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02 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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08 Held:

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09 Thursday, May 19, 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

06

07 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

08

09 MR. JOHN POCIUS

10

11 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

12

13 MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR (arrived where noted.)

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15 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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17 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Please stand for the

02 Pledge of Allegiance. Please remain standing for a

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

04 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

05 Mrs. Evans.

06 MS. EVANS: Here.

07 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

08 MR. POCIUS: Here.

09 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Here.

13 For the record, Mr. McTiernan is unable to be here

14 this evening because he's at his high school prom. I

15 mean, not at his high school prom, you know what I

16 mean, at the -- he's attending the high school prom or

17 something like that.

18 MS. EVANS: He's chaperoning.

19 MR. DIBILEO: He's a chaperon at

20 the high school prom. And if we can dispense with the
21 reading of the minutes, please, mr. Saunders.
22 MR. SAUNDERS: Third order, 3-A,
23 MINUTES FROM THE SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY MEETING
24 HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2005.
25 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any
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01 comments on 3-A? If not, received and filed.
02 MR. SAUNDERS: 3-B, APPLICATIONS
03 AND DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING HEARING BOARD ON
04 WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2005.
05 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any
06 comments on 3-A? If not, received and filed.
07 MR. SAUNDERS: 3-C, MINUTES FROM
08 THE NON-UNIFORM PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY,
09 APRIL 27, 2005.
10 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any
11 comments on 3-C? If not, received and filed.
12 MR. SAUNDERS: Clerk's notes.
13 Councilman Courtright discussed the situation on
14 Pittston Avenue near the sink hole that opened during
15 the flooding, I sent a letter down to George Parker.
16 He in turn sent that out to Al Zarkowski. I believe he
17 works for PennDOT.
18 MR. POCIUS: No. He's with the
19 Corps of Engineers.
20 MR. SAUNDERS: The Corps. They're
21 waiting for his recommendations on the guardrail part
22 of that, what they want to do and how they see fit on
23 that.
24 I received a letter from PennDOT
25 about the follow-up meeting on Birney Avenue and
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01 Pittston Avenue that Councilwoman Evans asked about.
02 Representatives from PennDOT will be happy to attend
03 the meeting and discuss their findings and
04 recommendations for those two roads.
05 They do recommend we set up the
06 meeting with Representative Cawley and clarify the
07 dates with Representative Cawley and ourselves, and
08 then set it up with PennDOT. They said give them a
09 couple of weeks so there's no conflicting scheduling.
10 So, if you want to do that, I'll talk to Representative
11 Cawley and then we'll go from there.
12 MS. EVANS: Yes, please.
13 MR. POCIUS: Mr. Saunders, doesn't
14 Mr. Cawley, like, home on Fridays, so maybe it's best
15 if we wait where everybody is out of school and maybe

16 get it for later in June or something like that.
17 MS. EVANS: That will be fine.
18 MR. POCIUS: Because he only could
19 come, he's only home on Fridays, and it won't work any
20 other time, so -- because I think we met in the summer
21 last time.
22 MR. SAUNDERS: I'll give his
23 office a call tomorrow and set that up.
24 There's going to be a public
25 meeting held at the Keyser Valley Community Center by
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01 PennDOT to discuss the department's plans to improve
02 Keyser Avenue Corridor and replace structures on an
03 unnamed creek, Keyser Creek and Lucky Run Creek. That
04 will be June 7 at seven o'clock. That's open to the
05 public and everybody is asked to attend that is
06 affected in that area.
07 Rossi & Rossi, we sent a letter
08 out, Councilwoman Evans had talked about this.
09 Rossi & Rossi, they sent us a letter stating that their
10 audit will not be ready by May 31, that it will be
11 ready after that. The hold up is the SRA will approve
12 their audit at their June meeting, so after that they
13 will be ready to go.
14 I spoke with Len Kresefski today
15 about something that Councilwoman Evans asked about, I
16 believe last week, about the line item in the budget
17 for gas for the city vehicles, he said that they don't
18 see that as a problem, that as a rule they take the
19 fourth quarter number and add 10 percent to it, and
20 that turns into the 2005 budget number.
21 He said if there is a problem,
22 they will go to contingency. The contingency has
23 \$187,000 in it, so they should be safe on that one.
24 Also swim passes, I talked to
25 Bob Scopelliti about the swim passes, the free swim for
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01 the children, he said that the Rec Authority has not
02 discussed that as of yet, they will discuss that at
03 their next meeting on a recommendation.
04 The last thing I have -- no,
05 that's all I have, Mr. President.
06 MR. DIBILEO: Okay, thank you,
07 Mr. Saunders. Is Mr. Walsh going to be joining us
08 tonight that you're aware of?
09 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, yes. He's
10 going to be a little late tonight. Fourth order,
11 citizen participation.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Before I call up the
13 next speaker, I just wanted to make a comment that, as
14 you know, we're just coming off an election from two
15 days ago. Actually, we're still in the middle of an
16 election from two days ago, given the fact that a
17 recount will occur tomorrow.
18 Now, because of that, I'd like to
19 ask speakers to please refrain from remarks involving
20 the election. I don't know exactly what's going to
21 take place tomorrow regarding the recount, but I do
22 know that we don't want to influence any judgment calls
23 involving, you know, any write-in votes for the recount
24 at all, so I'd like to ask -- I was going to ask
25 Mr. Walsh if he would assist me in, you know,
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01 determining when a speaker might cross the line between
02 taxpayer concerns versus politics. And when he comes
03 in, maybe you can mention that to him.
04 And with that said, I also would
05 like to mention that I knew when I said Mr. McTiernan
06 was at the high school prom it was going to sound
07 funny, but I didn't mean to at all poke any fun at him
08 in any way.
09 And with that said, the first
10 speaker is Andy Sbaraglia.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
12 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, there was an
13 article in the morning paper saying that people come
14 here, and the only reason they come here is to bash the
15 mayor.
16 Gentleman, to care about the city
17 and care about the policies that this city is
18 initiating is not Bashing the mayor. That's open
19 discussion. That's freedom of speech.
20 Now, for a newspaper that stands
21 by their freedom of the press, to criticize somebody
22 coming and speaking out in an open forum on issues of
23 the city and call it bashing, to me, is very, very
24 small.
25 Whoever wrote that article should
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01 retract it, because people come here because they
02 care. That's the only reason, otherwise why would they
03 give up their evening? There's hundreds of things they
04 could be doing. They come here to speak out.
05 I came here to speak out
06 originally on the Ice Box deal. I didn't think that
07 anyone should ever, ever pass anything that said

08 198 years for a dollar a year.
09 Now, is that called bashing or is
10 that called caring? That's the big difference. I
11 mean, whoever heard of giving up, what was it, like,
12 five acres for a dollar a year for 198 years? Even the
13 Council that stood where you sit could not do that, so
14 they modified it slightly.
15 You saw we didn't get the \$600,000
16 yet. I don't know if we'll get it within the next
17 99 years or not, but we'll have to see, but they don't
18 have to. And to tell you the truth, if I had a 99-year
19 lease, I would never give that \$600,000, I would keep
20 it for 99 years, because even when the KOZ runs out,
21 they still have 92 years to go, so they can really,
22 really go. There's no point to it.
23 I mean, do you realize when this
24 came up, we discussed that they would not have to pay
25 any kind of tax on the land because they don't own the
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01 land.
02 Now, I don't know about the
03 improvements, they might have to pay taxes on
04 improvements, but they wouldn't have to pay it on the
05 real estate, because they don't own it, so why would
06 anybody give up their \$99 -- I mean, 99-year lease for
07 a dollar a year? It doesn't make sense. So, that's
08 not bashing the mayor.
09 When we came and built all of
10 these parking garages, I told you, they will not pay
11 for themselves. Why are we building parking garages
12 that will not pay for themselves? I mean, how would
13 you do it? You're going to have to raise the rates to
14 \$5 an hour so they pay for themselves?
15 So, you in turn, Council, now, I
16 didn't say -- you were on Council, too, you passed it,
17 too, so you're in that, and I'm bashing you as much as
18 I bash the mayor, okay? They will not pay for
19 themselves.
20 Now they want to build more
21 parking garages, they want to expand the one that's
22 there. Now, that parking garage will not pay for
23 itself, so you got two parking garages that will not
24 pay for themselves. Even the Medallion may not pay for
25 itself.
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01 I know that the movie theater
02 parking lot that we built there, that can't possibly
03 pay for itself either. So, in turn you sit around and

04 said, Well, you can have our revenue for our parking
05 meters. Scrantonians don't need that. You need it,
06 and that's what you did.
07 The bank gets the revenue from our
08 parking meters. If that garage don't pay, they're just
09 going to keep hiking the till until they get enough
10 money to cover their loans, because they guaranteed
11 them, and that's how it's going to go.
12 They got a \$12 million letter of
13 credit. Now, how much of that letter of credit they're
14 going to use, I don't know. It's only good for five
15 years.
16 So, the SRA has the \$12 million
17 line of credit you gave them for a garage, and then you
18 turned out and let them borrow another \$12 million to
19 build this garage. They're sitting there with
20 \$24 million in ready available cash.
21 Now, how much the bank let's them
22 use, I have no way of knowing. That's up to the
23 PNC Bank and the SRA, but that's not bashing the mayor,
24 that's telling you exactly what is going on in the
25 city. And most of the people that come before you,
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01 that's their only interest is telling you what's going
02 in the city.
03 Some of it we get in depth because
04 they're city employees and they get it from the horse's
05 mouth. I have to get it from a lot of reading, but
06 it's still what is going on. So, it's not mayor
07 bashing, and the newspaper should never consider it as
08 such, I thank you.
09 MS. EVANS: Andy, I just wanted to
10 give you a wee bit of information about prior questions
11 you posed about two weeks ago and then again last week
12 about the letter of credit, the interest rate for the
13 letter of credit is 5.99 percent, it's a fixed rate,
14 and only the interest will be paid in the first year.
15 So, according to the 2005 budget,
16 a total of \$150,000 in interest will be paid in two
17 payments, June 15 and December 15, '05, and then the
18 first actual payment on the letter of credit is due on
19 12/6/06.
20 MR. SBARAGLIA: Thank you.
21 MS. EVANS: Uh-huh.
22 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
23 Mr. Sbaraglia. And if I could just comment, also.
24 People often come here with questions and concerns that
25 oftentimes City Council members can't exactly address

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01 totally, and, you know, I think one way to calm the
02 questions and concerns of the citizens that come here
03 is to respond to the citizens, and I'm talking about
04 mayoral responses to the citizens' questions and
05 concerns, and when you don't get any response to
06 questions and concerns, I think the concerns are
07 eventually going to turn into what seems to be bashing,
08 so I agree exactly with what you're saying, to be
09 honest with you.

10 I think that they are concerns
11 that you've had that you've not gotten any answer from
12 the mayor's office, and eventually it's going to turn
13 into what seems like a bashing session. And we try to
14 calm that as best we can, but we can't respond for the
15 mayor, he can only do that himself, and personally I
16 don't think he's doing a very good job of it.

17 So, I just wanted to comment on
18 that for you. Les Spindler.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
20 Council, Les Spindler. First of all, Mrs. Evans, I
21 want to congratulate you on your victory.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Thank you
23 very much. That's kind of you.

24 MR. SPINDLER: You're welcome. I
25 just heard today, I don't know if it's true or not,
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01 they were charging a dollar to get into the zoo at Nay
02 Aug now, does anybody know that? Can we look into
03 that? Because if that's true, that's also illegal.
04 That's as illegal as the five-dollar fee at the pool.

05 MS. EVANS: Well, even just
06 setting that aside, Les, Mr. Saunders, can you speak to
07 either Paul Kelly or the chair of the
08 Recreation Authority so that -- this is complete news
09 to me that there's, what, a fee for the zoo now?

10 MR. SPINDLER: Yep, a dollar.

11 MS. EVANS: A dollar fee for the
12 zoo?

13 MR. SPINDLER: I mean, it's a
14 nominal fee, but there shouldn't be any fee charged.

15 MS. EVANS: Well, but --

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Excuse me. Les,
17 who told you that? How do you know that?

