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02 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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08 Held:

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09 Thursday, March 16, 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

10

11 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

12

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. If we can

14 dispense with the reading of the minutes now,

15 Mr. Walsh.

16 MR. WALSH: Certainly. Third

17 order. 3-A, APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE

18 ZONING HEARING BOARD HELD MARCH 9, 2005.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

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

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

22 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 23, 2005.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

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

25 MR. WALSH: 3-C, Clerk's notes.

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Saunders,

02 please.

03 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, last

04 week we had MEM in last week for an open caucus, and

05 something did come up that I would like to go with

06 everybody that was actually here listening or may have

07 missed.

08 MEM has a website, it's

09 www.slout.com. You can go on to that website and

10 report a light out. It will walk you step by step. I

11 actually went through it this morning and did this.

12 This is a very easy process.

13 People call our office all the

14 time and tell us about a light out. We have to say in

15 turn, What is the pole number on it.

16 You can go right onto this website

17 that have the internet available. I mean, you can

18 still call our office, we don't have any problem with

19 that, but it's easier and you can actually track the

20 time frame that MEM will have to have the light up.

21 They'll send you a card, tell you that it's all in

22 place and ready to go. And once again, that's

23 www.slout.com.

24 The other thing is last week

25 Councilwoman Evans talked about the 61 properties, also

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01 the Scranton Times talked about the 61 properties that

02 the SRA is looking to turn out to for sale or for bid.

03 I discussed with Bill Shayne at

04 length some of the issues that are going on with it,

05 and I just want to -- our office is, once again,

06 getting phone calls about the properties, where is the

07 property list, how do I get my hands on it, where

08 should I go.

09 The property list isn't out yet.

10 They're doing, and I discussed this last week, but I

11 just want to give everybody an update on this, the

12 property list isn't out yet. They're doing title

13 searches on all these properties.

14 He gave me a couple examples, and

15 I'll give you one example of why they're so quiet about

16 this. The property up on the 500 block of North
17 Washington Avenue is a property that is on the SRA's
18 list, and it is the property that is now owned by the
19 Scranton Housing Authority where the Washington
20 Highrise stands, so they don't want to make that
21 mistake with somebody's home, somebody's property, so
22 they do want to have everybody be patient about this.
23 So, he said within a couple of
24 weeks they will have that list ready for publication.
25 I just wanted to give Council an update on that. I
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01 know that we've discussed that in the past.
02 Mr. Shayne, everything that we've
03 asked him for, he delivers it to me and is pretty open
04 with us on that. So, he said he will keep us posted on
05 that and I will keep you posted on that, as well.

06 MS. EVANS: Very good.

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

09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
10 Mr. Saunders. As always, very informative.

11 MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

13 MR. WALSH: Fourth order, citizen
14 participation.

15 MR. DIBILEO: The first person on
16 our sign-in sheet is Les Spindler.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
18 Council, Les Spindler.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

20 MR. SPINDLER: This is starting to
21 become a habit, but I wish when people talk about me,
22 that they get their facts straight.

23 Last week Mrs. Williams said I
24 made a comment a few weeks ago about -- a negative
25 comment about small businesses, what I said was in
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01 response to Mayor Doherty's comment of not hiring NDC
02 would hurt small business.

03 All I said was, Right now I think
04 we have enough small businesses in the city. We should
05 concentrate on hiring -- on a company that would hire
06 100 or 200 people. That would put something more into
07 the city than a cafe that hires three and four people.

08 And I also said that I have
09 nothing against small businesses. My dad had a small
10 business for all my life. That's all I have on that
11 subject.

12 Saturday's paper, there was an
13 article about what Council spoke about last week, about
14 the police situation, and Mayor Doherty and Ray Hayes
15 made some comments, and they disagreed with Council,
16 which I'm not surprised about.
17 They said it's not a staffing
18 issue, it's a deployment issue, and I don't agree with
19 that.
20 But to quote the mayor, he says,
21 Changes must come through a new contract with the union
22 that is now in arbitration.
23 Well, maybe if the mayor sat down
24 and negotiated with the union, he'd be able to make out
25 a deal that's good for everybody, but he won't do
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01 that.
02 And something else it says, the
03 mayor only talks about the majority of Council,
04 Mrs. Evans, Mr. DiBileo, Mr. Courtright, but,
05 Mr. DiBileo, you made a motion at the end of the night
06 about, I forget exactly when it said, about a sending a
07 letter to the mayor about hiring more policemen, memory
08 serves me correct, it was a 5-0 vote that unanimously
09 passed that motion, so it's not just three people that
10 want more police protection.
11 And something else, I have an
12 article from the newspaper three years ago, June of
13 2002, back then we had 179 policemen, right now we have
14 157. I don't think you have to be a police expert to
15 know that 157 men can't do the job of 179.
16 Okay. Next thing, I haven't spoke
17 about this for a while, but I brought Council a lot of
18 information about Nay Aug, things that could be done,
19 is anything going to be done with the deed situation?
20 MR. DIBILEO: Let me refer to
21 Mr. Walsh on that. Do you have any further updates at
22 all, Mr. Walsh?
23 MR. WALSH: I have no further
24 updates from the solicitor's office. I know that
25 Council has authorized me or at least the clerk to
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01 allow Les to have the deeds that I had found, and I'll
02 provide him with those, but I haven't heard anything
03 further from the solicitor's office.
04 The only letter that I have is the
05 letter that I believe that the Council also received
06 from Mr. Kelly, which was delivered a couple of weeks
07 ago.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

09 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Something
10 else, the Village of Tripp Park, I know there was
11 conversation about that last week, Mr. McTiernan, was
12 that a motion that you made last week?

13 MR. McTIERNAN: No.

14 MR. SPINDLER: I know you said
15 something about the Village at Tripp Park.

16 MR. McTIERNAN: No, it was not.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Well, you did want
18 something done.

19 MR. McTIERNAN: Asked Mr. Walsh to
20 look into what our options were, yes.

21 MR. WALSH: Okay. And just in
22 reply to that, we're setting up a meeting, I believe
23 this coming week, with the people at City Hall that
24 would be knowledgeable with respect to that project, so
25 we should be able to acquire more information.

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01 MR. SPINDLER: Oh, okay, because I
02 live a few blocks from there, it doesn't affect me
03 directly, but I think something should be done about
04 it. It's a shame. I mean, it's a terrible situation
05 up there.

06 And thank God I went to the
07 original meeting years ago, I live in Tripp Park, the
08 developer wanted to put an industrial park in with the
09 Village of Tripp Park, if he ever did that, it would be
10 a disaster.

11 I mean, he can't get the Village
12 of Tripp Park developed, what would he do with an
13 industrial park? Something should be done to get that
14 rectified. Thank you.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
16 Mr. Spindler. Appreciate that. Reverend Kathryn
17 Simmons.

18 MS. SIMMONS: Good evening. My
19 name is Reverend Kathryn Simmons and I'm a Scranton
20 resident.

21 Good evening to each of Scranton
22 elected Council members. And I say peace onto you.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

24 MS. SIMMONS: Last night myself
25 and several other participants of Scranton's crime

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01 watch organizations gathered together for a meeting
02 concerning the police department, deployment, hiring so
03 forth and so on, we spoke, we suggested, and finally we

04 gave up evening hours with our families to come and
05 show support for our beloved Green Ridge neighbors.
06 We didn't know exactly where we
07 were going, so I placed a call to Mr. Cleveland, who is
08 the Green Ridge Neighborhood Association President. He
09 let me know from the very beginning that we were not
10 welcomed there, he did not want us there, we had no
11 business there.

12 He told me, and I quote, this was
13 his meeting, and he really didn't know why there was
14 such interest. But since he is not the sole resident
15 of the Green Ridge area of Scranton, we came out
16 anyway. The rest of the evening you are all aware of.
17 Several persons gathered on the
18 outside of the building were quite disturbed by the
19 fact that crime watch members were not allowed inside
20 the building since this is basically what the meeting
21 was supposed to be about.

22 I personally became upset when I
23 found out that several of our Council people were there
24 and they were not even allowing them entrance into the
25 building. But we finally did get you in.

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01 Mr. Courtright, you had to wait
02 for Mr. DiBileo to come before you could get in, and I
03 find that very disrespectful.

04 I think when a neighborhood
05 association brings together a crowd of that immense
06 population with an agenda that specific, they should
07 make room for all elected officials who show up.
08 I bring all this up tonight to say
09 that this is the reason we have the immense problems
10 that we do, both criminal and social throughout the
11 city.

12 We are not a group who joins
13 together and merges to support each other. I know that
14 many persons across the city are even hesitant to
15 invite me to their home because of my racial and
16 religious affiliation, and that's fine, I understand
17 that, but any individual who places their own
18 neighborhood at risk because of their race, religious
19 or economic bigotry is not a true leader.

20 I and several of my affiliates
21 from crime watch are going to continue to attend the
22 Green Ridge Neighborhood Association meetings. We're
23 not going there because we want to cause problems,
24 we're going there because we love our neighbors, we
25 want to help our neighbors, and I think when all is

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01 said and done at the end, they'll see that we are there
02 to support them and help them.
03 Perhaps then we won't need two or
04 three different groups to come to Council and tell you
05 about the residents in the 1700 block of
06 Wyoming Avenue who stopped us last night outside to
07 tell us that they're having problems with traffic down
08 that way, or someone won't have to come and tell you
09 about the problems they're having over on Green Ridge
10 Street, a race course, even though there are traffic
11 lights all along the way, that doesn't seem to help the
12 problem or even brighter lights along the very street
13 that we were on last evening.
14 All of these problems should not
15 be attended to by crime watch, but people felt last
16 night that we were the only ones that they could come
17 up and talk to at that particular time, and that's sad.
18 I hope, gentlemen, and Ms. Evans,
19 that you can get the neighborhood associations across
20 the town to know that we are not their enemy, but
21 indeed we are their friend. Thank you.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

23 Reverend Simmons, and I'm glad you attended last
24 night's meeting. I think the more involvement we get
25 in all of our neighborhood meetings and community
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01 meetings is a welcome sign that we're all a community
02 and we're all joined together for the betterment of
03 Scranton. Helen Cook.

