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02 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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08 Held:

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09 Thursday, March 10, 2005

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11 Time:

12 7:00 p.m.

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14 Location:

15 Council chambers

15 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

16 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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03 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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05 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

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07 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

08

09 MR. JOHN POCIUS

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11 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

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13 MR. MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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15 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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17 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 MS. EVANS: Here.

08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

09 MR. POCIUS: Here.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Here.

14 Before we dispense with the reading of the minutes, we

15 have a guest with us at the podium here, and his name

16 is Jonathan Dendy, and he's an intern in Mark Walsh's

17 office, and Mark, might want to introduce him to us, if

18 you would, Mark.

19 MR. WALSH: Jonathan is a great

20 young man. He came in this evening and he helps out at
21 my office every once in a while. So, just in case we
22 had any big legal problems this evening, we figure we
23 better have him up at the table.

24 MR. DIBILEO: All right. Greg.

25 Good luck, Jonathan. Welcome. And if we can dispense
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01 with the reading of the minutes, please.

02 MR. WALSH: Third 3-A, FINANCIAL

03 STATEMENTS OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AS OF AND FOR
04 THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2004.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

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

07 MR. WALSH: 3-B, Clerk's notes.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Saunders,

09 please, if you would.

10 MR. SAUNDERS: Last week,

11 Mr. President, Mr. Davis asked about special city

12 accounts. In the past couple months and probably over

13 the past year, we have closed down -- the city has

14 closed down city accounts that has come on our agenda.

15 Just what an explanation of what

16 city accounts are, some cases the city receives grant

17 money, we open a special city account and put it in

18 there.

19 They have closed some of those

20 accounts, and the money will be placed back into the

21 general operating budget.

22 Also, last week Councilwoman Evans

23 asked about the city's annual audit, I've talked to

24 Dough Heim from the B.A.'s office, and in the Home Rule

25 Charter Section 3313 states that the annual budget will

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01 be completed by May 31 of the calendar year.

02 Also in the contract with Rossi

03 and Rossi and the City of Scranton it states in the

04 contract that May 31 of the calendar year, that the

05 audit will be done.

06 I talked to Doug, Doug said that

07 they have been reminded about it due to their lateness

08 from last year, and they seem to be on time.

09 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

10 MR. SAUNDERS: Okay. Also, last

11 week at the caucus meeting Lee Morgan asked a question

12 about revising the dog ordinance in the City of

13 Scranton due to an attack that took place on

14 South Everett Avenue, if I'm not mistaken.

15 I did get the police report from

16 Chief Elliot, talked to him about the situation, I've
17 talked to Rob Farrell about the situation,
18 Attorney Walsh and myself have talked to the
19 Pennsylvania League of Cities to actually to find this
20 out and get a clear cut answer on if we could pick on
21 one dog.

22 And that ordinance may or may not
23 be written in the next couple of weeks. So,
24 Mr. Morgan, I do want to give you an update on that,
25 and that is a little more of a delicate situation than
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01 we anticipated it to be, but I will keep you informed.

02 And that's all I have, Mr. President.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

04 Mr. Saunders. Regarding that dog incident, that was on
05 South Filmore Avenue last week, and we ran short on
06 time this evening, Mr. Walsh pulled the current dog
07 ordinance, and we really didn't get enough time to
08 discuss it properly, so for those interested, we are
09 going to discuss it further, as early as next week, to
10 look at it and see if there's any improvements that can
11 be made to make our community safer.

12 I understand that incident was --

13 I got some details on it just today, and it was really
14 a gruesome incident apparently. I was not there, I
15 didn't see photos, but I understand that there are
16 photos of some of the injuries involved. So, we'll be
17 looking at that very shortly. Thank you, and thank
18 you, Mr. Saunders.

19 MR. WALSH: Fourth order, citizen
20 participation.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Before I call up the
22 first speaker, I just wanted to mention that we've
23 officially entered the election season, and I just want
24 to make note that it would not be appropriate for any
25 speakers to really talk about elections and candidates
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01 and anything to do with elections.

02 I just want to make that clear,
03 that I would have to gavel any speaker that brings that
04 topic up. And thank you. And the first speaker on our
05 sign-in sheet is Andy Sbaraglia.

06 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
07 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, as you all
08 know, I'm not running for office and can care less of
09 ever getting in office.

10 Like I said before, I got about

11 ten years of lifetime to go, so I just want to go

12 smooth.

13 MR. DIBILEO: You're smart.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: Just a few

15 questions, as you know, I've talked about this fund we

16 set up with concerned citizen for the preservation of

17 historic Scranton. Now, I went down to the courthouse,

18 well, actually to the post office, and I pulled out the

19 original settlement order, okay?

20 In this original settlement order,

21 the only mention of \$140,000 was that the Scranton Mall

22 Association will create a fund in the amount of

23 \$140,000 to be available for AHA to finance rehab of

24 historical or contributing buildings and rehab fund in

25 or near the downtown Scranton historic district.

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01 That was the only thing I ever

02 came across anything to deal with this fund they said

03 they were going to set up.

04 Now, I don't know if I have all

05 the complete data, but every data I have says this.

06 Concerned citizens for the historic preservation or

07 vacation of Scranton.

08 Now, the settlement agreement sets

09 up that if Mayor Connors at that time in Boscov's

10 disagreed or the project was cancelled, this goes back

11 to '87, what would happen was everybody that was in

12 litigation could litigate, and there was quite a bit.

13 This thing wasn't only from --

14 there was Ufberg, for one thing, there was the City of

15 Scranton, Scranton Redevelopment Authority, Scranton

16 Mall Association, Ufberg Home Furniture, Howard Ufberg

17 and Marcy Ufberg, Samuel Star and Howard Ufberg, Samuel

18 Star and Lisa Star, Architectural Heritage Association,

19 and Concerned Citizens of the Downtown Commercial

20 Scranton, they were all parties to the lawsuit.

21 What it was originally was mainly

22 was some of the buildings they were going to raise.

23 So, they went through that, and what the judge at that

24 time, Kosick, said was most of them -- well, two of

25 them, the Scranton AHA -- all litigation and other

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01 proceedings to which AHA is now a party shall be

02 discontinued immediately with prejudice and will be

03 able to bring no further litigation with respect to

04 Lackawanna Avenue and so forth.

05 No. 6 was all litigation

06 proceedings for which a concerned citizen is a party

07 shall be immediately discontinued with prejudice.

08 Now, nowhere in this thing did I
09 find that we would have enter into an agreement with
10 these people to give them \$140,000. Now, maybe I don't
11 have all of the data, I can't guarantee that I have all
12 of the data, but all the data I do have says that
13 everybody was stopped from doing something with
14 prejudice, that if the mall project fell through, they
15 would have the right to go forward with whatever they
16 want.
17 And I have some of the stuff made
18 for you, if you want to just look at it, and maybe if
19 you get around up at your legal department, maybe they
20 can show you where it was in their agreement that we
21 had the right, you know, they settled to get it to the
22 \$140,000 with concerned citizens.
23 Like I said, all the ones from
24 down there at the federal building said that these
25 lawsuits were just stopped, they dismissed them
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01 actually, and they were dismissed.
02 So, if they were dismissed,
03 there's no way we could say that we entered into an
04 agreement with these people, unless it was a private
05 agreement, which then would be entirely different from
06 what they wrote when they said we were forced to do
07 this thing.
08 The only thing we were forced to
09 do was set up -- the city agrees to reestablish the
10 architecture urban design commission, and the mayor
11 agrees to make one member of AHA to the commission at
12 the time of its re-establishment.
13 We were committed to do that, but
14 that's the only thing I read in this agreement that we
15 were really committed to do. So, if you would like it,
16 if not, it's okay, too, but it's more or less just for
17 reference, because I believe somewhere along the line
18 it's not quite right, something isn't quite right
19 there.
20 If the judge dismissed the
21 lawsuits and said they couldn't do it, and one was in
22 '89, they brought it back up. The original was filed
23 April 14, 1989, is when they said most of these things
24 happened.
25 So, if we get a chance, maybe you
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01 can ask the legal department where in that judge's
02 order we were forced to set up this fund. Thank you.
03 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

04 Mr. Sbaraglia. Jay, possibly you can do that for

05 Mr. Sbaraglia. Reverend Kathryn Simmons.

06 While Reverend Simmons is coming

07 up, you know, regarding elections, I guess it would be

08 acceptable to encourage people to vote and get

09 registered; however, not for any particular candidate.

10 Thanks.

11 MS. SIMMONS: My name is Reverend

12 Kathryn Simmons and I'm a Scranton resident. My Lord

13 Jesus Christ sends you words of peace and love this

14 evening.

15 Good evening Councilman McTiernan,

16 Councilwoman Evans, Councilman Pocius, Councilman

17 Courtright and Council President DiBileo.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

19 MS. SIMMONS: Crime watch, a

20 simple title known to most throughout the city as a

21 citizens group who gathers intelligence to pass on to

22 local law enforcement officials, and when able, tours

23 designated neighborhoods to insure safety and

24 security.

25 Florence-Midtown Crime Watch

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01 answers to all of the above. We are volunteers who

02 strive to improve the area in which we live by

03 extending our hands to our neighbors and our judicial

04 and social community.

05 It has been noted for a long

06 period of time that a great majority of our time has

07 had to be spent trying to raise funds to keep this

08 crime watch going.

09 Florence-Midtown Crime Watch has

10 never applied for, nor asked the city to fund us for

11 any financial obligation we have encountered. In most

12 instances, we've gone into our own pockets, which most

13 of us can ill-afford.

14 There were some overwhelming

15 incidents this past year that came through our complex

16 and through our neighborhood, and as I sat talking to

17 several people about what had transpired, they

18 encouraged me to go to the administration and seek

19 funding for something as simple as a printer so we

20 could get information out to our community and

21 cartridges to fill our computers, but I said, No.

22 Asking administration for funding

23 means entering a political system that this crime

24 watch, nor any crime watch, should enter into.

25 Florence-Midtown Crime Watch is

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01 surrounded by law firms, auto dealers, a college, one
02 of the city's busiest restaurants, and we should be
03 supported by these, our neighbors, because we watch
04 their properties, just as we watch our own.

05 But it's sad to say that only one
06 firm out of all of these has given anything towards the
07 crime watch's financial cost.

08 I come here tonight to ask you as
09 City Council members to show support for
10 Florence-Midtown Crime Watch by encouraging these
11 businesses and professional firms to support the work
12 we do.

13 We're not asking the city for
14 anything, we don't want financial help from the city,
15 we believe and have always believed that neighbors
16 should take care of neighbors.

17 Let me explain tonight here in
18 this place something that is often misunderstood by our
19 own society, crime watch is not built out of fear
20 and/or revenge, but instead is built out of love, and
21 that's what keeps it going, love that we who
22 participate have for our neighbors, our neighborhood
23 and our city.

24 Let those would surround us show
25 that they understand this type of love and want to see
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01 it continued. The only place we can come now is here
02 to ask you for your support in this matter.

03 You'll be receiving letters,
04 letters from us asking you to sign them so we can send
05 them on to businesses around us.

06 As I said before, we're not asking
07 anyone across the river or high up on the hill, we're
08 asking people who are surrounding us to support us.

09 Thank you.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Reverend
11 Simmons, and we would be more than happy to help you
12 achieve that goal. Les Spindler.