18 MS. EVANS: I wasn't aware that
19 any fee was being charged.

20 MR. SPINDLER: I was told today.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: By who?

22 MR. SPINDLER: Someone here
23 tonight.
24 MR. COURTRIGHT: This is news to
25 me, also.
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01 MR. SPINDLER: Well, someone that
02 went up there today told me that they were charged to
03 get it.
04 MS. EVANS: Let's verify that by
05 asking.
06 MR. SPINDLER: Well, that's why I
07 asked.
08 MS. EVANS: Right, right. Well, I
09 don't know the answer, so I think we go to the source
10 and we'll get the answer for you.
11 MR. SPINDLER: That's why I
12 brought it up.
13 MS. EVANS: Okay. Thank you.
14 Thank you for telling us.
15 MR. SPINDLER: You're welcome.
16 Okay. Something else, I've been here countless other
17 times saying about the runoff I get on my sidewalks
18 when it rains, and I guess -- I mentioned it twice in
19 the last few months, and so far I haven't heard
20 anything, and this is the third time. Is anything
21 going to be done? It's a problem the city caused.
22 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, do you have
23 anything on that?
24 MR. SAUNDERS: We sent a letter
25 down, a second request down, and no response back on
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01 that.
02 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Would you ask
03 again, please?
04 MR. SPINDLER: Lastly, the tires I
05 said I brought out towards the road on Euclid Avenue,
06 they still haven't been picked up since last week, so I
07 just wanted to let you know about that.
08 MR. DIBILEO: All right.
09 Mr. Courtright is saying he'll take care of it.
10 MR. SPINDLER: They're right by
11 the fire hydrant, right by Bullworth and Euclid.
12 MR. COURTRIGHT: On Euclid Ave.
13 MR. SPINDLER: Yep.
14 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. I
15 don't know what happened, by we'll get it taken care
16 of.
17 MS. EVANS: Mr. Courtright, I made

18 that request, too.

19 MR. SPINDLER: And I dragged them

20 out where they could be seen. They were back -- it's

21 all covered up by the woods now, so I dragged them out

22 where they could be seen.

23 MS. EVANS: We'll get it done,

24 Les.

25 MR. SPINDLER: All right. Thank

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01 you.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

03 Helen Cook.

04 MS. COOK: City Council,

05 Helen Cook. I just wanted to make a remark about what

06 Andy Sbaraglia said, we do come here because we care.

07 We live in Scranton because we care, and we don't

08 always come and make complaints when we come here, but

09 when we do, it's mainly because something hasn't been

10 taken care of that we've been asking for.

11 And since we do pay taxes in this

12 city, I think some of our needs that we're asking for

13 is not too much to ask for.

14 And my biggest complaint right now

15 is our Scranton city police cars. Mr. Courtright

16 mentioned a few weeks ago they were at DPW, which they

17 were not.

18 I understood last week they were

19 supposed to be put in service on Friday, which I guess

20 they were not. Today they still aren't in service.

21 I had a police car on my street

22 yesterday, and I went out to talk to the officer, he

23 was sitting in the car, I could hardly hear him because

24 there was such noise on that car, so he thought he

25 better take it down to the garage and see what was

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01 going to happen to it.

02 Well, I listened to my scanner,

03 and I heard him go down, but I don't know whatever

04 happened to the police car.

05 This isn't just one police car,

06 it's many. And when you go down to the mall and you

07 look at the cars that are down there, a lot of them are

08 there for hours or days at a time because they're not

09 working.

10 I don't know how many we have on

11 the road right now, but I can tell you it's not enough

12 for the amount of calls that are coming from taxpayers

13 this city.

14 We got police officers that are
15 getting sick from driving these cars, especially on the
16 midnight shift. This isn't fair to them, and it isn't
17 fair to the people that are waiting for them to respond
18 to their calls, and I think it's about time something
19 better be done to get enough cars for the amount of
20 police officers that we have in this city.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Helen, you know,
22 I had been told last Friday that they are on their way
23 here, they were -- and I wasn't told officially. I got
24 a call from somebody in the DPW that said they're on
25 the road, they're coming here.

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01 With the election and everything,
02 I didn't take the time to go out and look, so I'll take
03 a look tomorrow and see if they are. Evidently if they
04 are, we haven't seen them, but I, you know, I got
05 called last Friday and said that they're driving them
06 in as we speak, and it wasn't official, it was just
07 from a DPW worker that told me that.

08 MS. COOK: Well, that's fine, I
09 mean, you've been saying, and I'm not blaming you,
10 don't get me wrong --

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: No, no, I know.
12 I wish they were here just as much as you do.

13 MS. COOK: It's just a case of I
14 can't understand why when something is so desperately
15 needed here as police cars, and you know I worked for
16 the city for many years as a police dispatcher --

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: You were the
18 best, they say.

19 MS. COOK: -- so I know what these
20 people are going through with these cars, because I've
21 done that and been there, and I just feel bad that
22 these people have to sit in cars. I wouldn't sit in
23 that kind of a car.

24 I drive a good car, and I think
25 our police officers should do the same, because we all
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01 pay taxes. I want to see something for this, and I
02 think it's about time our police cars were here.

03 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll check it out
04 tomorrow and let you know.

05 MS. COOK: Thank you.

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: You're welcome.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Helen.

08 Regina Yetkowskas.

09 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Regina

10 Yetkowskas. Last week I discussed the taxes imposed on
11 the people with no relief from the Doherty
12 administration. My five minutes expired before I could
13 complete my address. I will continue now.
14 It would be for the people's
15 benefit and advance transparency if the mayor's budget
16 maker would appear before Council and explain by
17 documents and calculations how he arrived at the
18 inflated \$68,595 or an increase of 84 percent in
19 interest income for the year 2005.
20 Anyone who wishes to take the time
21 to carefully examine Mr. Doherty's 2005 budget will
22 probably come to the same two conclusions on the budget
23 which I did, first, in my opinion, a large part of the
24 budget is false and is made up of nothing but incorrect
25 figures; second, the overestimation and inflation of
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01 revenues is done to allow Mayor Doherty to spend
02 Scranton into deeper debt.
03 This is all wrong because the
04 people must pay back the debts the mayor incurred plus
05 interest, while he did not improve their quality of
06 life or ease their tax burdens.
07 Now to an overview of the current
08 election cycle. Everyone knows the people in this
09 country will get good government when we have two
10 intelligent and active political parties who compete
11 for the people's votes.
12 When there is no competition as
13 now in Scranton and all people running for office are
14 only Democrats, then the Democrats will have all the
15 power. You know the old saying that power corrupts and
16 absolute power corrupts absolutely.
17 I am surprised, saddened and
18 appalled that the city republican party leader,
19 Paul Catallano, did nothing to enter a complete
20 republican slate of candidates for all elective offices
21 in this current election cycle.
22 Irrespective of their ideology and
23 party affiliation, voter deserve the right to have a
24 valid two party election. It appears to me that based
25 on his total failure to act, Mr. Catallano's intent is
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01 to help the Democrats create a political dictatorship
02 in Scranton where the people can vote for only one
03 political party.
04 Catallano should be ashamed of
05 himself. All Republicans should feel the shame, voice

06 their opposition to his conduct and remove him from
07 office.
08 The fact that Catallano totally
09 abandoned his obvious duty shows there is something
10 structurally and politically wrong with the city
11 Republican leadership.
12 For its entire history, there have
13 always been spirited election campaigns in Scranton.
14 As a result, this city and county have always had both
15 Democrat and Republican mayors, City Council members,
16 row office holders, county commissioners, and even
17 county judges. Why do the Republicans now abandon all
18 of this to the Democrats?
19 Finally, I feel the same way with
20 Mr. Cordaro and Mr. Munchak, the current Republican
21 Lackawanna County Commissioners who allowed Catallano
22 to engineer the 2005 Scranton debacle.
23 I believe Cordaro's and Munchak's
24 knowing silence concerning Catallano's conduct means
25 they approve it. They --
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01 MR. DIBILEO: Regina, just let me
02 stop you there. I don't think that the commissioners
03 really have a lot to do with the Republican party not
04 fielding any candidates.

05 MS. YETKOWSKAS: It's the same
06 party affiliation for Cordaro and Munchak, as it is for
07 Mr. Paul Catallano.

08 MR. DIBILEO: I'm not certain one
09 has anything to do with the other. Well, go ahead.
10 Finish your thoughts.

11 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Thank you. They
12 cannot hide behind a claim that their authority only
13 covers the county because they are in the same
14 political party.
15 What happens in Scranton will
16 vitally affect the next county race. What is now
17 happening in Scranton is a horrible tragedy for our
18 political process. It will be interesting to see how
19 these Republicans will be remembered by the people.
20 Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Regina, I also had
22 some information for you regarding the questions that
23 you posed last week. First of all, KOZs do not pay
24 mercantile or business privilege taxes, however, the
25 employees of KOZs do pay a wage and occupational
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01 privilege tax.

02 And with regard to the interest
03 earned on the CDs that were invested from the proceeds
04 of the sale of the municipal golf course, there is no
05 line item reflecting that interest in the 2005 budget.
06 That interest rather -- that
07 interest earned is rolled back right into the CDs. So,
08 you know, naturally it's not going to appear in the
09 budget, so I just wanted to let you know that
10 information.

11 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Thank you very
12 much.

13 MS. EVANS: You're welcome.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
15 Mrs. Evans. Erik Johnson.

16 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, City
17 Council and staff. John, there's still hope for you.
18 There's a recount going on. Oh, yeah, especially when
19 there's one vote that's separating the Republican
20 candidates between you and Hazzouri and four by the
21 Democrat. So, just don't give up.
22 And I want to congratulate
23 Judge Munley for his huge victory. He is going to be
24 judge anyway, and that's why I'm calling him judge. No
25 doubt about it.

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01 Getting back to business and the
02 elections, oh, Erik Johnson, Scranton taxpayer.
03 Scranton is an immensely political divided city. In
04 all my years of political observance, I have never seen
05 a more fiercely contested political campaign race than
06 this primary race for the democrat party nominees, that
07 also most likely has decided the fate of the general
08 elections.

09 The result of the mayor's very
10 narrow victory paints a picture of troublesome waters
11 ahead, which I see will be rough water upstream,
12 instead of an easy downstream.

13 Unless the public safety contracts
14 and issues are not settled soon, division will continue
15 to widen. But when and how the public safety contracts
16 and issues are settled with the support of the Scranton
17 citizens, voters and taxpayers will indeed unite the
18 majority political party and the minority party to one
19 massive push for a new tomorrow, growth and progress
20 for the City of Scranton.

21 It can be done if both sides come
22 back together and be honest, fair, reasonable and
23 considerate of what you can do to make this city a

24 growing progress and modern and safe city for its
25 taxpayers and citizens.

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01 Outside businesses and population

02 will move here, higher-paying jobs will follow, which

03 means more growth and tax revenue. It's not

04 impossible. It can be done in a four letter word,

05 F-A-I-R.

06 F means future growth or our city,

07 A, for allegiance of city government and workers, I for

08 inspirability to create ideas for jobs and public

09 safety, R, reasonable relations between city

10 administration and city workers unions. Put all the

11 four letters together and you have the united word

12 fair.

13 Back to election, this past

14 Tuesday for mayor, City Council and school board and

15 county judge was the voice of democracy of everybody

16 who voted.

17 If you did not vote, do not

18 complain of what is to be or not to be. Two candidates

19 plus one for three will be emphasized for a long time.

20 Two candidates with the same format of issues against

21 one, the third, with a different but present day

22 format, which turned out to be a very close contest and

23 would have been without a doubt if there were just two

24 candidates, it would have been up to a few hand votes

25 or maybe even a draw.

0027

01 The largest vote for any city

02 candidate went to a no doubt up and coming politician

03 who did it on her own expenses. Well, there's more

04 noise going around the city about her.

05 I call her the high-flying eagle

06 politician with a fight and zest of Margaret Thatcher,

07 the Iron Lady, but really she won it by being herself,

08 a people's candidate.