04 MS. COOK: Good evening, City
05 Council. My name is Helen Cook, and I am a resident of
06 Green Ridge, and I did attend the meeting last night,
07 I don't live in upper Green Ridge, we're Plot
08 residents, but there were many residents in the Green
09 Ridge area that came to our help when we were flooded
10 in September, and they have done it before for us, so
11 several of us from the Plot did attend last night's
12 meeting.

13 The one main thing that everyone
14 was very concerned with naturally is the crime that's
15 going on in Green Ridge, and there is a lot of crime in
16 Green Ridge.

17 I don't care what the police
18 records show, maybe there's not reports being taken,
19 maybe that's what the problem is, but there is crime
20 there.

21 The one person who should have

22 been at that meeting last night never showed up, and I
23 had had several calls this morning and this afternoon
24 at my home wondering if I can answer why the mayor, who
25 when all of this crime concerned his area, wasn't at
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01 that meeting.

02 It wasn't a very long meeting, and

03 I think he could have taken time out from his schedule,

04 like a lot of other people did. And when I was doing

05 the counting to see how many people were there, I

06 counted at least 127 people, and that's a lot for that

07 building, and I feel bad that these people were turned

08 away or had to outside, because that isn't fair when

09 you come to that type of a meeting and you're

10 complaining about police protection, which I understand

11 they keep saying we have 156 police officers, well,

12 actually we have 140 that do police work.

13 But out of that number there's an

14 awful lot of them that stay here in the building in

15 different departments. So, if you have 140, and you

16 have a lot of people working through this department

17 and not out taking calls, maybe half of them would be

18 out on those calls.

19 So, when they say that they have a

20 Green Ridge car only at available at certain available

21 times, that's too bad for the neighbors that live

22 there, because then they have to bring Central City

23 cars or north end cars, which shortens the other

24 neighborhoods.

25 But getting back, again, I think

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01 it was a meeting the mayor should have attended, and I

02 think he should attend the next meeting, which is going

03 to be March the 29th, on a Tuesday evening, right after

04 Easter.

05 People last night thought this was

06 going to be a political meeting, it wasn't a political

07 meeting, we weren't there about politics, as you three

08 people were there, you know that's not what that was

09 about, no inclination whatsoever that this was going to

10 be all about politics, we're concerned with the crime

11 in Green Ridge, and that's the only reason we were

12 there.

13 So, I think that, like I told

14 Mr. Cleveland, you, Gary, extended a caucus meeting to

15 any neighborhood people that wanted to come and sit

16 here before Council started or they could come here to

17 the podium, and I even told Mr. Cleveland they were

18 lucky they were allotted ten minutes, where we're only
19 allotted five, and he said he did get a letter, but he
20 didn't state that he would want to be at a caucus.

21 But that was basically what I
22 wanted to say, just that I do think the mayor should
23 attend the next one, and I hope they go to a much
24 larger place the next time.

25 One more thing before I leave, a
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01 few years ago Mr. Pocius mentioned, and I think
02 Mrs. Evans mentioned, also, that down on South
03 Washington Avenue at Broadway and South Washington and
04 Elm there used to be a lot of marks on the road making
05 right or left-hand turns, and I think, Mr. Pocius, you
06 started that whole thing a few years ago, you wanted
07 that done, and it's never been done, they've never put
08 new traffic patterns on there.

09 It's getting to be a very
10 dangerous intersection at Broadway and Washington and
11 at Elm. So, if anyone could get those lines back on, I
12 would really appreciate it. I travel that route a
13 lot. Thank you very much.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

15 Mrs. Cook. Bob Bolus.

16 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,
17 Bob Bolus.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

19 MR. BOLUS: Last week it was kind
20 of different to hear what went on in here a little bit,
21 and maybe it was a little eye opener for a lot of
22 people, and it was what Mr. Pocius and his grandson or
23 Godson coming back and the emotion Mr. Pocius showed,
24 but, you know, when we look at, not only Mr. Pocius or
25 anybody else, but the troops that are over there, I can
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01 only imagine as a person here how many other people on
02 a daily basis share that same emotion when our troops
03 come home, but beyond that, how many tears are shed for
04 those that have not come home defending our flag.

05 And it's different to see how many
06 people -- how it affects everyone in every way, shape
07 and form that people are defending this country, and it
08 was just kind of different, and I respect that, that it
09 was a place here, as well as everywhere else, which
10 bring up my next part of this, is that the statement
11 was made that the mayor or city officials didn't go to
12 the armory when our troops came home, that part I take
13 an objection to.

14 Because the same emotion
15 Mr. Pocius had and others had, maybe our Council people
16 didn't speak there, but as the man who leads this city,
17 he should have been there to speak to the troops coming
18 home, because he represents us, and none of us could
19 speak or none of you could speak, but he's supposed to
20 speak for all of us, but he wasn't there, and that's
21 what is wrong with it.
22 I remember back when Jimmy Connors
23 was mayor in the city, and I'm sure Mr. Pocius
24 remembers that when Mr. Klee was chief, when the troop
25 came home, not the troops, but a troop came home, a
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01 trooper came home from wherever one of the conflicts we
02 were in, Chief Klee went down in uniform, the mayor,
03 and greeted and these escorted individuals home.
04 And that's the difference in how
05 you represent the people and give the respect that
06 Mr. Pocius and everyone else is trying to give to our
07 troops.
08 And he should come here and speak.
09 He won't speak there, but he should speak here. He
10 won't speak at a neighborhood meeting, he won't talk
11 about our police force, and the problems we're running
12 into.
13 We can't sweep it under the rugs.
14 And, remember, it's not just what you read in the
15 newspaper, it's what we really see out there, and we're
16 seeing a lot of different things.
17 Now Mr. Hayes has a comment, you
18 know, we don't know anything about the police. Well,
19 to the contrary. I think we know a great deal about
20 what our police do and don't do.
21 Maybe he's the one who has to be
22 more informed. You know, when you're a trooper and you
23 have the support of the State of Pennsylvania and
24 unlimited resources, you can do a heck of a lot more.
25 You get brand new police cars, you
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01 get brand new squad equipment, you get the best. What
02 do our Scranton police get? The mayor wanted to buy
03 used police cars, somebody else's worn-out iron our
04 guys are going to run around in and patrol this city?
05 I think the one who needs the
06 wake-up call is Mr. Hayes. Maybe he needs to run a
07 patrol here in the city and house to house. This isn't
08 out on an interstate.
09 And we saw what happened

10 yesterday, our troopers went out and they did what they
11 need to do, and they're to be commended for that, and
12 every officer that goes out there and puts his life in
13 harms way is to be commended, we're house to house.
14 We're not out in open fields, out
15 on an interstate, they're a bullet away around the
16 corner with the drugs and everything else here.
17 So, yeah, they do need a wake-up
18 call. They needed it on Green Ridge Street in the
19 mayor's own backyard. It's ironic, his neighbors are
20 now coming here and saying, Hey, Mayor, what did you do
21 here? You know, you're part of Green Ridge. It should
22 be the safest place in the city, and it's not. No
23 place station is being safe, and we have to start
24 looking at that, because we have a lot of people in the
25 city that are afraid to go out their doors.

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01 I remember back when you could
02 leave your car running in the City of Scranton and
03 never lock it, never lock your doors. It's not the way
04 it is anymore now.
05 And I have to ask Chris Doherty,
06 where are you when our people really need you here, not
07 taking care of your KOZs and your big corporations and
08 trying to figure out where you're going to get your
09 next dollar and borrowing money from the taxpayers.
10 Yes, it's the taxpayers, it's not
11 the corporations, and that's why it's so critical. An
12 impact fee, a maintenance fee, a fit-all budget here in
13 the city for everyone that we can get the new police
14 cars, we can get the protection, and we don't have to
15 come here and say, Where were you, Mr. Mayor?
16 You didn't speak to us, you're not
17 speaking to anybody, but talk to the people who really
18 need you at this lector.
19 He sat there for four years, and
20 never once kept his word to come to this Council.
21 Remember that down the road. Thank you.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

23 Mr. Bolus. Andy Sbaraglia.

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
25 Citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, last week I
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01 did read one of your ordinances where you said you
02 would -- whereby the City of Scranton and concerned
03 citizens for the preservation of historic Scranton has
04 settled a lawsuit File No. 87-CV-0056 in the United
05 States District Court, District of Pennsylvania.