13 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
14 Council, Les Spindler. First of all, I have to make a
15 correction to something Mr. Pocius said about me last
16 week. Mr. Pocius said that I said a few weeks ago that
17 the Nay Aug Gorge wasn't nice, I never said that. What
18 I said was in response to something Mrs. Williams
19 said about the Davis Trail being breathe taking, okay?
20 And I said, I don't think that's
21 breathe taking. I said, Niagara Falls is breathe

22 taking, the Grand Canyon is breathe taking, but I
23 didn't think the Davis Trial was breathe taking.
24 I never said the gorge wasn't
25 nice. Maybe when I can take the Maid of the Mist down
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01 the Nay Aug Gorge, then it will be breathe taking.
02 Okay. Recently you saw something
03 in the paper that was saying how great the city is
04 doing, that we had over 3,000 new jobs in this city.
05 Where are there other 3,000 new jobs in this city?
06 Southern Union and Aventis are all
07 jobs that moved into the city from somewhere else. The
08 Hilton was on the drawing table a long, long time ago?
09 Where are 3,000 new jobs in this city? Can anyone tell
10 me? I guess not.

11 It also said we have better police
12 protection. I know for a fact that we have 23 less
13 policemen now than we did under the previous
14 administration. How could that be better police
15 protection?

16 We're taking cops from one part of
17 the city and moving them to another, how is that better
18 police protection? It doesn't sound right to me.
19 Lower crime rates, I saw. Tell that to the kid that
20 had his face beat in if there's lower crime rates. All
21 the banks that are being robbed.

22 Recently the mayor's brother's
23 house was broken into the other day, and also a couple
24 blocks away, another house on Washington Avenue was
25 also broken into. It doesn't sound like lower crime
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01 rates to me.
02 Economic development, again,
03 Aventis and Southern Union are KOZs, and the Hilton was
04 under previous administration, where is there economic
05 development in this city? Thank you.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
07 Mr. Spindler. Bob Bolus.
08 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,
09 Bob Bolus.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

11 MR. BOLUS: Mr. DiBileo, I hate to
12 make this an issue tonight, it's not one that I came to
13 talk about, I had other things on the agenda, but one
14 thing that disturbed me was your comment that, you
15 know, you have entered the race for mayor in the City
16 of Scranton or other candidates, but now we're not
17 supposed to speak about anyone else.

18 But looking at the fact that
19 Chris Doherty is running for office and he's the mayor
20 in this city, are we now precluded from addressing
21 issues that we have with the mayor or any other
22 candidate?
23 I think that would be a stifling
24 of our free speech that we should be able to have a
25 dialogue. If I have a comment about Mr. Pocius, I
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01 can't make it, if I have a comment about Mrs. Evans, I
02 can't make it, or if I have with you or past candidates
03 that were here, by your ruling, we can't make it.
04 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Bolus, let me
05 stop you there. I never said anything about myself
06 being a candidate or anyone being a candidate, for that
07 matter. I just didn't think it would be appropriate to
08 talk about who you favor over another regarding
09 elections.
10 We're public officials, and you
11 can take issue with anything that we do regarding our
12 jobs. Feel free.
13 MR. BOLUS: That's all I wanted to
14 do was a clarification. I'm not here to talk about
15 anyone in the city. I think I treat everybody pretty
16 much equally. If I have an issue, I address it.
17 But I wanted to make that clear
18 that we weren't going to get into some kind of a
19 problem that became a problem for everybody that's
20 running. So, I just wanted to kind of clear that up.
21 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. I'm glad you
22 did. And thank you for clearing it up. I think it
23 makes it a lot easier for all of us.
24 You know, I sit around and I'm
25 seeing people who haven't come here that are candidates
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01 now, but I haven't seen people come to this lector in,
02 I can't remember when. They come out and speak as
03 citizens.
04 And I'll say Mr. Hazzouri, he's no
05 longer a public official, but, you know, he has an
06 issue with the pension and other issues that we have,
07 yet I haven't seen him come here once to speak out for
08 the city, yet he wants to come here and try to run the
09 city.
10 Remember he was instrumental,
11 along with Mr. Murphy and Mr. Gilhooley on the reason I
12 was arrested for free speech here. So, those are
13 issues I have.

14 MR. DIBILEO: All right. I'll
15 stop you there. They're not public officials now.
16 MR. BOLUS: That's correct, but
17 they did put their names in, and I believe I have a
18 right that reflects the City of Scranton where people
19 want to run and kind of tell us what they're going to
20 do for us again.
21 I think we have a right to speak
22 about past records or who they are and what they did or
23 didn't do. You don't have to be an office holder to
24 come here and speak. Everybody here speaks, they speak
25 their peace, we have dialogue. Our country was built
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01 on debate. That's what these chambers are for, whether
02 it's the US Supreme Court or the Commonwealth Court or
03 our local courts, they're a place of debate where
04 people debate issues, right, wrong or indifferent, they
05 come to a solution, and I believe that's what we do
06 here, and I hope we gain something. I think we have.
07 You know, on the KOZs and the
08 impact fee that was brought up last week, I think you
09 have to look just beyond an impact fee, because that's
10 a narrow, and I think Mr. Walsh will agree with me,
11 it's just a very narrow thing that you can do, but if
12 you look at a maintenance fee or create another fee.
13 So, I would say a motion should be
14 made to look into other fees that are general across
15 everything, and not specific to certain items that,
16 like, an impact fee would be. That was the research I
17 had supplied to Council that you would have a better
18 idea.
19 So, you have to become somewhat
20 creative in order to create the issue that we need that
21 it's a fair share for everyone in the community, not
22 just donations. So, it may be something you want to
23 look at putting as a motion to do further research,
24 because there's a lot of information out there.
25 You know, I'm looking at a lot of
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01 the things that I see going on here in the city, and I
02 think we're going to get a lot more, but what I would
03 like to do is tell everyone that is running for office,
04 don't be afraid to come here. This is the place for
05 debate. This is the place for issues. Everyone should
06 have an equal opportunity to come here.
07 Don't hide. Come here, tell us
08 what you really want to do, and you can come here every
09 Thursday, well, not next week, you can come Wednesday.

10 But, you know, we need to learn
11 more about what people want to be and what people want
12 to do, and it's not about businesses only, it's about
13 the citizens.

14 You know, people passed petitions
15 out for me, and I elected not to get involved, for a
16 lot of other reasons, and it was my own choosing, not
17 that I was impacted by anybody else out there, because
18 I'm a man that speaks his peace and stands on my own
19 rights, and that's why I come here, and I hope
20 everybody takes that opportunity to use the democracy
21 that we have. Thank you.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

23 Mr. Bolus. Larry McAndrew.

24 MR. McANDREW: Larry McAndrew,
25 good evening Council. I want to say that last evening
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01 I attended a special board meeting of our Scranton
02 School District, and our board members took the
03 initiative to ban nepotism.
04 History was made last night. It
05 was a policy that they took on, and it should have been
06 done years ago. No individual should have any
07 influence and make a decision on who is hired to work
08 for either a school district, a city or a county.

09 I come here tonight to ask
10 City Council, I know that there's a civil service
11 commission here, and you have authority from that, I
12 ask City Council to take into consideration a policy
13 about nepotism, just consider it.
14 I don't know if you have to put a
15 motion in or -- it's something to look into, and I'm
16 going to ask the county commissioners also to do this.
17 This should have been done a long time ago.

18 As I said, everybody deserves an
19 equal opportunity for work in this area. Enough said
20 on that.

21 Last week I attended Council where
22 there was a mayor's veto vote that was taken, and my
23 understanding it was to balance the checks and balance
24 system; is this correct?

25 MS. EVANS: Yes.

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01 MR. McANDREW: And there's two
02 members of Council, Mr. McTiernan, and Mr. Pocius, I
03 have an issue with you tonight, I would like to know if
04 you could possibly elaborate on your decision of why
05 you voted no. Either one of you gentlemen would like

06 to say this or speak up?

07 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I've
08 addressed that comment at a prior meetings, I voted
09 with no comment last week, but I had addressed my
10 reasons in the past on the public dais up here, and
11 basically I think that -- my main thoughts were it was
12 not needed, that there was enough checks and balances
13 in place, that we're supplied this information on a
14 weekly basis, all the transfers, and that anything
15 that's interdepartmental or anything else basically is
16 done by ordinance, and I thought it would be cumbersome
17 to this Council, and not only to the Council, but to
18 the running of the city business that we would be tied
19 up in the minutia of making ordinances for cents when
20 we should be worrying about major dollars. So, that's
21 my reasoning, sir.

22 MR. McANDREW: Well, thank you,
23 Mr. Pocius. Mr. McTiernan, do you have any comment?

24 MR. McTIERNAN: Sure, I do. As I
25 understand it with the presentations that were given to
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01 us, the original Home Rule Charter reflected the way
02 that the ordinance currently is, and that ordinance has
03 changed back and forth depending on the political tide
04 at the time, so my decision to maintain as the
05 ordinance was originally written as it was proposed to
06 us or outlined to us by our solicitor was what governed
07 my decision.

08 MR. McANDREW: Thank you,
09 gentlemen, for being open with me and letting the
10 audience and TV audience and the citizens of Scranton
11 know your position on this.

12 I feel that Mayor Doherty sat at
13 this Council and was in charge of finances under a
14 previous administration and he did not like the way it
15 was handled.

16 Now when he becomes mayor, he
17 changes things the way he wants things? I feel that
18 this mayor is trying to cover up something in his
19 administration by doing this. Thank you for your time.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

21 Lee Morgan.

22 MR. MORGAN: Good evening,
23 Council. The first thing I'd like to say is that I
24 appreciate the thought you're going to give and the
25 consideration you're going to give the problem we have
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01 with vicious dogs in the city, and I hope that we get

02 some law that will protect the citizens and the
03 citizens' pets from people who are not responsible for
04 their pets.

05 I'd also like to say that we're
06 starting to come into an election cycle, and I think I
07 agree with what Mr. DiBileo said in the beginning here,
08 is that everybody has to register to vote. Every
09 single person that can vote should vote.

10 But, you know, they should become
11 informed and find out what the issues are and come to
12 some conclusion on what the solutions are.

13 I think that a lot of the problems
14 the city has is that too many people or some people
15 that vote are ideologically driven, they're either a
16 Democrat or a Republican and issues don't matter to
17 them, and I find that to be the reason why our country
18 is in the shape it's in, because they continually, and
19 this is in not criticism of any candidate, none
20 whatsoever, they continually vote people into office
21 who cannot or will not do their job, and then all we do
22 is we continue a cycle of just complete destruction of
23 either the tax base or the economic base.

24 And you can see by where we are
25 now, the situation we find ourselves in. So, I think
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01 we need informed voters that can be either Democrats,
02 Republicans, Independents, whatever type of political
03 organization they care to partake in would be just
04 fine, just partake in the system.

05 The other thing I'd like to say
06 is, I would hope that every neighborhood group leader
07 shows up at the Green Ridge Neighborhood Association on
08 Tuesday at 908 Deacon Street, because I really think
09 it's important for everybody to realize that police
10 protection is important, and initially when the
11 president -- I mean when the mayor's recovery plan was
12 initially formulated, I stated that if we weren't
13 careful, we were going to become like Wilkes-Barre, and
14 now we're starting to see the stress that our police
15 department is under.

16 But you know something, it's not
17 too late to change course. We have a lot to save here,
18 and I hope that everybody realizes it, and everybody
19 has to come to that meeting, even if you have to stand
20 outside, it's important that everyone comes there. I
21 mean, you know, everyone.

22 The other thing I'd like to say
23 with the political season upon us at this time, I think

24 that we need to really look at some very important
25 issues that I feel this city needs to take action on,
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01 and one of them is we need advanced life support units
02 in this city, ambulances in this city.
03 I just find the system we have to
04 not be everything it should be. And if I or anybody
05 here was on the ground waiting for an ambulance, I
06 think we would want the best service we could have, and
07 we'd want somebody to show up in a timely fashion to be
08 saved, if possible.