09 Honest, they are all saying she's

10 honest, a listener, a doer, fighter for the common

11 average citizen with neat and good looks and a mediator

12 who seems to connect with the masses of people of

13 Scranton.

14 She has all the ingredients you

15 need to be for higher places, which she will be in the

16 future for politics.

17 What funding she got was her and

18 her family alone. Bottom line, Scranton people,

19 Democrats and Republicans, they like her.

20 Congratulations, Janet, for your largest vote victory.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Erik. That

22 was very kind.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Erik.

24 And, yes, congratulations, Mrs. Evans.

25 MS. EVANS: That's quite a

0028

01 comparison. I would have much to live up to.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Mike Dudek.

03 MR. DUDEK: Good evening. My name

04 is Mike Dudek, 608 Depot Street, Scranton, PA, and I

05 live in the Plot.

06 I'd like to bring up two issues of

07 city business first, and I hope I'm not coming too far

08 out of left field with the first one.

09 I was driving through the state of

10 Illinois and through the city of Chicago about a month

11 ago. Illinois has the distinction of having 38 of

12 their dock workers, Department of Transportation

13 workers killed on the highways in Illinois in the year

14 2004.

15 To give you an idea about how high

16 that number 38 is, there were only 76 killed in the

17 entire country. 38 were killed in Illinois, so

18 Illinois passed a law, if your re moving vehicle comes

19 in contact with a dock worker or a person working on a

20 packmasters in the City of Chicago, for a first offense

21 you will get a \$10,000 fine and 14 years in prison at

22 the rate of 19 cents an hour. That's how long it will

23 take you to pay the \$10,000 fine, which means an

24 ordinary person like me or any of you or

25 Ms. Evans or any member of Council, driving through

0029

01 Chicago and just have an accident and be hit with

02 something very draconian.

03 Now, at the same time I recall

04 that the last three city workers killed on the job in

05 the City of Scranton worked for DPW, including one

06 person who was killed picking up sanitation on

07 Gilbert Street.

08 And with this thought in mind I'm

09 wondering if we perhaps in the city could come up with

10 an ordinance something along these lines, that no

11 moving vehicle could pass a packmaster if it is in the

12 same block as that packmaster without one of the two

13 men working it allows the vehicles to come; in other

14 words, use the hand signals saying you can come, you

15 can go and so forth, and perhaps put an orange vest or

16 something on them to let a driver know that that man is
17 going to let you go on the narrow residential streets.
18 And to say, for instance, if
19 you're on Mulberry Street and the traffic is on the
20 opposite side, well, that traffic can flow because
21 they're like four lines, six lanes wide or whatever.
22 But on regular normal streets, I
23 think that we should have a regulation in this city
24 that no moving vehicle in the same block of a city
25 packmaster can pass that vehicle off without a visual
0030
01 indication from one of the men working that piece of
02 equipment so that nobody gets hurt. That's my first
03 suggestion.
04 And perhaps among the experts in
05 traffic with DPW, even maybe with PENNDOT or whatever,
06 an appropriate piece of legislation can be drafted in
07 order to protect our people, okay?
08 The second thing I'd like to ask
09 City Council would be to ask our sensorship paper, the
10 Scranton Times, when they cover the story about the
11 police cars coming in, please cover the story but leave
12 the photographer home.
13 I don't think we have to let the
14 prostitutes and the drug dealers know whenever we have
15 an undercover car, they don't need to know the make,
16 the model, the color of that one, okay?
17 I think -- we cover the story,
18 indicate X number of vehicles were purchased, but to
19 exclude from any photographic evidence the exact make,
20 model and year of the undercover equipment that our
21 city police need, okay?
22 And a third thing that I'm here
23 for is something that to me is absolutely infuriating,
24 I am infuriated at this, there was an Armed Forces Day
25 dinner, and I'm sure, you know, people here were aware,
0031
01 that Mr. Cordaro, the county commissioner was the
02 speaker, and two minutes before he spoke, he was the
03 biggest most surprised person in his life, because that
04 speaker was supposed to have been the mayor who didn't
05 show up.
06 The mayor didn't show up for that
07 dinner, therefore, he didn't speak at it, and he's
08 compounding his affairs with the veterans by paying
09 \$540 to stop the votes of 54 of our veterans at our
10 veterans' nursing home from being counted.
11 Now, we have a situation here

12 where one of our councilman, Mr. Pocius, I'm not, you
13 know, I'm just gently teasing you about the result, but
14 you are the poster child for the fact that every single
15 vote counts.

16 When you lose on one side by one
17 vote, I think your picture ought to go on some
18 political almanac somewhere. It's just one of those
19 things. I'm just teasing you a little bit, but
20 honestly, if ever there's the proof that your vote
21 counts, please take a look at the proof and understand
22 your obligation as a citizen. Thank you.

23 (WHEREUPON, Attorney Walsh arrived.)

24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

25 Mr. Dudek. Mike, you bring up a point that, you know,
0032

01 I'd like to ask a question of Mr. Saunders or anyone
02 else up here, are you aware of any legislation that
03 currently exists that involves traffic controls of
04 vehicles passing DPW trucks.

05 MR. SAUNDERS: I don't know that
06 answer. I'll check on it.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Anyone else up here
08 aware of it?

09 MR. POCIUS: I'm not aware of it,
10 Mr. DiBileo. It seems this issue was brought up
11 before, but I don't know. It's Mr. Dudek's opinion,
12 but that hand signal thing is all full of liability
13 problems. I mean, was it witnessed or not.
14 I mean, I don't know if there's
15 something in the motor vehicle code itself, so maybe we
16 can ask our solicitor to look into it, you know, to see
17 what is on the books already and maybe Jay can do an
18 ordinance research and see what is on our books.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, that would
20 make sense, because if we have no controls whatsoever,
21 that doesn't make a whole lot of sense either, because
22 as you know, vehicles are passing, you know, DPW trucks
23 every which way, and it's not the safest way to have no
24 control.

25 So, Jay, if you would just look
0033

01 into it and see if we have anything on the books now.
02 Maybe we can research some sort of legislation that
03 might make sense to keep the roads safe for the DPW
04 workers and the drivers of the cars. Thank you.

05 MR. POCIUS: PennDOT has a
06 publication, it's for work zone traffic control, it's
07 publication 43, it's a very detailed manual for all

08 types of operation, and what I'm trying to get at is
09 that if we enact anything, it has to have that test
10 that we're not opening ourselves up for any undue
11 liability. It's a place to start, though.
12 MR. DIBILEO: We might be able to
13 compare ourselves to what PennDOT is using currently.
14 Thank you. That's a good point, Mr. Dudek. Thank you
15 very much. Bob Bolus.

16 MR. BOLUS: Good evening,
17 Council. Bob Bolus, Scranton. I, too, disagree with
18 the statement that speakers come here to bash the
19 mayor.
20 We come here to have a dialogue
21 and debate as concerned taxpayers. We come here to
22 seek answers that the mayor refuses to address and to
23 bring out the facts, figures and in fact truth that our
24 local newspaper, The Scranton Times, won't publish
25 because it's offensive.

0034

01 And regarding the Scranton police
02 cars, I can only ask, Car 54, where are you? Our
03 people like to know.
04 As you stated earlier,
05 Mr. DiBileo, about crossing the line, well, I think the
06 line has been crossed, it's been crossed by the mayor.
07 Tonight over at the vet center there was a rally there
08 tonight because the mayor is challenging the ballots of
09 the Americans that gave us the freedom to speak here
10 tonight and honor that flag, it's the same mayor who
11 never showed up when our troops came home because it
12 was too important, and that's crossing the line.
13 If ever a line was crossed, this
14 man has done it. Too bad we didn't know more about him
15 a little sooner, but I think we all did.
16 You know, he made a statement as
17 long as you scramble the eggs, or Scranton dollars so
18 to speak, the only ones that are scrambled, as he would
19 call it as making an omelet.
20 Maybe it's the way he looks at it.
21 The more he scrambles the assets of the taxpayers, he
22 protects his buddies in the KOZs, the non-profits and
23 the big salaries he gives out, but the only one he's
24 really scrambling are the taxpayers in this city with a
25 smoke and mirrors concept.

0035

01 You know, people should remember
02 something, and I did a little math, it wasn't my
03 favorite subject, but I was able to total a little. In

04 this past primary a couple days ago, the total votes
05 between Mr. DiBileo and Mrs. McGuigan were more for the
06 replacement of Mr. Doherty than the votes he gained to
07 keep him. I thought that was an interesting fact.
08 You know, he made a statement he
09 got there from real Scrantonians, what about the rest
10 of us taxpayers? Maybe we didn't endorse him,
11 probably we didn't vote for him, but I thought a mayor
12 is supposed to be the mayor for all the people, the
13 elderly, the senior citizens, the police, the unions,
14 the people who come from out of the area. It doesn't
15 seem to be that's the case here.
16 Mrs. Evans, congratulations as the
17 top vote getter.
18 MS. EVANS: Thank you.
19 MR. BOLUS: To Tom Munley, same
20 congratulations. To Mr. Courtright, I think you got a
21 problem in November with three women that are going to
22 be here. You got your hands full.
23 I'm elated if not satisfied that
24 two people who have taken a pension from us may not be
25 here in November, and that part I'm happy about.

0036

01 We couldn't put a fee on
02 non-profits, and you may be here, Mr. Pocius, but we'll
03 wait and see.
04 MR. POCIUS: I thought you were
05 going to say something, I thought I might escape
06 tonight without a comment, but that was good, free
07 speech.
08 MR. BOLUS: I would not let you
09 escape that. I'm sorry. You and Mr. Hazzouri, not a
10 chance.
11 MR. POCIUS: I knew -- I was just
12 figuring maybe I can get by without a comment tonight,
13 but, no, that was fine.
14 MR. BOLUS: I toned it down for
15 you tonight. I know Mr. Walsh is here and he may have
16 a gun on him tonight to keep us from crossing the line
17 here, so I've got to watch you.
18 MR. WALSH: No politics, if we
19 can, just simply any observations you may have.
20 MR. BOLUS: Thank you, Mr. Walsh.
21 Well, the observations I see are that there are
22 challenges going on, and I believe the outcome is going
23 to give us a choice in November. Hopefully that will
24 be the fact.
25 Because of the issues I've spoken

0037

01 and other people have spoken here, I think our voice
02 has been real loud. Janet was the vote getter, there
03 was no landslide in this city, and that's credit to
04 Channel 61 and the determination of people in this city
05 who want a city for everyone, and it's time now to put
06 fees on the KOZs and non-profits, it's time now to
07 reign in Mr. Doherty's deficit spending, it's time now
08 to have accountability, and I think that time is now
09 and I believe that time will happen.

10 I think the time now is to
11 investigate, as I have asked in the past, the mayor's
12 use of corporate funds that he took in his last
13 campaign and then paid it back to investigate that.
14 And if that's a true fact as his campaign reports show,
15 then pass it on to the proper authorities and finally
16 bring truth and honesty to this chamber and to the
17 taxpayers in this city. And again, thank you very
18 much.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

20 Mr. Bolus. Ann Marie Rosato.

21 MS. ROSATO: Hi. My name is

22 Ann Marie Rosato, I'm a resident of Scranton. I'm not
23 used to speaking in public, so I wrote everything down
24 that I wanted to say, okay?

25 MR. DIBILEO: Take your time.

0038

01 MS. ROSATO: It has to be
02 something important to get me out in front of the
03 camera, believe me, but I'm here tonight to talk about
04 something that my other neighbors have already started
05 talking about.

06 I live at the corner of

07 Dickson Avenue and Delaware Street in Scranton. My

08 house is directly across the street from the entrance

09 to the Daron block plant.

10 Although I've called the plant

11 directly to complain about the dust and the soot coming
12 from the factory, I, myself, haven't been very vocal.

13 I was trying to give them a chance, you know, to work
14 with the neighborhood.

15 I really kind of thought they

16 would be good for the neighborhood, quite frankly,

17 better than an empty building, you know, with a lot of

18 homeless people living in it and catching on fire every

19 couple of months. I really did think it was going to

20 be a good thing.

21 Well, I gave them a chance for

22 several years, and that chance is now gone. It has
23 been several years since they moved in, and the
24 situation over there has not only not improved, but
25 gotten considerably worse.