06 I did ask to see a copy of that,
07 because I have a copy, and there's nowhere in my copy
08 does it say that this has taken place.
09 Now, there could be some court
10 papers somewhere along the line where it does say that,
11 but \$140,000 coming out of, I guess, block grants
12 probably to a project in the 500 block of Lackawanna
13 Avenue most likely, but I'm not exactly sure where this
14 money is going, but somewhere I would like to check
15 into it, because 15 years ago, this thing came up
16 before the courts.
17 Now, Judge Kosik would never let
18 something be so open like that for 15 years, but all of
19 a sudden now we got 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue
20 coming in, we get all these committees back up and
21 running. For what purpose?
22 The only purpose is like I said
23 before, to feed this guy more grants, loans and so
24 forth and so on. What does this guy have in this city
25 that you're willing to spend so much of our assets to
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01 go to this one project?
02 This man bought these dilapidated
03 buildings probably at a good price. The state came in
04 and gave him, what, \$9 million? We come and we give
05 him so many thousand for it. Now he wants it for
06 engineering.
07 And now on your docket again, your
08 5-E, that money again is going to 500 block of
09 Lackawanna Avenue. That's like \$250,000 more going
10 into this project.
11 Gentlemen, does this man want to
12 put any money into this project at all or does he want
13 us to support all of it?
14 And I ask you, Why should one
15 individual get so much of our resources? It doesn't
16 make sense. Not only that, but when the faces on these
17 buildings are fixed up, there's also some kind of a law
18 where you can get tax credits for this building.
19 This man should develop it with
20 his own money. Now, he got almost \$10 million, he
21 should be able to borrow the rest to finish this
22 project. He shouldn't ask you to keep feeding him for
23 engineering fees, for this kind of fees, for that kind
24 of fees or for the fronts or whatever you're looking
25 for all these grants for.
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01 This is a project that should have

02 stood on its own. If it makes sense fiscal, he should
03 have done it fiscal. If it didn't make sense fiscal,
04 then maybe we could have come in and did something it
05 then, but I see no point in pouring money after money
06 after money into these projects downtown, while the
07 rest of us sink in the city.

08 Our neighborhoods are no longer
09 safe, our sidewalks are dilapidated, our police cars
10 are used. The only thing I can say is at least the
11 bank came through with three packmasters, even though
12 we have to pay for them, but at least they're new, and
13 chances are there will be no problem with them.

14 But using used police cars, that's
15 a whole different ballgame. They get a rough ride, I
16 realize that. If you ever look at one, you'd realize
17 how rough they're treated.

18 But somewhere along the line we
19 have to spend our money, our grants, all of this money
20 that's going in to preserve these buildings downtown
21 back into the outskirts where we are.

22 I don't even know if this man
23 lives in the city. Does anybody know if he actually
24 lives in the City of Scranton? No, you don't. You
25 should check into some of these things.

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01 Down in Philadelphia, when I was
02 down there, they were looking at passing an ordinance
03 whereby anybody that contributes so many thousands of
04 dollars to any of the candidates would be ineligible
05 for grants, loans or contracts to keep the city
06 honest.

07 But, Gentlemen, I think it's about
08 time we did the same. We should look into that and see
09 if we can come up with an ordinance where people with
10 money doesn't get special favors, that everybody is
11 treated alike. That's all I got to say. Thank you.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Sbaraglia,
13 regarding the developer of the 500 block of
14 Lackawanna Avenue, he actually doesn't own all the
15 property on the block, he does own a couple of
16 properties, so other residents of that block are
17 maintaining ownership, and also I do think that he is
18 spending quite a bit of his own money, I just don't
19 have the exact figures, but I believe he is. Thank
20 you. Regina Yetkowskas.

21 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Regina
22 Yetkowskas, Scranton resident and taxpayer addressed to
23 City Council on Mayor Doherty's performance for four

24 years.

25 This presentation will comply with
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01 President DiBileo's order that since it is now the
02 election season, this podium cannot be used to campaign
03 for or against individuals; however, I intend to use
04 my time now and in future appearances to discuss Mayor
05 Doherty's performance through his accomplishments and
06 failures during the four years in office.

07 Mr. Doherty improved our parks, he
08 brought Christmas lights to Nay Aug Park and is trying
09 to rehabilitate Scranton's downtown; however, I do
10 believe Mr. Doherty's failures far surpass his
11 accomplishments in number and severity, especially in
12 his failure to properly manage Scranton's finances.

13 To be more specific, some of
14 Mr. Doherty's failures include his huge deficit
15 spending, his borrow and spend conduct, which created
16 Scranton's largest debt in its history, his
17 administration's refusal to communicate with Scranton's
18 taxpayers or make information available to the people,
19 his abandonment of Scranton's neighborhoods, both in
20 financial help and physical maintenance, and his
21 failure to maintain Scranton's infrastructure,
22 including its streets.

23 Mr. Doherty announced he will
24 stand for re-election for mayor and already had an
25 affair for the party faithful.

0027

01 Council President DiBileo and
02 school board director Kathleen McGuigan announced they
03 will challenge Mr. Doherty for mayor.

04 City Councilman Pocius and
05 City Councilwoman Janet Evans are both running for
06 re-election to City Council against a number of persons
07 from different parts in the city.

08 The believable rumors already on
09 the street and supported by many citizens are that the
10 new group of people running for City Council were
11 hand-picked by Mr. Doherty with the hope one of them
12 will defeat Councilwoman --

13 MR. DIBILEO: I think that's
14 getting into political rederick there, Regina.

15 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Well, I don't
16 think it is. I do have the right, Mr. DiBileo, to free
17 speech.

18 MR. DIBILEO: But continue.

19 MS. YETKOWSKAS: And I will be

20 deprived of my right in America.
21 MR. DIBILEO: Go ahead.
22 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Okay. The
23 believable rumors are already on the street and
24 supported by many citizens are that the new group of
25 people running for City Council were hand picked by
0028
01 Mr. Doherty with the hope one of them will defeat
02 Councilwoman Janet Evans.
03 She is Mr. Doherty's primary
04 target because she questioned Mr. Doherty's spend and
05 borrow conduct for two years. She urged help for the
06 city neighborhoods, she held his feet to the fire on
07 the potholed street, she objected and voted against his
08 sale of profitable city assets and his refusal to run a
09 transparent and open administration.
10 If Mr. Doherty is successful, then
11 his hand-picked candidates will control City Council.
12 The people should then know we will have an exact
13 repeat of the previous rubber stamp Council who was
14 despised and voted out by the taxpayers.
15 It was the rubber stamp Council
16 who helped Mr. Doherty take us on the path of borrow
17 and spend to fiscal ruin.
18 Mrs. Evans, Mr. DiBileo, and
19 Mr. Courtright held the mayor in check to a certain
20 extent for four years, but the mayor had actual control
21 of city government by his use of the veto, backed by
22 all the time -- sorry -- backed all the time by two
23 members of Council.
24 The two constant no votes Doherty
25 has on Council always prevented his vetoes from being
0029
01 overridden and were a determining criterion which
02 permitted him to continue to build the big debt we now
03 have.
04 The newspapers reported Alex
05 Hazzouri is once again running for election to
06 City Council. The fact is, Mr. Hazzouri was a member
07 of the original rubber stamp Council for Mr. Doherty.
08 At the end of his last term,
09 Mr. Hazzouri may have seen the handwriting on the wall.
10 He voluntarily left City Council because he said he
11 spent much of his life in public and political offices
12 and now wanted to have more time in private life.
13 His volunteering to depart Council
14 was better than being voted out like the other rubber
15 stamp councilmen who served with Hazzouri.

16 And, Mr. DiBileo, I have timed
17 this. Until I complete it, five minutes will be up.
18 That is the wrong time. I went over this many times
19 during the day today, people timed me, so I am to be
20 given extra time, sir.
21 MR. DIBILEO: Finish your thought.
22 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Wait I see where
23 I left off. One minute. The two constant no votes
24 Doherty has on Council always prevented his vetos from
25 being overridden and were determining criterion which
0030
01 permitted him to continue to build the debt we now
02 have.
03 After one term away from political
04 life, Mr. Hazzouri now returns to politics. Please
05 note, Mr. Hazzouri made no opening statement which in
06 any way proves to the voters he will not again be a
07 rubber stamp for Mr. Doherty.
08 I can only say Mr. Hazzouri's
09 record speaks for itself. The people should study his
10 record in more detail and conduct themselves
11 accordingly.
12 There is nothing known to the
13 public to make anyone believe Mr. Hazzouri will be
14 anything than a renewed rubber stamp for Doherty.
15 I, for one, would not allow
16 another rubber stamp City Council, for the simple
17 reason we already had a four-year bitter experience of
18 the harm that the rubber stamp Council did.
19 No doubt a new one will just
20 continue to damage the city and the taxpayers. And I
21 thank you and I will continue with my presentation next
22 week.
23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very
24 much.
25 MR. DIBILEO: Is your watch off,
0031
01 Jay?
02 MR. SAUNDERS: I'm not going to
03 blame it on Mark. For the first time in a year and a
04 half he hit the bell, and it was about five minutes and
05 30 seconds at that time.
06 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.
07 MR. DIBILEO: Lee Morgan.
08 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I'd
09 like to say at this podium, I totally agree
10 wholeheartedly with the last speaker, and I think her
11 comments were absolutely without a doubt correct, and I

12 want to -- I just want to state that.
13 The next thing I'd like to state
14 is, you know, the meeting in Green Ridge yesterday just
15 wasn't about Green Ridge, it's about the whole city.
16 I took the time to call every
17 single solitary neighborhood association. I called
18 everybody I could call and ask them to come.
19 Like I stated to one of the
20 council people there, there were representatives there
21 from every neighbor because they came up and they
22 tapped me on the shoulder and said, Lee, we're from
23 this neighborhood. We're here. The president couldn't
24 be here, but we're here.
25 I walked outside in the parking
0032
01 lot, the one from North Scranton was standing out
02 there. Mrs. Simmons came, I asked her to come, I asked
03 everybody to come.
04 It's absolutely the most important
05 thing of all to realize that there's a terrible drug
06 problem in this city, there's a gang problem
07 infiltrating this city. We've lost too many police.
08 I stood here. You know, being a
09 policeman is not an easy job. Nobody really likes
10 police until the chips are down and somebody is kicking
11 your door in, okay?
12 We have to be honest with that.
13 But, you know, we expect a lot from these people, and
14 in a lot of instances, they're under-equipped and we
15 have to be honest with ourselves and realize that, and
16 we have to realize that there are limitations, but we
17 have to chose what we want. Do we want consultants or
18 do we want police protection?
19 Now, when I was a young child, I
20 lived on Capouse Avenue, 45-years old, we never closed
21 or front or our back door ever all summer.
22 So, when I was a child there was
23 no fear of crime. We knew who some of the police
24 officers were, Mr. Duffy, Mr. Denell, Mr. Plunkett,
25 Mr. Roberto. I mean, we knew them. We walked out in
0033
01 the street, we knew who all the police officers were.
02 We felt safe.
03 And I'm telling you that we're
04 losing that in this city. We've allowed our
05 neighborhoods to erode to a point where, you know, how
06 can we talk about restoring pride or restoring a city
07 when we're dumping all of our money into the downtown?

