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02 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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08 Held:

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09 Thursday, May 5, 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. ROBERT McTIERNAN

10

11 MR. MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

12

13 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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15 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. Courtright.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Here. For the

13 record, Kay, I have a note here from Mr. Saunders

14 informing us that Mr. Pocius is unable to attend

15 tonight's meeting due to a prior commitment.

16 And with that said, if we can

17 dispense with the reading of the minutes, please.

18 MR. WALSH: Third order.

19 3-A, MINUTES OF THE POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING

20 HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2005.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any  
22 comments on 3-A? If not, received and filed.

23 MR. WALSH: 3-B, MINUTES OF THE  
24 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY,  
25 MARCH 23, 2005.

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any  
02 comments on 3-B? If not, received and filed.

03 MR. WALSH: 3-C, AGENDA FOR THE  
04 ZONING HEARING HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2005.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any  
06 comments on 3-C? If not, received and filed.

07 MR. WALSH: 3-D, PETITION FOR  
08 PERMIT PARKING IN THE 500 BLOCK OF JEFFERSON AVENUE.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any  
10 comments on 3-D? If not, received and filed.

11 MR. WALSH: 3-E, Clerk's notes.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Saunders,  
13 please.

14 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. DiBileo, the  
15 first thing I have tonight is we sent a letter out --  
16 Solicitor Walsh sent a letter to Chief Davis about the  
17 situation that happened back on -- I believe it's  
18 Birney Avenue, and a letter came back to us today.  
19 He said that he is aware that we  
20 are aware that the foam was removed and he will  
21 investigate the situation.

22 MS. EVANS: Yeah, because what I'm  
23 looking for is answers as to why it would take four and  
24 a half months to remove toxic materials from a building  
25 that they were well aware of.

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01 MR. SAUNDERS: Those questions  
02 were all in the letter.

03 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

04 MR. SAUNDERS: I have one more  
05 thing, I was handed this before, so you have to bear  
06 with me a little bit.

07 Mr. Newcomb asked me about the  
08 \$4 million that was borrowed at the end of last year  
09 and where some of the money was spent. Funding  
10 payroll, this is coming down from Len Kresefski, the  
11 B.A., funding payroll, \$700,000, \$4 million to the  
12 payment to the TAN B, and the pension payment was  
13 \$2.5 million.

14 So, that was the -- we sent a  
15 letter up asking that question, what happened to that

16 money and what did they do with that money, and that  
17 was the response back from Len Kresefski.  
18 The last thing tonight,  
19 Solicitor Walsh and myself met with Rob Farrell earlier  
20 this week to discuss the pool fees up at Nay Aug, and  
21 we did get a response back today, late today, and I  
22 think it is their legal opinion, and I will turn that  
23 over to Solicitor Walsh for that.  
24 MR. WALSH: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Saunders. It is the legal opinion from the  
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01 solicitor's office that you are able to charge for  
02 swimming at Nay Aug Park. I believe that they've  
03 issued an opinion to that effect today.  
04 Secondly, it's my understanding  
05 that there may have been the service of a lawsuit today  
06 with respect to that issue, and for that reason, I'm  
07 not going to comment any further upon the opinion which  
08 was given to me. I believe that that would now be in  
09 the hands of the legal department.  
10 I do wish to thank the legal  
11 department, however, for providing us with that  
12 opinion. I believe that it was their duty to do that.  
13 They've done that, and I believe that that was a  
14 request made by citizens to the Council, and the  
15 Council had made a request that the opinion of the city  
16 be submitted with respect to that very important  
17 issue. That's really all I have to say with respect to  
18 that issue this evening.  
19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Walsh. Anything else under clerk's notes,  
21 Mr. Saunders?  
22 MR. SAUNDERS: That's all I have,  
23 Mr. President.  
24 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.  
25 MR. WALSH: Fourth order, citizen  
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01 participation.  
02 MR. DIBILEO: Prior to calling up  
03 the first speaker, as I've done the last couple of  
04 weeks, we are approaching an election on May 17th, and  
05 I'd like to remind speakers not to give their political  
06 favoritism, so-to-speak, and keep your remarks related  
07 to taxpayers' issues, if you're going to bring up any  
08 election at all topic.  
09 So with, that said, the first  
10 speaker is Regina Yetkowskas.  
11 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Regina

12 Yetkowskas. This evening I will discuss Mr. Doherty's  
13 false budget projections. If one will examine the  
14 revenue summary on Page No. 2 in the mayor's 2005  
15 operating budget, the bottom line shows three columns.  
16 The first column is labeled 2004,  
17 revised operating budget. The bottom line of the  
18 projected revenues shows \$60.9 million. The second  
19 revenue column is entitled 2004 actual through  
20 August 31, 2004.  
21 This column tells the reader all  
22 monies actually received to September 1, 2004, and sets  
23 forth \$43.0 million.  
24 At the same rate of income for the  
25 balance of the year 2004, the city should have received  
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01 an approximate additional \$14.3 million more or a total  
02 of \$57.3 million in revenue for 2004.  
03 The third column is called 2005  
04 operating budget. This is its projection of total  
05 revenues for 2005.  
06 One will note how the budget maker  
07 jumps from a virtual actual receipt of \$57.3 million to  
08 \$65.8 million, \$8.5 million or \$14.8 percent more than  
09 what should be realistic receipts. There is no valid  
10 explanation for the \$8.5 million increase in 2005.  
11 As a result, one has no  
12 alternative but to conclude that the increase of  
13 \$8.5 million for 2005, is simply a phony number. It  
14 must be someone's figment of imagination. I wait for a  
15 valid explanation for the \$8.5 million increase.  
16 Just from reading the newspaper  
17 and watching TV, I cannot understand how Mr. Doherty's  
18 budget maker projects all revenues to increase by  
19 \$8.5 million, when it is well known Scranton's tax base  
20 continues to get smaller because people leave the city  
21 for lower taxes in the suburbs, homes are left to be  
22 taken for taxes, new companies coming into the KOZs pay  
23 no taxes for ten years or more.  
24 Much of Scranton's current tax  
25 base consists of elderly persons on a small fixed  
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01 income and overburdened by wage, school and property  
02 taxes. It is because of the reasons I gave to project  
03 a reduction in revenues for 2005.  
04 I suggest the person who is  
05 responsible for Mr. Doherty's projected increase of  
06 \$14.8 percent or \$8.5 million in 2005 operating  
07 revenues must come before Council in an open and public

08 meeting and show facts and figures, not speculation how  
09 he arrived at an increase of \$8.5 million more in  
10 receipts for 2005.

11 If Mr. Doherty's representative  
12 does not appear before Council to defend the \$14.8  
13 percent increase in 2005 revenues or does not convince  
14 Council his \$8.5 million increase is valid, then the  
15 people can only conclude Mr. Doherty's statement that  
16 Scranton will have \$65.8 million in revenues for 2005,  
17 is a plain and simple untruth.

18 If Council and the people conclude  
19 Mr. Doherty's \$65.8 million in revenues is an  
20 overestimation and false, then it makes his budget  
21 useless.

22 The only thing the over-estimation  
23 does is deceive the people and give him an opportunity  
24 to continue to spend Scranton into deeper debt.

25 City Council's inquiry into the  
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01 2005 budget should have begun here, rather than first  
02 looking to increase revenues with new or increased  
03 taxes put on the backs of the people.

04 City Council should first  
05 thoroughly prepare and then closely question  
06 Mayor Doherty's budget maker in an open hearing  
07 before acting on the next budget.

08 Next week I will discuss the taxes  
09 imposed on the people with no relief from the door  
10 administration. Thank you.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Thank  
12 you. Andy Sbaraglia.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
14 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I'm going to  
15 pose a little question to you, if I had to borrow the  
16 money from the bank to buy a house and then resold that  
17 house to someone else without paying the bank back,  
18 what would happen to me, but yet this is what we did  
19 with the DPW site.

20 We borrowed money to build the  
21 site, then sold it to someone else before we paid it,  
22 so, hence, we're paying for the site to the bank, the  
23 original bank, and then again to this Sewer Authority  
24 -- to this letter of credit.

25 Now, when you talked about the  
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01 letter of credit, you talked about it being somewhere  
02 in the neighborhood of \$4 million for a TAN note that  
03 they would use that money from.

04 Am I correct to assume that this  
05 city had, like, \$3 million in reserve that was used for  
06 other things or did they borrow more on this letter of  
07 credit than you authorized them to do?  
08 MR. DIBILEO: Letter of credit,  
09 Andy, I think was allowing the refinancing of that note  
10 up to \$12 million, although the construction cost was  
11 approximately \$4 million.  
12 MR. SBARAGLIA: I realize that.  
13 When you talked about that, you said they would only be  
14 able to drop the \$4 million, which was the TAN note.  
15 How much did he use this letter of credit for?  
16 Has anybody ever checked to see how much he actually  
17 drew on of this letter of credit?  
18 MR. DIBILEO: I'm not aware of it.  
19 MR. SBARAGLIA: Because do you  
20 have any idea how the letter of credit works? I read  
21 the one from the Scranton Redevelopment Authority, when  
22 they built that garage, that sore spot, okay? I read  
23 that. And believe me, their rates were not comparative  
24 to getting a bond rating.  
25 They got a flat rate, plus another  
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01 rate they added on to it. And you have to -- in fact,  
02 when he put it in the paper, I don't have the note with  
03 me, but there was, like, \$300,000 or \$400,000  
04 difference in paybacks because of what the bank paid  
05 tax onto it. They have a flat rate, and if this  
06 interest rate goes up like it's doing, that note keeps  
07 going up. This is how the letter of credit read for  
08 the SRA.  
09 Now, I don't know exactly what the  
10 letter of credit read that we got from the Sewer  
11 Authority, but I assume it must have been the same,  
12 because it came from the same bank.  
13 So, we may be paying on that  
14 letter of credit maybe 6 or 7 percent already, and I  
15 wish you'd check into it to find out, because this is a  
16 waste of taxpayers' money.  
17 I have never, never in my life  
18 seen a person waste taxpayers' money like what's going  
19 on in this city. Millions and millions of dollars are  
20 being wasted. They don't look anything.  
21 I don't want to say they're doing  
22 anything wrong, but if we got a man that's supposedly  
23 good in finances that saves a school district,  
24 certainly he's not doing a good job for the citizens of  
25 Scranton. There's something definitely wrong with the

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01 way either your business administrator or your mayor is  
02 doing things when it comes to using public money.  
03 I have never seen money like this.  
04 And the worse part about it, the poor public that's  
05 paying for it don't even get credit. I see signs  
06 saying that the mayor did everything.  
07 Believe me, the mayor isn't making  
08 up for this lost revenue from these KOZs. I can tell  
09 you who is making up for this lost revenue, the poor  
10 poor individual taxpayer.  
11 He's getting hit harder and harder  
12 and harder, and you know and I know that when it comes  
13 to the end of the year, financially we're going to be  
14 in trouble, because, right, the numbers didn't add up  
15 and they're not going to add up.  
16 Somewhere along the line we're  
17 going to have to come up with some hefty tax raises.  
18 Not even that emergency service fee is going to matter,  
19 because you had to borrow \$4 or \$5 million just to take  
20 care of the TANS.  
21 Now you have a \$9 million TAN note  
22 out there that has to be made up. You've got the loan  
23 for down the -- well, the Parking Authority, you're  
24 already giving so many thousands to that, I think it's  
25 \$250,000. That has to go to that.

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01 You got money going to some of the  
02 different, let's see, well, I shouldn't say it's our  
03 money, it's public money, it's actually CommD money,  
04 you got a lot of CommD money shot out to this and that  
05 to different things going on in this city.  
06 But when you use CommD money, the  
07 people in this city is giving away sidewalks. I don't  
08 get a new sidewalk, because the money is going down  
09 there to Lackawanna Avenue.  
10 I don't have -- if you walk -- you  
11 take that Providence deal they're putting up there,  
12 they're getting new sidewalks. Now, why they would in  
13 my life decide that they need new poles is beyond me,  
14 because one block down the road all the poles are wood,  
15 but we needed metal poles up there in Providence. They  
16 had to change all the wires. Well, okay.  
17 MS. EVANS: Andy, with regard -- I  
18 just want to take a few steps back, please. The letter  
19 of credit with the Sewer Authority that you mentioned  
20 earlier, what exactly are the questions you'd like me  
21 to find the answers to?