0039

01 First, the amount of dust and soot
02 blowing over from that factory is intolerable. We
03 cannot open our windows, and for people who don't have
04 air conditioning, that's kind of an impossible
05 situation in the summertime.

06 We cannot sit on our front
07 porches, our furniture has to be washed on off daily,
08 our cars are a messed, they have to go and be washed
09 also daily.

10 The older residents that live on
11 our street have trouble breathing. Some of the people
12 on our street have kids who have asthma and allergies.
13 They can't even go outside to play anymore.

14 It is a steady stream of trucks,
15 and I'm not talking five trucks a day, I'm talking 50
16 trucks a day. And I'm not talking small pickups, I'm
17 talking large semi tractor-trailers trucks.

18 These trucks start as early as
19 5:30 in the morning. The gates to the factory aren't
20 open at 5:30 in the morning, so they line up on our
21 street. They don't shut their trucks off, they keep
22 them running.

23 Their CBs are going, their radios
24 are going, their lights are on, and this is on
25 Saturday, not just during the week, we're talking
0040

01 Saturday morning, also.
02 They come in and out of there
03 until eight, nine o'clock at night. Our kids can't get
04 to sleep.

05 The factory try was only supposed
06 to be open until five o'clock, it's eleven o'clock at
07 night, there's still forklifts going. The radios are
08 going, the beeping, it goes on almost all night long.
09 The noise level just never stops.

10 Third and most important, I
11 believe that there's a safety issue here. Our street
12 is not very wide. The homeowners who live on the
13 street park their cars in front of their homes. That
14 does not leave very much room for the trucks to
15 actually come down the street. And these are large
16 trucks. You factor in these huge semi trucks that come
17 barreling down the street, and I feel that some day

18 someone is going to get hurt.
19 School is not let out for the
20 summer, but with the increase in truck traffic, I'm
21 very concerned for the safety of our children.
22 One could just step out between
23 two cars and have their leg taken off. It really is
24 that dangerous.
25 I've seen these trucks coast right
0041
01 through the stop signs. And by the way, it is a
02 three-way stop. They don't stop, they just come right
03 on through.
04 I have personally witnessed two
05 near misses between the trucks and the cars where they
06 just come right out. They don't feel they have to
07 stop. They just come right on through the
08 intersection. They've actually come so close to my
09 property that they've taken off the branches, of my
10 trees.
11 When this factory moved into our
12 neighborhood, and I stress, it's our neighborhood, the
13 citizens were not given any input.
14 We did not put up much of a fight,
15 I'll tell you that, we welcomed them into our
16 community. The owners of this factory have shown a
17 blatant disregard for the concerns of our neighborhood.
18 Instead of listening to our
19 concerns and trying to work with us to correct the
20 problem, we're told we're crazy and not out for the
21 city progressing forward.
22 I'm all for progress, I just do
23 not feel it should come at the sacrifice of our
24 neighborhoods. What good is a fancy park and a booming
25 downtown if there are no people to go there?
0042
01 While I am sure that some property
02 values have gone up around Scranton, you can be assured
03 that mine and those of my neighbors have gone down.
04 The factory is there, and I'm not naive to think that
05 they're going to close up.
06 We are asking for them to make
07 some concessions. The lot needs to be paved, and an
08 alternate route in and out of that factory has to be
09 found.
10 I do applaud their efforts at
11 planting trees in the front, but I'll long since be
12 residing up at Cathedral Cemetery before those trees
13 ever get big enough to stop any dust.

14 And in addition to the fact,
15 there's litter all over the place, they're not keeping
16 up, there's weeds.
17 The oiling of the lot did last for
18 about two or three days, but it's just not going to
19 help when there's 50 trucks going in and out there all
20 day long.

21 As I stated before, I believe the
22 owners who do not reside in Scranton have shown
23 absolutely no regard for our concerns. And if the city
24 is not going to back us, where should we go?

25 MS. EVANS: Ann Marie, I'm sure
0043

01 you're aware that Mr. Fiorini and Mr. Wallace have been
02 out there to speak with the owners regarding the dirt
03 and soot problem, and they have -- or rather they
04 appear to be cooperative in that area, and there are
05 going to be measures taken shortly, and they will be
06 monitored. If they're insufficient, then additional
07 measures will be taken.

08 In fact, I spoke with Mr. Fiorini
09 again last Friday and once more today about the issues
10 that Mrs. Xanthis brought up on Thursday regarding the
11 lights and the noise level and the trucks, and they --
12 or Mr. Fiorini has told me that he and another
13 inspector will go out there, not during typical working
14 hours, but outside of that, and monitor the situation
15 themselves and then go and speak to the business again,
16 as well as sending them a letter in order to, you know,
17 facilitate their becoming a better neighbor, and
18 hopefully, you know, put a stop to the manner in which
19 they've been infringing on the residents' rights.

20 Now, you know, on the one hand
21 we're very pleased to have a business in the city, a
22 new business, but we do want them to be respectful of
23 our neighborhoods, and so Mr. Fiorini assured me he's
24 on top of this and they will be working on this and
25 he's going to call me personally with his results.

0044

01 MS. ROSATO: Okay. Well, we're
02 going to keep an eye on you, because we're mad now.

03 MS. EVANS: And I am, too. Oh, I
04 can understand.

05 MS. ROSATO: We're mad now, and
06 most of my neighborhoods feel the same way that I do.
07 It's just gotten out of hand. They've been allowed to
08 operate unchecked for several years, and I think it's
09 time that somebody started coming down on them.

10 MS. EVANS: Well, they're not
11 unchecked now. And we'll keep an eye on it for you.
12 Please keep in touch with me.
13 MS. ROSATO: Thank you.
14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Ann
15 Marie. That's it for the sign-in sheet. Are there any
16 other speakers?
17 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,
18 City Council, Charlie Newcomb. Before I get into what
19 I have to say, thank you, Mrs. Evans, and anybody who's
20 working on that Dickson Avenue problem, because my
21 family lives on that street, as well, and it's gotten
22 to the point where my grandmother can't sit out on the
23 porch as long as she needs to in the summer because she
24 can't breathe, basically suffocates.
25 I brought up, God, it has to be
0045
01 six or seven weeks ago, about Ross and Green Ridge
02 Street, did we ever find out about that big depression
03 that is there on the corner?
04 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, do you have --
05 MR. SAUNDERS: The letter was sent
06 out, but nothing back yet.
07 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Okay. Maybe we
08 can try another letter or something else, because it's
09 getting worse every day. I mean, there's going to be
10 called there -- I think the road is going to collapse
11 one of these days.
12 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, can you give
13 them a call, please?
14 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah.
15 MR. POCIUS: Charlie, is it the
16 one by the basin?
17 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Yes, right
18 there at the basin and all around it is going down.
19 MR. POCIUS: Could you just check
20 with maybe -- it's real close. Is it in PennDOT's
21 right of way possibly?
22 MS. EVANS: No, it's on
23 Ross Avenue, John.
24 MR. POCIUS: I saw it over there.
25 I was over in that CVS one time, and am I talking about
0046
01 the same one?
02 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Yes.
03 MR. POCIUS: Right on the corner?
04 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Yes.
05 MR. POCIUS: Okay.

06 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Can we also
07 send a letter again to find out about the quick
08 response system to see maybe if Council can get
09 some --

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Charlie, we tried
11 it the first round and Director Hayes and the Chief
12 were for it, but the mayor didn't want to do it until a
13 contract was given with the fire department actually,
14 and then we did send a letter a second time with a
15 modified version.

16 My hope was that he would go along
17 with that, but we just didn't get a response. And we
18 could send another letter, I just don't think we're
19 going to get a response.

20 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Well, this past
21 week I was contacted by somebody in the city and they
22 had to wait over 20 minutes for an ambulance. Thank
23 God it wasn't a situation that I ran into, but it was
24 the Throop Community Ambulance again, and I do not
25 blame Throop Community Ambulance, because it is
0047

01 fantastic that they come to our rescue when we need
02 them, but they don't know where the streets are in
03 Scranton.

04 It's like you or I having to go up
05 there. I can't tell you where half the streets are in
06 the city, and when there's no mobile units left in the
07 city, they call out to them and they come here and they
08 don't know where the streets are and it takes them
09 twice as long as our ambulances do.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Charlie, what
11 I'll do is I'll ask Jay if he can dig out my last
12 letter and just send it again. I think the letter was
13 pretty clear, but just I didn't get an answer. Sorry.

14 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: That's okay.
15 I'd just hate to see a situation happened that happened
16 before because that was pretty close what just happened
17 last weekend because of I won't do what they won't do
18 type of attitude is unacceptable, I mean, totally
19 unacceptable.

20 I didn't read the editorial that
21 everybody was talking about, but it just amazes me how
22 when people have to express in the newspaper I guess
23 that work for the paper their personal political views
24 and they say that we're up at this podium and we bash
25 the mayor, I just sat back here and I came up with ten
0048

01 things that was said at this podium that came to

02 fruition because of this Council and last Council
03 listening, not last Council, listening to what the
04 people had to say, and we found out we got free
05 swimming because I believe it was under the last
06 council, myself and Mr. Morgan brought the suggestion,
07 and we had free swimming for a while until this mayor
08 took office and changed that.
09 We found out, because I came to
10 City Council and was made a mockery out of at first but
11 then it was stopped, that we found out that we're using
12 glass on our city streets. That came about because of
13 this podium, because of the people that quote/unquote
14 bash the mayor.
15 We found out about the possibility
16 of a QRS system. Why, because it was brought to the
17 attention of this people that bash the mayor.
18 We got ideas to help Council for
19 the 2004 budget that also was turned down. We found
20 out at this podium about the million dollars that the
21 mayor spent on the bond issue. You wouldn't have found
22 that out if it wasn't for this podium.
23 We found out where the mayor's
24 pictures were because people brought it continuously at
25 this podium, and Mayor Schmidt's family came forward to
0049
01 Mrs. Evans and came to this podium and demanded for the
02 pictures to be back, and it was this Council that put
03 them in these chambers because they couldn't go
04 downstairs in the hallway.
05 We have been the major factor in
06 the political careers of a few because of what is said
07 at this podium.
08 We also give the other side of the
09 story that you do not read about. And it has been
10 proven, in my personal opinion, that this city is
11 divided, that people can care less about the recovery
12 plan, people can care less of moving this city forward,
13 they just want to be respected, and that was proven
14 this week that the city is divided.
15 I also heard today that, and I
16 just heard, so I want Council to investigate it, but I
17 heard that a group of children from a local school or
18 organization, I think it was, went up to Nay Aug Park
19 on a field trip to go to the zoo and were turned down
20 because as of this week there has been, and I'm just
21 saying this is what I heard, I'm not saying it is
22 definite, but it's from a good source, that there is a
23 dollar fee for children and a two dollar fee for adults

24 to get into the zoo.

25 So, if that's the case, I believe

0050

01 if you can't charge \$5 to go swimming because of the

02 deed, how could you charge a dollar or two dollars to

03 go see monkeys and an alligator?

04 So, please find this out, because

05 if that's the case, that's a shame. So, if you go --

06 if you have a family of four and you want to go

07 swimming, it's 20 bucks, and if you want to go see a

08 couple monkeys watching TV it's another eight or ten.

09 So, I think this needs to be checked into. Thank you.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

11 MR. WARREN: Hello. My name is

12 Lee Warren, and I'm here to read a statement made by

13 Miguel Ortega.

14 All right. City Council members,

15 I'm happy to be here tonight in order to present my

16 concern to the people with a good heart.

17 I came to this area in 1959, and

18 since living here, I have paid city taxes from wages

19 earned at working at Chamberlain and restaurants and

20 hotels throughout the area.

21 For so many years I put up with

22 bad neighborhoods who have abused my rights as an

23 American citizen through envious, jealous or just plain

24 hateful acts, which all culminated in filing complaint

25 after complaint with the City of Scranton offices.

0051

01 My chief antagonist against me is

02 a neighbor that lives across the street. That same

03 person is repeatedly slanderous and makes disparaging

04 remarks about me and Puerto Rican Americans while

05 standing near and on my property.