09 I think that we need to consider
10 an enhanced playground program. I think we have to
11 make sure that community development money in the next
12 three or four years goes into the neighborhoods, not
13 into the downtown, but into the neighborhoods, because
14 revitalizing the neighborhoods is the answer to
15 Scranton's problems.

16 People will come here when the
17 neighborhoods are stabilized, and we have to figure a
18 way to increase our population base. It definitely has
19 to happen, because we can't grow as a city without a
20 population.

21 We have to find a way to increase
22 our neighborhood police patrols, because when you feel
23 safe in your neighborhoods, it's the best feeling you
24 could possibly have.

25 It will bring residents into the
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01 city. Maybe we need to look for new answers, but we
02 definitely need that. We need a small business
03 incubator in this city to build on people's ideas.
04 If someone has an idea to make,
05 whatever you want to consider, hangers, and they're
06 making hangers in their garage, well, they have no
07 access to a loading dock, no access to power and all
08 the utilities necessary to manufacturer, if we create a
09 small business incubator in this city, and we tell them
10 that when you come into this incubator, we will
11 subsidize you to a certain degree and give you access
12 to loading docks and transportation and all of these
13 things, well, when you outgrow this incubator, you will
14 remain in this city, we will build our own economic
15 base. There's a lot of answers here.

16 The other thing is we have to find
17 a way not to have tax anticipation loans every year.
18 So, whoever runs for office and becomes mayor, whoever,
19 I would ask them to phase in over a three-year period

20 to a point where we borrow no more in tax anticipation
21 notes.

22 And the one other thing I have is
23 this, I believe we should save the South Side Sports
24 Complex. The deal isn't done yet, and we should
25 reverse out. And if we have to give the University of
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01 Scranton back the \$700,000, we should do it, and that
02 should be for little leagues in the city, for all the
03 children in this city.

04 We talk about conditions of
05 fields, those fields are lighted, they're absolutely
06 beautiful, they're in the center of the city, they're
07 an asset and our children should enjoy them, so we
08 should save them. Thank you.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

10 Mr. Morgan. Erik Johnson.

11 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, City
12 Council and staff. Erik Johnson, Scranton. In order
13 to be hired as a police officer or fireman, all
14 applicants must take and pass a civil service test; am
15 I right?

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Otherwise you would
18 never receive a chance if you don't apply to become a
19 police or fire employee in Scranton.

20 A question about hiring minorities
21 for the police and fire department was mentioned last
22 week, when it was quoted that there were no new
23 possible hired minorities on the list from the civil
24 service test list.

25 My understanding that it was
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01 quoted that Scranton, if you can believe the Scranton
02 Times Tribune, that the last civil service test like
03 all the others prior to the last one was open to the
04 public and all minorities were welcome to apply.
05 Oddly to say, there were not one
06 minority that had applied to take the civil service
07 test for any job now or in the future for the city
08 police or firemen or women; am I right or wrong on this
09 question of concern? Bill Courtright, can you comply
10 to this?

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: I haven't seen
12 the list of people who applied or didn't apply,
13 Mr. Johnson, but in order to be a police officer, you
14 have to have Act 120 in Scranton.
15 Now, Scranton has hired officers,

16 and I believe a couple, and sent them through Act 120,
17 and the fire department had to take the test to pass.
18 I don't know personally who applied and did not apply,
19 but I don't think it had anything to do with whether
20 they were minority or not minority if they were hired.
21 That's just my opinion.

22 MR. JOHNSON: Well, it was just in
23 the paper that it was open to the public and --

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, it was
25 certainly open to the public.

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01 MR. JOHNSON: And there were no
02 minorities at all that applied for the --

03 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think
04 if Mrs. Shedlock wrote that in, there she must have got
05 it from a valuable source.

06 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. All
07 right. Thank you for the answer, Bill. I hear that
08 all community development block grants and other city
09 and county block grants are request to be cut as much
10 as 50 percent, which would begin in October, and which
11 the Bush administration will release its budget plans
12 for the year 2006.

13 In the past, it appropriated about
14 \$5 billion in block grants as in the past years, a
15 50 percent cut would be about two and a half billion.
16 Let's get in touch with your federal representatives
17 and also use your options before October or later
18 months come around or you may be out of any options you
19 have in the past.

20 I also want to congratulate police
21 officer Carl Graziano in his promotion of Captain and
22 second in command. We needed a second in command very
23 badly, and it's the first officer to hold that title.

24 He is a well-trained veteran of 13 years on the force.
25 I've always said this, that we

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01 needed a new police headquarters, which we will
02 eventually have, but I also think it's a priority to
03 have police and fire department labor contracts settled
04 before the new police headquarters is finished.

05 I believe before you can even move
06 into the new police headquarters, you should get
07 this -- this administration needs to work on the labor
08 issues and the contracts, so I think that's a top
09 priority right now. And thank you for letting me
10 speak.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Erik.

12 J.B. Davis.

13 MR. DAVIS: Voting is an act of
14 empowerment in pursuit of freedoms. I'm speaking to
15 all of those who live in projects or in Central City.
16 The only way that the servants of
17 the city, servants of yours can react to you, is to
18 know that, first of all, you are going to try and act
19 like you're free, you're going to take on the
20 responsibility of voting, which means we don't want you
21 to be just a lever puller of a party, we want you to
22 actually do the work of selecting the people very
23 carefully, because it is important.

24 It's important to the fact that
25 how this city goes is how we ask it to go. We are in
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01 control of those that sit before you, believe it or
02 not.

03 We're the ones who put them there,
04 and if they're going to not be there that next year,
05 we're responsible for that, also.

06 If the city goes forward, we're
07 responsible for that, and so we have to start taking on
08 the full responsibility of being a citizen of Scranton.
09 Okay. Number two, the operating
10 budget. Mr. Saunders, thank you very much for that
11 information. That's something we said last week. We
12 already knew that it flowed from the contingency funds
13 that were not being used back into the city. I asked
14 who is in control of that, who is responsible for the
15 use of these funds? Can City Council ask for those
16 funds to create something or is it only the mayor?

17 MR. SAUNDERS: It's flowed into
18 the general operating budget.

19 MR. DAVIS: General operating
20 budget, well, who is --

21 MR. SAUNDERS; The business
22 administration with City Council and the mayor control
23 that.

24 MR. DAVIS: So. Mrs. Novembrino
25 controls it?

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01 MR. SAUNDERS: No. The
02 business administrator is Len Kresefski in the City of
03 Scranton.

04 MR. DAVIS: Oh, that one. He
05 works for the mayor, doesn't he?

06 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, he does.

07 MR. DAVIS: So, therefore, it's

08 the mayor that controls it.

09 MR. SAUNDERS: The mayor, City

10 Council and Len Kresefski handles the day-to-day.

11 MR. DAVIS: So, you're saying that

12 City Council has the right to request funds from that
13 to perform something, a task?

14 MR. SAUNDERS: Well, that's a
15 broad question, but I think that --

16 MR. DAVIS: It's not that broad.

17 MR. DIBILEO: All we can do is
18 ask, Jim.

19 MR. DAVIS: Excuse me.

20 I'm not being argumentative. I thought you said City
21 Council, the mayor and the business administrator,
22 they're in control of it, but I've never heard of
23 anybody taking any money out of that.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Jim, we vote on the
25 budget, and it's presented to us by the administration,
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01 which it was this year. Council this year made some
02 changes, and then it went back to the original form
03 that it came to us in after a veto vote, for example.

04 So, it's given to us for ratification.

05 MR. DAVIS: It's given to you for

06 ratification, okay. That's all. That's what I really
07 wanted to find out, do you have the right to stop the
08 use of this or can you ask to use it? Thank you very
09 much.

10 The Voting Rights Act of '65

11 should be required reading in high schools. If we want
12 our kids to be able voters, able citizens, we've got to
13 teach them on what the Voting Rights Act is all about.

14 So, if it's not being taught in the high schools,

15 Mr. Principal, teachers, please, see if you can

16 institute it in some way or form, because our kids are
17 really ignorant of it.

18 The kids that I've questioned at

19 the Progressive Center and different places, they have
20 no idea of what the Voting Rights Act is. Who is this?

21 What are you talking about? Where did it come from?

22 So, therefore, please introduce it

23 into curriculum, if possible. We used to have them in
24 civil, what was it, there was a course name, it was so

25 long ago, but we were taught that.

0035

01 Okay. Number four, kudos to the

02 basketball team of Scranton High. They played in the

03 semi-finals. Their team is probably one of the

04 shortest team that I've ever seen hit the field, but
05 they won, and they won continuously.
06 They had good hearts and they're
07 good young men. Now I say to them, it's time for them
08 to hit the books again. If you use the same amount of
09 power that you used on that floor to hit your books and
10 create in your minds a positive field of understanding,
11 then you can go onto college.
12 You will get the marks that are
13 required of you to get into college. If you don't, you
14 won't get in. There's a very strong line of not
15 allowing people without the credits that were gained in
16 high school to get into college. You're going to be
17 stopped.
18 So, no matter how good you played
19 basketball, no matter how good you ran up and down the
20 field in football, if you don't have the marks, you
21 won't get into the schools. So, get smart and do what
22 you have to do.
23 Last point, perhaps the
24 minority -- this is in answer to the question that was
25 asked before and Ms. Shedlock wrote about it, about the
0036

01 minorities not applying for the jobs of firemen and
02 policemen, maybe they don't want to be firemen or
03 policemen in Scranton. I mean, if they look around
04 them and they see, Gee, there's nobody here that wants
05 to be a fireman and policemen before I got here, why
06 should I apply? There must be something wrong with
07 that job.

08 And to find someone who wants to
09 step out there on faith alone, it's kind of tough
10 today, especially if you have families to support.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Jim.

12 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much.

14 That's it for the sign-in sheet. Are there any other
15 speakers? Nelson Ancherani.

16 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening, I'm
17 Nelson Ancherani.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

19 MR. ANCHERANI: I'm a citizen and
20 taxpayer and a member of the Fraternal Order of
21 Police. Last week in the mail I received a mailing
22 from Mayor Doherty, and one of the messages on the
23 mailing said, More reliable city services.

24 I believe the city employees have
25 been serving the city very well, considering the stress

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01 and distraction that has been placed on them by the
02 mayor's demoralizing recovery plan.
03 The employees go to work every day
04 doing the best jobs they can and they will continue to
05 do so. They are proud people working for a thankless
06 and uncaring administration.
07 Another part of the mailing says,
08 Removing Scranton's distress status. Scranton has
09 ended the last three years in the black. Scranton is
10 not distressed. The mayor wants the distressed label
11 so he can try to break the unions.
12 He has hired two more of the
13 highest priced attorneys to fight the police and fire
14 unions. These attorneys are in addition to the
15 attorneys already on the payroll.
16 Where is this money coming from?
17 I said at previous Council meetings that if the mayor
18 sat down at the bargaining table with the unions, a lot
19 of money could be saved on both sides.
20 And by the way, where is this
21 extra money coming from? If the city is broke, why is
22 money being spent needlessly for new furniture in City
23 Hall, flower pots sitting at the DPW, excessive pay
24 raises to the mayor's cabinet, dirt at Nay Aug, etc.,
25 etc., etc.