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: I'd like to know  
23 how much they actually drew out of this letter of  
24 credit, that's the important part, and when they drew  
25 it out. Thank you.

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01 MR. SBARAGLIA: Mr. Sbaraglia, I  
02 think Mr. Saunders may have answered that question in  
03 clerk's notes today.

04 MR. SBARAGLIA: No. He came up  
05 with, like, \$6 million.

06 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, what was  
07 drawn out -- I think which was approved by City Council  
08 was \$3.7, if I'm not mistaken, or \$4 million. I don't  
09 think they can draw over that. I don't know.

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, I'm just  
11 asking to make sure.

12 MS. EVANS: Jay, can you just get  
13 that agreement, please, for us for next week so that we  
14 can all take a better look at that and find the answers  
15 to Andy's questions?

16 MR. SAUNDERS: Yep.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Sbaraglia. Lee Morgan.

19 MR. MORGAN: Good evening,  
20 Council.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

22 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I'd  
23 like to do is I'd like to clarify something and say  
24 that, you know, I wasn't trying to pound Mrs. Evans  
25 into the ground last week, but -- because I do realize  
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01 that you have offered to bring that motion before,  
02 okay, the only point being was that, you know, I really  
03 think it's time, even as this thing continues to spin,  
04 I think that irregardless of the city attorney's  
05 opinion, it's time to bring a subpoena forward on the  
06 Recreational Authority.

07 Now, some people have filed in the  
08 Court of Common Pleas, as some of the people on Council  
09 are aware, and this deed states straight out that no  
10 fee can ever be charged there.

11 So, my question is this, as I've  
12 asked Mr. Saunders for information on how much money  
13 all the authorities owe, and my question is, Does the  
14 Recreational Authority need this funding source to pay  
15 a debt as a borrowed money and needs a revenue stream  
16 to pay a debt?

17 MS. EVANS: We don't have any

18 financial information on the Recreational Authority. I  
19 believe just from having attended a few meetings and  
20 more often having watched their meetings on  
21 Channel 61 in the past, that it was their intention  
22 late last spring, possibly early summer, to open a bank  
23 account.  
24 Council has no data on what the  
25 Recreation Authority takes in, where that is placed or  
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01 how it's being spent. Now, I believe they will have to  
02 conduct an independent audit for the year 2004 for  
03 however many months they've been conducting financial  
04 business. We have not received that audit as yet.  
05 Perhaps that will give us some  
06 answers to our questions, but for right now,  
07 Mr. Morgan, we know as much as you know, because they  
08 are operating completely autonomously without any  
09 accountability to City Council or you.  
10 MR. MORGAN: Well, I also think  
11 that when you look at this Section 312, as far as  
12 investigations in the Home Rule Charter, it states that  
13 you have a power of subpoena for a lot of different  
14 reasons, and I just think that -- I think that  
15 Mr. Courtright, Mr. DiBileo, and Mr. McTiernan,  
16 Mr. Pocius isn't here today, but I think we all need to  
17 come together on this one issue and bring Mr. Farrell  
18 in and let him explain where he finds in this deed that  
19 he can charge a fee, because I think that Nay Aug Park  
20 is such a benefit to the city that we can't take a  
21 chance on an heir coming back some day and saying,  
22 Well, you broke the covenants of this deed and we're  
23 going to take possession of this property.  
24 And by charging this five-dollar  
25 fee, what we're doing is, we're putting a major asset  
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01 which belongs to this city at this time, which was  
02 given as a gift.  
03 And everybody is going to lose  
04 this if somebody comes forward and says, Well, I'm an  
05 heir to this family and you guys just violated this --  
06 all the agreements and we're going to lose it.  
07 And I just think it's a terrible  
08 thing to lose if the Recreational Authority is using  
09 this for a revenue stream to borrow money, and I just  
10 don't think it's proper.  
11 And I really think that it has  
12 nothing at all to do with politics. I think what it  
13 has to do is protecting the interests of the residents

14 of this city.

15 And the other thing it serves is

16 the pool should be free because we want children to

17 swim in a safe environment where there's lifeguards

18 there. If some kid goes under the water and he isn't

19 breathing for a couple of minutes and a lifeguard pulls

20 him out of the water, you know, he can do something.

21 Now, if this kid is swimming off

22 in one of the little streams by here, it's over. I

23 mean, who is going to come and pull this kid out of the

24 water and save his life? I think that those pools are

25 there for public safety, and I really think it's the

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01 responsibility of this Council to look out for all the

02 people in the neighborhoods and not turn this into a

03 political issue, because it's not a political issue.

04 This is an election year, there's no doubt about that,

05 but this is not politics.

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Morgan, if I

07 may, you know, I've got to be honest with you, I don't

08 agree with charging at the pool, I never have, I

09 probably never will, but, you know, we got the opinion

10 from Mr. Farrell, it's in writing, I'm not happy about

11 it, that that's, you know, what he determined, but I

12 just don't think it's going to serve any purpose to

13 bring him in here and explain to us what he had written

14 here.

15 That's his opinion. He's given us

16 his opinion. What would we subpoena him for?

17 MR. MORGAN: Well, I think you'd

18 subpoena him for him to show you where in this deed

19 that he finds in rendering his opinion that he can come

20 up with this fee, because it's not in this deed, okay?

21 And I --

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Excuse me. He

23 explained it to our solicitor, he explained it to our

24 city clerk, which in turn they explained it to us. And

25 it is in writing.

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01 And, again, I'm not happy about

02 it, I don't want to see a fee charged, but the bottom

03 line is, he's the lawyer for this city, and that's his

04 opinion.

05 And, you know, I just don't see

06 the need to subpoena him to bring him in here to

07 explain it. He explained it to our solicitor.

08 MR. MORGAN: And the Recreational

09 Authority. But you know, I'd like to say before I have

10 to leave the podium that Mr. Walsh works for Council.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right.

12 MR. MORGAN: And you know

13 something, Council works for the residents. If these  
14 people's heirs come and take this park back, you can't  
15 say to Mr. Walsh, Blah, blah, blah, because he doesn't  
16 represent the residents of this city, you do.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right. And we --

18 MR. MORGAN: And that's your

19 obligation. And I hope you wouldn't turn this into a  
20 political thing, because it's not. What you're doing  
21 is you're not making this a political discussion, what  
22 you're trying to do is you're trying to protect a city  
23 asset and find out where this gentleman found that he  
24 could charge a \$5 fee, when it's not in the dead.

25 And all you're asking him to do

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01 is, Sir, please, show me where you find that you can  
02 charge this.

03 MR. COURTRIGHT: And he did that

04 with Mr. Walsh and Mr. Saunders, is what I'm telling  
05 you.

06 MR. MORGAN: Did you read this

07 deed?

08 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes, yes, I did,

09 but --

10 MR. MORGAN: Do you see it in

11 there? And you're a councilman.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah --

13 MR. MORGAN: And if you don't see  
14 it in there, then there is a problem. You know what --

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm not saying

16 that I agree with it, I'm not saying I'm happy about  
17 it, what I'm saying is that he explained it to our  
18 solicitor, our solicitor explained it to us. He is the  
19 lawyer for the City of Scranton, like it or not.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: He may be, but

21 you know something, he's not trying to protect the  
22 residents, you are.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right. And I

24 don't disagree with you there.

25 MR. MORGAN: At the end of a long

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01 day, as you know, the city has lost arbitrations, the  
02 city has mismanaged state and federal funds, but when  
03 these people's heirs come to this city and say that you  
04 broke this covenant, we're taking this park, then I  
05 want to know what your response to that will be when

06 you sat in the seat and you could have made a decision  
07 and not made it political and stood up for something  
08 that was important and said, Look at, we are a  
09 legislative body, we need you to explain to us how you  
10 can allow this \$5 fee. You explain it to us.  
11 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm going to say  
12 one more thing, and then I'm not going to say any more  
13 about it, we did that, we asked that question, he  
14 answered us. Mr. Walsh gave us the answer. I just  
15 don't see any more else we can do. I think we did  
16 everything we possibly could.  
17 MR. MORGAN: I think when you  
18 communicate through Mr. Wash, you don't get to ask any  
19 questions because you're not the one speaking,  
20 Mr. Walsh is. Thank you.  
21 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Morgan. You know, on this topic, let me just say  
23 that just prior to this meeting, I was made aware of a  
24 lawsuit, an action of mandamus brought about by members  
25 of the public challenging the ability of the city to  
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01 charge a fee to swim based on the original deed's  
02 wishes, and I was not aware of this until just prior to  
03 walking through these doors tonight.  
04 But, you know, I can say that  
05 there's, you know, one simple solution to this lawsuit  
06 for both parties involved, and that would be by  
07 foregoing the fee. I believe that would be a good  
08 solution to this lawsuit. I think it would end  
09 immediately, and rightfully so.  
10 So, let me say that. But this was  
11 brought about by members of the public, I won't name  
12 any names, and we'll see where it goes from there, but  
13 that's a good quick solution to the situation.  
14 Now, Daryl Menichetti.  
15 MS. MENICHETTI: Good evening,  
16 Council.  
17 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.  
18 MS. EVANS: Hello.  
19 MS. MENICHETTI: My name is Daryl  
20 Menichetti, I'm a resident in Throop, Pennsylvania.  
21 I'd like to thank you for allowing me to speak here  
22 this evening.  
23 I am presently a member of the  
24 Throop Borough Council and serving as president. I  
25 just wanted to make some comments on comparing your  
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01 meetings to ours.

02 First of all, I'd like to  
03 compliment you on the professional and orderly way you  
04 conduct your meetings. I have been having a problem  
05 keeping order during our meetings with citizens in the  
06 assembly shouting out and councilmen speaking out of  
07 turn and not letting anyone finish his sentence.  
08 At our last meeting I believe the  
09 newspaper said I gaveled 211 times. So, that gives you  
10 an idea of what I'm faced with. So, you are to be  
11 commended. I thoroughly enjoy watching these  
12 proceedings and I respect what you do here.  
13 Whether people realize it or not,  
14 this is the center of their government. This is their  
15 government. The city is slightly different than a  
16 borough. We don't have a strong mayor, so we are the  
17 government.  
18 You as councilmen and women have  
19 to make decisions based on your knowledge and  
20 expertise, and these decisions should be responsible  
21 decisions and not popular decisions.  
22 We recently had a problem with our  
23 local booster club where we granted them money to make  
24 necessary changes at their complex. And not only did  
25 they not make the necessary changes, but when we asked  
0025  
01 for an accounting of the money, it took four years  
02 before they presented us with receipts for the money  
03 and it was not used at all for the improvements for  
04 which the money was granted.  
05 We had members of that  
06 organization heckling and shouting from the assembly,  
07 and in some instances using obscenities, but we had a  
08 decision to make and it was unpopular. Ultimately we  
09 did what we felt was the responsible thing for the  
10 entire community.  
11 It's very important to get these  
12 proceedings out to your citizens, the taxpayers, and  
13 the voters in your community and to the public in  
14 general.  
15 Televising your meetings and  
16 having them aired on Channel 61 is vital to the people  
17 so they can have firsthand knowledge of how your  
18 decisions are made and the rationale behind those  
19 decisions.  
20 You must reach out to the  
21 shut-ins, those who do not drive at night or those who  
22 are intimidated by public proceedings, such as this.  
23 They also have a stake in their government.