06 I have talked to the Chief of

07 Scranton Police Department who advised me to file a

08 civil action for aggravation and harassment.

09 At this moment my heart is not in

10 pursuing a lawsuit against my neighbor, because I am a

11 Christian man who reads the Bible and lives my life

12 that way.

13 At this moment I have two fines,

14 one for cars parked on my property and another one for

15 leaves on my property.

16 The parked car sits near the wall

17 of my own garage off the street and registered with the

18 State of Pennsylvania and does have monetary value of

19 around \$5,000.

20 Another car parked in the garage
21 is also registered with the State of Pennsylvania and
22 is insured with a value of \$11,000.
23 These cars pose no threat to the
24 public, since they are on private property and cannot
25 be accessed, except for one trespasser and people who
0052
01 do not belong there.
02 As far as it concerns the leafs in
03 my yard, the City of Scranton designated a corner of my
04 backyard as a drop-off point for collected leaves.
05 The city never came to pick them
06 up. Any leaves from surrounding trees off my property
07 should not be my responsibility.
08 In closing, I own four properties,
09 bought four in cash in the City of Scranton and paid
10 taxes for every one of them. For me to be treated with
11 the contempt and animosity shown by the officials of
12 the City of Scranton is unacceptable.
13 And there's one other thing,
14 another issue, I own an apartment house located at
15 1524-1526 Capouse Avenue. This property was bought at
16 the end of November of 2003.
17 Since that time I've replaced the
18 electrical system, the plumbing system, ceiling, walls,
19 and not to mention floors and carpeting.
20 The building was remodeled and
21 rented out for a few months. Two of the four tenants
22 did not pay rent and subsequently called the City of
23 Scranton to complain of unbearable living conditions so
24 they would not have to pay the rent.
25 Those tenants also destroyed the
0053
01 property to bolster their claims of why they did not
02 pay rent by breaking the boiler, plumbing fixtures,
03 ceiling, walls and lights.
04 The damage exceeds \$5,000. I've
05 invested \$90,000 in the property. The City of Scranton
06 building inspectors condemned the property in
07 mid-January 2005.
08 At that time one building
09 inspector told me that I was going to lose my house for
10 good following the condemnation order and my life would
11 soon be made miserable because of him.
12 I figured the property owners
13 should get more respect. Sincerely, Miguel Ortega.
14 And thank you for listening.
15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Excuse me. Maybe

16 with the vehicles, are the vehicles, are the windows
17 knocked out of them, are the tires flat?

18 MR. WARREN: No.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Did the Scranton
20 Police Department fine you?

21 MR. WARREN: What he's trying to
22 say is that the cars, they're not in bad condition.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Are the windows
24 broken?

25 MR. WARREN: No.

0054

01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Are the tires
02 flat?

03 MR. WARREN: The tires are not
04 flat.

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: Is the trunk
06 ripped off, the hood ripped off?

07 MR. WARREN: No. The cars are
08 just sitting there on his property.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: What are the
10 fines for?

11 MR. WARREN: The fines are for --
12 it says it's not registered and they're going to fine
13 him every month that that car sits there without it
14 being inspected or moving or whatever, and this is just
15 from the complaints from the neighbors.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: You just leave
17 that information with Kay and then I'll check on it
18 tomorrow for you, all right? Just leave the
19 information on where the vehicles are and his name and
20 phone number and I'll check tomorrow and I'll call you.

21 MR. WARREN: Okay.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: You know, there
23 must be a reason they're fining you. I don't think
24 they're targeting you. There's got to be a reason.

25 MR. WARREN: Should I bring it to
0055

01 your attention, Mr. Courtright?

02 MR. COURTRIGHT: Sure. If you
03 leave the information with Kay, I'll check on it
04 tomorrow. And you leave your phone number, I'll call
05 you up.

06 MR. WARREN: Okay.

07 MR. DIBILEO: All right. Thank
08 you.

09 MR. STUCKER: How are you doing?

10 MR. DIBILEO: If we can have
11 quiet, please. Go ahead, Jim.

12 MR. STUCKER: Okay. We're not
13 having our garbage picked up again on Moosic Street in
14 the alleyway. I don't know what the problem is. They
15 come on Thursdays, they're supposed to be on
16 Wednesdays. They won't take a chair. We have a chair
17 there in the yard. My landlord, the city is
18 complaining, they're complaining, the garbage guys are
19 complaining.

20 Joe Munley is bringing his garbage
21 over our house and the city is complaining about it now
22 already last week. They're taking from the other
23 houses the garbage and bringing it over to ours.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, can you look
25 into that for Jimmy?

0056

01 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah. Can you
02 leave the address with Kay?

03 MR. STUCKER: Yeah, Moosic Street
04 in the alleyway. 166.

05 MR. DIBILEO: All right, Jim,
06 we're going to check that out for you.

07 MR. STUCKER: Great. We have a
08 new police car, I seen it today, we have brand new, I
09 seen it today. They're out with the Blazer now riding
10 around today.

11 MR. DIBILEO: That's good.

12 MR. STUCKER: So, I voted for you
13 yesterday.

14 MR. DIBILEO: What did you do?

15 MR. STUCKER: I voted.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Good job, Jim.

17 Thank you. Appreciate that.

18 MR. STUCKER: We got our holes
19 fixed again.

20 MR. DIBILEO: You got the holes
21 fixed? Beautiful. It's about time. Thanks, Jimmy,
22 appreciate it.

23 MR. STUCKER: What I heard, I
24 don't know how true it is, they told me, the people in
25 Scranton has been telling me one of the guys has my
0057

01 scooter. We don't know who.

02 MR. DIBILEO: All right, Jim. If
03 you stay after the meeting, we'll get that information
04 from you and we'll try to find that scooter. All
05 right. Thanks, Jimmy.

06 MR. DAVIS: Excuse me. Kay, did
07 you get a chance to make that phone call this

08 afternoon? What I was doing was I had spoken to Kay
09 earlier today about calling DPW and finding out when
10 they're going to paint the lines between Gibson and
11 Mulberry on Washington Avenue.

12 Weather permitting was the last
13 thing I heard, and that was back -- well, you remember
14 that. And the weather has permitted it a lot, and I
15 don't see any results.

16 Now, I don't know -- maybe I've
17 come to the wrong renue, maybe this is not the place
18 for me to come to find this information out or to press
19 them on it. I don't know. Maybe we have to file a
20 civil complaint against DPW.

21 MS. EVANS: No. Jim, I don't mean
22 to interrupt, but I don't think you'll have to do that.
23 If we just contact Mr. McMullen and ask him would he
24 please get out there as soon as possible.

25 MR. DAVIS: This week or this
0058

01 voting week is very interesting, because I do -- I
02 also, as many others have said, I see the effects of
03 our coming before you complaining or speaking of the
04 things that are present in our community, how we would
05 like to change them, and so much so that I believe it's
06 making a dent on probably one of the most apathetic
07 group of voters in the world.

08 Scrantonians are a very strange
09 lot I find, and I can say this because I'm a native.
10 They vote, I don't know, out of their heart, out of
11 their -- but not out of their pocket, because they
12 don't think their voting really will ever affect them
13 personally, but for the first time I see a response.
14 And I was sitting there at the
15 poll, I was working the polls this week and I saw
16 people come to the voting that was a very strange lot.
17 I didn't see a lot of minorities, and I was right here
18 on Washington Avenue and Olive Street, which it used to
19 be a conclave of minorities, all different types of
20 minorities, but these people are not coming out to
21 vote.

22 Only 20 percent of the
23 1,000-some-odd registered voters actually came to vote.
24 So, we're talking about 200 people came to vote. Am I
25 wrong?

0059

01 MR. DIBILEO: That's a low number.

02 MR. DAVIS: That's a very low

03 number. That's a very, very low number, and it bothers

04 me, because the people that were affected most by
05 Scranton Housing Development when they moved these
06 people out of there were registered voters.
07 MR. DIBILEO: If we can have some
08 quiet in the back, please. Go ahead, Jim.
09 MR. DAVIS: Yet they -- in their
10 movement perhaps they got another polling place, I
11 don't know, but they didn't vote before.
12 And I have a big problem with my
13 minorities, the fact that we don't -- for some reason
14 or another I don't see them becoming active in the
15 political sphere.
16 We don't, for some reason or
17 another, want to address our problems to those who can
18 perhaps solve our problems, so, therefore, there is a
19 trust factor, I think, that is blowing over us.
20 We trust each other, but we don't
21 trust those who can actually in this city control what
22 happens or does not happen.
23 We have elderly seniors that walk
24 the streets and still go shopping downtown, go shopping
25 and spend their money, pay their taxes that way, but
0060
01 their services are constantly being denigrated, to the
02 point that they don't have the safety that we used to
03 know. They used to be all over the city.
04 I worry for them. I worry about
05 our children who are getting ready to come out this
06 summer, and we still don't have any lines painted on
07 the streets where they can cross safely.
08 Their parents cannot go with them
09 everywhere they go. They can't go to the Boys Club
10 with them, they can't go down to the
11 Progressive Center, they don't drive around, because
12 many people in our community do not have cars, so it's
13 a pedestrian community, and I hope you can do something
14 about that, number one.
15 I'm sorry that we didn't have a
16 bigger turnout, and I congratulate everybody who had a
17 part -- who took part in the voting.
18 And the only thing that I had that
19 I didn't like was the negativity that creped in at the
20 very end of the campaign.
21 I know it was necessary perhaps, I
22 know that it has to happen, but it was clean up to a
23 certain point, and everybody was going on their morals,
24 and this is good.
25 This is good for these kids,

0061

01 because then they know if they get into office, if they
02 run for office, they have to do it on their good
03 points.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Jim.

05 MR. DAVIS: Thank you very much.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, if you can look
07 into the line paint that Jim was talking about,
08 please. School is going to be getting out soon. Thank
09 you.

10 MR. SAUNDERS: I'll talk to them
11 tomorrow.

12 MR. DAVIS: That was
13 St. Patrick's. The snakes are gone.

14 MR. BUDZINSKI: Good evening,
15 Council.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening, Fred.

17 MR. BUDZINSKI: Fred Budzinski,
18 Jerymn Apartments. I'd like to congratulate Mr.
19 DiBileo for the good showing on your election,
20 congratulate Mrs. Evans, came out first, and I got back
21 to thinking back at Truman Duey election when they
22 expect Duey to win, Truman hold up a newspaper, like a
23 little joke, a little dig, you know, and the Scranton
24 Times in their editorials and everything trying to push
25 Mrs. Evans out, it would be nice if you'd send the
0062

01 Scranton Times a telegram thanking them for helping you
02 out.

03 I remember one democrat,

04 Mr. DiBileo, one democrat a two-time loser, he was a
05 two-time loser, and he wound up being governor and one
06 of the best governors in Pennsylvania, and I think you
07 know who he was, that was Robert Casey. Remember
08 that.

09 Now, with all these homes for
10 sale, why would anyone want to buy a home in Scranton
11 and have to pay five different taxes and someone else
12 could buy a home and not pay these five different
13 taxes? I can't understand that one.

14 Now, some friends are telling me
15 about that store, they keep telling me, Keep pushing
16 it, keep pushing it, not that I'm here to bore you or
17 anything, but the Housing Authority got 1300
18 apartments, and with the private apartments, three or
19 four, and with the Plazas on both sides of
20 North Washington Avenue, I more or less tallied up, you
21 got 2500 people living in downtown with a four or six

22 block downtown, and I think if one of these grocers
23 think this over, there could be a damn good business
24 there, it would be a gold mine, and I think that would
25 be stimulating the downtown. That way I think you
0063

01 would see a lot of activity downtown. Until that is
02 done, I think there's no hope in downtown. Thank you.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Fred.

04 MR. McANDREW: Good evening,
05 Council, Larry McAndrew. I want to say to Mrs. Evans,
06 Congratulations. Way to go, girl, way to go. You're a
07 fine example of what our government should be. Very
08 good.

09 Coming over here tonight stopping
10 at the -- on the Expressway at a traffic light, I
11 happened to notice the Scranton Times building, and low
12 and behold if you'll notice where it says Times, there
13 is an American flag flying. It's beautiful to see
14 that.