08 There has to come a time and a
09 point where we realize that the downtown is the leaves
10 on the tree and the neighborhoods are the trunk, and
11 we've got to feed the trunk of this tree.
12 We've got a lot of things we've
13 got to do here, and one of the major things we have
14 got to do here, as I've talked to Mr. Bolus, and I'm
15 going to call the Scranton School District tomorrow and
16 see if we can't rent the Scranton High School
17 auditorium for a public meeting, because I think we
18 have to open this meeting up to everybody, everybody
19 every neighborhood association, every crime watch.
20 I was really troubled when
21 Councilmen tried to speak at this meeting. Now, when
22 you want to bring change to the city, what you do is
23 the Council communicates with the mayor and we bring
24 change, but when the councilmen tried to speak at thus
25 this meeting, they were told that everything they said
0034
01 was politics.
02 And in all reality, if there was
03 any politics being spun here, and I'm not saying any
04 was being spun, and that's not what I'm saying, but if
05 there was, then the safety director and the chief of
06 police were spinning it, because the mayor did not come
07 to this meeting.
08 And, you know, so many people said
09 to me, Lee, we're from Green Ridge, the mayor is from
10 Green Ridge, and where is he?
11 And, you know, you can't lead a
12 city behind someone else. The leader of a city, the
13 President, Congressman, whatever, they stand out front
14 and they lead, all right?
15 And the way they lead is they
16 follow the real leaders, which are the people in the
17 neighborhoods, and it's all inner-connected, but I
18 think we've lost that.
19 So, I will continue and I will
20 call all the neighborhood associations when this
21 meeting is able to take place, and I've had meetings
22 like that before, so you can take me at my word that it
23 will take place.
24 And the one last thing I'd like to
25 say before I leave this podium is, you know, emergency
0035
01 services are a real problem, and we're looking for
02 ways -- or I am looking for ways that we can have an
03 ALS unit in this city.

04 And I'd just like to give this to
05 the mayor and to this Council, that instead of asking
06 the hospitals to give us money in lieu of taxes, ask
07 them to give us nurse practitioners to staff ALS units,
08 and let's have two ALS units stationed in this city and
09 let's put the city back in the ALS business of saving
10 lives.
11 And if we have two ALS units in
12 this city and they have to get called somewhere, and we
13 have nurse practitioners working that, we're going to
14 save a lot of lives.
15 And you know something, let
16 paramedics from the fire department drive these
17 ambulances, but let nurses practitioners practice the
18 medicine, because they can give injections and
19 intercede for you until you get to the ambulance and
20 from there to the hospital, and we can save lives.
21 And it's a great idea, it's a
22 win/win for the hospitals, because then they get a
23 patient that they can work with.
24 And every citizen in this city can
25 benefit by that, every one of us. If we fall down on
0036
01 the ground here and we get to the hospital and they
02 save our life, there's a plus. Thank you.
03 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
04 Mr. Morgan. That's it for the sign-in sheet. Would
05 anyone else like to speak?
06 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening,
07 Joanne Williams, homeowner and taxpayer.
08 Mr. Saunders, did you happen to get the number of
09 streets that were paved in the city the last few years?
10 I know I didn't have time to get back to you.
11 MR. SAUNDERS: I requested that.
12 I didn't get that back.
13 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. When you get
14 it.
15 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, the request
16 has been made.
17 MS. WILLIAMS: That's fine. I'm
18 sure I won't get a standing ovation tonight. But
19 anyway, let's be realistic here.
20 MR. DIBILEO: Excuse me,
21 Mrs. Williams. Okay, please continue.
22 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Let's be
23 realistic here. I mean, I've lived in this city all my
24 life. With the last administration, I saw it going
25 down the tubes.

0037

01 I think that any mayor who is
02 coming into what Mayor Doherty came into, I think he
03 had to do a few things.
04 First he had to bring parks back,
05 he had to bring downtown back. You know, I mean, you
06 have to do that. If you don't have parks and you don't
07 have a downtown area, and believe me, I'm all for
08 neighborhoods, okay, that's true, also.
09 But as far as, like, KOZs
10 downtown, I mean, what do people think? The way the
11 downtown was looking, do they think people are actually
12 going to come in here and say, I'm going to buy this
13 building for a million dollars or something and start a
14 business? I don't think so.
15 I believe in helping out people
16 who are going to start a business down here, because
17 they're going to bring the city alive again.
18 And I have to compliment you,
19 Mr. Pocius, for the last four years and these four
20 years, and you, Mr. McTiernan, for having the guts and
21 the courage to see what is needed in this city.
22 Also I have to compliment the last
23 Council that was here, and I think, you know, that they
24 also had the courage and concern.
25 You know, they must have been

0038

01 tough decisions, but someone has to make them. This
02 city is growing. This city is moving ahead.
03 Now, also, I live in the
04 Hill Section, and I'll tell you what, Nay Aug Park, the
05 way it looked at the last administration was terrible.
06 So far since this mayor has taken office and had the
07 interest in Nay Aug Park, also other parks, that wasn't
08 the only park in the city, our property values have
09 really gone up, really gone up, and I have to thank him
10 for that.
11 Also what I wanted to say was, you
12 know, I know -- I don't like to be critical, you know,
13 Mayor Connors was a very nice gentleman, he attended
14 every function, but to be honest with you, our city was
15 falling apart.
16 We have a mayor now who is
17 concerned about growing the city, bringing people into
18 it and getting it back on track.
19 You talk about the Ice Box, look
20 at the new Scranton High School down there, absolutely
21 beautiful, and the Ice Box area, too.

22 I mean, that looks like a
23 completely different area down there. That would have
24 been all blighted. I mean, I know people who have come
25 in from out of town, a girlfriend of mine who lives in
0039
01 Texas, she came back last summer.
02 She said, I can't believe this is
03 Scranton, she said. The high school, she was
04 overwhelmed with, the park, the businesses going up,
05 everything she was overwhelmed with, and she's not the
06 only one, there's several people from out of town I've
07 talked to, plus the people in the city.
08 You have to remember, there's only
09 a minority that comes up here each week and speaks, and
10 they have their right to speak and their opinion, but I
11 think this mayor has done a lot.
12 But, Mr. DiBileo, with you, I'm
13 very upset with tonight. You had said that you weren't
14 going to have any kind of political rally here, and I
15 think you did tonight.
16 So my question is to you, and I
17 would never want to say this to you, but I really -- it
18 really hit me tonight when you let this go, How can you
19 run a city when you can't run a council meeting? Thank
20 you.
21 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
22 Mrs. Williams. I have to say, too, that part of your
23 comments I have to take as a compliment to myself, if
24 you don't mind, Mrs. Williams, only because you
25 mentioned the new high school a few times, and if I
0040
01 might say so, I was the president of the buildings and
02 grounds committee as a school director when that was
03 built.
04 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes, you were.
05 MR. DIBILEO: And that was built
06 prior to Mayor Doherty coming into office. I'm not
07 saying he doesn't deserve any credit for the new
08 school, but I appreciate your comments. Thank you very
09 much.
10 MS. WILLIAMS: And I just want to
11 say, yes, I do give you that credit, Gary, you did see
12 a dream and you worked at it, but where are you now?
13 MR. DIBILEO: Right here. Thank
14 you.
15 MR. DIBILEO: I didn't mean to be
16 smart. Are there any other speakers?
17 MR. BRUDZINSKI: My name is Fred

18 Brudzinski, Jermyn Apartments. I come up from
19 Allentown, Bethlehem, lived in the town for five
20 years. I grew up when I was young in Scranton, worked
21 for Bethlehem Steel, worked for General Electric up in
22 Binghamton.

23 The last speaker said the town is
24 growing, I don't see where the town is growing. It's
25 very simple, this is a senior citizen town. If you
0041

01 follow the paper, the deaths, follow the paper, the
02 population is going down every day, every week.

03 Now, I want to talk -- I went to
04 Mr. Bolus' Christmas party the last couple of years,
05 and thank you for that.

06 MR. BOLUS: You're welcome.

07 MR. BRUDZINSKI: He had some truck
08 drivers, picking up truck drivers, and I talked to a
09 few truck drivers, one from Northern California, Texas,
10 Colorado, and they couldn't get over having a Christmas
11 party and a dinner in this city.

12 And word of mouth, by word of
13 mouth they're going to be talking about Scranton, I'm
14 sure, and perhaps some CEO or someone from some
15 corporation will pick that up and might be interested
16 in coming to Scranton.

