAG  
11 repayment grant.

12 There's a few more little details  
13 to check, but I don't think there's going to be a  
14 problem. So, I think at this time I would like to make  
15 a motion that we request that the administration and  
16 the law department in coordination with Ms. Hailstone  
17 send out an ordinance or -- I think it would probably  
18 be an ordinance, because it is required, allowing the  
19 funding of \$55,000 for the downtown senior citizens  
20 center be taken from the UDAG repayment account.

21 MR. McTIERNAN: Seconded.

22 MR. DIBILEO: There's a motion on  
23 the floor and a second. On the question? All those in  
24 favor, signify by saying aye.

25 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

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01 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

02 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

04 ayes have it and so moved.

05 MR. POCIUS: One other thing, I'll

06 figure I'll say this not to really get it off my chest,

07 but just to answer a question for some other people.

08 I believe in the freedom of speech

09 and the right for people to say basically whatever they

10 want at the podium, and it's their opinion, and that's

11 fine, I won't comment on opinions, because everybody

12 has one, and that only leads to debates and it's not

13 the thing to do.

14 If there's a factual thing, like I

15 tried to tell Mr. Spindler about sidewalk maintenance

16 agreements, that's something I will try to comment on

17 to maybe share some knowledge I have on some issues.

18 Mr. Sbaraglia brought up a point

19 about funding police cars and fire trucks from CommD

20 funds, and we all went down that road, and it's a very

21 difficult situation to say that that vehicle or police

22 cars could only work in a low to mod area, and it's

23 never worked.

24 So, really that type of work has

25 to come from capital budgets or lease agreements or

0062

01 whatever or a capital fund for lack of improvements,

02 that's a fact.

03 I'm not going to debate, and

04 obviously on this one issue, and we all know what I'm

05 talking about, there's litigation, not pending, there's

06 litigation in court over an issue that affects me and

07 other Council people, and I won't comment on that, I

08 can't, I mean, everybody knows that.

09 I think it's been handled, even

10 from the defendants and from the plaintiff's side, very

11 professionally to date, and I think we will keep that

12 rapport up, and I think that's the way to go.

13 And I really -- I'm not going to

14 comment, but I had to state a fact last time that just

15 the way Mr. Bolus presented it every week as if I was

16 getting a pension check, and that's not the truth, and

17 that's all I want to say, a simple fact.

18 I'm not going to dwell on that.

19 That's the last I'm going to say on that, because

20 really I couched my thoughts. I have a lot of

21 opinions, but I'm not going to present them on that,

22 because that's for across the street or down the  
23 street.

24 I'm kind of thrilled that I got  
25 three kind of ayes tonight, like, people agree with me,  
0063

01 which kind of says, you know, the form is good. And  
02 there were meetings with the neighborhood groups back  
03 with former Councils that I sat on. We brought them in  
04 kind of on a regular basis one every other month or  
05 something like that, and it worked out really well in  
06 the caucus, and I commend Mr. DiBileo for that approach  
07 to it.

08 And there are issues like someone  
09 said that are of a sensitive nature. Nobody really  
10 wants to name an address or a name sometimes publicly  
11 about a dilapidated property or vehicles or whatever,  
12 and that's why we have police and inspectors and stuff  
13 like that, and I think that should be handled.  
14 Nobody wants retaliation, and it could happen.

15 But what I'm trying to get at is I  
16 am not going to get up here and debate every issue  
17 that's said to me up at the podium. If it's a factual  
18 thing, I will try to help the person clarify it.  
19 If they have an opinion about  
20 me -- at least I give Mr. Bolus credit, he names me by  
21 name, other people say certain individuals, but that's  
22 fine and dandy, but that shows kind of a lack of, I  
23 don't know, whatever. Just call my name out if you  
24 have a problem with me, and that's fine, too.

25 But I haven't said a lot in the  
0064

01 last couple weeks, and it's been kind of not building  
02 up, but stirring up a little bit, and I just thought  
03 I'd like to just clear the air a little bit tonight.