15 We have a parade coming up this
16 Saturday. I want to thank Channel 22, WYOU. They had
17 a program tonight about one of our sergeants, Sergeant
18 Baker, and they had a tribute over in Iraq, and it was
19 very, very touching to watch this, and my understanding
20 is that Sergeant Baker's wife is going to be in the
21 parade, along with Sergeant Baker's son.

22 I encourage and I hope that the
23 citizens of Scranton show their support come this
24 Saturday. Bring out your American flags, bring out
25 your banners, not just for our soldiers in Iraq, but
0064

01 for all veterans. Without them, we wouldn't have our
02 freedom. Remember that. This is a great country.

03 Let's show our support this coming Saturday.

04 Also, for Mayor Doherty, one of my
05 baseball heroes that I admire, Yogi Berra sums it all up
06 when he said, It's not over until it's over. Thank
07 very much.

08 MR. BECK: Good evening, Council,
09 Wayne Beck, city resident.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

11 MR. BECK: As you know, I've been
12 absent from this podium and my remarks are not meant
13 that I'm coming back, not on a consistent basis, but I
14 just feel that the remarks are short, Jay, you don't
15 even have to gong me tonight, and generic.
16 I missed the article, and I don't
17 even know if they used the word bashing in the paper,

18 but I just want to say whenever I came to this podium,
19 and I'm sure most other people that came to this podium
20 were in a position to present the questions they want
21 answered, to argue their case, to bring forward the
22 facts and figures that they did that they researched
23 and all they wanted in return was an honest and open
24 answer, and if there was a tone and voice that led
25 people to believe that that was bashing, it was
0065

01 probably due to frustration from not getting that
02 response.

03 And I think, Mr. Pocius, you'd
04 have to agree you and I had a confrontation one night
05 because you thought I was getting a little bit personal
06 and wanted to know why, and I assured you it wasn't,
07 that my remarks in any one week were in response to
08 comments that you might have made to my presentation
09 the following week, and I think that was put to rest
10 and I think, I don't want to put words in your mouth,
11 but I think you agreed, there was nothing personal
12 there, there was no bashing, there were points made and
13 questions asked, and I think that's all a lot of people
14 are asking for from here.

15 What does bother me, though, is
16 that there has been an awful lot of bad press for this
17 Council right before election, and I'm sure that most
18 of us here could agree if we look back in the
19 editorials, and especially the political cartoons from
20 a cartoonist who is no longer with our paper, that week
21 after week after week under the Connors administration,
22 he was bashed constantly.

23 I mean, the cartoons themselves
24 were not flattering and the contents of the political
25 meaning behind them were not flattering.

0066

01 So, I just -- I don't agree that
02 everyone that comes here is trying to cause trouble,
03 they're not controversial, they're not obstructionists,
04 they're here for a reason, they are concerned taxpayers
05 concerned citizens, and that's all I want to say, and I
06 thank you for the job you're doing. Good night.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Beck.

08 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, City

09 Council. My name is Dave Gervasi, I'm a resident and
10 taxpayer and a member of the Scranton Fire Department.
11 I also don't believe that everybody comes up here to
12 bash the mayor, I don't even believe I come up here and
13 bash the mayor, I just like to say what documented

14 truth is, as opposed to what the mayor's PR machine
15 puts out, which I consider the Scranton Times a part of
16 his PR machine.

17 I think it's finally -- I think
18 everyone probably realizes at this point, especially
19 the editorialists in the newspaper that they have their
20 own agenda. They really like the mayor, and as we've
21 said over and over, you don't really get the whole
22 story, so I'm going to try to make a little attempt at
23 Paul Harvey and try to give you the rest of the story.
24 There was an editorial in last
25 week, this is when they were touting the mayor before
0067

01 the election, and there was a few things said here that
02 I, you know, I don't totally agree with, but it said
03 Mr. Doherty inherited a government that has been
04 declared distressed under the state law, it lacked
05 management and financial accountability.

06 Now, before I answer what my
07 counter to that is, the newspaper loves to keep telling
08 you certain things, that the city is broke, that we
09 have a deficit, that the unions are bad, unions are the
10 cause of it.

11 The mayor did not inherit a
12 distressed city. If you read documentation, and if I
13 have to come here every week, because if they print it
14 every week, I'll come here and tell you the truth every
15 week, the mayor inherited a city with a surplus.

16 Under that independent audit with
17 documentation that the auditors took from the
18 Pennsylvania Economy League, which is the plan
19 coordinator for the city who put the first two plans
20 together, they said in 2001 when the mayor took office,
21 it was appropriate to get out of distressed status,
22 It was appropriate.

23 The four criteria that the city --
24 that caused the city to become distressed were no
25 longer relevant, so they love to keep telling you that
0068

01 he inherited a distressed city. He did not inherit a
02 distressed city.

03 It says Mr. Doherty crafted a
04 recovery plan that wrestled control of the government
05 from the municipal unions. They love to tell you week
06 after week that the unions are controlling -- somehow
07 controlling the city.

08 I would please love clarification.

09 I'd please love to ask the newspaper people the

10 reaction of Chief Davis if me, the spokesman for the
11 union, is running the fire department.
12 I don't know what they mean by
13 this, that the unions are controlling the city. I'd
14 love some clarification on that someday, so maybe the
15 editorialists could explain that to me someday.
16 And he called the unions' bluff
17 and they challenged them to put the recovery plan on
18 the ballot. Voters approved it by a margin of 70 to
19 30, and a mandate to which Mr. Doherty has remained
20 faithful.
21 The government remains formally
22 distressed. No, it doesn't. Well, it does on paper
23 because they won't lift the distress status. That is
24 due largely to the long delayed arbitration decisions
25 regarding contracts for public safety employees.

0069

01 Again, I said this probably three
02 times in the last two months, the municipal employees,
03 other than DPW and clerical, which they took major
04 hits, the police and the firefighters' union has
05 received absolutely zero since Mayor Doherty took
06 office.
07 He inherited a city that was no
08 longer distressed, he inherited a city where revenues
09 out paced expenditures, and we have received absolutely
10 nothing. Zero wage freezes. We have nothing. Nothing
11 cost more.
12 Now, maybe the health care costs a
13 little more because the mayor fired the health care
14 consultant, but we're trying to fix that right now.
15 So, I just want everyone to
16 realize, the city wasn't distressed when the mayor took
17 office anymore. It was appropriate, according to
18 Pennsylvania Economy League, to lift the distressed
19 status. He chose not to.
20 Again, the only reason why he
21 chose not to lift the distressed status was because he
22 wanted to use Act 47 and preferred the intent of the
23 act to use it as a weapon against the unions to, once
24 again, chop our legs off, okay? I want to make that
25 perfectly clear.

0070

01 Even while dealing with distressed
02 status, Mr. Doherty managed to secure a AAA bond rating
03 for the city. The part they didn't put in there is he
04 paid a million dollars to get that bond rating of our
05 money.

06 And the administration was able to
07 refinance outstanding debt at better rates. Well, they
08 failed to mention that he borrowed \$12 million more
09 than just refinancing our debt.
10 They could have saved money and
11 probably reduced our taxes, but he didn't, he chose to
12 borrow \$12 million to spend it on his pet projects.
13 Confidence in the city's new
14 direction also has been expressed by the business
15 community. Now the administration is pressing ahead
16 downtown with construction of two major parking garages
17 to support existing businesses and make the area more
18 amenable for further office development.
19 Again, what you didn't really read
20 in the paper was where that new parking garage is going
21 up across from the Hilton. If the mayor just waited
22 six months, I believe it's four to six months longer,
23 he could have gotten that piece of land back to the
24 city from the developer. He chose to pay \$1.5 million
25 for it, but I guess that's fiscal responsibility, too.
0071

01 The Doherty administration also
02 has taken enormous strides to revive the city's once
03 proud park system. Hey, you know what, give me \$8
04 million to spend, I'll fix your parks, too, but I would
05 have done it with \$3 million, and I would have had low
06 bidders.
07 The park projects are major
08 investments in those neighborhoods, and new
09 construction and renovations are underway in several of
10 the city's neighborhood and commercial districts.
11 I love this one, including
12 Petersburg Corners. He actually said during his
13 interview that Petersburg Corners is getting this big
14 facelift and a lot of work going on up there as a
15 direct result of his investment in Nay Aug Park.
16 Nay Aug Park is approximately
17 nine blocks away from Petersburg corners, and I guess
18 that wealthy gentleman who happens to be buying
19 buildings all around town, Mr. Paul Mansour, who uses
20 his own money to redevelop all these buildings and he
21 doesn't ask for KOZs, and he doesn't ask for tax
22 breaks, and he doesn't ask for anything from the city,
23 he's doing it on his own because he's a man who cares
24 about his community. I guess the mayor is going to
25 take credit for Mr. Monsour's work, too.

0072

01 This election is unusual in that

02 it has a primary that could in effect be a definitive
03 general election. It's not over yet.
04 The crime statistics for the city
05 do not support his position, talking about crime, crime
06 statistics in the city do not support his position.
07 I don't know how many times we
08 heard statistics from the state website that says crime
09 was up. Where they got those, I have no idea.
10 And then he goes on to say, He
11 claimed that the administration did not sit down with
12 the unions before crafting a recovery plan; for
13 example, even though the administration did engage in
14 contract negotiations.
15 Yes, they did. And just like they
16 challenged the veterans' votes tonight, they sat down
17 with us the first time, and the first thing they gave
18 us was that if firemen are killed -- if a fireman is
19 killed in the line of duty, they're going to take al
20 the benefits away from the widows and the orphans of
21 their family. How far did you think negotiations got
22 with a mean spirited negotiation like that? That's all
23 I have to say. Thank you very much.

24 MS. HARRISON: Good evening. My
25 name is Ann Marie Harrison, city taxpayer and also a
0073

01 city employee.

02 Last week I came up here to
03 basically talk about an important issue that happened
04 in my life while work for the City of Scranton with the
05 grants writer who works for the city, but his office
06 resides in the police chief's office, Tom Bell.

07 Today, of course, since I spoke up
08 here at Council, I haven't received anything from the
09 chief of police, so today I did write him a letter and
10 I hand delivered it that states, Dear Chief Elliot, as
11 per our discussion on January 31, 2005, with you,
12 myself, Lieutenant Namiotka, and Lisa Moran, Human
13 Resource Director, I am requesting a copy of the
14 internal investigation you had Lieutenant Namiotka
15 conduct about my stolen/printed report on my behalf.
16 I believe I waited long enough to
17 see Lieutenant Namiotka's investigation about my
18 personal life.

19 Should you have any questions, I
20 can be reached at extension 4135. Sincerely,
21 Ann Marie Harrison. And I also carbon copied
22 Lenny Namiotka and Attorney Rob Farrell.
23 I stand beside Council tonight

24 because I want you to see how long I am going to have
25 to wait to get this internal investigation from the
0074
01 police chief, who oversees the police office, who had
02 negligence in his office on my behalf, my life.
03 I will be up here every single
04 week until I get a copy of this internal
05 investigation.
06 I did speak to Lieutenant
07 Namiotka, who is the -- well, he oversees the records
08 department now. When this was occurring, it happened
09 under Lieutenant Namiotka and Jody Viscomi overseeing
10 that department.
11 Lieutenant Namiotka did give me
12 his full cooperation with this internal investigation.
13 Little does the chief know, while I was speaking to
14 Lenny Namiotka, he did show me who was in my reports.
15 I had proof, I seen it with my own two eyes. I want a
16 copy of this investigation. That's all I really have
17 to say tonight. Thank you.
18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.
19 MS. KRAKE: Good evening,
20 Council. My name is Nancy Krake. I got a letter
21 delivered to my office, which is the city treasurer's
22 office today, and I'm going to read it. It's not very
23 pleasant, and I apologize for that, but I did file a
24 police report concerning it, and I'll present the
25 original into evidence, and I would like to read it.
0075
01 It says, Hey, Nancy, you lose
02 again, you ugly uneducated hater. All of your wasted
03 hours at City Council with the Thursday night crazies
04 for nothing. Well, prepare yourself and your loser
05 union friends for the wrath of Kahn, because it's
06 coming, less jobs, less benefits and more work.
07 You are scum and you should have
08 know that you can't compete with us. You really don't
09 deserve to. Ask one of your friends about make-up, you
10 might want to try it for your next 61 rant, although it
11 won't do much good.
12 I'm sorry. That was very nasty,
13 and especially about where it insults my fellow workers
14 and the people that come here every week, but I think
15 their main point in doing this was so that we wouldn't
16 come here anymore, but it just motivates me even more,
17 because apparently people are very scared of what we
18 say here and they don't want it to keep going on.
19 So, I thank you for this opportunity to say it out

20 loud. Thank you.