24 You have the most important avenue  
25 available to you, and it is wonderful full that you are  
0026  
01 taking advantage of it and more communities should do  
02 the same.  
03 I wanted to mention that we also  
04 have videotaped the last two meetings, and I understand  
05 Channel 61 is going to air them, so it might be fun  
06 watching.  
07 Please continue to do what you  
08 feel is right, whether it is popular or not, and please  
09 continue to air your meetings for the sake of all. And  
10 I thank you very much for the opportunity to speak.  
11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Daryl.  
12 Appreciate those comments and compliments. You know, I  
13 have always felt that our decorum was very good here at  
14 these meetings, not perfect, but I don't know if you're  
15 going to find a community meeting, public meeting that  
16 is perfect, but I think we've been very good.  
17 I don't think I've hit the gavel  
18 211 times in my whole presidency, and I'm thankful for  
19 that, so I appreciate everything you're doing up there  
20 and good luck and thanks for coming down tonight.  
21 MS. EVANS: And if I might add,  
22 when a new Council majority was seated last January,  
23 that would be January 2004 precisely, we removed a  
24 police officer from these chambers because we felt it  
25 was much more important to put that officer on the  
0027  
01 streets where he could better serve the people, and our  
02 proceedings, I think, have been very effective, and for  
03 the most part, very orderly and we have no need proudly  
04 and thankfully of bringing back an officer. So, I  
05 think Mr. DiBileo is really to be commended. That was  
06 his idea and all has run quite well since then.  
07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
08 Mrs. Evans. Appreciate that. Bob Bolus.  
09 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.  
10 Bob Bolus. It's nice to see someone come from the  
11 outlining area to know that we are the leaders, or at  
12 least you guys are anyway, that you can have a meeting  
13 and you can do it, but we all owe it to Channel 61.  
14 Just briefly, because I have a  
15 long agenda here, I know more than anybody what went on  
16 with the last Council when Mr. Hazzouri and Mr. Murphy  
17 and Mr. McCormick and Mr. Gilhooley, what it was to get  
18 arrested at a Council meeting when you're exerting your  
19 right of free speech.

20 And it's kind of ironic since this  
21 Council took over, there's never been one incident  
22 where people have been told, unless they were really  
23 rampant, even what happened a couple weeks ago with  
24 Mrs. Williams, she still wasn't arrested, she still  
25 wasn't taken out of the meeting, and you're to be  
0028  
01 commended, and this is a prime example of what  
02 leadership is about.  
03 As a resident of the city, last  
04 night I went to the debate. I found it very  
05 interesting, if not enlightening.  
06 When I drove around Scranton today  
07 looking for 3,000 new people that came here to work,  
08 as the mayor had said, I don't know where they are. I  
09 also looked around for how many new homes were built in  
10 the city out of these 3,000 new jobs.  
11 I don't know where he gets his  
12 numbers from, but Scranton still looked the same to me  
13 today as it did four years ago.  
14 You get \$60 million plus that he  
15 gets to spend in 365 days. Well, out of that we should  
16 have police on a corner, we should have a fire  
17 department, we should have the equipment, we should  
18 have parks, and we should have all the things that are  
19 necessary to the people that you're paying taxes for.  
20 I mean, it's your job to do this.  
21 You shouldn't be applauded for it or take credit for  
22 it, it's what you're here to do.  
23 He made a comment property values  
24 are gone sky high in Scranton since he took over.  
25 Well, I looked around and I said, well, if property  
0029  
01 values in Scranton have gone up, then why did Scranton  
02 city assets go down?  
03 The south side Complex, the DPW  
04 for \$600,000, that we still didn't get paid on it, the  
05 golf course. We gave it away, it made money.  
06 Well, he stood there and he said  
07 he runs this city as a business. Well, I run a  
08 business and so do a lot of other people, some  
09 decisions we make are good, some are bad, but we pay as  
10 businessmen. Where does he pay on this?  
11 We gave out an asset that made  
12 money. We still didn't invest the money out of the  
13 golf course properly yet, but he gave it away, and he  
14 continues to give the assets away to the University.  
15 It's tax free. They don't contribute tax dollars.

16 You can get a bonus, but it's not a tax dollar.  
17 The KOZs, where does he get the  
18 money from them? We sit here and we keep listening.  
19 When I walked out of here last night, I hit a pothole  
20 going down the road. I see said, Jeez, what happened?  
21 What I heard in there isn't what I just experienced out  
22 here.  
23 I didn't see the police motorcycle  
24 on East Mountain. These are the things this mayor has  
25 taken from us. But what I did hear was a big round of  
0030  
01 applause when it was over, and I looked over to see who  
02 was applauding. And who was the biggest cheerleader,  
03 Mr. Hazzouri and Mr. Greco. And Mr. Greco,  
04 incidentally gets more money from the City of Scranton  
05 than the President of the United States gets. I can  
06 understand why he was so jubilant last night.  
07 Mr. Hazzouri sits there, he wants  
08 to come back here for, what, four more years to get a  
09 bigger pension again with Mr. Pocius. He wants to come  
10 back and give us leadership?  
11 Remember, he's the guy who voted  
12 to gag people here, to shut everybody up from  
13 speaking. These are the people that now want to come  
14 back and give us a direction? Which way?  
15 Maybe they don't know where  
16 reverse is in their car, they sure don't know where  
17 forward is. And this is what we see forward, is you  
18 people up here right now, you three to be commended.  
19 Well, we sit around and we sit  
20 around and we keep looking around and see all the  
21 assets, all the losses. And we go to the senior  
22 citizens and say, Hey, guys, you've got to pay.  
23 Southern Union he took credit for.  
24 Aventis Pasteur, they came here, remember, because it's  
25 free. That's why they're in Scranton, it's free.  
0031  
01 Give anybody something free, and  
02 they're going to come here, and that's why they're  
03 here. They could have went anywhere else, but it's  
04 free.  
05 And remember, Southern Union gave  
06 away all their land to the THETA Corporation, which is  
07 Mr. DeNaples. So, what did you really give and what  
08 did you really take?  
09 You took a lot from the people,  
10 and you're still continuing to take. That's why we  
11 need a fee and everybody has to pay.

12 You know, we can't survive, as he  
13 stated, and I'm going to be very brief, on borrowed  
14 money, and that's what we did, and he continues to  
15 borrow. And if you continue to borrow, you're not  
16 running the city as a business, you're running it as a  
17 deficit spender.

18 Remember the Connell Building, the  
19 taxes were abated so somebody could come here. And the  
20 first thing they did, they got the building and they  
21 bought a resort in the Poconos. Thank you,  
22 Mr. Doherty. I hope you stay there free. Thank you.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Joe Lavinskas.

24 MR. LAVINSKAS: Before I start, I  
25 don't want anybody to think I'm here to criticize, I'm  
0032

01 just going to be here to enlighten, okay? I'm not  
02 trying to bury anybody, but my name is Joe Lavinskas.  
03 I'm a former supervisor in parks and recreation from  
04 '87 until '99 and in the '70s.

05 I just want to enlighten people  
06 about what has transpired in the last five years. In  
07 1998, Council consisting of President John Pocius,  
08 Hazzouri, Walsh, Reap and Doherty nixed Mayor Connor's  
09 budget and eliminated two supervisors from parks and  
10 recreation, which I was one.

11 Now, this is not sour grapes, I'm  
12 retired, which left one supervisor and seven union  
13 personnel for the remaining years of the Connors  
14 administration, '99, 2000, 2001.

15 At the time and through the  
16 Connor's administration, recreation in the city  
17 thrived. In the summer we had softball leagues  
18 consisting of fast pitch, women's league, mixed  
19 leagues, numerous slow pitch leagues, baseball leagues  
20 utilizing the South Side Complex, Rockwell Avenue,  
21 Pinebrook, Weston Field and Weston Park.

22 We also helped the different  
23 groups sponsor state softball tournaments here in  
24 Scranton, which was good for the economy. Also, all  
25 swimming pools offered a learn to swim program for kids  
0033

01 at a nominal \$10 fee for six weeks of swimming, which  
02 went to the American Red Cross most of the money.  
03 Now, here is the catch, there's  
04 recreation and there's parks. Late fall and winter  
05 programs at Weston Field consisted of four different  
06 age group basketball leagues. There was biddy, the  
07 ages were seven to ten, Bidy A was 11 to 12,

08 Tween, 13 to 14, and Tenn, 15 to 18.  
09 There was over 200 children, over  
10 200 children participated. The cost, and, again, we  
11 didn't -- this administration didn't put it, it was  
12 always a \$15 membership fee for a year for the kids to  
13 go to Weston Field.  
14 We charged \$20, \$15 went to the  
15 city, so multiply 20 times 15. There was \$3,000, it  
16 wasn't a lot, but the city got \$3,000. The \$5 went  
17 towards expenses. The shirts, every kid got a shirt  
18 and we had parties, the whole nine yards, okay?  
19 Continuing, memberships were  
20 usually from October, November from year to year. Now,  
21 they got that membership card and they could use that  
22 card all year to swim, we had a game room.  
23 The game room was second to none.  
24 We had air hockey, bowling machine, pool tables,  
25 pinpool, fooze ball, we had it all, and the city didn't  
0034  
01 pay. We bought that with fundraisers in that building,  
02 okay?  
03 The game room, I just went over  
04 that. We also had 14 adult mixed volleyball teams,  
05 which played two nights a week from October to April,  
06 bringing in an additional \$150 to \$200 a week.  
07 The city personnel ran all the  
08 programs. We also offered aerobics, yoga, kung fu,  
09 free meeting rooms to non-profit organizations.  
10 I'll tell you a quick story, we  
11 allowed this group to come in called Coupon Clippers,  
12 and we didn't realize what we were getting into. These  
13 people parked cars and they came in with suitcases full  
14 of stuff. The neighbors called us, they thought we  
15 were opening a hotel. They had -- it was unbelievable,  
16 so we had to stop it.  
17 Now we're going to 2002. The  
18 Doherty regime takes over the city. City parks and  
19 rec. tried to help the new incoming regime. Now, this  
20 is the union people, they tried to help them slip into  
21 the job, and I think the new regime thought they were  
22 trying to screw them.  
23 They were told, We don't do this  
24 or that like that anymore. All the basketball leagues  
25 were operating full force because they were in place  
0035  
01 and operating from 2001.  
02 The city went from a well-rounded  
03 athletic aquatic staff to actually amateurs running the

04 parks and recreation.  
05 All supervisors worked with union  
06 personnel in the trenches, did not walk around with a  
07 suit on. Doherty regime appoints a supervisor to  
08 replace the one who had resigned. The remaining one --  
09 I didn't get to that, he resigned.  
10 The new regime decides that the  
11 baseball programs at Weston Field should be done with  
12 all volunteer help. It didn't work. In addition, the  
13 \$20 charged for basketball did not include a full-year  
14 membership, only just for the basketball season. No  
15 memberships were given out.  
16 Needless to say, all programs have  
17 ceased. Recreation now has three supervisors, four  
18 computers and no activity. The West Side Boys Club  
19 closes and Weston Field Basketball, which once served  
20 the Mid-Town Townhouses. And there was people from as  
21 far as Minooka. There's no programs.  
22 To me the jewel of the city is  
23 Weston Field, which is open 12 months a year. Nay Aug  
24 Park has been beautified, but only operates five months  
25 a year.

0036

01 Sitting in your car riding around  
02 Nay Aug Park looking at the Christmas lights is not  
03 recreation, it's entertainment.  
04 So, in closing, Nay Aug Park is  
05 nice and upgraded, but supervised activities should be  
06 planned for the next four seasons. Activities bring  
07 people. Thank you. That's all I've got to say. Any  
08 questions?  
09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Joe, for  
10 that information and for your service to the city in  
11 the past. Erik Johnson.  
12 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, city  
13 Council and staff.  
14 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.  
15 MR. JOHNSON: Public safety is  
16 taken for granted. The question I have is local -- oh,  
17 I'm Erik Johnson, taxpayer here in Scranton. Sorry I  
18 didn't mention it.  
19 The question I have is local  
20 public safety is taken for granted, not only from local  
21 governments, but also from the federal government.  
22 What stumps my imagination is before 9/11, the federal  
23 government implemented Act 120, to put more police on  
24 the streets which was funded nearly a billion dollars.  
25 After 9/11, when we need the

0037

01 police and firemen in a more extreme circumstantial  
02 way, you also can never predict where and when a  
03 terrorist act most likely to be targeted.

04 Our federal agents are our  
05 intelligence to try to prevent us from being attacked  
06 by terrorists, but it's our local police and firemen  
07 who have to be first in line to respond if such occurs,  
08 just like the twin towers of New York 9/11 attack.  
09 It was their local police and  
10 firemen whose lives were perished by their heroic  
11 effects trying to save and rescue over two and a half  
12 thousand lives.

13 Crime is more violent today than  
14 yesterday, more drugs than yesterday, more domestic  
15 complaints, more auto accidents and more arsons than  
16 yesterday.