17 Now, talk about schools, drive up
18 to Green Ridge Street to North Main Avenue, what do you
19 see? You see that North Scranton Junior High School
20 all boarded up and in that condition.

21 Nine years ago that school could
22 have been marketed very easily when the country was in
23 the black and companies were building. That could have
24 been marketed, and there could have been 2,000, 3,000
25 people in that school, they would have had an
0042

01 auditorium, and that parking lots is next to
02 interstates. Too bad for that.

03 Sports complex, people of
04 Scranton, they initiated, built that, lighted it up,
05 and now what happened? The University sees a good
06 thing, they want it. And further more, that could be
07 reversed. Give it back to the city for the kids to
08 play.

09 Oh, the benches, I've been in
10 Bethlehem, Allentown, Wilkes-Barre, they got benches
11 all around the circle, Binghamton, all downtown got
12 benches for the senior citizens. Some can just about
13 walk. They had benches in front of what they call the

14 Ritz Theater, they removed them.

15 I used to go over there and sit on

16 that bench, and there was a disability man used to go

17 sit there and jump on the bus. They moved them, for

18 what, five or six parking spots?

19 Oh, and police protection.

20 Scranton is a large city and area. It's a fact. It's

21 three times the size of Erie, twice the size in area of

22 Allentown and Bethlehem. And I think we need more

23 police. And besides that, I believe they can't get

24 around. And I believe if you check in it, I think

25 Reading and Allentown have more police officers than

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01 Scranton, if you can check into that. Thank you for

02 your time.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much.

04 We appreciate your comments. Kay, did you get that

05 gentleman's name?

06 MS. GARVEY: I will get it.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Fred. I

08 appreciate you coming.

09 MR. McANDREW: Good evening,

10 Council. Larry McAndrew. This is what I come to

11 Council meetings to enjoy hearing our senior citizens

12 speak up, voice their opinion and tell it like it is

13 what is going on with this city. We need more people

14 like that. I hope we have more editorials, as Mr. Bob

15 Moffet said in the Monday morning's Tribune paper.

16 I disagree with Mrs. Williams. I

17 have to say to Mayor Doherty, the French have a word

18 for it, it's called deja vu. If you read Saturday's

19 paper, there's a particular column in there called

20 Random's Notes, and this gentleman went into detail

21 what happened to a popular mayor in 1985, that had the

22 support, had ideas of what to do with KOZs, how to

23 bring in retail business and so forth.

24 He was supposed to be a shoe-in,

25 but he did not expect neighborhood groups to get

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01 together, and a gentleman by the name of Jimmy Connors

02 to lead the way. This is what is going to happen

03 again. My prediction is, Mayor Doherty, wake up.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

05 Mr. McAndrew. Any other speakers?

06 MS. FIDATI-ADSIT: Annabelle

07 Fidati-Ansit, a taxpayer. I actually came here tonight

08 to talk about my party, but first because so many

09 people attended last night at Green Ridge, I also was

10 there. I felt the man that ran that was very rude.
11 He even told a man to leave who
12 was a Green Ridge resident, and it wasn't very nice. I
13 was very unhappy with that person who ran, and he
14 should not have shouted at that man who had really good
15 concerns, because he was a resident there.
16 But I actually came, too, to talk
17 about our Republican party, which I'm a registered
18 democrat. We don't seem to have a Republican running
19 on a ticket this year. It's very hurtful.
20 I'm trying to get a hold of our
21 party. I've called Washington, I've called
22 Senator Santorum's office, and I am getting some
23 feedback now.
24 Who are these committee people?
25 I'd like to know. It's very hard when you have to
0045
01 change your party that you believe in.
02 We just had a big national
03 election, and it was historical this election in our
04 nation, and President Bush did win.
05 And I know for a fact that people
06 around this whole vast nation were in prayer, they were
07 all in prayer groups. All over this nation they were
08 praying hard, I mean, on your knees kind of prayer for
09 this kind of President, and that's the party I belong
10 to, and that's the party I believe in. I'm very hurt
11 that they aren't putting up a candidate. It bothers me
12 a lot.
13 You know, the greatest book ever
14 written it's called the Bible. Jesus Christ loves all
15 the children of the earth, red and yellow, black and
16 white, they're all precious in his sight.
17 God wrote the book, I didn't. But
18 he said it, I believe it, and that settles it. And
19 what I see in this city is a total disregard for the
20 common man, the children, and we have a man in office
21 that should be removed.
22 And I hope, Gary, that you take
23 his place. This man has no regard for the working man.
24 MS. FIDATI-ADSIT: Please refrain
25 from those type of comments, but continue.
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01 MS. FIDATI-ADSIT: All right. But
02 I believe the children have been pushed aside by this
03 mayor. The only people on his agenda are the people
04 with big bucks, corporations, anyone who can give big
05 money to his campaign. I don't believe that's right.

06 It was our grandparents and our
07 parents who are the grass roots of this city. They
08 built this city. They're all being ignored. This
09 mayor hasn't got a concept of what it's like to work
10 hard for a living. I think he forgot all about his
11 roots.
12 But the Bible tells us different,
13 that we should love everyone or to be our neighbor's
14 keeper, not to keep people out of places like this
15 prestigious Nay Aug. It may be great for everyone in
16 the whole county to enjoy, but we're paying the bill.
17 He has forgotten all of the grass
18 roots people who made this city what it is, people like
19 my parents and my grandparents. And I would encourage
20 him to really try to think about these things, because
21 he's lost it. He has really lost it.
22 And the people that do back him
23 100 percent really need to think twice, because the
24 buildings just wouldn't cut it. It's the people that
25 count, and we're the people of Scranton. We're the
0047

01 grass roots people, and he's forgotten about us. Thank
02 you.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

04 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.

05 My name is Nancy Krake.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

07 MS. KRAKE: I have a few comments

08 on speaker Joanne William's remarks. Apparently she
09 was never aware of the Steamtown Mall in downtown, she
10 seems to believe that only the renaissance in downtown
11 started when this mayor came in, when there had in fact
12 been renaissance going on for at least 16 years
13 previous to that.

14 And also the property values, I'd
15 like to know exactly what neighborhood has its property
16 values going up.

17 It came to me that I've been
18 speaking at this podium for four years now. Sadly when
19 we first started coming here, it was to protest
20 something very bad that was going on, in fact, it's
21 still going on. It was the mayor and his so-called
22 recovery plan, and at that time the rubber stamp
23 Council's agreement with it.

24 Several of the personal things
25 that happened at that time I'd like to share. When
0048

01 this mayor first came on, I had a job that I was bumped

02 out of, but my job then was accounts payable, and one
03 of the bills I got was for Restoring The Pride signs.
04 Well, there was no PO number,
05 which is a definite requirement of this municipality,
06 I'm sure of school districts, also, so I called the
07 vendor, and I said, Gee, you must have sent it to the
08 wrong place, this should have gone to the mayor's
09 campaign.
10 Oh, no, he said, this is for the
11 city. Well, the controller sent the mayor a letter,
12 and sure enough it was for the city, because since then
13 the signs have been going up all over, the Mayor's
14 campaign slogan.
15 I don't recall anyone ever
16 adopting that as the city's new slogan, Restoring The
17 Pride. But it went along. I got reprimanded
18 slightly for calling the vendor, but I got over it.
19 I have one more story to tell
20 before I go back to Restoring The Pride, the person who
21 was the assistant to that job left the city, but the
22 mayor made remarks about her, felt the need to, in the
23 Scranton Times.
24 A defenseless woman, she was only
25 in her -- she was around, I don't know, her early
0049
01 sixties at the time, Helen, she had bid into that job,
02 she learned how to do spread sheets, she learned an
03 entire financial system and how to cut checks.
04 She answered the phone and dealt
05 with the public much better than I could because of her
06 age and her knowledge of people, and I respected her
07 for that, and I learned from her many, many things,
08 even though maybe she learned some computer skills from
09 me, that was nothing what I learned from her.
10 She raised a family alone, as many
11 women have, and was raising grandchildren at the time,
12 but he felt the need to make hurtful remarks about her
13 in the paper because that was justifying the reasons he
14 was getting rid of that job, because she was a cleaning
15 woman before she had that job.
16 Just wanted to remind people of
17 the arrogance and the hurtful things that were said
18 about people in my union in particular, and I'm sure
19 about other people, but we only speak for ourselves.
20 Getting back to Restoring The
21 Pride, I really don't want my pride restored. Pride is
22 one of the seven deadly sins. I would like my faith
23 restored, I would like my hope restored, and that hope

24 would contain fair treatment for all citizens of the
25 City of Scranton, all neighborhoods and all parks.
0050

01 Thank you.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

03 Mrs. Krake. If there's no further speakers, Mr. Walsh,
04 please.

05 MR. WALSH: 5-A, motions.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. McTiernan, do

07 you have any motions or comments this evening?

08 MR. McTIERNAN: Three comments,

09 Mr. President, thank you. First of all, I happen to

10 notice driving back and forth to work that the former

11 Anemostat building seems to be up and running again. I

12 don't know who is responsible for it, but there is a

13 sign out front about an employment forum there. I

14 wasn't able to get the telephone number, but that's

15 probably good news.

16 A job well done, I was contacted

17 this past week by the principal of McNicholls Plaza, as

18 well as members of the PTA from McNicholls Plaza, and

19 they were indicating that there were severe potholes as

20 the exit road from McNicholls Plaza, and that road was

21 addressed to the Department of Public Works, and

22 Mr. Parker, that that road was going to be taken care

23 of, and it's deteriorated greatly.