21 MR. POCIUS: Mrs. KRake, was that

22 letter unsigned?

23 MS. KRAKE: I'm sorry. I

24 apologize. I got a little excited. No, it's not

25 signed.

0076

01 MR. POCIUS: We've all gotten

02 letters like that at our house and everything else, and

03 if they're unsigned, I mean, it's a nasty thing and I

04 really feel bad for you because nobody should have to

05 put up with something like that, but an unsigned letter

06 is the sign of a cowardly person, and I don't condone

07 any actions such as that.

08 MS. STULGIS: Ann Marie Stulgis,

09 city resident and president of the city police union.

10 Mr. Pocius, I'm just going to

11 direct my first comments to you, because I know you

12 were interested last week when Nelson mentioned about

13 the possibility of some type of legislation for all

14 city employees who go to Iraq, and I know you were

15 concerned that it could be a union violation or a

16 contract violation.

17 MR. POCIUS: Right.

18 MS. STULGIS: The city did do it

19 for three employees, they did it for three employees

20 and then they decided to stop it so that it -- and it

21 wasn't any type of a violation, it was just stopped.

22 They decided that they were getting too much money, and

23 consequently they didn't.

24 But as I said, I have the W-2s

25 from the last two who went. They with in January and

0077

01 they didn't come back to work until the following

02 January, and one earned \$28,000, and the other earned

03 \$22,000.

04 And as you know, that's instead of

05 \$40,000, so those families took a pretty big hit and

06 they didn't get anything from the city, and it isn't a

07 violation. As I said, they did it for the second,

08 third and fourth police officers who went over there.

09 MR. POCIUS: That's why I asked

10 Mr. Walsh to look into it, and I'm sure when he gets

11 this done, he'll tell us, advise us as to it, but I

12 wasn't against it, you can see that from last week, I

13 just wanted to make sure that --

14 MS. STULGIS: Oh, right. I know

15 that. I just wanted to assure you that they had done

16 it, just so you'd know, because I know you expressed
17 concern that you didn't want it to be a contract
18 violation, and I just thought I'd fill you in that in
19 fact they did it for three and just arbitrarily stopped
20 doing it.

21 MR. POCIUS: Okay. Appreciate
22 that information.

23 MS. STULGIS: And the only other
24 thing I want to address tonight is we've all heard
25 about the newspaper, if you want to call it that, and
0078

01 the way that they bash the people that come here, if
02 there's any such thing as bashing, but I'd like to
03 share something with you.

04 You see, it's not just them

05 bashing us. I don't know if any of you saw it, but the
06 Associated Press ran a story last week, and guess who
07 they bashed? The Scranton Times, Scranton Tribune.
08 It was a major story carried on

09 the wire by The Associated Press, and actually it was
10 also the lead story, if you had Yahoo as your homepage
11 and went on, it was the lead story and it talked all
12 about the Scranton Times Tribune and the sensorship.

13 They interviewed one of their

14 editors, I don't remember his name, it's like a

15 French-type last name, I think, anyway, they

16 interviewed him and he felt that it wasn't sensorship,

17 it was just their right not to print things about

18 people.

19 But they were bashed pretty good,

20 and also I believe AP called them the

21 Sensorship Alliance of Northeastern Pennsylvania. They

22 not only mentioned the Scranton Times, The Scranton

23 Tribune, WYOU and WBRE.

24 So, you see, maybe they're bashing

25 up, but perhaps it was in retaliation for AP bashing

0079

01 them.

02 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,

03 Council. I wasn't even going to come here tonight, but

04 I almost forgot, I just wanted to clarify with

05 Councilman Pocius, last week I did say each city

06 employee, not just a police employee.

07 MR. POCIUS: I might have not

08 understood you, Nelson, and I apologize. And like I

09 said, I support any efforts. I made the motion to look

10 into it, and lets just see what happens.

11 MR. ANCHERANI: Right. I wouldn't

12 discriminate against any city employee. That was for
13 every one.

14 MR. POCIUS: I didn't say that did
15 you, really. I just wanted to make sure.

16 MR. ANCHERANI: Also I came here
17 before -- I started coming about three years ago, and I
18 was gaveled out of order for talking about free speech
19 by the former council president.

20 I just want to thank this Council.

21 You've given every one of us the right to free speech.

22 We come here or whoever comes here, they have that

23 right, which was actually, I feel, taken away from us

24 the last time. So, thank you very much. We all

25 appreciate it, and we'll be back. That's all I have to
0080

01 say.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Are

03 there any other speakers? If not, Mr. Walsh.

04 MR. WALSH: 5-A, motions.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Mrs. Evans,

06 any motions or comments this evening?

07 MS. EVANS: Yes. First I wish to

08 thank the good people of Scranton who placed their

09 confidence in me on Tuesday, May 17, and stood by me

10 throughout my election campaign. I am sincerely

11 grateful and humbled by your support. And please be

12 assured that I intend to fight harder than ever for

13 you.

14 And after I listened to what

15 Mrs. Krake this evening, I entirely agree with

16 Mr. Pocius, only a coward writes such things, but on

17 the other hand, there have been so many instances of

18 abuse and cruelty over the last few years that are

19 unacceptable, intolerable, childish.

20 It's appalling, it's shocking,

21 and no human being deserves to be treated like that.

22 And my greatest hope for this city is that it will come

23 to an end.

24 And it involves not only

25 employees, but residents of the city, as well, and it's

0081

01 a distressful intolerable situation, and it's more than

02 time we all stand up against it.

03 Well, on a more positive note, I

04 have an update on just a bit of progress. The property

05 in the 1300 block of North Main Avenue behind not only

06 the doughnut shop, but a few of the neighboring

07 locations, has been cleaned up quite a bit by

08 Waste Management and the abandoned vehicles removed, as
09 well, a few weeks ago.

10 Also, the green home on

11 Philo Street has been addressed. Windows were boarded
12 up and the owners cleaned up around the property. The
13 owners also intend to demolish the structure as soon as
14 they can.

15 Jay, did we receive a response yet

16 from Chief Davis concerning the Flexible Foam warehouse
17 in Minooka?

18 MR. SAUNDERS: Nothing as of yet.

19 MS. EVANS: Well, it's been nearly

20 a month since I brought this up, and, you know, I guess

21 I shouldn't be surprised that I'm not getting an

22 explanation as to why it took four and a half months to

23 clear out toxic material that was finally removed in a

24 period of six days, and when I can't even get an

25 answer, just the explanation, how did this happen, why

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01 did this fail to be addressed, and it's taking weeks to

02 come up with that explanation, I guess I really

03 shouldn't really be surprised that it took four and a

04 half months to clear something out that could have

05 caused the evacuation or, God forbid, the death of

06 numerous residents of this city.

07 Also, I do have very few requests

08 for you this week, Kay, but there is one in particular

09 that is of great interest and concern to me.

10 I received a notice of a meeting

11 in Green Ridge that was conducted last meeting, and I

12 was unable to attend because I had a prior commitment,

13 but I do share the concerns of my neighbors, and I just

14 want to read to you quickly this announcement.

15 Marywood University has announced

16 that it will be constructing a 60-car parking lot on

17 Tree Stadium, which is bounded by North Washington

18 Avenue, Seminary Street and Dimock Avenue.

19 Since our neighborhood is already

20 overwhelmed with heavy traffic, we have been in touch

21 with Marywood University and asked that they not build

22 the parking lot.

23 They have replied that they are

24 going ahead with the project, therefore, we're planning

25 a neighborhood meeting and we want to impress on the

0083

01 University that our quality of life is deteriorating

02 and the safety of our community is at stake.

03 Now, I live very close to this

04 green space or Tree Stadium that has been a part of our
05 neighborhood since I can remember, and we have been
06 very good neighbors to Marywood University.

07 And I, myself, have obtained my
08 undergraduate and graduate degrees from that very fine
09 institution, but it is my hope that they will be a good
10 neighbor, because as their neighbors, we already
11 tolerate a tremendous amount of traffic and parking
12 from early morning until after nine o'clock at night,
13 so much so that many of us are even unable to park our
14 own cars near our homes.

15 And I'd like to make a motion
16 tonight that this Council would send a letter to
17 Marywood University opposing the construction of a
18 parking lot and the demolition of Tree Stadium where
19 this green space. That's in the form of a motion.

20 MR. POCIUS: I'll second it for
21 discussion, Mrs. Evans.

22 MS. EVANS: Okay.

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

25 MR. POCIUS: Just on the question,
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01 Mrs. Evans, I don't have enough information to really
02 vote yea or nay on something such as that right now.

03 So, it's the first I heard of it,
04 so I don't know any facts about it, and I'm not against
05 Marywood, I'm not against the neighbors, I'm just not
06 in a position to really make an intelligent vote on
07 something such as that, because it is a strong motion,
08 and I don't know the other circumstances around it, so
09 I will be voting no, only because I don't have enough
10 facts on it, not that I'm against what you're trying to
11 do or for the University, it's just that I would be
12 falling just head over heels into something I'm not
13 fully aware of, okay?

14 MS. EVANS: Uh-huh.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. President, on
16 the question, I don't know if Mrs. Evans wants to do
17 this or not, it's the first I heard about it, also, and
18 I just don't feel that I could vote yes on it, because
19 I don't know anything at all about it.
20 If you would like to change it
21 that we look at it first and then make a
22 recommendation, I would, but I just don't know anything
23 about it.

24 MS. EVANS: Well, my concern is
25 time is of the essence, because that area was once

0085

01 covered with beautiful lush trees, most of which have
02 already been cut down, and Marywood's answer has been
03 they intend to go ahead with this.

04 Now, I'm sure that Marywood is in
05 need of additional parking spaces, it's a sprawling
06 university, and I'm happy that, you know, its student
07 body has increased steadily throughout the years, but
08 this is our neighborhood and these are the residents of
09 Scranton. We represent them, and I would also ask you
10 to remember that Marywood University has not made
11 payment in lieu of contributions to the City of
12 Scranton in a number of years, and as a representative
13 of the people of the city, the residents of Green Ridge
14 are looking for our assistance to safeguard their
15 neighborhood and to protect a piece of nature that's
16 been a part of this community for many, many, many
17 years.

18 So, I'm not going to withdraw the
19 motion, I just, you know, I feel very strongly as a
20 resident of that area and in support of the people who
21 elect me, I'm here to do their bidding. I'm really not
22 here to represent a University.
23 And I agree that the University
24 does a very fine job, and as I've said, you know, I
25 thank them for the fine education they provided me, but
0086

01 I think we're just asking them to be a good neighbor to
02 the taxpaying residents of Green Ridge.

03 MR. DIBILEO: On the question, I
04 may very well be in favor of it also. I'd like to at
05 least go out and take a look at the location first,
06 Mrs. Evans, so that I'm very familiar with what
07 exactly, you know, you're referring to.

08 And with that said, I feel as
09 though I need to vote no tonight, but I'd like to
10 entertain it again next week just after I learn more
11 about it. Oh, we won't --

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Could we
13 entertain it again if we vote it down tonight?

14 MR. WALSH: You can table it this
15 evening, if you'd like and then go out and investigate
16 it and bring it back up.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Would that be true
18 if we voted it down tonight, we couldn't entertain it
19 again next week?

20 MR. WALSH: The people who prevail
21 on the vote would have to be the people to bring it up

22 again, so that's how it would have to work; in other
23 words, the person that voted successfully could change
24 their mind, but the person who voted unsuccessfully
25 couldn't bring it back up again right away under
0087

01 Roberts Rules.

02 MS. EVANS: Correct. That's

03 correct.