17 Scranton still has a 26 mile  
18 radius today as yesterday, even though they are less  
19 inner city residents, there are now more residents  
20 living outside the inner city section and it's spreads  
21 out more to the built-up outer sections of the city,  
22 which means more surveillance and distance per mile.  
23 These new built-up settlements and  
24 businesses need police and firemen. If a fire occurs  
25 in those areas or crime, it takes firemen and police  
0038

01 more time than arriving at any crime in those areas in  
02 need.

03 Yes, the same 26 miles, but not  
04 compacted, but definitely spread out to the outer  
05 limits of Scranton. A reminder that we all need to  
06 keep our men and women in the military in our prayers,  
07 as Gary always does every week, and never take them  
08 also for granted, as they are our shield of our country  
09 and freedom.

10 As for my Marine daughter who  
11 served her and our country was mandated a darn good  
12 Marine with eight medals as for discipline, leadership,  
13 marksmanship, enruability and duties that she performed  
14 as a Marine soldier in a fierce loyal way.

15 Not hearing from her since last  
16 August with great heavy concern of her from myself and  
17 others in the family, we all found out she was also  
18 near death for a period of time because of medical  
19 malfunctions of gross negligence of injuries.

20 The bottom line, my daughter, who  
21 I finally heard from about 2 a.m. Wednesday, in which I

22 was ecstatically happy to hear her voice from such a  
23 long time told me of this horrific event of her near  
24 death and also that it was not the Marines' service  
25 combat -- it was not Marine service combat-related.  
0039

01 Since she is now completely  
02 healed, she has the opportunity for training in  
03 Northern Virginia for some kind of law enforcement  
04 agency, which I told her I am very mighty proud of her  
05 for what she represents and wants to continue to serve  
06 America with her unselfish love of her country  
07 America.  
08 She is going to try her best to  
09 come to see me on Father's Day, which I will celebrate  
10 her homecoming. Nevermind Father's Day, I will  
11 celebrate her homecoming to me and thank God that she  
12 is alive and also she is one of Scranton's best proud  
13 and pride Marines. Thank you for letting me speak.  
14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Erik. We  
15 appreciate your daughter's service and dedication to  
16 our country. Jack Moorehouse. Okay. That's it for  
17 the sign-in sheet. Anyone else like to -- sure, come  
18 right up.

19 MR. DAVIS: This election is very  
20 important, it's important to the little man, it's  
21 important to the big man, it's important to all of us.  
22 It's probably more important because this is the only  
23 government that you're ever going to have that you're  
24 really going to have your hands on.  
25 The people who you make as your  
0040

01 representatives are the ones that are going to carry us  
02 forward into the next year and the years afterwards.  
03 They're the ones that are going to have to deal with  
04 the deficit, the programs that are not started, such as  
05 our program summer programs for our kids.  
06 And sometimes we have to sit down  
07 and take an accounting of where we've come and where  
08 we've gone, and the people that are running before us.  
09 I look at the meetings on Channel  
10 61, the Women's League, and I thank them for what  
11 they've done. It's something new, and it's very, very  
12 important.  
13 And I say that you should listen  
14 to them and I think you should watch them so you can be  
15 educated voters. It's the only thing we have right now  
16 that allows you to be more of an educated voter than  
17 what you have been in the past.

18 When I look at the people that are  
19 running for office, either for the school board or for  
20 the City Council and for the mayor, I think in the past  
21 what has happened, what has happened to our city, what  
22 has happened to our school, our schools ran out of  
23 books for most of the kids, so that means all of the  
24 kids were hurt by that.

25 If your brother can't study

0041

01 because he doesn't have a book, that's going to hurt  
02 the kid that's sitting next to him because the teacher  
03 is going to have to spend more time with him because he  
04 doesn't have a book than she would have, and therefore  
05 that whole class suffers.

06 Our communities, if our community

07 does not have a place for the kids to play and they  
08 happen to get in more trouble than other communities,  
09 that means that it hurts everybody's community, because  
10 there's more police that are required to come to our  
11 community, and, therefore, it leaves what you call a  
12 vacancy where trouble can start in other places.

13 No matter how hard as a community

14 you try to pull yourselves together and try to defend  
15 what is going on and defend what you are about, you  
16 can't seem to make headway as far as what programs are  
17 being allotted to you.

18 And maybe it happens this year,

19 maybe it doesn't happen this year, meanwhile the  
20 children go on and you're losing. You're losing more  
21 and more children. I said this so many times, I'm  
22 almost tired of it. I'm tired of hearing myself say  
23 it, so I know you must be tired of hearing this being  
24 said.

25 And I'm not asking for your pity,

0042

01 I'm asking for really your abilities to do for the  
02 whole city what is necessary, and I know we can do it.

03 The man stood up here and told you

04 about the programs they had in the past. I've seen it,  
05 I've seen it from 1968 right through '80s and '90s.

06 We've done for our community.

07 I've seen where all our

08 communities played together, ate together in harmony,  
09 no problems. The police were eating right along with  
10 us. That doesn't happen anymore.

11 Why? Why is there the good guys

12 and the bad guys? Why are the communities so split

13 apart that we cannot solve a simple problem? Like, are

14 we arresting the right people?  
15 Are our policemen, the ones we do  
16 have, are they conscious of who they arrest? Are they  
17 conscious of how they arrest? Are they being sensitive  
18 to the needs of the community that they are serving?  
19 I heard this fantastic statement  
20 by my brother Jessie Jackson and he said, You cannot  
21 serve the public unless you love it, and I think that's  
22 true.  
23 From all of my findings and all of  
24 my -- all of what I've seen and heard and done, it is  
25 necessary to love your community. If you're not doing  
0043  
01 it out of love, if you have some ulterior motive for  
02 what you're done in this community, I ask you to step  
03 back and take a whole new look at yourselves and find  
04 out where am I coming from and where am I going to with  
05 this, and am I going to hurt more people than I'm  
06 helping? And if so, then let's stop this right now.  
07 Be honest. That's all I'm asking.  
08 Be honest to the electorate, be honest to the community  
09 that have put you forth as you are, and we'll go on  
10 being faithful to you. We'll keep right, you know,  
11 touting your abilities and things like that, but you  
12 have to be able to step forward.  
13 There are very good people in this  
14 audience. There are people in this audience that  
15 really care about this city and love this city, and  
16 that's the reason why they come forth over and over and  
17 over again.  
18 And maybe it is redundant, and I  
19 want you to forgive us for being redundant, but we  
20 don't think we're being heard because we don't see the  
21 results. And that's what we're looking for now, is  
22 we're looking for results from those of you that have  
23 been elected. And thank you very much for your time.  
24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Jim.  
25 Thank you.  
0044  
01 MR. STUCKER: Hi, Mrs. Evans.  
02 MS. EVANS: Hi.  
03 MR. DIBILEO: Hi, Jim.  
04 MR. STUCKER: Hi. I see -- I was  
05 walking up on Pittston Avenue tonight or Cedar, I seen  
06 one of your signs up.  
07 MS. EVANS: Mine?  
08 MR. STUCKER: Yeah.  
09 MS. EVANS: Oh, great. Thanks.

10 MR. STUCKER: I want to get one  
11 from you. I want to get one.  
12 MS. EVANS: Okay.  
13 MR. STUCKER: They've been picking  
14 our stuff up, our garbage. What we got to do now, I  
15 hope you can do it, get signs for no parking in front  
16 of the house on Moosic Street. There's a lot of wrecks  
17 on that street, Moosic.  
18 Now, right across from the gas  
19 station, there's a big white house on the corner, a  
20 Blazer ran into it last week. They scared a lot of  
21 people in the van. The guy didn't get away with it.  
22 The old guy hit the -- coming cross on Moosic Street  
23 and ran into the fence, damaged the fence. The fence  
24 is down.  
25 So, we need a light there, a  
0045  
01 blinker there at the gas station. It's bad there,  
02 real, real bad. We got to get a blinker light there  
03 right by the gas station.  
04 There's a road coming across and  
05 there's that Cedar Avenue. We have a hard time coming  
06 up making it across on Moosic Street. Somebody is  
07 going to get hit there again. Kids are running across  
08 again.  
09 We need more cops out there. We  
10 need some of the bicycle cops. That's what we need,  
11 the bicycle cops, a couple of beat cops, then we're all  
12 right out there. All right?  
13 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks, Jim.  
14 MR. STUCKER: Next week is what,  
15 the 17th for you to vote -- for us to vote for you?  
16 MR. DIBILEO: May 17th is  
17 Election Day. Vote for whoever you want to, Jim.  
18 MR. STUCKER: You're the one.  
19 You're the man I'm going to vote for.  
20 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Thank  
21 you, Jim. Appreciate it, Jim. Thank you.  
22 MR. STUCKER: All right.  
23 MR. BROWN: Hello. My name is  
24 Eugene Brown. I want to thank you all. I'm a  
25 recent -- I'm one of the newer residents of Scranton,  
0046  
01 I'm one of the people that I keep hearing people say  
02 they like to come. I hold higher education degrees.  
03 I've been very impressed with this  
04 town, I'm very impressed with this proceeding, I've  
05 been very impressed with each of you, and for all

06 practical purposes I've been treated really very well  
07 by everyone I've come in contact with, and I've been  
08 given every reason to love this city and want to be a  
09 part of it; however, beneath the veneer of everything  
10 looking really great and everyone appearing very happy,  
11 I've been a little concerned and I'm a little disturbed  
12 about facts, some facts as it relates to me, for  
13 example.

14 I come into a town, I have -- I'm  
15 an educated African American male as you can see,  
16 obviously, yet finding a job is next to impossible.  
17 Fact, in talking to other members  
18 the community, there seems to be a lot of discussion  
19 about new jobs coming, there seems to be a lot of  
20 discussion about the city being strapped, so I  
21 understand, you know, some of the constraints that  
22 you're working with, but when I walk around and take a  
23 look at what kinds of opportunities might present  
24 themselves, I don't see inclusion of all the  
25 communities, I see primarily one group and I see whole  
0047

01 blocks of Americans not participating in the economy of  
02 the community.

03 Fact, I've spoken to many youth in  
04 my community, and unfortunately upwards of 62 percent  
05 and counting and rising are unemployed.

06 Fact, there is a growing  
07 underclass in Scranton beneath this veneer. You talked  
08 about new people coming in, yeah, they're new people  
09 coming in, many of whom are not being counted because  
10 they're the underclass, they're homeless, they're  
11 dually diagnosed.

12 I'm a clinician, so I can tell you  
13 that they're holding addiction and mental health issues  
14 and many times medical issues that prevent them from  
15 navigating complicated systems, and they're left pretty  
16 much to bounce from shelter to the street.

17 Recently there was a tent city  
18 developed and it was moved ironically just two or three  
19 weeks ago, last week it was moved, and the fact of the  
20 matter is, those people didn't disappear, they're still  
21 there.

22 They didn't, you know, the tents  
23 are no longer -- when I saw them, it was, like, eight,  
24 it's no longer eight tents, they've moved across the  
25 street, they moved further down on the other side, and  
0048

01 I just saw four or five tents this morning. These are

02 facts. There's an underclass of people who need help.  
03 Fact, many of these people who  
04 need help are not ready to -- they can't get into or  
05 they can't run -- they're not ready for, for many  
06 reasons, independent living, that means that even if  
07 they get a job through labor force, they are not  
08 prepared to run their own apartment. They need  
09 transitional housing.

10 The only transitional housing I  
11 saw available was St. Joseph's. Some of these people  
12 need what you might call SROs, supportive housing or  
13 controlled housing environments because they can't  
14 control themselves.

15 Facts, in talking and looking at  
16 and dealing with many of the African American youth,  
17 I've spoken to 60, and out of that 60, only one of them  
18 said they had a positive encounter with police, and  
19 that was a female who was a student at Scranton  
20 University.

21 Fact, a larger number of this  
22 adolescent population talked about there being an  
23 increase in alcohol and drug use. Ironically, it was  
24 the high school students who felt that jobs, alcohol  
25 and drug use were areas that we need to put some  
0049

01 attention, not the University students, who,  
02 interesting enough in my walking around, those are the  
03 one that I normally saw visibility who appeared  
04 visibility drunk.

05 Fact, I see regular people,  
06 several people, walking around from time to time,  
07 especially at nighttime who appear drunk, yet there are  
08 no areas -- there are no detoxification centers.