0038

01 And now the city controller won't
02 sign a contract for the dirt at Nay Aug because she
03 questions whether the bidding for the job was done
04 properly.
05 If the Council remembers, I
06 brought up about how Kalinoski was picked. It turns
07 out he was not the lowest bidder, he was \$96,000 higher
08 than the lowest bidder.
09 Is the mayor spending all this
10 money needlessly so he can sneak in a tax hike and
11 blame it on the unions? It won't work, Mayor. The
12 citizens of this city are too smart to be duped.
13 Another item on the flyer is
14 safety -- is safer streets and neighborhood. My
15 question is, How can the streets and neighbors be safer
16 with less police?
17 Look at Wilkes-Barre, they cut
18 police. The streets and neighborhoods did not get
19 safer, they got more violent.
20 Seven shootings have taken place
21 in Wilkes-Barre since May 2002, and a number of them

22 were killings. The latest shooting took place on
23 October 15, 2002. I see this kind of violence in the
24 City of Scranton. People will not be able to walk the
25 streets without fear or let their children out to
0039

01 play.

02 The city will be just like

03 Wilkes-Barre, the criminal element moves back into
04 Scranton and takes over the streets.

05 On October 24 of this year, at

06 Valley View Terrace, a drug bust was made. 90 bags of
07 heroin and \$16,000 was confiscated by the drug squad,
08 and two of the people arrested were not from Scranton,
09 they were from out of town. They were members of the
10 Bloods gang, the Bloods, big city gang.

11 I have been saying it for weeks

12 now. The proof is in the pudding. The criminal
13 element is watching what we are doing, that is what is
14 come into our city at a time when we are trying to cut
15 police.

16 I believe the citizens of this

17 city have a genuine concern about their safety. What a
18 shame it would be after all the hard work and energy
19 that was put forth to clean up the city to have more --
20 to have crime reflourish.

21 I've been with the Scranton Police

22 Department for 27 years. I got my job on the CETA
23 program because of increased crime at that time. There
24 will always be crime, but when police ranks are cut,
25 crime increases. Now is the time to address this
0040

01 situation, not when it is too late.

02 You know the saying, Pay me now or

03 pay me later. I will be voting on the referendum, I
04 will be voting no to fire cuts and I will be voting no
05 to police cuts. Thank you, gentlemen.

06 Just a point of information, what

07 I read just now was my transcript from the
08 October 28, 2022 meeting before the previous Council.

09 That was two and a half years ago about the crime. I
10 hate to say it, but I told you so. Thank you.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

12 Mr. Ancherani.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening, City

14 Council. Joanne Williams, taxpayer, resident.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

16 MS. WILLIAMS: I haven't been here

17 in a few weeks, but it was either last week or a few

18 weeks ago Mr. Spindler, I felt, made a negative comment
19 about small businesses.

20 I took the opportunity to speak to
21 a few owners of small businesses in our city, and I
22 feel that small businesses are the foundation of our
23 downtown community.

24 I did get the approval of the
25 people I spoke to to say just a few things that we
0041

01 spoke about.

02 Number one, the Community Bake
03 Shop has been here since 1946 and employs eight people.
04 The owner feels very positive about the improvements
05 and the new business happening in the downtown.

06 Adell, who owns the Community Bake
07 Shop, also told me that people who come to her business
08 also come from outside of Scranton, for such as
09 weddings.

10 She also told me that these people
11 who do come from the outlining areas usually stick
12 around to shop in the small businesses and go to our
13 Steamtown Mall.

14 Northern Light Cafe has been here
15 about three years, employs about 12 people, is very
16 impressed with the improvements to our downtown area.

17 Ross Jewelers, about three years,
18 employs four people, very happy with the downtown.
19 Galucci Music has been here 55 years, has a few
20 employs, and is also very excited about the downtown.

21 One of these people, and they
22 didn't want me to say who they were, were thinking
23 about relocating, but until things started happening in
24 downtown, they decided to stay, they believe in good
25 things that are happening around here.

0042

01 Also I wanted to bring up Reverend
02 Simmons mentioned about crime watch, I am in the
03 process now of starting a crime watch in the
04 Hill Section, it's in the beginning stages, and I will
05 be speaking to her, because I think crime watches are
06 very important and are needed very much.
07 I also do agree with Mr. Morgan
08 about pitbulls. I really do think something should be
09 done, you know, about dog owners and how they take care
10 of their animals.

11 Also, there's a lot of talk about
12 paved roads in the city. And, Jay, I mean, if I can
13 ask Jay, at your convenience, right, if you could get

14 me a list of the streets that have been paved in the
15 last few years, and I'll leave my address with Kay, if
16 that's okay.

17 Does anybody have an idea of how
18 many roads have been paved, like, so far? Maybe
19 somebody does on Council.

20 MR. DIBILEO: I don't have it.

21 MR. POCIUS: Mike Luciani gave me
22 the number. It's a few miles. I mean, we have quite a
23 few miles worth of streets, but it's a few miles.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Yeah. I don't
25 know, my feeling --

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01 MR. POCIUS: 300, 400 feet at a
02 time.

03 MS. WILLIAMS: I don't know if I'm
04 correct in this, but sometimes I think a lot of the
05 potholes do come from, and I don't want to be negative
06 to the gas and water company, is that when they do have
07 to do what they need to do, sometimes I don't think
08 they repair them as well as they should, and at times
09 in the winter, you can't, that's impossible, you know,
10 sort of impossible.

11 Also, I just wanted to clarify
12 something else before I go, just one thing.

13 Mrs. Evans, when I was here a few weeks ago and I spoke
14 about being better four years, you had stated when I
15 was sitting in the audience that because taxes have
16 gone up, just a question, you did mean county taxes; am
17 I correct?

18 MS. EVANS: We were talking --
19 well, I was referring to county taxes, but I was also
20 referring to the tax -- the fact that city taxes had
21 not been decreased.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, they haven't
23 gone up either, and that's a good thing.

24 Also, I come here, you know, I
25 don't come often, but I come here to speak positive
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01 about the city, as you all know that, and then a lot of
02 times I get negative feedback.

03 I don't like to come to this
04 podium and bring up people's names, but that ahs
05 happened in the past. So, like, I'm standing here this
06 evening and I'm in the public eye, as well as you
07 people are, you know, you hear a lot of positive
08 things, you hear some negative things.

09 I think you have to be aware that

10 that's going to happen to people. So, I just want to
11 clarify that, too. And thank you very much for
12 listening to me.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
14 Mrs. Williams. And thank you for your efforts with
15 organizing the crime watch in your neighborhood.
16 That's very good. Thank you.

17 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,
18 Council. I wasn't going to attend tonight, but after
19 listening to the end of the meeting last week, I came
20 up with, I guess, a couple questions.
21 The first would be, We found 50,
22 I'll use the word found, money from the UDAG fund for
23 the downtown senior center, I was wondering, can we
24 find UDAG money or the leftover money, if there's going
25 to be any from the Pittston Avenue project or
0045

01 somewhere, to equip all of the police cars in this city
02 with an AED, instead of -- it's to my understanding
03 that currently we have two police cars that are in this
04 city that are equipped with AEDs.

05 I think it would be excellent if
06 we can have every police car equipped with an AED,
07 since the QRS system has gone on deaf ears with the
08 administration. I think a good step would be these
09 AEDs in every police car, not just the two we have.
10 The two are working, but I think --

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Charlie, if I
12 may, I don't know if we could use that money to buy
13 AEDS, because I don't know if it needs to be used for a
14 particular area, you know, low to moderate income,
15 because I will certainly ask that.

16 Yeah, it is a good idea. We have
17 two, and it's a big help, and I think it saves lives.
18 And later on when it's my turn to speak, I have a
19 little bit of information that I got on UDAG money, and
20 if you're around, you'll be able to hear it, if not,
21 I'm sure you can watch the tape.
22 But, yeah, it's a good suggestion,
23 I'll ask, but I don't know if it's possible to use that
24 type of funds for those pieces of equipment.

25 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Okay. The
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01 legislation that I believe that Mr. McAndrew was
02 referring to before, when did that change? When did
03 that legislation change? Was it the same for a long
04 time while Mr. Doherty was on Council previous or when
05 was the --

06 MR. DIBILEO: The
07 interdepartmental transfers?
08 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Yes, that was
09 vetoed last week.
10 MR. DIBILEO: Well, it was in
11 effect when Mr. Doherty was on Council. I'm not
12 certain how far back it went beyond that point.
13 MS. EVANS: And it was altered in
14 July, I believe, July 21 or 23, 2003.
15 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Okay. So,
16 previous to July of 2003, it has been there for a
17 number of years regarding that way?
18 MS. EVANS: Yes.
19 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: So, I guess
20 that answers a lot of questions. I don't know why you
21 would want to change it now if it was the same for that
22 long, but -- did we get any response to the
23 intersection of Keyser Avenue and Oak Street regarding
24 the pave cuts that I talked about a couple of weeks
25 ago? I asked if we can look into it.
0047
01 MR. SAUNDERS: Not yet.
02 MR. POCIUS: Excuse me,
03 Mr. Newcomb. Jay, they're both state routes, so they
04 may come under the jurisdiction of PennDOT, so you may
05 want to call Lackawanna County maintenance.
06 MR. SAUNDERS: Okay.
07 MR. POCIUS: Oak Street and Keyser
08 Avenue are both state legislative routes, okay?
09 MR. SAUNDERS: All right.
10 MR. POCIUS: I didn't mean to
11 interrupt you, Charlie.
12 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: No, that's
13 fine. Thank you. I'm not -- I respect what you said
14 before, Mr. DiBileo, regarding political things, and
15 when I start talking, please don't think I'm going to
16 mention anybody's name or anything, because I'm not,
17 but I have been a Republican since I was 18, and I
18 decided to be a Republican when I became the age of 18
19 to vote, because that's what my family did, and when
20 you're grown up with that, that's basically how you do,
21 you get to follow.
22 I've never changed my party since
23 I was 18 years old. I've always been a Republican, but
24 I have supported the individual or individuals that I
25 personally felt I would want them to represent me in
0048
01 their office.

02 This year the Republican party
03 isn't represented in the upcoming elections, and I find
04 it a shame that they aren't represented in the upcoming
05 elections.

06 So, basically there's nobody for
07 the Republican party to vote for. And I don't know
08 what the problem is, if it's the leaders of that
09 particular party or if nobody wants to step up to the
10 plate, but I find it funny that the leader of that
11 party blames this Council and the people that come
12 here, because I think he used the word lack of quorum
13 that happens at the City Council meetings and people
14 are afraid of the personal ridicule that will happen if
15 they run for office.

16 I just have to disagree with that
17 statement. And it seems to me that they need to look
18 and see what party they truly are before they criticize
19 others.

20 And I'd just like to say that
21 because of this election, I'm forced to change my party
22 if I truly want to be able to vote, and it's really a
23 shame. Thank you.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Charlie, I, too, did
0049

01 not make any sense out of the comment that you were
02 referring to on why there might not have been
03 candidates for that particular party.

04 And, you know, we ask people to
05 exercise their civic duty and vote, but, you know,
06 you're right, you know, you ask people to vote, but on
07 that side of the aisle there's nobody to vote for, and
08 it doesn't make too much sense to me. But go ahead,
09 Ray.

10 MR. LYMAN: Raymond Lyman. I just
11 have one question. Is it okay if I ask Mr. McTiernan,
12 this is for him.

13 MR. DIBILEO: He doesn't have to
14 answer, but you can ask him.

15 MR. LYMAN: See, I wasn't going to
16 speak tonight, but a couple of kids from Scranton High
17 who are members of the school band, they asked me,
18 because they have a problem, you see, they want to --
19 they want new uniforms and new musical instruments
20 because they play the horn and the cello and inside
21 their horn they have fungus inside it and they need new
22 horns and cellos and that, and the uniforms are kind of
23 tachy.

24 And the way that I see them, they
25 are tachy, in my opinion, too. I think that, Mr.
0050

01 McTiernan, you should ask the school board to get new
02 uniforms.

03 MR. McTIERNAN: Mr. Lyman, the
04 instruments are on an annual replacement as part of our
05 building budget, and the district adequately funds that
06 building budget, and we repair and replace instruments
07 as they wear out.