24 They gave me a ring. I ended up

25 speaking with the mayor. The mayor spoke with

0051

01 Mr. Parker, and the potholes were filled temporarily

02 yesterday. And they sent a letter indicating, Just a

03 thank you, contacted you regarding some very large

04 potholes on East Elm Street and South Irving Avenue

05 adjacent to McNicholls Plaza Elementary School.

06 I expressed my concerns of safety,

07 as well as the driving hazards that our parents were

08 facing, and I'm pleased to report that the potholes

09 have been filled and the conditions of these streets

10 have improved greatly.

11 Just a thank you to the

12 Department of Public Works and Mr. Parker on behalf of

13 the community at McNicholls Plaza for taking care of

14 that situation.

15 And finally regarding last week's

16 discussions, I did receive some correspondence from the

17 developer of the Village at Tripp Park, and he gave me

18 some details that I'm very thankful for, and it

19 basically outlines a punch list that began at

20 approximately 64 items, April 23 of '04, and through
21 various inspections, that list was whittled down to
22 approximately 36 items.

23 According to the correspondence I
24 have in front of me, there are about five items left,
25 and according to this correspondence I have in front of
0052

01 me, they are out about five items left, and according
02 to this correspondence, they are out of the control of
03 the developer and under that of a third-party.

04 The developer indicates that
05 90 percent of the punch list is complete and he is
06 hoping for another inspection.

07 So, to that end, I would ask

08 Mr. Saunders, if you would, contact the appropriate
09 departments, possibly Mr. Parker to see if the punch
10 list is completed and we can resume discussions about
11 when the roadways at Tripp Park will be acceptable to
12 the city. Thank you, Mr. President.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much,

14 Mr. McTiernan. Mrs. Evans, do you have any motions or
15 comments?

16 MS. EVANS: Yes. First I would

17 ask everyone to please keep Jacob Laskey,
18 20-month-year-old child who has very severe health
19 problem in your prayers.

20 I'm requesting this evening the
21 following financial information, first the independent
22 audit of 2004 be completed by May 2005 at the latest,
23 a copy of the loan agreement with PNC Bank for the
24 approximately \$4 million that was borrowed for the 2004
25 deficit, and finally, why was \$30,000 transferred out
0053

01 of GASBY 34 to Workers' Comp., when the administration
02 insisted in December 2004, that that money was
03 essential for GASBY 34 and could not be touched?

04 Last evening I attended a Green

05 Ridge Neighborhood meeting, at which probably more than
06 100 concerned citizens appeared to seek answers and to
07 enumerate reports of crimes in their area.

08 Several positive initiatives

09 resulted from this gathering, first, the Green Ridge
10 Neighborhood Association will no longer lie dormant,
11 monthly meetings will be conducted again; second,
12 monthly meetings will be relocated to a larger building
13 to accommodate the abundant numbers of concerned
14 citizens when necessary; third, a Green Ridge Crime
15 Watch organization will be formed; and fourth,

16 residents were instructed by the public safety director
17 to lock doors, windows and car doors, to remove ladders
18 from the sides of houses and rocks and bricks that
19 could be used as weapons, and they should keep their
20 porch lights on and be observant of unusual activities
21 in their neighborhoods, also, take photos or videos of
22 your interior homes and record serial numbers for
23 identification purposes.

24 Finally, and most importantly, a
25 crucial message was sent by the majority of the
0054

01 citizens present at last evening's meeting, they want
02 more police, they want to feel safe in their homes and
03 on their streets.

04 The people spoke last night. They
05 say, It's not the deployment, it's the numbers they're
06 looking for. We are playing a very dangerous shell
07 game with police protection. We juggle them from one
08 section of the city to another.

09 South side has said when I've
10 attended their meetings they want more police. They
11 can't be concerned about what is occurring in other
12 areas of the city, they're concerned simply for their
13 area naturally.

14 Last night Green Ridge said they
15 want more police, and they don't want to discuss other
16 areas of the city, as well. Their concerns are limited
17 to their area of residency.

18 And so, people are fighting over
19 police throughout the city, and meanwhile we've lost 22
20 police officers, and many remaining officers complete
21 their reports during their shifts instead of patrolling
22 the neighborhoods.

23 Why? Because the mayor fired the
24 SIT clerks who do the paperwork so the police can be on
25 the street.

0055

01 And although an arbitrator said
02 those clerks must be returned to work, I believe it
03 still hasn't occurred, because the mayor is fighting
04 it.

05 Officers can't stay after work to
06 do their paperwork to complete those reports because
07 the mayor doesn't want to run up overtime costs. That
08 forces them to have to do these reports on shift.

09 The mayor, Mr. Hayes and
10 Chief Elliott believe deployment is the answer to crime
11 in our neighborhoods. If this is correct, and it may

12 be, then I suggest gross mismanagement has occurred on
13 their watch.

14 They're cutting police before they are
15 addressing deployment. That's worse than putting the
16 cart before the horse, that's dangerous.

17 If they sincerely were interested
18 in keeping us safe, deployment would come first, and if
19 that is the proper solution, police cuts would follow,
20 not lead the way. Now, if deployment drives down
21 crime, then and only then should you cut officers.

22 My car was broken into, and my
23 neighbors have been burglarized. We've recently
24 witnessed a horrific can attack on a young man and a
25 murder of a student in the not too distant past, and
0056

01 there are many, many more lesser crimes that were
02 enumerated at last night's meeting by the residents of
03 Green Ridge.

04 Now, if we can put criminals on a
05 time clock and coordinate their schedules with our
06 police shifts deployment, that's terrific. If we keep
07 cutting police, there won't be sufficient coverage at
08 any time of the day or the night.

09 So, just ask yourself one
10 question, are your neighborhoods safe? If yes, cut
11 more police; if no, increase our neighborhood patrols.
12 I've already found \$55,000 to go
13 toward that end, and that plus a little bit more may
14 get us two police officers to patrol our neighborhoods,
15 and I would hope that Council and the mayor will find
16 additional funding to provide even further police
17 protection in our neighborhoods, and most of all, I
18 certainly hope that such an effort would not be
19 vetoed. Thank you.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
21 Mrs. Evans. I appreciate that. Mr. Pocius, any
22 motions or comments?

23 MR. POCIUS: Yes, I have one
24 motion and a short -- very short comment. Some while
25 ago this Council took the initiative to send a letter
0057

01 to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission reporting
02 what we consider to be a very dangerous situation on
03 Luzerne Street where the old viaduct used to be, which
04 is now an at-grade crossing.

05 We received reply back, and there
06 was a field view held there sometime last fall, I think
07 it was in November. I attended the field view with the

08 people from the Public Utility Commission and from
09 PennDOT. At that time they said they would do some
10 follow-up, and the follow-up has finally come here.
11 I received a call here last week
12 from David Hart, who is the from the rail safety
13 division of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission,
14 and I called him back on Friday, and he was off, and
15 then he faxed up today to our office a copy of the
16 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission order that was
17 adopted in December of 1987, and what this did was this
18 called for the -- a lot of regulations on that
19 crossing, but the main thing being that this crossing
20 was to be a controlled crossing which would require a
21 flagman during daylight hours to pass the train across
22 Luzerne Street, and at the time a lighted lantern, but
23 I assume that will be a flare or a flashlight or some
24 kind of beacon in this day as technology increased.
25 So, what I'd like to do is I'd

0058

01 like to make a motion for this Council, on the advice
02 of David Hart, that we ask the City of Scranton through
03 the city solicitor's office to file a formal complaint
04 requesting the commission, this would be filed with the
05 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, requesting the
06 commission to enforce the order entered into on
07 December 28, 1987, at Docket No. A00107351.

08 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second that.

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

11 On the question, I'm glad you brought that up,
12 Mr. Pocius, I probably would have. I was going to do
13 the same thing this evening.

14 That has turned out to be a pretty
15 dangerous situation down there where there has been a
16 couple of accidents and there's no traffic signal at
17 all as you cross the railroad tracks there at Luzerne
18 Street, so we absolutely need this complaint to be
19 filed with the PUC and get something done down there as
20 soon as possible.

21 MR. POCIUS: We had asked, and
22 there's probably nothing that could be done. We asked
23 if it could be enforced on a local level, we asked that
24 question, but it is a Public Utility Commission order
25 which comes under their jurisdiction, and I think,

0059

01 Mark, maybe you could just on a help, you know, advise
02 Mr. Farrell as to what we're trying to do here, that
03 we're following the advice of the Commission, take

04 formal action.

05 I know from my past dealings with
06 the commission that it's, for lack of a better word,
07 it's attorney friendly. Most of the court action is
08 done by attorneys and how they handle things is by
09 attorneys only, even representing the utilities present
10 and so on, so I think we could try -- if we get this
11 done, we can maybe -- the railroad, the operator
12 themselves will be held accountable for this order and
13 you would have to have the proper procedures in place
14 when he, you know, carried on -- crossing trains across
15 that track.

16 MR. DIBILEO: If there's no
17 further comments, all those in favor, signify by saying
18 aye.

19 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
24 ayes have it and motion passes. Thank you.

25 MR. POCIUS: Jay, I think you have
0060

01 this, because Neil faxed it to me today so I can look
02 at it, but you have the original fax. I think this
03 should be attached to the correspondence that goes
04 upstairs.

05 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes.

06 MR. POCIUS: Just on a note, I
07 don't know if any of you don't know, but a city
08 employee had a little bit of a problem, he was in the
09 hospital, I don't know if he was released, Tom Barrett
10 had a little procedure done, and I think he's doing
11 much better.