09 I'm a skilled clinician, I'm an  
10 addiction mental health counselor, yet with higher  
11 education and 20 years experience, yet I can't find a  
12 job.

13 So, again, I love this city, I'm  
14 very impressed with the appearance of equality, the  
15 appearance of fairness, the appearance of inclusion,  
16 the appearance of a listening ear, I'm very impressed  
17 with each of you, I've been treated very well, but  
18 beneath the veneer, I'm looking at a disturbing -- some  
19 disturbing facts, and I would appreciate, no, not me,  
20 the people who are most affected by these facts would  
21 appreciate some serious discussion, and more than  
22 discussion, some serious action around these facts, not  
23 guesses, facts. Thank you very much.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Eugene, thank you  
25 very much. Welcome to the community. I'm not sure how  
0050  
01 long you've been here, but we're happy you're here, and  
02 if we can help in any way, call the City Council  
03 office. We can direct you anywhere. Good luck finding  
04 employment.  
05 MR. BUDZINSKI: Fred Budzinski,  
06 Jermyn Apartments. About six weeks ago I was talking  
07 about the Lavish Cosmetics Store opening up. It's a  
08 unique store in the city, a store you'd mostly find in  
09 New York City. And I talked about that court, and it's  
10 getting worse, you know, and that should be taken care  
11 of pretty soon.  
12 Okay. This morning I took the  
13 bus, I took a bus to Keyser Oak Shopping Center, and I  
14 was surprised to see the homes on the route for sale.  
15 On the corner of Brick and Putnam Street, I couldn't  
16 believe when I saw three homes, three homes on each  
17 corner for sale, and then a block down on Warren Street  
18 on that corner was another house for sale, and go down  
19 to Oak Street, there was two more houses for sale.  
20 In all in eight blocks, I counted  
21 nine homes for sale. I can imagine if I took other bus  
22 routes the homes that would be for sale.  
23 Now, I talked to one person, a  
24 lady, I asked her, Why are you selling your home? She  
25 said, I can't keep the expense. I'm going to sell it  
0051  
01 and I'm going to live with my daughter out of town.  
02 So, that more or less sums up the whole situation on  
03 some of these homes.  
04 Now, I read in the paper this  
05 morning how the city is progressing. The only way I  
06 see where this city is progressing is the banking  
07 business. Downtown we got ten banks, and we got eight  
08 apartments, no stores, not even a liquor store  
09 downtown. So, that's progressing.  
10 Now, talk about empty buildings,  
11 now, they took this on Lackawanna Avenue, they're  
12 fixing up this one building, I forget the name, well,  
13 the only reason they came up from Wilkes-Barre, they're  
14 paying taxes down there, they figure, Hey, we'll go up  
15 to Scranton and that's a KOEZ and no taxes for ten  
16 years. If you call that progressing, I wouldn't think  
17 so.  
18 And talk about empty buildings,  
19 the First National Bank there, Northeastern Bank, empty

20 downstairs, kitty-cornered was a bank, that's empty.  
21 You go down to Arby's, empty. Keep walking down the  
22 street, Levy's, empty. Scranton Dry Goods, empty. And  
23 you talk about Diversified, the only reason Diversified  
24 is there, they had the fire in Pittston, and that would  
25 probably be empty.

0052

01 And then I don't know what they  
02 paid for that building, was it \$1 or \$2, \$3 million,  
03 that was a giveaway. Where the Hilton Hotel is costing  
04 as much as \$40 million, and it would never compare to  
05 the Globe building. So, they got a good deal on that  
06 one. In fact, when it gets around, I think when they  
07 have a board of directors meeting, I think it would be  
08 nice if somebody suggest give the city a million  
09 dollars, help them out. So, I want to thank you.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Fred.

11 Appreciate it.

12 MR. McANDREW: Good evening,  
13 Council, Larry McAndrew. Before I begin, I notice we  
14 have an empty seat here, Mr. Pocius. I apologize, I  
15 wasn't here at the beginning of the meeting, is there a  
16 reason why Mr. Pocius is not present? Was there a  
17 reason given why he was not present?

18 MR. DIBILEO: His letter said  
19 prior commitment, Larry.

20 MR. McANDREW: Prior commitment.  
21 I think it's important that since the election is less  
22 than two weeks away, since Mr. Pocius is running for  
23 re-election, he should be attending these meetings to  
24 see what the city residents have to say.

25 I also agree with Mr. Davis, this

0053

01 community should go back to the way we had  
02 organizations and community things done. We have to  
03 form as one community, as one unit.

04 We were headed the right way.

05 Apparently since Mr. Doherty's administration took  
06 over, we're headed in the opposite direction. We need  
07 to change that.

08 Now, I want to say a couple of  
09 words about Act 72, the pros and cons of it. Attending  
10 that meeting and taking in the information I got,  
11 54 percent of our taxpayers and homeowners have been  
12 taking the brunt of paying taxes to support this  
13 community.

14 I know what I'm going to say to

15 the other 44 percent that are renters, that if there is

16 a tax increase, it means additional money taken out of  
17 their paycheck, but we must take into consideration the  
18 54 percent that have supported this community, that  
19 have supported this city.

20 I encourage the board members of  
21 the Scranton School District before May 30, to say  
22 yes. We cannot project what's going to happen two,  
23 three years down the road from now.

24 Failure seldom stops you. What  
25 stops you is the fear of failure. I say, Go for it. I  
0054

01 say that in Harrisburg, our legislators should amend  
02 that law, that we should have an option, if it's not  
03 the right thing to do, to bid out later down the road,  
04 but right now the taxpayers need the relief. They need  
05 the money in their pockets.

06 My other comments tonight, it was  
07 about last night's mayor debate. Bottom line again is  
08 that in less than two weeks we must decide, we, the  
09 people, must decide who is going to be our mayor.  
10 After all that was said and done,  
11 I compliment our three candidates, I think you all did  
12 an outstanding job, but after all was said and done  
13 here, the bottom line is, this city is still a  
14 distressed city. We need new leadership here. Thank  
15 you very much.

16 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,  
17 Council, Charlie Newcomb. As I was watching the news  
18 this evening before I came here, I saw that our mayor  
19 was down in Wilkes-Barre for the Sink O De Mayor event,  
20 and which is fine, but it's really frustrating to know  
21 that this man can go drive our SUV down to  
22 Wilkes-Barre, but he can't go to a neighborhood meeting  
23 that had to do with a beating that was almost a block  
24 away from his house or he can't even show up to show  
25 the troops come home, but he can go to Wilkes-Barre and  
0055

01 participate in something that was is going to be on the  
02 six o'clock news. Priorities again.

03 Also, I seen it myself, and many  
04 people have told me, is it ethical, I don't think -- I  
05 know it's not right, but is it ethical for the mayor to  
06 campaign on our dollar? I don't think it's right. I  
07 think it's wrong.

08 Is it ethical for this mayor to  
09 film campaign commercials when he said that he's  
10 supposed to be in this building from 7:30 to 5:30? I  
11 don't think it is.

12 I had a lot of questions again for  
13 Mr. Pocius, but I see for the second week in a row he's  
14 not here, so I guess I'll have to reserve my questions  
15 for the future, hopefully which won't be that long.  
16 I have in front of me a copy of  
17 the lawsuit that was filed against the mayor and the  
18 City of Scranton, and I'd like to thank the plaintiffs  
19 that filed this lawsuit, because they're not filing it  
20 as two people, but they're filing it as 76,000 people,  
21 and they're going against this regime that you have to  
22 go to court to try to get answers for.  
23 You can't walk down stairs. And  
24 it's funny, like I said before, I watched the  
25 City Council interviews, and I listened to what  
0056

01 Mr. Pocius had to say and he said he doesn't understand  
02 why this Council gets so agitated because, I don't know  
03 exactly the term that he used, but he said he doesn't  
04 understand why people can't walk down 27 steps and go  
05 in and talk to the mayor or pick up a cell phone.  
06 Well, as we all know, and I'll say  
07 it again, and I proved it this week, Monday in between  
08 my schedule, I came to City Hall and brought a person  
09 with me so they can witness this dynasty, and I walked  
10 into what seemed to be like a morgue when I first came  
11 into this building, and of course the mayor's SUV was  
12 outside, but he was giving a speech, that's what I was  
13 told.  
14 Where in this building he was  
15 giving a speech, I have no idea, but I left my name and  
16 number for him to call me, because I told his  
17 administrative assistant that I have a lot of questions  
18 and I want answers regarding this quick response  
19 system. Okay. We'll give him the message.  
20 Tuesday, I called, he's not here,  
21 he's not available.  
22 Wednesday, I called, he's  
23 unavailable.  
24 Today, I called, he's unavailable.  
25 What else are you supposed to do? I guess I look to  
0057

01 Mr. Pocius to maybe get me answers on this quick  
02 response system.  
03 I don't like being lied to. I  
04 don't like turning on Channel 61 and watching somebody  
05 tell me on the TV that they're here in this building  
06 from 7:30 and 5:30, and any questions that you have,  
07 feel free to come in and ask me.

08 And I come here four days in a row  
09 and you're nowhere to be. Don't lie to me. Don't lie  
10 to the people of the City of Scranton.  
11 And I have all the proof in the  
12 pudding to say that you're lying to me, because four  
13 days in a row you're not here, what are we paying you  
14 for?  
15 Mr. Morgan was up here talking  
16 about this lawsuit, and I understand that Mr. Farrell  
17 is the head of the legal department for this city, but  
18 that doesn't mean that he has the final say in  
19 everything.  
20 As we all know, and you can take  
21 it however you want, but the mayor is the one that gave  
22 this financial decision, because Mr. Farrell was  
23 awaiting the mayor's opinion before he gave this  
24 decision.  
25 So, why don't you bring  
0058  
01 Mr. Farrell in here? If you don't want to bring  
02 Mr. Farrell in here, why can't you as a representative  
03 of us because you're the only people that listen to me,  
04 because the mayor sure as heck doesn't, why don't you  
05 file an injunction or get a third-party and see what  
06 happens, because you know the mayor is not going to  
07 reduce the \$5 fee.  
08 Like you said before, it would  
09 make it easier and the lawsuit could be dropped, but  
10 why don't you file an injunction or why don't you pay  
11 another attorney to give their third-party opinion,  
12 like was going to before? Why can't we do that?  
13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Charlie, maybe I  
14 would ask Mr. Walsh, is it now that the lawsuit is  
15 filed, they probably wouldn't be able to come down,  
16 correct?  
17 MR. WALSH: Yes, that would be  
18 accurate. Now, Charlie, there has been a lawsuit  
19 filed, so for that reason it probably would be improper  
20 for the Council to talk about the merits of that case.  
21 I know and you know that the legal  
22 department has issued an opinion, I believe it actually  
23 came from Jerry Butler, a very well qualified lawyer.  
24 I think that was given to his supervisor,  
25 Mr. Farrell, who in turn conveyed it to City Council  
0059  
01 chambers.  
02 But unfortunately City Council  
03 really can't comment too much on the issue now that the

04 issue is in litigation.

05 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: So, would we  
06 still be able to bring Mr. Farrell in here and ask him  
07 how he came to his conclusion of the \$5 fee?

08 MR. WALSH: Well, the problem  
09 would be that Mr. Farrell probably wouldn't say how he  
10 came to that, because his communication would be  
11 confidential as an attorney/client privilege.

12 Secondly, I don't believe that  
13 Mr. Farrell could be compelled to come here and speak  
14 about a lawsuit that really is a confidential matter  
15 that he has to represent the city on.

16 And also with respect to  
17 subpoenas, as I've indicated in the past, the only way  
18 that you can probably use a subpoena is if you  
19 initiated investigation and then used the subpoena in  
20 aid of that investigation to bring witnesses in to  
21 testify in accordance with the investigation or  
22 hearing.

23 To simply subpoena somebody to  
24 come in because you want answers, I don't think would  
25 be proper. You'd have to, again, initiate the  
0060

01 investigation first.

02 Here, Charlie, what you have is  
03 you have a lawsuit that has been filed. His opinions  
04 will now be communicated probably with his supervisor  
05 and his staff and he will represent the city probably  
06 in that lawsuit.