08 With regard to the uniforms, that
09 is part of our in-house budget. Uniforms can run
10 anywhere from \$100, for a very cheap uniform, to in
11 excess of \$600, \$700 a piece.

12 The school board has allocated
13 some funds. The members of the school board have
14 taken the opportunity to try to solicit some private
15 fund-raising efforts, and right now we're in the
16 process of replacing our uniforms, which have changed
17 due to the deterioration of the old uniforms with some
18 moderately-priced uniforms.

19 Last year we purchased, maybe it's
20 not to your liking, but we purchased uniforms at the
21 band director's request, and this year we have
22 replacements coming, and we do have funds allocated for
23 that.

24 Even though that's really not a
25 City Council issue, I would take the time to answer
0051

01 your question.

02 MR. LYMAN: Yes. But I was
03 thinking, like, I saw on PCN, you know, the network
04 that shows the football games, I saw South
05 Williamsport's football team, they had a beautiful
06 uniform, the band uniforms, they had, like, the little
07 revolutionary hats like this and their uniforms, they
08 had, like, the kind that Washington wore, you know,
09 with the little jacket with the little feather sticking
10 up like this and the ruffles like this, and, you know,
11 the way the bands had it.

12 I mean, that could have been
13 something like Scranton High could have had, something
14 fancy like that, but not like those uniforms those kids
15 have today. They're kind of tachy.

16 And they could have played that in
17 the parade this Saturday and the Christmas parade.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Ray, let me stop
19 you. Do you have any city business that we can

20 discuss?

21 MR. LYMAN: I know this ain't city

22 business --

23 MR. DIBILEO: Your comments are

24 welcome.

25 MR. LYMAN: I know, Gary, this

0052

01 ain't city business, but they told me to tell you this,

02 because he's the principal of the school.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, he answered,

04 yeah.

05 MR. LYMAN: I know. And this is

06 the only time I can get a hold of him, because I can't

07 call the school.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Go ahead.

09 MR. LYMAN: And the only thing

10 else I want to ask you is to congratulate you for

11 running for mayor.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

13 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, ladies

14 and gentlemen. My name is Dave Gervasi, taxpayer and

15 resident and member of the Scranton Fire Department.

16 First off, I'd just like to ask

17 Mr. McTiernan to please not go to the school mad

18 tomorrow, since Ray dined the cello player.

19 You should have said the horn and

20 the string player, that way there would be too many of

21 them. The cello player got dined.

22 MR. McTIERNAN: We have a problem

23 that there's spit in the cellos and fungus in the

24 cellos. I'm not a musician necessarily, but

25 there's spit in the wind instruments.

0053

01 MR. GERVASI: Just a few comments

02 on some of the things that were said tonight.

03 Mr. McAndrew made a good point

04 about how maybe the mayor is trying to hide different

05 things. It's sort of been a pattern, just to remind

06 everyone, in case you forgot, that if everybody

07 remembers all the things that normally had oversight

08 from City Council and from the controllers office, and

09 numerous items since Mr. Doherty took over as mayor

10 that are now done under professional services.

11 And just my opinion, but it seems

12 like he's just circumventing everything to avoid doing

13 bids on certain projects and putting a lot of things

14 through economic and community development and the

15 SRA.

16 So, that's kind of why a lot of
17 thing don't get done, and I agree with you 100 percent,
18 Mr. McAndrew.
19 Charlie Newcomb mentioned AEDs on
20 police cars, I just want everyone to know that it's
21 great to have a police officer go out and do all these
22 things.
23 We also have AEDs, but we're
24 really not allowed to do use them. We had some
25 donated. I believe Senator Mellow came up with some
0054
01 money a few -- a while ago.
02 We have them on, I believe, two or
03 three of our vehicles, and we're kind of restricted
04 right now just in case one of the firemen have a heart
05 attack or a victim, you know, at a fire scene.
06 But I just, you know, it's really
07 a shame how we have the vast majority of our
08 firefighters are emergency medical technicians who are
09 highly trained in these type things, and we have a lot
10 of the equipment, it doesn't take much to get the
11 equipment, and it's a shame that we're not able to use
12 it, because frankly the mayor won't let us.
13 If I may just state my opinion
14 again, the reason why, it's very simple, this has been
15 an administration that loves to ridicule, especially
16 the fire department, and for us to go out there and
17 save lives and do things, it kind of goes against the
18 grain of his mission, is to continue to ridicule us
19 until he can break the unions, just like how he will
20 not entertain any new revenue sources that we have
21 brought to the last Council and brought to this
22 Council.
23 Because why raise revenue? To
24 raise revenue, you get out of debt. And if you get out
25 of debt, you won't be distressed any more. If you're
0055
01 not distressed any more, you can't beat up on the
02 unions any longer. So, just a little fuel for
03 thought.
04 And I saw one criticism tonight
05 on, actually it's been the last few weeks, about people
06 complaining that this Council cannot get anything done,
07 well, a little more fuel for thought, this Council
08 cannot get anything done because any motion this
09 Council makes to do things like QRS or raising revenues
10 or doing good things for the city are not going to
11 happen, because it just so happens that two people on

12 this Council seem to, most of the time, the vast
13 majority of the time, vote with the mayor and they
14 can't override the veto.
15 So, you know, I'm not making a
16 political statement here, but I'm saying this Council
17 tried dozens and dozens of things to make the city
18 better, in my opinion. I mean, there's other --
19 everybody has the right to their own opinion, just in
20 my opinion, and nothing that this Council does is going
21 to pass if the mayor doesn't like it, because he'll
22 override it.
23 And may I suggest, there's only
24 one way to rectify that, and that's all. Thank you
25 very much. Thank you, Mr. Gervasi. Anyone else want
0056

01 to speak? Mr. Walsh.

02 MR. WALSH; 5-A, motions.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. McTiernan, do

04 you have any motions or comments at this time?

05 MR. McTIERNAN: Thank you,

06 Mr. President. I'd like to offer a thank you to

07 Mr. Walsh, Attorney Walsh, for his research in the

08 packets tonight on the dog ordinance and the impact

09 fees.

10 We've also had a discussion with

11 some issues regarding Act 197, and when we have some

12 more information on it, we'll speak on that further.

13 And just a question, because I do

14 not understand or know what our leverage is regarding

15 the development at Tripp Park, and I suppose

16 Mr. Saunders or Attorney Walsh might be able to let us

17 know, is there anything we can do?

18 In October of last year we talked

19 about a punch list that was required for the developer

20 in order to have the city take over those roads, and

21 we've had a number of residents expressing concerns

22 over the lighting, and as we heard this evening, that

23 the streets are not owned by the city yet, and they're

24 not going to take ownership of those streets until a

25 punch list is done, I'm wondering is there anything
0057

01 Council can do with regard to future permits or is this

02 all relegated to the zoning board?

03 Is there anything that we can do

04 to force the hand of the developer to complete that

05 punch list which was supposed to be done in October?

06 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes. Mr.

07 McTiernan, I'll quickly answer something there. In

08 recent weeks, the heat has really been turned up on the
09 pressure from the people living in Tripp Park, they've
10 been calling me, because I live up there, but they were
11 going to come to a Council meeting tonight, and they're
12 looking to come to a Council meeting next week.

13 Euclid Avenue, for anybody that
14 doesn't know, does not have any lights on it, it goes
15 through the development.

16 The situation with MEM that sat
17 here tonight and the City of Scranton is that it's
18 private property now the city Scranton doesn't have any
19 say on the lighting situation as we speak.

20 The developers, on the other hand,
21 gave the city the original plans, and on the original
22 plans, the lights were not on the original plans, so
23 it's hard for the city to hold them to that and put
24 that on the punch list at this point.

25 MR. McTIERNAN: I'm not talking

0058

01 about the punch list, Mr. Saunders, I'm talking about
02 the fact that he hasn't completed his developer's
03 agreement.

04 The lights are immaterial. What
05 I'm saying is that he hasn't been able to finish up the
06 stipulations to develop that. Let's forget about the
07 lights and let's say that he's not wrapping up his
08 portions of the project and he's looking for a phase
09 two and a phase three in that development.

10 I'd like to force that issue.

11 Take the lights off the table. We've got residents who
12 are in a situation that they're not happy with where
13 they're at, and we're going to issue permits possibly
14 or entertain additional phases of the development.

15 I'm wondering if there's anything
16 we can do to hold up that development with future
17 properties until the current properties are completed.
18 We've got a lot of half projects. He's probably made
19 enough money that he can probably say I'm not going to
20 finish, so I don't care about the lighting, I guess
21 let's take that off the table so that's not a point of
22 argument, I would like to know if there's anything we
23 can do to hold up, because that's about the only way
24 you can get people to act, is to hold up additional
25 phases of this development.

0059

01 MR. SAUNDERS: I can check with
02 Bill Fiorini and discuss the possibility of what -- and
03 Rob Farrell and Attorney Walsh about the possibilities

04 of what the city legally could do to the developer or
05 hold the developer at bay until these things are done,
06 yeah.

07 MR. McTIERNAN: Can we make a
08 motion or send a letter to Mr. Fiorini to not issue
09 building permits until the current stages are -- the
10 current stages of that development and the punch lists
11 are complete?
12 We've got water problems, we've
13 got lighting problems, we've got areas that are not
14 complete. Can we make that motion and send that letter
15 or --

16 MR. WALSH: I think we're probably
17 best advised in doing exactly what Jay had just said,
18 and that being both Jay and myself meeting with
19 Mr. Fiorini and possibly Mr. Farrell, as well, coming
20 back to the Council and letting them know what we can
21 do, and if indeed the letter is one of those options
22 that we have, then make the motion at that time after
23 we looked into it.

24 MR. McTIERNAN: I would like, if
25 it's possible to do something with teeth. I've spoke
0060

01 about it in October and we were assured there was a
02 punch list that would be completed, so I think October
03 through March 10 is plenty of time to complete a punch
04 list.

05 MS. EVANS: And ti's also, if I
06 just might, it's also my understanding that properties
07 are being sold that are insufficient to accommodate the
08 size of the homes of the individuals would have
09 purchased those properties, and more and more
10 individuals have been coming before the zoning board
11 asking for variances in order to build larger homes,
12 and the problem here seems to be very clear cut, that
13 either the developer needs to sell the properties of
14 appropriate dimensions or else, you know, all of these
15 individuals sadly are just going to have to build
16 smaller homes because they're inundate the zoning
17 board, and it just appears to me that the root cause is
18 the developer, not the individuals coming to zoning,
19 but the developer.