04 So, thank you. That's all, Mr. President.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

06 Mr. Pocius. Mr. Courtright, any motions or comments?

07 MR. COURTRIGHT: One question,

08 then a comment. Mr. Saunders, if you could, I'd like  
09 to see, if I can get an updated list, of what roads we  
10 will have paved this coming season, if that's possible.

11 MR. POCIUS: Jay, was that

12 attached, because we only got the front sheet of the  
13 bid spec in our thing, we didn't get the backup. I'd  
14 like to see it, too, so maybe -- Bill, you don't mind  
15 if I --

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: No, no.

17 MR. POCIUS: Because we only got

18 the first sheet that said about the bid in the 2005  
19 paving program.  
20 MR. SAUNDERS: Was there a second  
21 sheet attached?  
22 MR. POCIUS: No, just -- we just  
23 got the cover sheet, so maybe --  
24 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, I'll do that.  
25 MR. POCIUS: I'm sure that has the  
0065  
01 list of streets. I'm sure all the Council would like  
02 it.  
03 MR. COURTRIGHT: Because questions  
04 will start being asked soon, I'm sure. Another comment  
05 I have, I've never sat in Mr. DiBileo's seat, and I  
06 don't know if I ever want to sit in that seat, but I  
07 sit here, and when some things happen at the podium  
08 between people from the podium and up here or from  
09 people at the podium and people in the audience, and I  
10 ask myself, you know, would I hit that gavel or  
11 wouldn't I, and I don't know. I think it's a difficult  
12 job.  
13 And I've known Mr. DiBileo my  
14 entire life, and I don't think he means to be rude or  
15 disrespectful to anybody. He's a gentleman, he's  
16 always been a gentleman as long as I've known him.  
17 So, it's a little bit difficult  
18 situation that he's in. I think he's doing the best he  
19 could, and nobody is perfect, so I don't think he  
20 intentionally, you know, is slighting anyone.  
21 And as far as Mr. Saunders not  
22 giving anybody the proper time, I just don't think  
23 that's happening. I think everybody is getting their  
24 five minutes. I don't think he'd short change anybody.  
25 I'm sure when you want to get  
0066  
01 something out, it seems like five minutes has gone too  
02 fast, you know. So, I don't think anybody here is  
03 trying to do anything intentional, and I think  
04 Mr. DiBileo is doing the best he could. It's a  
05 difficult spot, believe me.  
06 If you were sitting up here, I  
07 think you would somewhat agree with me. And that's all  
08 I have. Thank you.  
09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Thank  
10 you, Mr. Courtright. I appreciate the kind words.  
11 And, you know, I guess it is difficult in some respect,  
12 but, you know, I'm not going to complain about it. And  
13 I have to make decisions, and I try to do them as best

14 I can, and I certainly don't mean to insult anyone or  
15 be unfair to anyone over another person.  
16 And if it's perceived that way,  
17 you know, I'm sorry. I just try to be as fair as I can  
18 up here. But thank you, appreciate that.  
19 I just have two quick things.  
20 First I want to -- we got a letter here at City  
21 Council, it's dated actually February 9, but I saw it  
22 this week, and as you know, we're a legislative body,  
23 but, you know, we try to help people on an individual  
24 basis as best we can, sometimes we can't do a whole lot  
25 and we just try to steer them in the right direction to  
0067  
01 the appropriate department of the administration, and  
02 sometimes we can actually get a little more involved  
03 than others, but I got a letter here that's addressed  
04 to members of Council. I just want to read it quickly.  
05 It says, I recently became an  
06 amputee and I had some concerns regarding my safety in  
07 the event of a fire. It's not long.  
08 I spoke to Mr. Courtright by phone  
09 on a Monday morning, who put me in touch with Neil in  
10 Council's office. He in turn put me in touch with  
11 Mr. Jack Joyce of the fire department.  
12 Mr. Joyce sent a memo on my behalf  
13 to the Lackawanna County communications center, and all  
14 department fire chiefs in the nearest fire station to  
15 my home, in this case Engine 15, notified them that in  
16 case of a fire at my home, that there was an amputee  
17 that is confined to a bed in the middle room on the  
18 first floor of my home.  
19 I can't believe this was all done  
20 in less than 24 hours of our conversation. I would  
21 like to thank Mr. Courtright, Neil in the City Council  
22 office, and most important Mr. Jack Joyce for all that  
23 was done for me.  
24 I think that any citizen in the  
25 city who is in need of help such as mine, could call  
0068  
01 the City Council office or call Mr. Courtright or  
02 Mr. Joyce.  
03 I just want to commend  
04 Mr. Courtright for helping this person the way he did.  
05 And so many things go on behind the scenes that you  
06 really never find out about, but obviously this meant a  
07 great deal to this person, this individual, and I won't  
08 mention his name, he knows who he is, and thank you,  
09 Mr. Courtright, and Mr. Joyce for helping out.