07 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Okay. So, then  
08 can't we file an investigation to look into we'll  
09 possibly lose Nay Aug Park because of this lawsuit?  
10 Can't we look into that, that if this continues and  
11 this gets back to the people that owned this land,  
12 we're going to lose this park if we sit on this lawsuit  
13 and they find the people, we're going to lose this  
14 park.

15 So, can't we do an investigation  
16 to find out if we're going to lose this park? I mean,  
17 I understand where you're coming from, but, I mean, we  
18 have more at risk here than just a \$5 fee. We have  
19 risk of losing the mayor's dream at the top of Mulberry  
20 Street.

21 MR. WALSH: I believe it would be  
22 improper for Council to initiate an investigation at  
23 this time, because there has been a litigation that's  
24 been commended.

25 Any investigation will probably

0061

01 take place as part of that lawsuit which has been  
02 filed. So, again, I don't think that that would be a  
03 proper course, nor would it be advisable for the  
04 Council to do that at this time.

05 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: So, basically  
06 Council can do nothing now or is there any steps they  
07 can do to --

08 MR. WALSH Well, I think Council  
09 can do what they've always done, and just continue to  
10 the best of their ability to provide answers to  
11 questions of the citizens that come to the podium.

12 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Well, one last  
13 thing I have to say before I step down to the people of  
14 Scranton, please, please, please, please, please vote  
15 on May 17th, and do what I'm going to try to do, and  
16 that is bring down this wall of silence and separation  
17 that is going on in this town. Thank you.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
19 Mr. Newcomb.

20 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.

21 My name is Nancy, Nancy Krake. I also attended the  
22 mayoral debate, and some of my comments will duplicate  
23 Mr. Bolus'. I apologize for that, but I think they  
24 bear repeating.

25 I highly recommend watching the  
0062

01 mayoral debate. It's the first time this mayor has  
02 been held accountable for his actions over the past  
03 four years. The newspaper has never held him  
04 accountable and he's never appeared before Council.

05 At the debate the mayor revealed  
06 several interesting pieces of data; for instance, until  
07 the mayor gets contracts with the police and fire, he  
08 will hold the city hostage under the distress status,  
09 which sounds like a threat to me.

10 I believe John Pocius was one of  
11 the councilmen that brought us the distressed status in  
12 '92, and I'm not sure if that was sour grapes over  
13 losing his health benefits, as the Home Rule Charter  
14 stated, but it's hard to say. Since he's not here, we  
15 won't know that answer.

16 The mayor said we had an  
17 unprecedented downtown revitalization. Is the job of  
18 every mayor to bring new business to the city? He did  
19 not invent this. Apparently he never heard of the  
20 Steamtown Mall, the Lackawanna Train Station or how  
21 about the Steamtown National Historic Site.

22 He told us we received the most  
23 grants in the State of Pennsylvania, but we are not  
24 allowed to apply for grants for police or public  
25 safety. He had the audacity to defend his position,  
0063

01 crazy as it is, he doesn't want increased free public  
02 safety.

03 The mayor told us he bought 3,000  
04 jobs to the city. If you really did create 3,000  
05 permanent jobs, I guess they aren't living in the  
06 city. Approximately 3,000 is the drop in population  
07 the city has experienced since he has been mayor.

08 I would bet the reason people are  
09 leaving Scranton and not moving into Scranton is the  
10 wage tax. We are just not a friendly place for working  
11 families to live tax-wise.

12 Property values are up, says the  
13 mayor. I would like to know exactly where in this city  
14 property values are up, and with 3 percent of the  
15 population leaving, who all is buying these  
16 properties?

17 There has been an increase in the  
18 attention paid to our roads, and the mayor is correct  
19 there. After three and a half years, he did some phone  
20 surveys and found out people want good roads.

21 Brilliant.

22 He's also removing junk cars from  
23 properties, thanks to Mrs. Evans for tipping him off  
24 there. Too bad he needed an election to address these  
25 common sense everyday issues.

0064

01 The mayor said he doesn't want to  
02 play gotcha, whatever that means, but he does want to  
03 play let's make a deal. He seems to be saying, Here  
04 are some crumbs of acknowledgement, citizens, paving,  
05 etc., now let me keep driving the bus.

06 The big finale came when the mayor  
07 asked if you're better off today than you were four  
08 years ago. There were people clapping, as Mr. Bolus  
09 mentioned, when he posed this question. The mayor's  
10 highly-paid cabinet who were in attendance, and Carl  
11 Greco, consultant extraordinaire clapping loudest of  
12 all.

13 The rest of us wanted to know if  
14 the mayor lived in the same city we did. Thank you.

15 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,

16 Council.

17 MS. EVANS: Hello.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening. I'm  
19 Nelson Ancherani, I'm a city taxpayer, resident and I  
20 am a financial secretary of the FOP. I come here  
21 tonight like I have occasionally over the last three  
22 years. I have been saying that cutting police officers  
23 like the City of Wilkes-Barre did, that crime will come  
24 here.  
25 We cut police officers and crime  
0065  
01 did come here. Crime has increased and gangs are  
02 roaming our streets. Although our one and only  
03 newspaper says, and I quote, Whispers of gang activity,  
04 unquoted.  
05 If you don't believe me, ask the  
06 people who have had their garages tagged with graffiti  
07 in West Side and other parts of the city and other  
08 parts of their property, also.  
09 Better yet, ask the Green Ridge  
10 residents about the increased crime in their area of  
11 the city. Green Ridge at one time was the most crime  
12 free area of the city.  
13 Ask the information officers for  
14 the City of Scranton, ask them. Ask rape or aggravated  
15 assault victims. Ask Kathryn Simmons about the gangs  
16 in the seminar at Bethel AME where gang information was  
17 the topic. There was another stabbing recently, this  
18 one in North Scranton.  
19 So, putting it all together,  
20 where, I ask, is crime decreasing? Since the city gets  
21 -- once the city gets its long awaited recovery plan  
22 activated so they can use the Distressed Cities Act to  
23 cut police and fire personnel, the city will not only  
24 cut police and fire officers, they will close  
25 firehouses.  
0066  
01 During the arbitration hearings,  
02 the city said that they could police the city with 50  
03 police officers. Wow, can you imagine what the  
04 criminal element will think? It will be like letting a  
05 child run lose in a toy shop.  
06 In the latest Sunday Times there  
07 was an article where it said, and I'm going to quote  
08 this part of the article, Scranton also fairs well in  
09 Pennsylvania Uniformed Crime Reports, which lists  
10 numbers in hosts of categories concerning crime.  
11 The number of offenses reported in  
12 Scranton increased just under 3 percent between 2000  
13 and 2004, according to the crime reports.

14 Any change of less than 5 percent  
15 is, and this is a quote inside a quote, relatively  
16 negligible, unquote, and another part of the quote,  
17 doesn't concern me at all, unquote.  
18 And this was said by a University  
19 of Scranton Criminal Justice Department Chairman  
20 Professor Henry Dammer, Ph.D. How about that?  
21 Relatively negligible and doesn't concern me at all.  
22 Where does this professor live?  
23 Does he live in an are where an increase in crime is  
24 relatively negligible and it doesn't concern him?  
25 Tell that to the victims of the  
0067  
01 crimes that are in that 5 percent change and see if it  
02 doesn't concern them.  
03 I've worked as a police officer  
04 for 29 years, I can remember in the late '70s or early  
05 '80s, when on the second shift, the afternoon shift,  
06 and on a Sunday, you wouldn't get a police radio  
07 transmission until maybe eight, nine o'clock at night.  
08 Now on the second shift, the  
09 police radio constantly transmits. Back in 1975, there  
10 were 172 members of the police department and the  
11 population of the city at that time was I believe over  
12 100,000.  
13 Now we have approximately 157  
14 police officers and a population of approximately 72 to  
15 76,000, but you have to convince me that crime has not  
16 increased.  
17 And just a quick question, has  
18 anyone heard if the city has made any moves toward  
19 figuring out how persons with disabilities are going to  
20 get upstairs to the third floor of the firehouse when  
21 they go to the Scranton Police Juvenile Unit when that  
22 moves there because there's no room for them in the new  
23 police building?  
24 The police building plans do not  
25 include the juvenile or training units. \$3.2 million,  
0068  
01 and it will not be done the way it was intended to be  
02 done. It could have been done right, but to spend the  
03 extra money and to do the job right would have taken  
04 money from other spending projects.  
05 Also, I had a request for  
06 Councilman Pocius, and he's not here, but I'm going to  
07 make the request anyway. I read in Wednesday's morning  
08 Tribune that the State House okayed a package of breaks  
09 for soldiers fighting in the Iraqi War. They include

10 college loans, automobile insurance, child care and  
11 other emergency needs, and this was intended to show  
12 support and to ease the minds of troops and their  
13 families.

14 Also on Monday night on the second  
15 of May, the Scranton School District held a ceremony to  
16 honor 22 soldiers who graduated from Scranton High  
17 Schools and served in Iraq.

18 And I thought since

19 Councilman Pocius recently had a relative return safely  
20 from Iraq, that he would make a motion to honor city  
21 employees that returned home safely, and I was thinking  
22 that would be a very nice honor to give each one of  
23 them \$200 for each month that they spent in Iraq.

24 It would not be a lot of money,

25 and I'm sure that the city could afford it, it spends  
0069

01 money for everything else. That would help them and  
02 their families and it would show the gratitude of the  
03 city for the job well done for our returning city  
04 employees. Thank you.

05 MS. STULGIS: I'm Ann Marie

06 Stulgis, and I'm a city resident. I'm wondering, did

07 we get the independent audit yet? Didn't we set a

08 deadline for May 1 or something we asked Rossi to get  
09 that to us?

10 MR. SAUNDERS: No, we have not

11 received the independent audit. I believe that in the

12 Home Rule Charter it states May 31 is the date that we  
13 set.

14 Solicitor Walsh wrote a letter to

15 them and they said they would try to have everything

16 compiled by that time and give it to us in a timely

17 fashion.

18 MS. STULGIS: It seems they get

19 later and later every year. Also, while the subject of

20 our boys from Iraq was brought up, as you're aware, at

21 one point the city did offer to make up the difference

22 base salary to base salary, but Ms. Moran chose to

23 change her mind on that and to give them nothing.

24 And I just happened to look at the

25 W-2 statements for the two officers who were gone the  
0070

01 entire 2004, and one took a \$17,000 pay cut, and one

02 took a \$12,000 pay cut to go and serve in Iraq, and

03 this city did not give them one dime.

04 We can afford money for everything

05 else, we can afford money for sod, we can afford money

06 for -- well, actually it was city money used to pay for  
07 some -- all those Restoring The Pride signs, we can  
08 afford them, and we can't afford to give one dime to  
09 those boys that were in Iraq, and I think that is  
10 appalling and that tells us a great deal about what the  
11 current administration's priorities are when they find  
12 signs and Disney Channel for monkeys a lot more  
13 important than city employees serving in Iraq. It's  
14 really discouraging.

15 Now onto another subject. I also  
16 find it appalling that taxpayers are paying legal fees  
17 for a Councilman and a former councilman, being  
18 Mr. Pocius and Mr. Hazzouri, we're paying legal fees  
19 for them so that they can get a pension that's in  
20 violation of the Home Rule Charter. That is absolutely  
21 disgusting. And as a taxpayer, I have to tell you, I'm  
22 outraged.

23 And now we're going to have to pay  
24 legal fees to defend a ridiculous decision to charge a  
25 \$5 fee at Nay Aug Park, which of course is illegal, and  
0071

01 we know that. Now, as taxpayers we're going to have to  
02 pay legal fees for that, too.

03 I think what we're going to have  
04 to do is better pay a lawyer to check into who is  
05 guilty of malfeasance of office, because I think that's  
06 about where we're coming to at this point.

07 Our mayor says he's going to run  
08 this city like a business. The first thing he does is  
09 walk in, lay off a bunch of employees making \$20,000,  
10 hire their replacements at \$40,000. Why, that's some  
11 kind of business.

12 Then he brags about the AAA bond  
13 rating. He can't fool us anymore with that. The  
14 newspaper tried to fool us, but we found out anybody  
15 can have a AAA bond rating, all you have to do is pay a  
16 million dollars to get one, which is what we did.

17 And if you sit down and do a cost  
18 study on it, it did not make economic and fiduciary  
19 sense to do something like that, but we did it anyway.