20 MR. POCIUS: To speak to that
21 issue right three, more than likely, not more than
22 likely, absolutely the square footage and dimensions of
23 the lots meet the subdivision requirements and the land
24 development requirements for if that is an R-1 or an
25 R-1A zone or and R-2, I'm not exactly sure but they

0061

01 wouldn't have been approved.
02 And I don't think every lot, and
03 I'm aware of what Mrs. Evans said, a lot of the -- I've
04 watched the zoning board and it's dimensional things
05 where people buy a lot, they're going to put a bigger
06 house on there and it just doesn't fit with the
07 frontage they want, so they come in for usually a side
08 dimensional variance or something to that effect,
09 especially with the corner lots.
10 But it wouldn't have gotten
11 through the planning, so I mean, yes, there are
12 variances, but I think the individuals bought the lots
13 knowing full well they were going to put a bigger home
14 on the lot, and pretty much all of them were granted
15 favorably by the zoning board.
16 I'm not sure many of them were
17 turn down, if any. I just thought it would be helpful
18 people in that meeting to get the planning prospect of
19 that was to include Don King, our city planner, who is
20 most knowledgeable in all of the regulations of the
21 city as far as the planning and extensions, and also
22 Mr. Parker for his expertise in what is actually left
23 to be done with the roads, drainage, storm water for
24 this developer's agreement.
25 Because until we have roads and

0062

01 infrastructure that is acceptable to the city and meets
02 the requirements, as Mr. McTiernan said, the
03 developer's agreement, the city will be in no position
04 to accept those streets and send down the proper
05 legislation. We can dedicate them as public rights of
06 ways.
07 So, it behooves him to do this,
08 because as I watched the planning commission meeting
09 just recently, he plows the streets up there with
10 private contractors, although we do pick up the refuse
11 because the people still pay a fee, that's a fee,
12 correct me if I'm wrong, not a tax, so there's no
13 relief from the fee, but he is incurring the cost of
14 patching the roads, plowing snow, removing ice, salting
15 and cindering, so it would behoove him to bring the
16 roads up to subdivision city ordinance standards to get
17 them off his back in the vernacular and turn them over
18 to the city.
19 So, I think it would be a very
20 productive meeting, as Mr. McTiernan said, get a report
21 back to Council on what we can do, if anything, to

22 enact this on.

23 MR. McTIERNAN: That's only a
24 matter of time before it becomes too expensive to
25 maintain those roads and he just says, We're done, and
0063

01 now you've got 100 and some odd homes that have
02 property there and it's a private development and
03 there's no way to maintain that private development.
04 Eventually it will not be cost-effective for him to
05 patch those roads and maintain them. So, I think the
06 sooner we can act on that and force his hand, the
07 better.

08 MR. POCIUS: Because nobody wants
09 to -- as part of the developer's agreement, he either
10 had to bond the improvements or put up a line of
11 credit, which is actually a cash -- the city could tap
12 the cash.

13 These bonds are in effect, and no
14 developer wants to see a municipality go after him
15 through a bond issue, because it would just totally
16 devastate his borrowing powers for any future project,
17 so hopefully, you know, we have some leverage there,
18 but I don't think anybody wants to get that far, so I
19 think the meeting will be very productive.

20 MR. McTIERNAN: That's all I have,
21 Mr. President. Thank you.

22 MR. POCIUS: Sorry I took so much
23 of your time, Bob, but I have a little expertise in
24 that.

25 MR. McTIERNAN: I've gotten a lot
0064

01 of minutes built up. You're okay.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

03 Mr. McTiernan. Mrs. Evans, motions or comments?

04 MS. EVANS: Yes. I just wanted to
05 add, though, to the discussion that I was in no way I
06 am implying that the developer would have done anything
07 untoward or illegal, it just appears that with so many
08 residents experiencing so many problems with their
09 properties, it's quite apparent that something is amiss
10 in that communication line.

11 I think individuals know what type
12 of home they would like to build, you know, the size,
13 what their requirements are going to be, and I just
14 have to wonder having had so many cases come before
15 zoning, exactly what is occurring between these
16 potential buyers and the buyers and the developer.
17 When you have that many problems, you should have a lot

18 of questions.

19 At last week's Council meeting I

20 made a motion to have our Council solicitor draft

21 legislation to designate \$55,000 of CDBG funds to

22 neighborhood police patrols, as well as \$5,000 to Sloan

23 Little League.

24 Now more than ever police funding

25 is a necessity. Our neighborhoods have been neglected

0065

01 for now the fourth year in a row.

02 CommD officers, because of

03 funding, are downsized, and crime is increasing in our

04 neighborhoods, and there aren't enough officers to

05 satisfactorily cover every section of Scranton around

06 the clock.

07 I don't care frankly how you

08 schedule their shifts or how you juggle their

09 locations, bottom line, we need more police

10 protection.

11 The EMS tax could have gone a very

12 long way to place more police with better equipment in

13 our neighborhoods, but the mayor and some Council

14 members said no to the EMS tax, so we've lost all that

15 revenue for 2005 that could have kept our neighborhoods

16 safe.

17 Since the mayor wants to cut our

18 police through his recovery plan, it behooves Council

19 to step up to the plate and find the money to increase

20 our neighborhood police protection.

21 Jay, have I received a copy of the

22 arbitration decisions or rather the arbitrator's

23 decisions and awards yet?

24 MR. SAUNDERS: No.

25 MS. EVANS: Well, I requested that

0066

01 over a month ago, in fact, I think it might have even

02 been January, and I really can't understand how hard it

03 is for the legal department to make copies of papers

04 and bring them to our office.

05 Have I received the agreement with

06 PP&L for the Electric City sign?

07 MR. SAUNDERS: Not yet.

08 MS. EVANS: And I've been waiting

09 for that also since January.

10 And have I received the list of

11 61 properties and their addresses from the

12 Redevelopment Authority yet?

13 MR. SAUNDERS: I talked to

14 Bill Shayne about that. On one day last week we sent
15 out -- you asked that it be sent out certified, we sent
16 a certified letter to Bill Shayne, the day that
17 Mr. Shayne received that, he called me in turn and
18 said that he will -- when that list is totally
19 complete, he will be happy to give that up, they will
20 publish it in the paper, they will put it on Channel
21 61, they'll be happy to.

22 As of right now, they don't want
23 to release the list because it's a little premature.
24 They're doing background checks on the taxes, the title
25 insurance, so the title searches aren't done yet.

0067

01 He said when they're done, he said
02 he would be happy to accommodate the City Council with
03 that and also the local paper and local TV.

04 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And I do
05 realize I only made that request last week, and I feel
06 quite certain that Mr. Shayne will forward that
07 information as soon as it's available, because he's
08 always been very helpful to this Council.

09 One last thing, it just seemed,
10 and, again, this is returning to the issue of crime in
11 our neighborhoods, it was just the other day, I
12 believe, that a bank was robbed on Cedar Avenue just
13 hours after Mayor Doherty received a check from
14 Senator Santorum for the much needed South Side
15 revitalization project. So, I do believe we do need to
16 step up our police patrols.

17 And on a more positive note, I
18 received a letter from a Scranton resident who
19 requested that I read her letter publicly.
20 Dear, Mrs. Evans, in light of all
21 the negative publicity that is discussed at the
22 meetings each week, I would hope that you would take
23 the time to share this positive information with your
24 audience.

25 My daughter will be graduating in
0068

01 May from a local college with a degree in early
02 childhood education. She is currently doing her
03 student teaching at a local public school in the
04 Scranton School District.

05 What I would like to share with
06 everyone is information on the young teaching
07 professional that has taken my daughter under her wing.
08 Words can't express the amount of valuable time and
09 positivity that this young teacher has donated to my

10 daughter.

11 After this experience, one truly
12 learns to understand and appreciate how lucky that my
13 daughter and all the young children in the Scranton
14 School District are to be influenced by such a patient
15 and knowledgeable young teacher.
16 By following her direction, these
17 children will be walking in the footsteps of a truly
18 amazing individual whose main interest is the future of
19 our most precious resource, our children.
20 And, Kay, I have just a few new
21 requests for you. I know I have talked about
22 Kane Street before, but this is Kane Street from
23 Pittston Avenue to Stafford Avenue, and Saginaw Street
24 from South Webster to Stafford Avenue. Both are badly
25 in need of paving.

0069

01 This is an ambulance route to the
02 Mountain View Nursing Home, and the patients who are
03 being transported to and from this nursing facility are
04 really being jostled about in the ambulances, who are
05 either, you know, unvoidably going into potholes or
06 else swerving so as to avoid very deep potholes, and
07 I'm sure that has to make for a very unpleasant
08 situation for those elderly individuals in need of
09 medical care.

10 227 North Bromley, I've talked
11 about this before, there's a vacant lot and the
12 resident of that address is parking vehicles on this
13 abandoned lot there by causing the deterioration of
14 sidewalks and curbs, and the residents would like to
15 know if a no parking sign might be posted on that
16 abandoned lot.

17 Also, this is something that was
18 brought to my attention by others, but it's something
19 that I have experienced on several occasions myself, so
20 I can testify to the hazardous conditions in this
21 area.

22 At the corner of New York Street
23 and North Washington Avenue, as you're proceeding up
24 New York Street and you reach the corner where the
25 prison is on your right-hand side and I believe there's
0070

01 a smoke shop on your left-hand side, the visibility
02 there is non-existent. You cannot see if you intend to
03 turn left, right or to proceed forward up New York
04 Street, and I was wondering if it might be possible if
05 no parking signs could be placed on each of those

06 corners at the prison and maybe even at the smoke shop
07 so that those drivers are able to see without
08 literally, and I've done this myself, having to pull my
09 car at least half way out into a lane of traffic to be
10 able to see what's coming.

11 And, in fact, that is the area,
12 the immediate area in fact, in which Mrs. Wardell had
13 been seriously injured by a motorist, so I think this
14 bears scrutiny and correction.

15 And lastly, potholes on
16 Rockwell Avenue from Charles Street to Gilbert. And
17 that's it. Thank you.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
19 Mrs. Evans. Appreciate that. Mr. Pocius, do you have
20 any motions or comments?

21 MR. POCIUS: Yes, I do. I have a
22 motion and a comment. I'd like to make a motion --
23 Mr. Saunders informed me we need a motion to
24 officially change the Thursday, March 17, 2005 meeting
25 to Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at 7 p.m., and also in the
0071

01 same motion that we cancel the meeting for Thursday,
02 3/24/05.

03 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second that.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a
05 motion on the floor and a second. On the question?
06 The 24th is in observance of Easter, and the change for
07 next week is for in observance of Saint Patrick's Day.

08 If there's no further questions, all those in favor,
09 signify by saying aye.

10 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Against?

15 Motion passes.

16 MR. POCIUS: Just a brief comment,
17 Mr. McAndrew, I welcome your request. As far as
18 stating my position on an ordinance, I like to state it
19 once usually up front, and I don't like to come back
20 and reiterate it any time, but if anybody ever wants to
21 know why, feel free to ask, I will be glad to explain,
22 such as tonight.

23 I don't take any offense by that.

24 I think it's -- I try to get it out and go on and move
25 on to the next issue.

0072

01 If this Council would give me just

02 a moment, this is kind of a -- it is a citywide thing,
03 but it's also a personal thing with me, and I'd just
04 like your indulgence on maybe spending a minute or two
05 on the subject right here.

06 Two weeks ago as I stood along
07 Jefferson Avenue with Councilman McTiernan and also a
08 good friend of ours, Joe DeAntona, watching the
09 soldiers come back from Iraq, it was very a moving
10 experience for myself, and I was so thrilled because I
11 knew personally, especially one young man, his brother
12 spoke here, young Sean O'Shea, was on that bus coming
13 back, but also the emotion when I went to the -- we
14 proceeded down to the armory afterwards to watch the
15 thing, and it was totally professionally run by the
16 military themselves, and there was a -- somebody wrote
17 to the editor about somebody, like, letting city
18 officials speak, and really that was a thing for the
19 Army, that was for the families and for the soldiers,
20 it was not -- I thought that letter was out of line,
21 but that's my opinion, so I'm not going to dwell on
22 that, but also in my own heart at that time I had a
23 bitter sweet experience, because one of our own, our
24 blood, was still in Iraq at the same time, and I was
25 hoping that it would have happened that same day that
0073

01 he would have been back in Scranton.