12 I talked to him the other day, but
13 he's been a long time employee of the city controller's
14 office, and just our well wishes go out to Tom and his
15 family. That's all, Mr. President. Thank you.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

17 Mr. Pocius. Appreciate that. Mr. Courtright, any
18 motions or comments?

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes. I'd like to
20 commend Officer Chris Davis. I haven't had an
21 opportunity to get anything official, so if I
22 misrepresent the facts, I'm sure I will be corrected.
23 This past Sunday he was dispatched
24 to a call in North Scranton, there was a house filled
25 with smoke when he arrived on scene. There was a woman

0061

01 outside yelling that her sister was inside, an elderly
02 woman.

03 He had to break down the door, and
04 the house was filled with smoke, so he had to feel his
05 way around. He found this woman and he rescued her.

06 So, I'd just like to commend

07 Officer Christopher Davis for a job well done. He very
08 well might have saved this woman's life.

09 I was in Harrisburg last week, and

10 sometimes I don't get an opportunity to read the paper,
11 and evidently some speakers spoke about it tonight, and
12 I got some phone calls on it, that a comment was made
13 in the paper that I guess we on Council aren't police
14 officers, and I don't think any of us think we are
15 police officers, but when I was in Harrisburg I had an
16 opportunity to be with minimum 20, maybe more, law
17 enforcement people, and these people have hundreds of
18 years of experience, not 25, and we spoke on a
19 couple -- I spoke to them on several different issues,
20 one issue, there's a gentleman there that's an expert
21 on when police take written exams and when police take
22 oral exams, and he talked to me for a little while one
23 day and actually came back the next day and expanded on
24 what he had told me.

25 But more importantly, I spoke

0062

01 to -- there was police chiefs, state troopers,
02 sheriffs, everything, but more importantly, municipal
03 police who would affect us, and coincidentally, the
04 town that he worked in or still works in, I believe,
05 had a very similar situation to what we have here in
06 Scranton right now, and I asked him, you know, what
07 were they doing or what did they do to try to remedy
08 it, and again coincidentally he said what they did was
09 they stepped up the amount of patrols during peak crime
10 hours, which I think is a good idea.

11 I agree with that. And I asked

12 him how did that work out for them, and he said it did
13 help them out, but not to the magnitude they wanted it
14 to, but what he had told me that really helped him out
15 was they had gone into the neighborhoods, and I don't
16 know that they had access to the neighborhood groups
17 like we have, I didn't get that in depth with him, they
18 had gone into the neighborhoods and they spoke with the
19 neighbors, and when I say the, I mean the police and
20 the administration of that town, and started working
21 with neighborhood groups.

22 They identified house that were
23 considered problem houses, houses that, if they could,
24 they went in and they violated, found violations, shut
25 them down and then tore them down. They did a lot of
0063
01 tearing down of properties.
02 Then the city, which he, and this
03 is his opinion, which he thought was the biggest help,
04 was they came in and they started dumping money into
05 the neighborhoods, and he said that started bringing
06 back people that, for lack of a better word, would be
07 more desirable people, and he said he saw the crime
08 being reduced then.
09 So, I hope that, you know, in the
10 future we will be targeting the crime hours and the
11 peak -- when it's peak, but I do hope that we'll start
12 to dump a little bit more money into the neighborhoods,
13 and maybe that will help alleviate the problems that
14 we're having.
15 And I know that the paper prints
16 statistics and then statistics were said last night at
17 the Green Ridge Neighborhood meeting -- and by the way,
18 I was invited to the Green Ridge Neighborhood meeting,
19 nobody kept me out, to be honest with you, there just
20 wasn't any room. Mr. DiBileo and I snuck in the back
21 door, then we got in a little bit.
22 But anyway, and I know we need
23 statistics and I know there's formulas and all this
24 type of thing, but I think when we're doing our math, I
25 think we need to factor in people. We're not factoring
0064
01 in the people.
02 Maybe crime is the same, maybe
03 it's more, maybe it's less, but obviously some people
04 think there's an increase or there wouldn't have been
05 that many people there last night. I never saw a crowd
06 of people like that in all my life.
07 So, whether the facts support it
08 or not, the perception by the residents of the Green
09 Ridge area is there's a problem, and I think that is
10 echoed across the city.
11 So, it's my hope -- last night I
12 made a comment that wasn't too well received, and maybe
13 I got a little bit excited when it wasn't too well
14 received, but Mrs. Evans, you know, alluded to it
15 before, she actually said it before, we did have SIT
16 clerks, and I don't know if any of you people have a
17 scanner or your neighborhood group has a scanner, but

18 when you flip on that scanner, I bet you hear on the
19 shift all the time, So and so, car in service, heading
20 to building to do a report, or, you know, I'll do that
21 report tomorrow when the shift starts.

22 And I truly believe if the clerks
23 are staffed properly, and I imagine we are going to
24 have to pay for these clerks that we haven't had for
25 the last couple of years because there's probably an
0065

01 arbitration going to come down, so if we're going to
02 pay for them, let's have them there.

03 But anyway, I think if we did
04 that, and I don't know the right number, maybe they
05 need to do that, qualified people, that if these
06 officers dictated into a dictaphone whatever they
07 needed to do, what type of report they needed to do,
08 then the clerk can do the work and the cop would stay
09 on the street.

10 And I think a clerk is a whole lot
11 cheaper than a police officer. And I guess it was said
12 that, you know, what I said was political. Jeez,
13 that's not political. I was just trying to help, you
14 know, and I still think it's a good idea. And that's
15 all I have, Mr. President. Thank you.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
17 Mr. Courtright. Appreciate that. Last week I was
18 talking about some of the crime in the city and the
19 fact we know our police officers numbers have dropped,
20 I wasn't exactly certain what the numbers were, but
21 then they were printed in the newspaper, and I used a
22 term that -- I said I wasn't sure exactly what the
23 crime rate numbers read, but that there's a perception
24 out there by residents of Scranton that crime is up,
25 and, you know, maybe the word perception wasn't really
0066

01 a good word to use, maybe I should have said the
02 feelings among residents, I think, are that the crime
03 rates are up, as opposed to perception, because I saw
04 then the next day or two that the mayor kind of jumped
05 on that term I used, perception, and he said, Well,
06 let's deal with reality and not perception.

07 So, what I did is I took it upon
08 myself to look into what reality actually is, and I
09 came across some information on a State of Pennsylvania
10 website that is in the Department of the Pennsylvania
11 State Police.

12 So, I have some numbers involving
13 reality that I want to share with you real quick. And

14 believe me, I'm not proud of these numbers, but these
15 are calendar year numbers, according to this state
16 website, on what occurred crime wise in 2003, and then
17 what occurred crime-wise in 2004.

18 This does not include the first
19 two and a half months of 2005. So, you know, you can
20 say it's pretty current, but not up to today.

21 Criminal homicide, in 2003, there
22 were two criminal homicide cases, and in 2004, there
23 were three.

24 Sex-related offenses, 167 in 2003;
25 167 in 2004. So, exactly the same number of
0067

01 sex-related offenses.

02 Robbery, there were 92 robberies
03 in 2003, and 104 robberies in 2004. Now, that's a
04 13 percent increase.

05 Assaults, there were 539 in 2003
06 and 579 in 2004. That's a seven percent increase.

07 Property offenses, there were 3,745 of those in 2003,
08 and 3,879 in 2004. That's a 4 percent increase.

09 Arson, there were ten in 2003, and
10 22 in 2004, and that's a little over 100 percent
11 increase.

12 Drug violations, which is an
13 important one, there were 414 drug violations in 2003,
14 462 in 2004, and that's a 12 percent increase.

15 And the last one is other alcohol
16 crimes, 767 in 2003, 869 in 2004, and there's a 13
17 percent increase.

18 So, using real numbers, everyone
19 across the board is up over the previous year. One was
20 flat. But interestingly enough, one number that jumped
21 out to me was our population.

22 In 2003, this report says that
23 Scranton's population was 76,751, and in 2004, 74,896.
24 And there's a decrease of 1,855 residents. And that's
25 about a two and a half percent drop.

0068

01 That stood out to me, because
02 that's two a half percent less people that are having
03 to chip in and pay for the cost of our government, and
04 that means that the percentage that everyone needs to
05 pay is up. And obviously that's not a good thing. So,
06 population decrease is something that we all want to
07 avoid.

08 Last night's Green Ridge meeting,
09 I'd like to recognize the fact that there was such a

10 great turnout, as so many other Council members did. I
11 think the love and concern of the Green Ridge neighbors
12 is obvious, because they feel so greatly about their
13 neighborhood that they came out the way they did.
14 Last night I stated that I thought
15 that the police department was doing the best they
16 could with the resources that they have available to
17 them, and I'll stand by those comments.
18 Last week I said the numbers were
19 down, and it turns out to be that with 22 police
20 officers less currently than when the
21 Doherty administration took over, that's a 12 percent
22 drop in police officers.
23 Now, we know that crime is not
24 down 12 percent, it's more in the neighborhood of plus
25 12 percent, if you look at those real numbers,
0069

01 according to the state, that is.
02 I just think the fact that the
03 recovery plan does not allow for grant money to be used
04 for police officers is totally irresponsible, and the
05 recovery plan states no new grants money will be
06 applied for.
07 That is not going to make any
08 neighborhood, including Green Ridge, any safer than it
09 was before. So, that's all I wanted to say about
10 crime.