10 MR. POCIUS: I've talked to that  
11 individual, Mr. President, and he did tell me how  
12 elated he was, it must be the same person, because he  
13 said he did live in the Hill Section, and he told me he  
14 was very, very happy that it happened so fast.  
15 It's actually, like, when that  
16 address comes up, I guess it's actually coded in,  
17 right, Bill?

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah.

19 MR. POCIUS: Very good job.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. So, it  
21 just goes to show you that, you know, I had no idea  
22 this was happening. You just don't know all that is  
23 going on all the time. Some people think we only get  
24 paid to show up for meetings, but that's a good example  
25 of something he did, made no mention of it to anyone,  
0069

01 no fanfare, just happens over and over and over.  
02 So, I just want to thank Jay in  
03 the office and Kay, Neil, who's not here tonight, for  
04 everything they do on the small things.  
05 Secondly, I want to say that there  
06 was a very good meeting here this week, I think it was  
07 Tuesday evening, the Florence Midtown Crime Watch  
08 organization, which is headed by Reverend Cathryn  
09 Simmons, is very concerned, as are a lot of people in  
10 our community, about crime, and crime involving young  
11 people, and young people's crime turns out to involve  
12 drugs and hurting people and you name it, it just goes  
13 on and on.

14 Well, she wrote to City Council  
15 and she tried to organize a meeting. We invited her to  
16 have the meeting right here in Council chambers, and  
17 three of us couldn't be here, otherwise we would have  
18 had to advertise the meeting, so Mrs. Evans and myself  
19 were the two Council members that were here at the  
20 meeting Tuesday evening, and it was a really good  
21 meeting.

22 It involved many of the  
23 neighborhoods that were here. North Scranton  
24 Neighborhood Association was here, Dick Laske, West  
25 Side Crime Watch members were here, Carl Lynott from  
0070

01 the District Attorney's office, Jim Williams from  
02 United Neighborhood Centers, the Keyser Valley  
03 Neighborhood Association was here, South Side  
04 Neighborhood Association, Oakmont neighborhoods.  
05 It was a great meeting, and what

06 came out of it was that the neighborhoods are going to  
07 start trying to banned together more and they're going  
08 to have a council of neighborhood meeting right here,  
09 again, I offered them this room, and we're going to  
10 have it televised, and Carl Lynott from the District  
11 Attorney's office said that he could actually get a  
12 professional speaker to address the group and address  
13 the community regarding young people and crime and  
14 drugs.

15 And from there, we're going to  
16 take that as a launching pad and then start to have --  
17 some neighborhoods don't have regular meetings any  
18 longer. We're going to try to resurrect those, and  
19 we're going to then have the District Attorney's office  
20 go into each neighborhood meeting and start to educate  
21 the parents and the members of the community on what  
22 they can do to help their young people to stay out of  
23 gangs and stay away from crime.

24 And let's face it, you know, if  
25 our neighborhoods are turned into crime, the whole city  
0071

01 is going to go down the tubes.

02 So, this is going to be a real  
03 launching pad. The meeting probably will occur in the  
04 next couple of weeks. It will be right here on, say, a  
05 Monday or a Tuesday when this room is not being used.  
06 We'll have it televised, and then we'll go right into  
07 the neighborhood monthly meetings that they might have  
08 and do some education on behalf of the District  
09 Attorney's office. So, I want to thank them for being  
10 here and helping out the way that they are. And that's  
11 all that I have for fifth order.