02 But then this week, which is a
03 very bitter sweet week for me, Monday, as you may or
04 may not know was the first anniversary of the death of
05 my father, who was a frequent visitor when he was in
06 good health to these chambers and also a person, I
07 think, that was very well-respected in this community,
08 but it also became a very great week for us, because
09 I'm going to read you a brief Email here.
10 This was sent to my sister Terri
11 and then forwarded to me on February 28th.
12 To all, by the time you all get a
13 chance to read this Email, we would have turned over
14 with our replacing squadron.
15 I will also be done flying and
16 packing up to head down south to Kuwait. By the end of
17 this week, I will be down in Kuwait. By the middle of
18 next week, I will be home back in Camp Pennelton, sunny
19 San Diego.
20 As you all know, I have been here
21 for the past seven months. We have been the first
22 Marine expeditionary forced-casualty evacuation for the
23 Al Anbar Providence of Iraq, also known as the

24 Suni Triangle, Remaldi, Baghdad, Fallujah.

25 Overall as a squadron, we flew

0074

01 over 3,000 mishap-free combat hours with a total of
02 over 1500 combat missions. These missions consisted of
03 over 500 urgent case vacs, saving lives within one hour
04 of death.

05 Along with the urgent, we flew

06 over 1,000 priority case vacs. For the entire time

07 here, we had an 80 percent fully mission capability air

08 craft status accounting for more than 40,000

09 maintenance free man hours.

10 We overcame six aircraft being

11 severely damaged by enemy indirect .122 millimeter

12 rocket fire, one damaged by enemy machine gun fire and

13 one from an RPG.

14 And a little comic relief here,

15 not bad for a civil engineering graduate from

16 Villanova. He goes on to say some more stuff,

17 but what I'm trying to get at here is, and he kind of

18 says, once again, I thank you for all your support no

19 matter what it was. I couldn't have made it without

20 you all.

21 I think that goes for every one of

22 those young boys that came back last week here. I am

23 the most proud of one thing we did here, no matter

24 whether time or people trying to kill us, no one left

25 behind.

0075

01 Thanks. This is my nephew and my

02 godson, Second Lieutenant Randy Gabriel, USMC. Randy

03 is back home in California.

04 My sister and her family are out

05 there with him, and thank you, God, for this present.

06 That's all.

07 I think it had to be said, because

08 what I think it shows is these people went over there

09 as young boys, they came back as men as they came back

10 as true heros.

11 So, God bless him and everyone

12 else over there. And those ones that are over there,

13 let them all come back safely. That's it. Thank you.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

15 Mr. Pocius. That was very a heartfelt statement there,

16 and thank God that Randy is back on U.S. soil and safe

17 again. We hope everybody is going to be safe soon.

18 Mr. Courtright, do you have any motions or comments?

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Just one comment,

20 Mr. President. I asked Jay at last week's meeting if
21 he could find out about UDAG money, and as we were
22 sitting here tonight, you know, somebody made a comment
23 one time, that it might have been ignorant that some of
24 us get up and go and leave the seats here or maybe go
25 and talk to Jay, well, things come up that we didn't
0076

01 know before the meeting, and Jay had brought me this
02 piece of paper during the meeting that was sent to me
03 from Sara Hailstone, and I thank her.
04 UDAG money, and I'll read it
05 directly so that I don't misrepresent it, The current
06 general ledger balances are as follows: UDAG,
07 \$403,351.70; Re-Re, \$10,676.27. I do not know if that
08 money is earmarked for anything. I would imagine that
09 not all of it is earmarked for anything.
10 As Mr. Pocius was able to use UDAG
11 money or ask Ms. Hailstone to give us UDAG money for
12 the downtown senior center, I guess I should also ask,
13 Jay, what this money was earmarked for, if anything.
14 So, I would ask that question, how
15 much of this money is not earmarked for something
16 already, and the money that is, what it is earmarked
17 for, both Re-Re and UDAG, so that maybe -- I know
18 Mr. DiBileo mentioned to me, was it Weston Park,
19 Mr. DiBileo, that you were looking --
20 MR. DIBILEO: There was an
21 application from Weston Park Teener League, and I know
22 that they applied and weren't able to get any funding,
23 and that would be nice if we could try to see if we
24 could help them in some way.
25 Now, I'm assuming that this
0077

01 \$403,000 doesn't have anything to do with the giant
02 hole that was on Pittston Avenue.
03 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's a separate
04 issue, correct, Jay?
05 MR. SAUNDERS: That's a separate
06 issue.
07 MR. COURTRIGHT: We haven't gotten
08 a response, because I guess they don't have an answer
09 just yet as far as that goes.
10 So, when they get that, I would
11 certainly appreciate it. So, this is separate money.
12 Again, I don't know if it's earmarked or not, and the
13 Re-Re money, I don't know.
14 So, possibly that teener league
15 that you were interested in was around \$17,000, maybe

16 they can fund it through this. So, if you would ask
17 that, I would certainly appreciate it.

18 And I thank Sara Hailstone for
19 getting back to me so quickly.

20 MR. SAUNDERS: I will send that
21 out.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's all I
23 have, Mr. President. Thank you.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

25 Mr. Courtright. First I just want to say hello to some
0078

01 kids. This week was Read To Succeed, and a lot of
02 people from the business community went into the
03 elementary schools and read to children, and I did that
04 myself. Actually last week I was over at Wittier
05 School in South Scranton and read to the kindergarten
06 class over there, and last week one of the kids asked
07 me if I could say hello from the meeting, and it
08 slipped my mind last week, and I neglected to do that.

09 And then this week I was over at

10 John Marshall School on Oram Street and I read to the
11 third grade class of Mrs. Musti, fourth grade class of
12 Mrs. Koslowski, and fifth grade class of

13 Mrs. Franco, who happens to be your sister and my
14 daughter's teacher, and I told them I was going to do
15 the same. So, hello to the kids at Wittier School and
16 at John Marshall School.

17 And it's a great feeling to be

18 able to go in there and read to them. They appreciate

19 it so much. I went into the room in your sister's

20 class, and Judge Geroulo was walking out in his robe,

21 so I thought that that was pretty interesting, and he

22 took extra time with them to really spend and talk with

23 them. I don't know what he talked about, but hopefully

24 they will be staying out of trouble in the future.

25 Just briefly, I was given

0079

01 Mary Ann Wardell's mailing address down at Geisinger

02 Medical Center and left it at the office. I don't have

03 it. I promise to bring it next week. She's doing

04 better. She's writing notes, and so it's good news.

05 It's almost a miracle that she's pulling out of this

06 being hit by a car.

07 MS. EVANS: She's out of ICU and

08 into a room.

09 MR. DIBILEO: That's wonderful.

10 So, I'll try to bring her mailing address, so that if

11 anybody wants to send her a card of get well, they'll

12 be able to do that.
13 There has been a lot of talk about
14 crime tonight from our podium, also from up here at the
15 dais, Mrs. Evans, and crime just seems to be getting a
16 lot of attention lately, and rightfully so.
17 I'm not certain if the actual
18 numbers are showing a tremendous increase, but it
19 certainly seems that there's a tremendous increase.
20 I'm not sure about the word tremendous being used, but
21 there absolutely seems to be an increase in crime.
22 And, you know, I think one of the
23 basic needs that a city would be providing its citizens
24 is safety, and one of the areas there, boy, that we
25 provide safety is through the police department, and
0080
01 with crime certainly up, it just seems that no one
02 seems to be doing anything about it.
03 We're sitting here and we're
04 hearing about a reduction in the police ranks.
05 Arguably it's in the neighborhood of 15 to 20 police
06 officers during this administration, that would relate
07 to about a 10 percent drop in the police force, yet I'm
08 certain we don't have anywhere near a 10 percent drop
09 in crime.
10 So, I just feel as though, you
11 know, we're not able to click our fingers and say let's
12 get more police on the street, but rather than sit back
13 and really say nothing about it, I was wondering if I
14 could make a motion, which I will, to send our feelings
15 about the police ranks dropping and the fact that
16 people are saying that they don't feel as safe as they
17 used to, and that's not a good thing, and I think that
18 we should send a message to the administration that we
19 need to do something about the fact that our police
20 officers are walking out the door and we're not
21 replacing them.
22 We might be replacing them, but we
23 need to really add to our force. The city really needs
24 these gentlemen that have just recently been let go. I
25 spoke to one this weekend, and he had purchased a home,
0081
01 he's wondering if he's able to keep it. So, not only
02 do the citizen of Scranton need the police officers,
03 the police officers need the jobs, too.
04 So, I want to make a motion that
05 we send our feelings to the administration about the
06 fact that we don't want to sit around and sit idle and
07 watch our police ranks dwindle in size.

08 I think we need to boost it. I
09 don't know if it's whether we're going to need to apply
10 for grants. I'm told -- it's my understanding that
11 we're not applying for grants that funded some of the
12 police officers that are being let go, but I think we
13 need to at least apply for grant money which won't
14 increase our expenditures and we can get more safety on
15 the street.

16 Even if we have to increase our
17 expenditures to get more police on the street, I think
18 it's something that we need to do.
19 So, I just would like to make a
20 motion that we send our feelings to the administration
21 that we do whatever it takes to try to correct the
22 reduction in our police force.

23 MS. EVANS: Second.

24 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on
25 the floor and a second. On the question?

0082

01 MS. EVANS: I was wondering if it
02 might be possible, although I suppose I would have to
03 amend the motion to also include the QRS service with
04 the fire department in that letter, as well, because
05 through the months, I've listened to the laments of
06 city residents who cannot understand why this service
07 isn't available to them when our firefighters are so
08 well equipped to do the job, and it's really not at any
09 added cost.

10 And I have a very difficult time
11 explaining that, because in fact that sends the message
12 that public safety and people are second, not first,
13 and I think we want to put people first in this city,
14 and that's what I think Mr. DiBileo is trying to do.
15 So, would it be possible or shall I amend that?

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Excuse me. I
17 had -- Jay, I don't know if it was the week that you
18 were gone or not, I had him send another letter down to
19 the mayor, because, you know, as I said in the past, we
20 thought that the QRS system was a go, we had the
21 director of public safety was in agreement, and so was
22 the fire chief, and then the mayor did not want to do
23 that until he can get a contract with the fire
24 department, so I did send about a week or two ago
25 another letter asking for a little bit different type

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01 of QRS system that maybe he would have found more
02 acceptable, but I haven't gotten a response back.
03 And I've been out of town this

04 week, so I haven't really gotten a good look at my
05 mail. I haven't gotten a response back, have I?
06 MR. SAUNDERS: Nothing back yet.
07 MS. EVANS: Twice?
08 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, we had the
09 initial QRS that we thought was a go, and he didn't
10 want to do that, so I asked again a week or two ago --
11 MS. EVANS: No, it's more than
12 that.
13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Was it? Okay.
14 MS. EVANS: I was here, and that
15 was prior to the week when I was absent for a funeral.
16 MR. COURTRIGHT: I did ask, but I
17 haven't gotten a response yet, so I don't know if we
18 need to amend his motion. If you want to, certainly I
19 agree with it, but I did ask again. I just haven't
20 gotten an answer. Sorry.
21 MR. DIBILEO: If I can, let's
22 visit the Quick Response System question again next
23 week, and I'll keep my motion for this week regarding
24 the police officer questions so we don't mix our
25 messages here and we make it clear how we feel about
0084
01 the reduction in our police force, and then next week
02 let's address the quick response. That certainly is --
03 MS. EVANS: Unless Mr. Courtright
04 receives a response.
05 MR. COURTRIGHT: Maybe I'll get an
06 answer, yeah, by next week. I have just one more thing
07 on the question, Mr. DiBileo. I think when you're
08 talking about the number of police officers, it's
09 rather confusing because we have what they would call
10 fast cops and some people call them cops ahead, then we
11 have what they call CommD cops.
12 I'm not quite sure if the number
13 of cops -- like I said, I was out of town and I tried
14 to gather this information, I just haven't been able to
15 get to it, I do not know from the Connors
16 administration if the number of CommD cop is the same
17 or less or more, I don't know, I don't believe it's
18 more.
19 I do believe, and I don't think
20 I'm wrong on this, but I could be, I do believe that we
21 had fast cops, and as the programs -- as the grants ran
22 out, I don't believe we applied for any more grants, I
23 don't know if there were any of those specific grants
24 available, but I haven't seen us apply for any more
25 grants at all to put more police on the street.