11 You know, Mr. McTiernan brought up
12 the pool fee situation a couple of weeks ago, and he
13 said that he was going to have a talk with the mayor,
14 and he may have had that talk, I'm not certain if he
15 has or not yet, and that they were going to in turn
16 talk to the Recreation Authority, and I just want to
17 say that the more I think about pool fees, and this is
18 not something that's on our agenda tonight, and it's
19 obviously not something that this Council has really
20 any control over, because as people might know, that
21 authority to be involved in fees at Nay Aug was taken
22 away when the Recreation Authority was given total
23 power there, but the more I think about it, the more I
24 think that the pool fee structure should be like this,
25 and this is only my opinion, I didn't discuss this with
0070

01 anybody up here, but for whatever it's worth, I think
02 that all children should be free, no matter where they
03 live, Scranton residents, non-Scranton residents.
04 Now, whether that children's age
05 stops at 16 or 18, we'll leave that up to the

06 Recreation Authority, I suppose.
07 But I think that adults living in
08 the city with proof of residency, meaning a driver's
09 license that proves they live in the city, I think they
10 should be free, too.
11 Now, adults living outside of
12 Scranton, I think that they should be charged a fee,
13 because they're not paying Scranton's taxes, which
14 provide us with the pools that we're privileged to
15 have.
16 So, again, exactly what ages that
17 the children's age should stop and what fees should be
18 charged, I suppose we'll let that up to the Scranton
19 Recreation Authority, since we don't have much
20 involvement in that.
21 But for whatever it's worth,
22 that's the opinion of me, and I would like to ask
23 Mr. McTiernan that when he does speak to Mayor Doherty
24 and the Recreation Authority, that he please include my
25 feelings that all Scranton residents should be free,
0071
01 all children should be free regardless of their
02 residency, but adults living outside of the city, I
03 think it would be fair that they pay a fee to use our
04 city pools.
05 Two more quick things, last week I
06 mentioned Mary Ann Wardell, who suffered a bad
07 accident, and is doing better now. I said that I had
08 her address, and I just want to pass that along in case
09 anybody out there would like to send her a card.
10 Mary Ann Wardell is at the
11 Geisinger Medical Center, Adult ICU, Adult Intensive
12 Care Unit, 100 North Academy Street, in Danville,
13 Pennsylvania. Danville, that's 17822. And we
14 certainly hope that Mary Ann is doing well.
15 The last thing I want to mention
16 is, I was made aware of a situation that I'm not
17 certain is occurring, but something that I think we
18 need to look into, and I'll probably make the phone
19 call myself to find out, but I'm being told by someone
20 in the mortgage business that Northeast Credit and
21 Collection Company is having a practice imposed when
22 someone doesn't pay their real state taxes, that
23 they're going direct to the mortgage company and having
24 the mortgage company pay the real estate taxes, as
25 opposed to the person paying back NCC directly.
0072
01 And according to this individual

02 who has 20 plus years experience, that is not looked
03 upon very favorably in that industry.
04 What happens in that situation is
05 the mortgage company immediately increases the mortgage
06 payment amount drastically, and there are people,
07 according to this individual, that are possibly going
08 to lose their home because they can't afford the higher
09 mortgage payments.

10 So, I want to contact them, I want
11 to find out what's occurring there, and I don't want
12 to, you know, say that this is happening, but according
13 to this professional in this industry, it's happening,
14 and I'll just keep you posted.
15 Hopefully if it is happening, we
16 could have people deal directly with NCC, as opposed
17 going through the mortgage company. And that's all I
18 have.

19 MS. EVANS: Kay, I do have a list
20 for you, and I'll give this to you, but the pothole in
21 the 600 block of McDonough Street and Hamm Court, that
22 still hasn't been fixed.

23 We have a problem at the Green
24 Ridge Teener League with teenage drinking and garbage
25 and speeding, crosswalks that need to be painted.

0073

01 And also, this, though, if we can
02 find out who in the inspector's office handles
03 abandoned vehicles in South Side and Minooka, because
04 I've received a number of complaints, and I'd like to
05 be able to forward those to the proper individual.
06 That's it. Thank you.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Just one
08 more quick thing on the mortgage situation with the
09 taxes not being paid to NCC directly, the individual
10 that I'm referring to actually had me on speaker phone
11 with a couple, an elderly couple, who is in jeopardy of
12 losing their home, had their daughter not been able to
13 come up with \$6,000 to pay that fee to the mortgage
14 company.

15 And they gave me my name, they
16 said I can use their name. I'm not going to do that
17 this evening, but I'm going to use them as an example
18 when I do check it out with Northeast Credit and
19 Collection. That's all I have, Mr. Walsh.

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

21 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
22 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
23 APPROVE THE DISBURSEMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION

24 GRANT REPAYMENT FUNDS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
25 \$75,000, TO ASSIST IN FUNDING PROJECT NO. 05-132, THE
0074

01 HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM.

02 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

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

04 proper committee.

05 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

07 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

08 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

09 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

10 MS. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

14 ayes have it and so moved.

15 MR. WALSH: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION

16 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004,

17 ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

18 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE

19 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED

20 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

21 PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

22 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

23 (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)

24 PROGRAM, BY TRANSFERRING \$65,000.00 FROM PROJECT NO.

25 96-204, THE MICROENTERPRISE REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM, TO

0075

01 PROSPECT NO. 05-132, THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION

02 REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM.

03 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

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

05 proper committee.

06 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

07 MR. COURTRIGHT: 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-D, FOR INTRODUCTION

17 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 135 OF

18 2003, ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

19 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO

20 TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
21 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
22 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (AS AMENDED) TO BE FUNDED UNDER
23 THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM,
24 HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND
25 EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM, BY TRANSFERRING
0076

01 \$13,350.41 FROM PROJECT NO. 01-005.8 LACKAWANNA LITTLE
02 LEAGUE AND \$20,000.00 FROM PROJECT NO. 02-005.8
03 LACKAWANNA LITTLE LEAGUE FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF
04 \$33,350.41 TO PROJECT NO. 03-05.22 NORTH SCRANTON
05 LITTLE LEAGUE.

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

09 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

11 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

12 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

13 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
18 ayes have it and so moved.

19 MR. WALSH: 5-E, FOR INTRODUCTION

20 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 205, 2003

21 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

22 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE

23 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED

24 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

25 PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
0077

01 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

02 (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)

03 PROGRAM, BY CHANGING THE PURPOSE OF PROJECT NO. 04-253,

04 ELIMINATION OF SLUMS AND BLIGHT IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS
05 DISTRICT.

06 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

07 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be introduced into its
08 proper committee.

09 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

11 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

12 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

13 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.
17 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
18 ayes have it and so moved.
19 MR. WALSH: Sixth order. 6-A,
20 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 113, 2005
21 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
22 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A CORRECTIVE DEED
23 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND CONNIE DEPIETRO
24 ALLOWING THE PARCEL IN QUESTION TO BE BUILD UPON WITHIN
25 APPLICABLE RESTRICTIONS IN AND AROUND A FLOOD ZONE.

0078

01 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading
02 by title of Item 6-A. What is your pleasure?
03 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move
04 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.
05 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.
06 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?
07 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.
08 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.
09 MR. POCIUS: Aye.
10 MS. EVANS: Aye.
11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
13 ayes have it.

14 MR. WALSH: 6-B, READING BY TITLE
15 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 114, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE -
16 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 57, 2001, AN ORDINANCE
17 ENTITLED SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT SWETLAND
18 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO WILLIAM BONACCI,
19 2702 SWETLAND STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR THE
20 SUM OF \$3,000.00 TO INCLUDE RECORD INFORMATION REVEALED
21 BY THE TILE SEARCH.

22 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading
23 by title of Item 6-B. What is your pleasure?
24 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move
25 that Item 6-B pass reading by title.

0079

01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.
02 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?
03 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.
04 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.
05 MR. POCIUS: Aye.
06 MS. EVANS: Aye.
07 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.
08 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
09 ayes have it and so moved.

10 MR. WALSH: 6-C, READING BY TITLE
11 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 115, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE - SALE

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

16 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading
17 by title of Item 6-C. What is your pleasure?

18 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move
19 that Item 6-C pass reading by title.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

21 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

22 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

23 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

24 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

0080

01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

04 MR. WALSH: Seventh order. 7-A --

05 MR. POCIUS: Mr. Walsh, prior to
06 reading 7-1, on your advice, I've memorialized my
07 abstention on this and presented this letter to Jay
08 Saunders and all the other members of Council.

09 MR. WALSH: Thank you,

10 Mr. Pocius. Seventh order. 7-A, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

11 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF
12 COUNCIL NO. 112 OF 2005, ESTABLISHING A NO PARKING ZONE
13 ALONG STATE ROUTE 3025 (WYOMING AVENUE) AS REQUIRED BY
14 THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A
15 HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT ADJACENT TO THE GUILD STUDIO.

16 MR. DIBILEO: What's the

17 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on
18 public safety?

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: As chairperson

20 for the committee on public safety, I recommend final
21 passage of Item 7-A.

22 MR. McTIERNAN: Second.

23 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

24 Roll call, please, Kay.

25 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

0081

01 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

02 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

03 MS. EVANS: Yes.

04 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

05 MR. POCIUS: Abstain.

06 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

07 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.
09 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. By a 4-0 vote,
10 one abstention, I hereby declare Item 7-A legally and
11 lawfully adopted.
12 Seeing no further business on our
13 agenda, I want to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's
14 day tomorrow And I'll entertain a motion that we
15 adjourn.
16 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.
17 MS. EVANS: Second.
18 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.
19
20 (MEETING WAS CONCLUDED.)

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0082

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

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02

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

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08 LISA M. GRAFF, RPR
08 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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