20 There is some good news, though,  
21 it's 12 days to the election, which means we'll  
22 probably only have ten more days before they find the  
23 missing police cars and we finally have police cars in  
24 service, and that will be nice.

25 Because this past weekend we had  
0072

01 three of the best cars go down with flat tires on

02 Friday night. And rather than call out somebody to  
03 come and fix them, the city opted not to do that,  
04 instead they had them all towed by DeNaples and they  
05 sat out of service until Monday, because God forbid we  
06 should pay the mechanic overtime to come in and change  
07 three tires, and that just happened this past weekend.  
08 Also, I think it's interesting  
09 that we have what we're all aware of is the  
10 News Alliance, believe me, it's misnamed, it should be  
11 called the Doherty PR Firm.  
12 We all know what we read in the  
13 daily paper is slanted grossly. Now we have a TV  
14 station that the other night announced that crime was  
15 down in Scranton 25 percent. I can't believe it. Down  
16 in Scranton 25 percent, and we're the sixth safest city  
17 in the country.  
18 Well, I contacted the news  
19 director of that station and I asked him for his  
20 source, because I was sure he would have used a source,  
21 he wouldn't take somebody's word for it, that would be  
22 frivolous, to say the least.  
23 However, he's just too busy and he  
24 hasn't been able to get back to me all week. So, I  
25 don't think they have a source, I think we all know  
0073  
01 what their source was.  
02 And we all know what crime is.  
03 And I've said it before, if anybody with the Internet  
04 can go to Google, can go Online, put in Pennsylvania  
05 Uniform Crime Statistics, go down to the appendix under  
06 B, click on it and you'll find exactly what the crime  
07 in Scranton is.  
08 And as Mr. DiBileo said a few  
09 weeks ago, it has gone up under this administration and  
10 it has gone up rapidly. It has not increased 3  
11 percent, it has increased a lot more than 3 percent, if  
12 you sit down and figure out all major crime.  
13 It's a shame that we've lost 22  
14 police officers. We just had another big arrest of a  
15 major gang leader, and the city isn't getting safer,  
16 folks. You're not better off now than you were four  
17 years ago. You're a lot worse off.  
18 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any other  
19 speakers? Mr. Walsh.  
20 MR. WALSH: 5-A, Motions.  
21 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. McTiernan, do  
22 you have any motions or comments at this time?  
23 MR. McTIERNAN: Nothing at this

24 time, Mr. President.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

0074

01 Mrs. Evans, any motions or comments?

02 MS. EVANS: Yes. I have a number

03 of business items tonight. First of all, Jay, could

04 you contact Mr. Scopelliti, please, and ask him if

05 there will be free swimming passes for 2005?

06 And I also wanted to state that I

07 am very grateful and very pleased that a lawsuit has

08 been filed with regard to Nay Aug Park. It is a shame

09 that Council hasn't been able to address this suitably,

10 but, again, the power to set fees was removed from

11 Council's power long ago and given to an appointed

12 body, the Recreation Authority.

13 And I'm sure I speak for many on

14 behalf of most of the citizens of Scranton, we thank

15 you for this. And until the issue is settled in court,

16 again, I would like to know what the intention of the

17 Recreation Authority and the administration is for this

18 summer.

19 I also want to apologize for not

20 having attended the opening day ceremonies at a number

21 of our city's little leagues last weekend.

22 On Saturday, April 30, I was

23 scheduled to be interviewed by the League of Women

24 Voters as a candidate for City Council, and as a

25 result, I missed both the Lackawanna Little League and

0075

01 Tripp Park season openers.

02 I also learned that the South

03 Side Little League, I believe, had postponed on

04 Saturday and rescheduled to Sunday, and I wasn't aware

05 of that, so I, again, was absent, and I am very sorry

06 to the parents and the players of all of those little

07 leagues.

08 Secondly, Jay, are you aware of

09 the no parking signs across the street from St. Joe's

10 Malokite Church, have they been changed yet to exclude

11 church services?

12 MR. SAUNDERS: I don't know. I

13 will check that tomorrow.

14 MS. EVANS: Yeah, I --

15 MR. SAUNDERS: What street is

16 that?

17 MS. EVANS: Cabrini.

18 MR. SAUNDERS: Cabrini, okay.

19 MS. EVANS: We also have very good

20 news about the Plot Section at long last. The houses  
21 began to be raised on Tuesday, May 3.

22 This demolition should go a long  
23 way toward hastening the flood control project and  
24 ultimately safeguarding the Plot neighbors.

25 Yet more good news, apparently  
0076

01 residents have been able to place more than one, in  
02 fact, any number of pieces of furniture at curbside for  
03 the DPW collection days, when normally we have been  
04 limited to only one item per week.

05 Also, residents can place their  
06 white goods, that is washers, dryers, hot water  
07 heaters, freezers, etc., at curbside, and the DPW will  
08 pick up those items, as well.

09 I really wasn't aware of this very  
10 recent policy until the past weekend. While I was  
11 campaigning door to door, I was informed by the  
12 residents of Scranton that this white goods pickup had  
13 been just very recently enacted.

14 Further, the attack on junk  
15 vehicles is continuing. According to Chief Elliot,  
16 there will be one more saturation patrol during the  
17 month of May. I know that approximately seven  
18 inspectors located such vehicles in West Scranton last  
19 week, however, only one inspector was assigned early  
20 this week to the location or the locating of junk  
21 vehicles in the area of South Side, Minooka and  
22 East Mountain.

23 That indeed is a huge area, and I  
24 don't want to see any section of Scranton  
25 short-changed, so I hope more inspectors will be  
0077

01 assigned to address the remainder of our city's  
02 neighbors.

03 And I have a few other items here  
04 for the residents of the area surrounding the Green  
05 Ridge Teener League, Mr. Scopelliti has stated to  
06 Mr. Cleveland, Vice-President of the Green Ridge  
07 Neighbors, that there are no plans this year to utilize  
08 the Green Ridge Teener League; however, Green Ridge  
09 Teener League remains a very possible substitute  
10 location for the South Side Complex for the following  
11 year.

12 So, for the neighbors who were  
13 concerned and had contacted me for a meeting this  
14 month, obviously we will not be meeting this month, as  
15 all of the leagues are playing at the Complex for the

16 2005 season; however, you should keep your eyes and  
17 ears open, as will I, for further developments in this  
18 situation regarding the 2006 season.  
19 I'm also very troubled by a piece  
20 of information I received anonymously in my mailbox.  
21 The information concerns gang violence in our  
22 community.  
23 Apparently there are three active  
24 gangs already established in Scranton and two new gangs  
25 who have infiltrated from out of state. They have used  
0078  
01 graffiti in two separate areas of the city to identify  
02 themselves.  
03 More than ever it's clear that we  
04 need more police on our streets and they need to use  
05 their time successfully fighting crime, not filling out  
06 police reports on their shifts.  
07 We're forced, once again, to be  
08 reactive, rather than proactive. And according to the  
09 information that I have, and this isn't information I  
10 can share, it's very confidential information within  
11 the police department.  
12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Ms. Evans, if I  
13 may, does that have anything to do with in the Green  
14 Ridge Shopping Center area or Hamm Court?  
15 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right.  
16 Okay. You know, I'd just like to make a comment, and  
17 I'm not trying to alarm anybody, but the graffiti is  
18 from, you know, gangs, well-known gangs, and the thing  
19 that disturbs you, I actually saw the graffiti myself,  
20 I went there personally and saw it, and the one that  
21 really disturbs me is there's a threat from one gang to  
22 another on that graffiti, and that really, really  
23 concerns me, that threat.  
24 So, I'm sure our police department  
25 is doing everything they could, but I think it's  
0079  
01 obvious, these gangs are here and we've got to keep a  
02 real close look on it.  
03 MS. EVANS: Oh, absolutely. The  
04 evidence here is incontrovertible, and that is why I  
05 can't imagine the hierarchy of the police department  
06 reporting that there's no crime, crime is a  
07 perception. It's not a perception.  
08 Also with regard to Dixon Avenue  
09 off Green Ridge Street, I know we sent a letter out  
10 concerning that situation where the business is  
11 creating such an influx of dirt and dust that the

12 residents of that neighborhood, several have contracted  
13 asthma as a result, and I would ask -- as I said, I  
14 know the letter went out, but, Jay, I'd ask that this  
15 receives immediate attention from either  
16 Mr. Fiorini or Mr. Wallace.

17 I've been talking about this for a  
18 year, and I'd like someone who is an officer in the  
19 inspections office to get out there and talk to these  
20 people.

21 It may even be as simple as their  
22 wetting down their property every day, but something  
23 has to be done to relieve these residents' situation,  
24 because we simply can't allow individuals, tax-paying  
25 individuals, to have their health ruined by a business  
0080

01 neighbor.

02 Finally, I do have new requests  
03 and I've passed those along to Kay. They concern  
04 Clearview Street, North 9th Street, North Sumner,  
05 Price Street, Byron Avenue.

06 And I just wanted to point out one  
07 last issue, I read, I don't know if it was today's  
08 paper or yesterday's paper, that this weekend the  
09 Scranton Times will contain articles regarding your  
10 mayoral candidates and your Council candidates, and I  
11 just wanted to warn everyone in advance that you may  
12 not see my picture accompanying my article.

13 For some reason, even though the  
14 Scranton Times has my picture and has used it very  
15 often and the same picture has been used for all my  
16 advertising, whether it be billboards, newspaper ads,  
17 suddenly it's become very difficult for them to use  
18 that picture, and they have requested that I come in  
19 and have them take a new picture of me.

20 Well, I'm really very busy and I  
21 don't often look for photo opportunities, I have more  
22 important things to do, so if you don't see my picture  
23 accompanying that article, it's not that they don't  
24 have one, it's not that I didn't submit one, it's  
25 simply that for whatever reason, they chose not to  
0081

01 place it in that location. That's all. Thank you.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

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

04 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes,

05 Mr. President. I might ask Mrs. Evans a question, if I  
06 may. You're talking about the white goods, a lot of  
07 them being picked up, is that going to be like a -- I

08 remember several years ago we had, like, a cleanup  
09 where you can clean out everything and put it out  
10 there, is that what they're conducting?  
11 MS. EVANS: I -- honestly I have no  
12 idea, because as Council members we weren't informed.  
13 I don't think I've read anything in the newspaper about  
14 some type of spring cleanup or spring pickup schedule,  
15 but yet I also know that this isn't a procedure that's  
16 been followed at any time over the last three years, so  
17 I couldn't tell you if it's a one-time opportunity.

18 And if so, everyone take advantage  
19 of this opportunity. God knows when you'll see it  
20 again. And, you know, or maybe it will be ongoing.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Maybe, Jay, can  
22 you find that out for us if it's going to be like a  
23 cleanup like they used to do in the past where you can  
24 put out everything you want or -- I guess we're a  
25 little sketchy. Mrs. Evans is being told it's by  
0082

01 people she's speaking to and we're not --

02 MS. EVANS: Yes, as I'm going door  
03 to door, because, for example, I did notice that there  
04 was a white good on someone's curb, and when I knocked  
05 on the door, we happened to get into that conversation  
06 and they said, Oh, the city is picking up everything.

07 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Well,  
08 if they are, Jay, could we let everybody know that?

09 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, I will tell  
10 you, our office was not informed of that.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right. I just  
12 heard about it here. All right. Jay, I got a couple  
13 other things here. The Weston Park Teener League, did  
14 we get any response back yet from OECD if they're going  
15 to be able to give them that money?

16 MR. SAUNDERS: No. And that's my  
17 fault on that. I didn't talk to Ms. Hailstone. I will  
18 call her first thing in the morning.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. How  
20 about the \$400,000, Pittston Avenue?