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01 There were several, and I do not
02 know the number, so I don't want to say, there were
03 several fast cops in this city during the Connors'
04 administration, that's why you saw our streets flooded
05 with police officers.
06 And whether the crime is up or
07 down, as Mr. DiBileo said, I don't have the figures,
08 but I certainly do know people felt safer, they
09 certainly felt safer, and I just think their presence
10 is a deterrent.
11 You know, as people see a police
12 officer, their presence is a deterrent. And there's a
13 gentleman from down around Weston Field that I know
14 that's a retired police officer, a very well-respected
15 man, and I don't know if this was his phrase or what,
16 but he said this to me and it stuck in my head, and I
17 truly, truly believe this, that you cannot put a price
18 tag on public safety.
19 And I kind of agree with what
20 Mr. DiBileo says, if we can't find grant money, then
21 maybe we're going to have to spend money to put more
22 cops on the street, because we certainly find money for
23 everything else and we need to feel safe.
24 And I don't say that to be
25 critical, I just think it's a fact. I think everybody
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01 in this city -- I shouldn't say everybody, I can't
02 speak for everybody, I just think people I speak to do
03 not feel as safe as they used to, and I'm not trying to
04 criticize anyone, I'm just trying to state a fact. And
05 that's all I have. I'm just trying to shed a little
06 light on that, if I may.
07 MR. DIBILEO: And just for
08 example, it always seemed that the Green Ridge section
09 might have been always the safest section of town, and
10 they're having a lot of problems now.
11 Just the last couple of weeks, I
12 mean, horrendous problems with the one boy that -- I'm
13 not certain what happened to him, I don't know if
14 anybody is certain what happened to him, but, you know,
15 in an area of town that you would never expect
16 problems, there's problems right on North Washington
17 Avenue.
18 And they're having a meeting
19 Tuesday, which hopefully some of us can attend and see
20 what we can do there, but at least we can possibly go
21 to that meeting and tell them that we're at least

22 trying to take action to help the situation.

23 MS. EVANS: I think we've taken a

24 good first step in allocating the \$55,000 toward

25 putting police back in our neighborhoods.

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01 And as a resident of Green Ridge,

02 I can attest to what you're saying. Certainly it's not

03 so much that the neighborhood has changed, but I think

04 it's much more that, to my knowledge, we're sharing a

05 police car with central -- or police cars with

06 Central City and North Scranton, and so that, of

07 course, is going to leave us unprotected.

08 And then on the other hand, if

09 we're to address the problems in Green Ridge now, as we

10 have done in South Side, then where does that leave

11 South Side and West Side and North Scranton and then

12 the downtown?

13 So, it's very, very clear, as I

14 said before, you can change schedules, you can juggle

15 from one section to another, but that's insufficient.

16 That is not working, and it's not solving our problems,

17 because I don't think you can open the paper or turn on

18 the news for even a day any longer that you are not

19 reading or hearing about another crime in another part

20 of the city either that morning or the preceding

21 evening.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. If

23 there's no further questions --

24 MR. POCIUS: Could someone read

25 back to me the motion?

0088

01 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah. The motion --

02 MR. POCIUS: I really don't know

03 what -- I mean, there was so much comment before and

04 after the motion, I really don't know what the motion

05 is, and I'm not being facetious, but I want to be clear

06 in my mind. Could somebody read it back to me?

07 MR. DIBILEO: The motion I made

08 was to have City Council send a message to the

09 administration to do whatever it takes to increase our

10 police protection and increase or police officers.

11 We need more police officers on the street. We've let

12 some go, and we need more.

13 MR. POCIUS: See, again, the

14 motion got mixed in with a comment, so I really don't

15 know what the motion is. I mean, a message, you mean a

16 letter?

17 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

18 MR. POCIUS: Because what I'm
19 going to say is, I mean, I have no problem at all with
20 supporting a motion to that effect that we look at
21 increasing public lick safety and public awareness,
22 however, in no way do I agree with any of the comments
23 that proceeded this or took place during the motion,
24 okay?

25 I mean, it's a very mundane type
0089

01 of motion, but I'm just going to say that I'm going to
02 vote in the affirmative, only because it's always a
03 good idea to try to have the best possible police force
04 and the best most visible police force on the street,
05 but I don't agree with, and it's my opinion, with a lot
06 of the reasoning that went into it, that's it.
07 Because I want to make sure what
08 the motion said, because there was so much comment, I
09 couldn't follow it.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Anyone else
11 on the question? If not, all those in favor, signify
12 by saying aye.

13 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? By a
18 5-0 vote, motion carries. And I thank my fellow
19 Council members for that. And that's all I have under
20 fifth order.

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

22 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
23 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A
24 CORRECTIVE DEED BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND CONNIE
25 DEPIETRO ALLOWING THE PARCEL IN QUESTION TO BE BUILD
0090

01 UPON WITHIN APPLICABLE RESTRICTIONS IN AND AROUND A
02 FLOOD ZONE.

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

06 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

07 MR. McTIERNAN: Second.

08 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

09 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

10 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

16 MR. WALSH: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION

17 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 57, 2001,
18 AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY
19 AT SWETLAND STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO
20 WILLIAM BONACCI, 2702 SWETLAND STREET, SCRANTON,
21 PENNSYLVANIA, FOR THE SUM OF \$3,000.00 TO INCLUDE
22 RECORD INFORMATION REVEALED BY THE TILE SEARCH.

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

0091

01 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

02 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

03 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

04 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

05 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

06 MS. EVANS: Aye.

07 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

08 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

11 MR. WALSH: 5-D, FOR INTRODUCTION

12 - AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY ON
13 S. KEYSER AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO FRANK AND
14 STEPHANIE SCHMIDT, 130 S. CAMERON AVENUE, SCRANTON,
15 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR THE SUM OF \$4,500.00.

16 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll
17 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced into its
18 proper committee.

19 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

21 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

22 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

23 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

0092

01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
03 ayes have it.

04 MR. WALSH: Sixth order. 6-A,

05 READING BY TILE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 112, 2005 -

06 ESTABLISHING A NO PARKING ZONE ALONG STATE ROUTE 3025

07 (WYOMING AVENUE) AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA

08 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY

09 PERMIT ADJACENT TO THE GUILD STUDIO.

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

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. President, I
13 move that 6-A pass reading by title.

14 MR. McTIERNAN: Second.

15 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

16 MR. POCIUS: Just on the question,
17 on the advice of Mr. Walsh last week I, what did you
18 call that Mark, a peripheral, but I'm going to abstain
19 on this vote.

20 MS. EVANS: I wasn't listening
21 carefully enough last week, what exactly is your
22 connection to this, Mr. Pocius?

23 MR. POCIUS: We are doing the
24 engineering work for the Diocese of Scranton to obtain
25 this permit which is required to repair the sidewalk.

0093

01 This is a statement of fact, Mr. Walsh. I'm not
02 trying to give an opinion.

03 MR. WALSH: Certainly.

04 MR. POCIUS: And this came up in
05 the -- because the sidewalks and curbing are inside the
06 Wyoming Avenue state right of way, a permit is required
07 from the Department of Transportation, not only does it
08 include the sidewalk area, but also the adjacent
09 parking lot, which like a lot of existing places do not
10 have permits for the existing driveways.

11 So, we're covering the whole
12 driveway, including the new driveway. There is no
13 parking signs currently in place on along the Guild and
14 along the parking lot.

15 PennDOT asked for the ordinance to
16 substantiate the no parking. There was none. We
17 helped the Diocese draft a letter stating that they
18 need this for the thing.

19 As we stated even before, like,
20 with the 15, 30 minute parking, if there's no
21 ordinance -- PennDOT wants to make sure that these are
22 up, they stay up by ordinance.

23 So, like you said before, so sight
24 distance isn't obstructed by people coming into and
25 leaving the parking lot of the Guild Studio. That's

0094

01 why it's basically needed. It's a technicality to --
02 Mark, what will be the word, memorialize the parking
03 signs that are down there by ordinance.

04 MR. WALSH: Right, no parking

05 signs. In other words, if you don't have the parking

06 sign by ordinance, somebody can test it, a ticket or
07 something of that nature, then you could have a
08 problem.

09 MR. POCIUS: Or they could just
10 take them down. That's it.

11 MS. EVANS: Right. No, I fairly
12 well understood the situation, I just wasn't aware
13 precisely of Ceco was connected to this, too. Okay.
14 That's it.

15 MR. POCIUS: That's why I publicly
16 asked Mr. Walsh last week at the meeting because I did
17 not have a chance -- you came when the meeting had
18 started, and he said because of our client
19 relationship, I have a peripheral conflict of interest
20 and I should abstain from any voting on it.

21 MR. WALSH: I think that would be
22 the smart thing to do.

23 MR. POCIUS: So, it's not a -- I
24 just don't want to look like we're influencing the
25 thing, but that's the facts, Mrs. Evans, I mean, as far
0095

01 as what is actually going on down there, okay?

02 MS. EVANS: No. I understand the
03 project, as I said.

04 MR. POCIUS: Yeah.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

06 We have a motion on the floor and a second. If there's
07 no further questions, all those in favor, signify by
08 saying aye.

09 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

10 MS. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed?

13 MR. POCIUS: I abstain,

14 Mr. President.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. By a 4-0
16 vote, one abstention, motion carries.

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

18 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR

19 ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 111, 2005 -

20 APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE

21 IN THE NAME OF BARBARA MUNLEY T/A THE HIGH AND DRY,

22 BOROUGH OF ARCHBALD, LICENSE NO. R-2867 CURRENTLY HELD

23 IN ESCROW FORMERLY USED AT 455 MAIN STREET, ARCHBALD TO

24 BRT HOLDING, LLC FOR USE AT 3 WEST OLIVE STREET,

25 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS REQUIRED BY THE

0096

01 PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

02 MR. DIBILEO: As chairperson for
03 the committee on rules, I recommend final passage of
04 Item 7-A.
05 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.
06 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?
07 Roll call, please. Kay.
08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.
09 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.
10 MS. GARVEY: Ms. Evans.
11 MS. EVANS: Yes.
12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.
13 MR. POCIUS: Yes.
14 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.
15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.
16 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.
17 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby
18 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.
19 MR. WALSH: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION
20 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION
21 NO. 132, 2005 - APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS J. STONE, 824
22 WHEELER AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18510, TO THE
23 SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY. MR. STONE WILL BE FILLING
24 THE TERM OF JAMES T. MULLIGAN, JR., WHO RESIGNED
25 EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 24, 2005. MR. STONE'S TERM WILL
0097
01 EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2006.
02 MR. DIBILEO: As chairperson for
03 the committee on rules, I recommend final passage of
04 Item 7-B.
05 MS. EVANS: Second.
06 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?
07 Roll call, please, Kay.
08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.
09 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.
10 MS. GARVEY: Ms. Evans.
11 MS. EVANS: Yes.
12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.
13 MR. POCIUS: Yes.
14 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.
15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.
16 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.
17 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby
18 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.
19 Before we adjourn, let me say that I hope everyone
20 enjoys the St. Patrick's Day parade this Saturday.
21 Have a good time. We're adjourned.
22
23 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me on the hearing of the above cause and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

LISA M. GRAFF, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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