12 MR. WALSH: Fifth order. 5-B, FOR

13 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF  
14 A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE IN THE NAME OF BARBARA  
15 MUNLEY T/A THE HIGH AND DRY, BOROUGH OF ARCHBALD,  
16 LICENSE NO. R-2867 CURRENTLY HELD IN ESCROW FORMERLY  
17 USED AT 455 MAIN STREET, ARCHBALD TO BRT HOLDING, LLC  
18 FOR USE AT 3 WEST OLIVE STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,  
19 18505 AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL  
20 BOARD.

21 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll  
22 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into its  
23 proper committee.

24 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

0072

01 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? All

02 those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
03 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.  
04 MR. POCIUS: Aye.  
05 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.  
06 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
07 have it and so moved.  
08 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, at  
09 this time I'd like to make a motion that Scranton City  
10 Council conduct a public hearing on Item 5-B next  
11 Thursday, March 3, 2005 at 6:45 in City Council  
12 chambers and we authorize Mr. Saunders to place the  
13 proper ad in the paper.  
14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.  
15 MR. DIBILEO: Motion on  
16 the floor and a second. On the question? All those in  
17 favor, signify by saying aye.  
18 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.  
19 MR. POCIUS: Aye.  
20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.  
21 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
22 have it and so moved.  
23 MR. WALSH: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION  
24 - A RESOLUTION - APPOINTING OF REVEREND ANDREW  
25 NEWBERRY, BETHEL AME CHURCH, 714 N. WASHINGTON AVENUE,  
0073  
01 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509, TO SERVE ON THE HUMAN  
02 RELATIONS COMMISSION. REVEREND NEWBERRY WILL BE  
03 FULFILLING THE TERM OF REVEREND EDNA PARKER, WHO TOOK  
04 ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT OUTSIDE THE SCRANTON AREA. REVEREND  
05 NEWBERRY'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2008.  
06 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll  
07 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be introduced into its  
08 proper committee.  
09 MR. POCIUS: So moved.  
10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.  
11 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? All  
12 those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
13 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.  
14 MR. POCIUS: Aye.  
15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.  
16 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
17 have it and so moved.  
18 MR. WALSH: Sixth order. 6-A,  
19 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 109, 2005 -  
20 AN ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING A REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM  
21 THROUGH THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY  
22 DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION LOANS WITH  
23 A TOTAL FUNDING OF \$140,000.

24 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading  
25 by title of Item 6-A. What is your pleasure?  
0074

01 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move  
02 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

03 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

04 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

05 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

06 MR. McTIERNAN: 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: 6-B, READING BY TITLE

12 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 110, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE -

13 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 45 OF 1996 REGARDING

14 THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN

15 THE CITY OF SCRANTON BY UPDATING THE LIST OF HISTORIC

16 PROPERTIES.

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.

0075

01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

03 ayes have it, so moved.

04 MR. POCIUS: Mr. Saunders, I think

05 I'm reading your mind, at this time I'd like to make a

06 motion to appoint Mr. William Courtright as acting

07 chairman for the committee on finance this evening.

08 MR. McTIERNAN: Second.

09 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on

10 the floor and a second. On the question? All those in

11 favor, signify by saying aye.

12 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

13 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

16 have it and so moved.

17 MR. WALSH: Seventh order. 7-A,

18 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR

19 ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 106, 2005 - TRANSFERRING

20 THE FUNDS FROM FUND 02 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNTS WHICH  
21 FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS LISTED BELOW ARE NO LONGER NEEDED  
22 FOR THE CONDUCT OF CITY BUSINESS, AND ABOLISHING AND  
23 CLOSING SAID ACCOUNTS. THE FUNDS REMAINING IN THESE  
24 ACCOUNTS SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE CITY'S GENERAL  
25 FUND.

0076

01 MR. DIBILEO: What's the  
02 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on  
03 finance?

04 MR. COURTRIGHT: As temporary  
05 chairperson for the committee on finance, I recommend  
06 final passage of Item 7-A.