21 MR. SAUNDERS: That letter is out.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: No response yet?

23 MR. SAUNDERS: No response yet.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: And I'm getting,  
25 I know we spoke briefly about it in caucus, the  
0083

01 East Mountain Road project and Mr. Pocius, we're going  
02 to ask him to explain it to us.

03 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, I talked to

04 Mr. Pocius, and he's going to have to describe that in  
05 his own words, it's a little tough to follow.  
06 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Okay.  
07 One of the speakers brought up an article in  
08 Sunday's paper, and I didn't read it, but I got a  
09 couple phone calls on it, so I made it my business to  
10 read it, and I just actually read it today. I had to  
11 get it out of the garbage.  
12 In the article, you know, it was  
13 said that we talk about crime in this Council, we, I'm  
14 assuming they mean just a few of us up here, for our  
15 own personal agenda. I just simply don't understand  
16 how me talking about crime does anything to anybody's  
17 agenda here.  
18 You know, I don't know, what am I  
19 supposed to tell these people when they call me or they  
20 write me an Email, Oh, jeez, I can't talk about that at  
21 Council because that's furthering my personal agenda?  
22 I don't think that's the answer they want to hear.  
23 It also said in there, this  
24 bothers me, it says the people that are most fearful  
25 would be the elderly population of the City of  
0084  
01 Scranton. And I wrote this down so that I don't say it  
02 incorrectly, what did they say here, it's the elderly  
03 population that would be the most fearful, but the  
04 elderly population, they are the least likely to be  
05 victims.  
06 So, is that what I'm supposed to  
07 tell a senior citizen when they call me, Hey, don't  
08 worry about it, you're likely not going to be a victim?  
09 I think not.  
10 MS. EVANS: Oh, Mr. Courtright,  
11 that brought up an issue that I was sort of involved in  
12 earlier in the week. I was over at the North Scranton  
13 Neighborhood meeting this week, and the guest speakers  
14 were Chief Elliott and Mr. Hayes, public safety  
15 director, and they were talking about, naturally, crime  
16 in the city, and they did specifically address the  
17 issue of senior citizens and their fears, and it  
18 appeared they felt those fears are unfounded, that, you  
19 know, so often the police are called with statements  
20 like, Well, there are some minority people walking down  
21 the street, I'm very worried.  
22 And, you know, like you, I've  
23 received a good deal of calls, many from senior  
24 citizens, and I can tell you I never received one quite  
25 like that, what I have heard for example is, and I told

0085

01 this to the residents of North Scranton that evening,  
02 Mrs. Evans, I was awakened at 2 a.m. last night by  
03 three women standing under a street light on the  
04 corner. A car came, picked up two of them. I tried to  
05 go back to sleep, but 20 minutes later, the car is  
06 back, they're out there laughing under the street light  
07 and I was awake until 5 a.m. What has happened to my  
08 neighborhood?

09 Another caller, Oh, my goodness,  
10 you know, they're telling me we can't sit on our front  
11 porch anymore because from the hours, and this is one  
12 I'd like to give to you, Mr. Courtright, because I  
13 don't want to repeat the address publicly, but I'll  
14 pass it onto you so you can take care of that  
15 effectively for them, they can't sit on their porch  
16 after four o'clock, the traffic coming and going from  
17 the house across the street is unprecedented.  
18 Every five to ten minutes a new car with Pennsylvania  
19 and out of state license plates and individuals who  
20 they have never seen before, they're not members of  
21 their neighborhood, they're not their friends and  
22 neighbors, in other words, and they're frightened.  
23 So, I agree, yeah, they're  
24 frightened, but I don't think we should stereotype  
25 senior citizens into a category that, you know, because  
0086

01 they're older, they're needlessly frightened or they're  
02 frightened by just about anything that happens.  
03 Actually they're for more vigilant  
04 than the rest us. They spend a good deal of time  
05 watching what goes on in their neighborhoods, not just  
06 for their own home, but the home next door and the home  
07 on the right and the home across the street.  
08 And if you want to know anything  
09 about a neighborhood, ask the senior who lives there.  
10 So, I just hope, you know, that they're not  
11 misconstruing.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: I just found that  
13 disturbing. The thing that disturbed me the most when  
14 it said Council did not relay any of these calls or  
15 letter we got about the crimes to the administration.  
16 That is simply not true.  
17 I've gone down to Dave Elliott's  
18 office, and you can ask him, and I'm going to cite one  
19 specific case where I went down and told Dave Elliot  
20 about it, he's the police chief, I had watched a gang  
21 start to form in the West Scranton are a couple of

22 years ago, it just so happens my business is where  
23 these kids start gathering, and they went from a  
24 neighborhood group of kids to a legitimate gang right  
25 now, and it was getting a little bit out of control,  
0087

01 and they said a police officer was no longer with the  
02 police force, Jason Tigue, he was doing a very good job  
03 controlling these kids, and I'm not going to say the  
04 name of the gang, I don't want to give them any  
05 publicity.

06 Well, he came over and he was a  
07 doing a good job, and then they sent another guy along  
08 with him, a guy by the name of Mike Marino, and with  
09 those two guys, they pretty much eliminated the problem  
10 in my area anyway with this gang that wasn't as big  
11 then as it is right now.

12 But then they were taken away.

13 And I went in and I voiced my concerns to Dave Elliot.

14 And he said, Well, you have a beat guy. I said, Well,

15 no, we don't, Dave. He said, You will.

16 And we did, that day we got a beat

17 guy, his name was Scarfo, and I believe he went to the

18 military now. So, here we were with no beat guy

19 anymore, and I believe now, I think we had one maybe a

20 day or two a week, but I haven't really seen him there.

21 But I have voiced my concerns to

22 the administration, and some of the complaints are

23 minor, and I don't think I need to go down to Ray Hayes

24 or to Dave Elliott, that sometimes there's a gentleman,

25 a very reputable gentleman that all of us up here know

0088

01 that stopped me at a function I was at and said he's

02 fearful, that up in the Cornell Street area near

03 Saint Ann's, which I lived there for many years, which

04 is always known as a nice neighborhood, and still is,

05 but never really any fear up there, he's fearful for

06 his daughter because this particular gang I'm talking

07 about, and it's a local gang, and they were tagging,

08 they were doing graffiti up in that area.

09 And, you know, I didn't go right

10 to Dave Elliott, and maybe I should have, but I spoke

11 to a couple officers, some officers that were in the

12 juvenile division, thinking that might be their, you

13 know, their area, and I spoke to a guy that deals with

14 the gangs in the Scranton area, so I have. I have

15 relayed information. That is simply not true.

16 And that really bothered me, and

17 that's actually what prompted me to bring this up this

18 evening. So, I'm going to say one thing, I'm willing  
19 to speak about, as long as people keep calling me and  
20 asking me questions and bringing up things to me that  
21 concern them, I'm going to speak about it here.

22 And I was elected to serve the  
23 people, the citizens of this city, I was not elected to  
24 serve this administration.

25 So, as long as they bring concerns  
0089

01 to me, I'm going to bring it to you. And if somebody  
02 says that that's furthering my personal agenda, well,  
03 that's too bad. And that's all I have.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

05 Mr. Courtright. And, you know, as chairman of the  
06 public safety committee and having involvement with the  
07 departments like you do, I often pass along information  
08 that I receive and concerns I receive from members of  
09 the community right to Mr. Courtright, and he gets on  
10 it right away.

11 I mean, he doesn't wait. He's on  
12 the phone immediately. And so, I know who to talk to  
13 to get some action, you know, when it comes the  
14 concerns of the community, and I pass it on to him and  
15 he gets right to work on it, and I really appreciate  
16 it. So, I know for a fact he does take action.

17 And the only thing I have this  
18 evening is something that I meant to give to Jay  
19 earlier. You know, now that we're upon some paving  
20 work being done, we're starting to get Emails and phone  
21 calls from people asking about whether their street can  
22 be included in some of the paving that's going to be  
23 going on, and, you know, I agree to pass along these  
24 requests, but I have to say that, you know, I haven't  
25 cross-referenced the paving list with these requests,  
0090

01 but I know that the paving list is not, you know,  
02 etched in stone and there are changes made, so I told  
03 people that I would pass the information along, but I  
04 know that the streets are warranted, because I took a  
05 look at them myself.

06 And just a couple quick streets,  
07 if I can pass along to you. Sections of  
08 Washburn Street, and I'll give this to you after the  
09 meeting, Jay, sections of Washburn Street, sections of  
10 Euclid Avenue, lower Vine Street, sections of  
11 Gilbert Street, sections of Rockwell Avenue, all of  
12 Race Street, upper South Webster Avenue, lower East  
13 Locust Street, all of South 9th, and all of Garwood.

14 So, I'll give this to you, and if you could pass this  
15 information along, we'll see if we can get some paving  
16 work done in those areas. Thank you. And that's all I  
17 have for tonight.

18 MR. WALSH: 5th order.

19 5-B, FOR INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE  
20 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
21 AND ENTER INTO SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT  
22 NO. 048401A WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
23 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (PENNDOT) TO ALLOW FOR AN  
24 INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE  
25 EAST MOUNTAIN ROAD PROJECT.

0091

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

04 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

05 MS. EVANS: Second.

06 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

07 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

08 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

09 MS. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
12 ayes have it and so moved.

13 MR. WALSH: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION

14 - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
15 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
16 SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT NO. 040928-D WITH  
17 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF  
18 TRANSPORTATION (PENNDOT) FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING  
19 THE FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EAST  
20 MARKET STREET BRIDGE PROJECT.

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

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

25 MS. EVANS: Second.

0092

01 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

02 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

03 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

04 MS. EVANS: Aye.

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
07 ayes have it and so moved.

08 MR. WALSH: 5-D, FOR INTRODUCTION

09 - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

10 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
11 ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN FROM THE  
12 COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM, PROJECT  
13 NO. 03-150 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00 TO  
14 DTK VENTURES, L.P. TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

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

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

19 MS. EVANS: Second.

20 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

21 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

22 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
0093

01 ayes have it and so moved.

02 MR. WALSH: 6th order.

03 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. President, at  
04 this time I'd like to make a motion that we have a  
05 public hearing on item 6-A, to transfer a liquor  
06 license to be Thursday at 6:45 p.m. And, Jay, if you  
07 can sent out the notice, we'd appreciate that.

08 MR. SAUNDERS: I will do that  
09 tomorrow.

10 MS. EVANS: Second.

11 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on  
12 the floor and a second. On the question? All those  
13 in favor, signify by saying aye.

14 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

15 MS. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

19 MR. WALSH: 6-A, READING BY TITLE

20 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 130, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE -

21 APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE  
22 IN THE NAME OF CATHERINE DELROSSO, BOROUGH OF DUNMORE,  
23 LICENSE NO. R-14777 CURRENTLY HELD BY THE PLCB TO  
24 CHARLIE BROWN'S OF SCRANTON, LLC FOR USE AT 941  
25 VIEWMONT DRIVE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS  
0094

01 REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

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

04 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I  
05 move that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

06 MS. EVANS: 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. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

13 ayes have it and so moved.

14 MR. WALSH: 6-B, READING BY TITLE

15 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 131, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE - SALE

16 OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY ON LAFAYETTE STREET AND

17 NEWTON RANSOM BOULEVARD, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO

18 FORREST AND GAIL JANES, 309 NEWTON ROAD, SCRANTON,

19 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR THE SUM OF \$1,500.00.

20 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading

21 by title of Item 6-B. What is your pleasure?

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. President, I

23 move that Item 6-B pass reading by title.

24 MS. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

0095

01 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

02 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

03 MS. EVANS: Aye.

04 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

06 ayes have it and so moved.

07 MR. WALSH: 7th order. 7-A, FOR

08 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR

09 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 137, 2005 - AUTHORIZING THE

10 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE

11 AND ENTER INTO AN AMENDED AGREEMENT NO. 3 WITH THE

12 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF

13 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGARDING THE FLOOD CONTROL

14 PROJECT TO ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE

15 COMMONWEALTH FOR THE PLOT AND GREEN RIDGE SECTIONS OF

16 THE PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,600,000.

17 MR. DIBILEO: What's the

18 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on

19 finance?

20 MS. EVANS: As chair for the

21 committee on finance, I recommend final passage of

22 Item 7-A.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

24 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

25 Roll call, please, Kay.

0096

01 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

02 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.  
03 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.  
04 MS. EVANS: Yes.  
05 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.  
06 Mr. Courtright.  
07 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.  
08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.  
09 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby  
10 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.  
11 Seeing no further business on the agenda, I'll  
12 entertain a motion we adjourn.  
13 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.  
14 MS. EVANS: Second.  
15 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.  
16  
17 (MEETING AS ADJOURNED.)  
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01 C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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08 LISA M. GRAFF, RPR

08 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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