07 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

08 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

09 Roll call, please, Kay.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

11 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

13 Mr. Pocius.

14 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

15 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

17 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby

19 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

20 MR. WALSH: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION

21 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF  
22 COUNCIL NO. 107, 2005, TRANSFERRING THE FUNDS FROM FUND  
23 02 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT WHICH FUNDS AND ACCOUNT LISTED  
24 BELOW ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR THE CONDUCT OF CITY  
25 BUSINESS, AND ABOLISHING AND CLOSING SAID ACCOUNT. THE  
0077

01 FUNDS REMAINING IN THIS ACCOUNT SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO  
02 THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND.

03 MR. DIBILEO: What's the

04 recommendation of the temporary chairperson for the  
05 committee on finance?

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: As chairperson

07 for the committee on finance, I recommend final passage  
08 of Item 7-B.

09 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

10 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

11 Roll call, please.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

13 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

14 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

15 Mr. Pocius.

16 MR. POCIUS: Yes.  
17 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.  
18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.  
19 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.  
20 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby  
21 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.  
22 MR. WALSH: 7-C, FOR CONSIDERATION  
23 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR  
24 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 128, 2005 - AUTHORIZING A  
25 GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 TO THE ARCHITECTURAL  
0078  
01 HERITAGE ASSOCIATION TO FURTHER THE WORK AND PURPOSE OF  
02 THAT ORGANIZATION.  
03 MR. DIBILEO: What's the  
04 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on  
05 community development?  
06 MR. McTIERNAN: Mr. President, as  
07 chairperson for the committee on community development,  
08 I recommend final passage of Item 7-C.  
09 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.  
10 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?  
11 Roll call, please, Kay.  
12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.  
13 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.  
14 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.  
15 Mr. Pocius.  
16 MR. POCIUS: Yes.  
17 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.  
18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.  
19 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.  
20 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby  
21 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.  
22 MR. WALSH: 7-D, FOR CONSIDERATION  
23 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION  
24 NO. 129, 2005 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
25 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
0079  
01 CONTRACT WITH SUNGARD PENTAMATION, INC. FOR PURCHASE,  
02 INSTALLATION, CONVERSION AND MAINTENANCE OF FINANCIAL  
03 AND PERMITS AND LICENSING SOFTWARE FOR THE CITY OF  
04 SCRANTON.  
05 MR. DIBILEO: As chairman for the  
06 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of Item  
07 7-D.  
08 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.  
09 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?  
10 Roll call, please, Kay.  
11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

12 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.  
13 MS. GARVEY: Ms. Evans.  
14 Mr. Pocius.  
15 MR. POCIUS: Yes.  
16 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.  
17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.  
18 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.  
19 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby  
20 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.  
21 MR. WALSH: 7-E, FOR CONSIDERATION  
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION  
23 NO. 130, 2005 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
24 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A LEASE  
25 AGREEMENT WITH PNC LEASING, LLC FOR THE LEASE PURCHASE  
0080  
01 OF THREE NEW PACKMASTERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
02 WORKS.  
03 MR. DIBILEO: As chairperson for  
04 the committee on rules, I recommend final passage of  
05 Item 7-E.  
06 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.  
07 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?  
08 MR. POCIUS: Just on the question,  
09 the word packmaster appeared not only in the heading,  
10 but it appears five or six times throughout the body of  
11 the ordinance, so they are packmasters. We have not  
12 picked up garbage in open trucks in years and years and  
13 years, just for a fact.  
14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Pocius. Anyone else on the question? Roll call,  
16 please, Kay.  
17 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.  
18 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.  
19 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.  
20 Mr. Pocius.  
21 MR. POCIUS: Yes.  
22 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.  
23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.  
24 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.  
25 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby  
0081  
01 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.  
02 Seeing no further business on the agenda, I'll  
03 entertain a motion we adjourn.  
04 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.  
05 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.  
06 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.  
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09 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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0082

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

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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.

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08 LISA M. GRAFF, RPR

08 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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