04 MR. POCIUS: Just one more thing

05 on the question, just on the question, if the

06 University under the new zoning ordinance is more than

07 likely in an institutional zone, and I'm sure surface

08 parking lots are a permitted use in an institutional

09 zone, provided that they comply with storm water

10 management and so on and so on and so forth and ingress

11 and egress, and I think it's reviewed by the city

12 engineer. It's not a land development, it doesn't come

13 to planning, only because there's no structure involved

14 like a building per se.

15 So, what I'm trying to say, it

16 really echos against the grain of, like, their rights

17 as a University to move ahead with something, and maybe

18 there's a compromise that they can work out as far as

19 screening or whatever, but I just don't have enough

20 information, Mrs. Evans. And I'm not trying to be

21 antagonistic, really.

22 MS. EVANS: I agree, nor am I,

23 it's just we're talking about an area that is almost

24 completely surrounded by residents.

25 MR. POCIUS: I understand.

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01 MS. EVANS: And as it is, living

02 that close to the University, we are subjected to heavy

03 traffic each day, and now right in the middle of our

04 homes we're going to have a 60-car parking lot.

05 MR. POCIUS: Again, in your

06 defense, if it happens to be in a residential zone and

07 it's not permitted, well, then I can support the motion

08 1000 percent.

09 MS. EVANS: Well, I would assume

10 that Marywood, though, would have checked all of this

11 out. And I, again, I'm assuming they're most likely

12 within their rights when they've already refused to

13 compromise.

14 MR. POCIUS: Mrs. Evans, I don't

15 want to dwell any longer, but maybe I think what -- I

16 don't know, I'm speaking for myself, but I think I

17 heard from two other Council people that if we just

18 give it another week and give a little chance to
19 investigate it, I would certainly look into it myself
20 and look at the zoning and take a ride out there before
21 next week, and I will be glad then if it made sense to
22 me, from what you told, if the facts that you presented
23 are good, then I would be glad to get on board, really.
24 But I think we're just asking for some time. That's
25 it. I don't want to dwell on this.

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01 MS. EVANS: I'll table it for one
02 week and then I'm going to hope in the meantime that
03 nothing else is destroyed on that property, but --

04 MR. WALSH: She can withdraw her
05 motion and you can withdraw your second or you can
06 table it either way.

07 MR. POCIUS: Do you need a motion
08 to table it?

09 MR. WALSH: You need a motion to
10 table it.

11 MS. EVANS: I think it's simpler
12 to withdraw.

13 MR. POCIUS: I'll withdraw my
14 second.

15 MS. EVANS: And I'll withdraw.
16 Give us a week to look at it, and I will be glad to --
17 I will take a look at it this coming week, and I will,
18 like everyone said, and we'll look at the zoning and
19 see where we're at.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Very good. Let's
21 take a look at this issue and address this next
22 Thursday, and I'd like to get up there myself and take
23 a look exactly where it is and what the concerns are.

24 MR. POCIUS: If you could just
25 leave some more specific information with Jay as
0090

01 exactly where this property is located, like, the kind
02 of block and address so we kind of know.

03 MS. EVANS: Oh, it's very easy to
04 locate.

05 MR. POCIUS: I don't get out there
06 that much, Mrs. Evans.

07 MS. EVANS: Well, it's right on
08 North Washington Avenue.

09 MR. POCIUS: Is it that sloped
10 part that goes up to the arts building?

11 MS. EVANS: Yes.

12 MR. POCIUS: All right. Then I
13 know where it is and I'll take a look at it.

14 MS. EVANS: Okay. Thank you.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Appreciate
16 that.

17 MS. EVANS: And that's all.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

19 Mrs. Evans. Appreciate that, and we'll entertain that
20 next Thursday night. Mr. Pocius, any motions or
21 comments?

22 MR. POCIUS: I don't have any

23 motions, but I do have some comments. First of all,
24 I'd like to heartily congratulate Mrs. Evans on her
25 resounding victory.

0091

01 It really was a -- I don't know

02 what you delivered, what kind of mandate, but, boy, you
03 got a lot there. So, I really think you did a great
04 job.

05 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

06 MR. POCIUS: Your message got out
07 there and you did a fantastic job, and I just want to
08 congratulate you. The numbers told the story.

09 MS. EVANS: Thank you. That was
10 very good of you.

11 MR. POCIUS: To Mr. DiBileo, I

12 want to congratulate you for a very well-run campaign.

13 I'm just saying this for the fact is that, unless
14 you've been in an election and chose to run for office,
15 you don't know the sacrifice on your family, the
16 sacrifice on your friends, the sacrifice on everything.

17 And it was such a crazy election

18 on Tuesday night with the results coming in so
19 sporadic, nobody really knew where they stood, and
20 anyone that puts themselves into a race, regardless of
21 what the race is, deserves to be credited, so just --

22 and the other candidates, whether they won or lost or
23 lost almost drew like me, I don't know where I'm at
24 really right now, what I'm saying is that

25 congratulations to all candidates, especially the two
0092

01 people up here.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

03 MR. POCIUS: Another thing, it's

04 just a pet peeve of mine, a lot of people have very
05 exuberant campaign workers and they place signs not on
06 private property but in public right of way, and
07 there's still signs, I see them along Keyser Avenue and
08 certain things, could any candidates who know they're
09 out there, just have their workers pick them up. Save

10 them for the fall or whatever.
11 That's a pet peeve of mine. I
12 actually -- some over exuberant supporter of mine
13 placed signs on the Expressway, and I went out and I
14 picked every one up almost to my detriment, because the
15 Scranton Expressway is -- early on in the campaign, I
16 just don't like signs on public property.
17 This Council worked hard on this
18 coming project, just to let everyone know, bids for the
19 sidewalk replacement for the Downtown Seniors will be
20 opened on Wednesday, June 8, so that project is moving
21 straight ahead.

22 And just something for Mr. Dudek,
23 and I think Mr. Courtright could back me up on this,
24 any cars purchased such as that would be an unmarked
25 car for the detectives, it would not be a drug or --
0093

01 those cars are basically cars that are seized in drug
02 sales by the Lackawanna County Drug Task Force, which
03 we're a member, and the kind of cars that are given to
04 the undercover cops or police officers are more in line
05 with what they should be working out of and not a shiny
06 new Dodge Dart or something like that.

07 MR. COURTRIGHT: Some of them
08 don't even start.

09 MR. POCIUS: So, that's it. And
10 just again, thank you.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much,
12 Mr. Pocius. Appreciate that. Mr. Courtright, any
13 motions or comments?

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Jay, I have a
15 couple of things that I'm sure you're sick of me
16 asking. I'm certainly sick of asking you.
17 Weston Park Teener League, did we
18 get our answer yet?

19 MR. SAUNDERS: Not yet.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, you know,
21 this is just unacceptable. I don't know, you know, yes
22 or no? I don't know what the holdup is on this.
23 These people have been waiting a
24 long time, I've been waiting a long time. I don't want
25 to have to ask this again.

0094

01 I don't know what we've got to do,
02 but it's \$17,500 that they're looking for. Either
03 they're willing to give it to them or not. I'm sure
04 they can give us an answer, and whatever their answer
05 is, you know, I'll accept it.

06 So, could we just, I don't know,
07 do we have to send a stronger letter? I don't know how
08 we go about that. Can we please get an answer? I'll
09 beg if I have to. Can I please have an answer?
10 And the \$400,000 from the hole
11 over in South Side there, the only reason I keep
12 bringing that up is I don't want to walk in here before
13 a meeting and you show me on the agenda that we spent
14 \$200,000 on something I don't know nothing about. I
15 don't want that money to be spent until we have an
16 opportunity to take a look at it.
17 So, if they're nowhere with it,
18 fine. Tell me they're nowhere with it. If they
19 haven't made a little progress, I'd just like to know
20 where we stand with that \$400,000 and some odd dollars.
21 And I don't know what else to call
22 this thing, I called it a porta-potty last week,
23 they're still waiting for it at Weston Field. Could we
24 ask whoever it is we've got to ask? We don't want
25 people doing what they're doing out in the public
0095
01 there. And I really don't want to bring that up next
02 week, so can we get an answer there?
03 The dollar at the zoo, boy, that
04 blew me away there. I didn't even hear -- usually we
05 hear the rumors, I didn't hear anything at all about
06 that.
07 MS. EVANS: No, that was two.
08 MR. COURTRIGHT: Two dollars.
09 MS. EVANS: Two and one, according
10 to another speaker, two and then one for children.
11 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. We're
12 whacking the adults for more, huh? Whatever. I
13 just -- I hope this isn't a sign of what's to come in
14 the future.
15 We sitting here have absolutely
16 nothing to say what goes on. We couldn't control the
17 five-dollar fee. If in fact they're doing this, we
18 have nothing to say about this, and we're the ones that
19 got elected, obviously Mrs. Evans really got elected.
20 So, I just hope it's not a sign of
21 what's to come in the future, that things are just
22 going to be done and we have absolutely no say in that,
23 and so I'm hoping it's just a rumor and that's not what
24 happened.
25 I really don't care to find out
0096
01 about things like this here at the meeting. I think

02 we're supposed to know first, isn't it? I think it's a
03 little bit backwards, all right. So, I'm hoping that
04 they wouldn't have done that without at least telling
05 us. I know they don't have to ask us, but at least
06 telling us.
07 And one last thing, you know, it's
08 obvious we get a lot of complaints, and every week we
09 bring them up and we pawn it off on Jay or on Kay or
10 whoever we give it to. Some we do on our own, but we
11 can't do them all on our own, and all we can do is ask,
12 and we do ask.
13 You know, I had somebody --
14 there's a lot of parties we have to go to during the
15 election, somebody complained to me about Jay saying
16 why isn't Jay getting these answers. Well, it's not
17 Jay's fault. All he's doing is asking, all we're doing
18 is asking. We don't make the decisions, we ask.
19 And I would recommend to you if
20 you've come here and asked us two or three times and we
21 sent three or four letters to the administration and we
22 didn't get an answer, try to see the mayor and ask him,
23 because, you know, that's who we're asking, you know?
24 And I'm not trying to take the
25 heat off myself, I'm trying to talk it off of Jay a
0097
01 little bit, but, I mean, we do ask, and we're not the
02 boss. We don't make the rules down there.
03 So, we ask and we ask again and we
04 ask again, and sometimes we just don't get, as you can
05 see, I can't get answers for myself, nevermind for you.
06 So, we send letters and we ask,
07 and if we don't get a response, I would only recommend
08 that maybe you go to see the mayor yourself personally
09 or send him a letter, because he's the guy that makes
10 the decisions.
11 MS. EVANS: You know what, Bill,
12 in a number of those cases they're coming to us because
13 they've already taken that route and they didn't get
14 any answer, just like we don't get an answer, so --
15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right. And I
16 don't know. So, if you have taken that route and have
17 gone to the mayor and didn't get an answer, and then
18 you come to us and we can't get the answer, I don't
19 know where to go after this, maybe you've got to pray
20 to God, I don't know.
21 But we're trying, we're trying our
22 best to get you the answers. Sometimes we just can't
23 get them, so we apologize for that. That's all I have.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

25 Mr. Courtright. I just want to thank all the citizens
0098

01 who did their civic duty and exercised their right to
02 vote this past Tuesday, and thank everyone for doing
03 that, regardless of who you voted for by getting out
04 and voting.

05 And as you can see by this

06 election, every single vote counts. That was never so
07 true as right now. And I don't mean that just about
08 Mr. Pocius who is down one vote, I'm talking about
09 myself.

10 MS. EVANS: Well, you know, I

11 thought I heard that you're up now, Mr. Pocius.

12 MR. POCIUS: I don't really know,

13 and like I said to the reporter the other night, I've
14 kind of resigned myself to the fact that the people
15 spoke on election night, and even though the numbers
16 were so small, whatever happens, happens. I'm not
17 grasping and holding on for dear life here. Whatever
18 happens, happens. I've had a good run here, and
19 whatever happens will happen.

20 MS. EVANS: Well, I agree with the

21 speaker we heard earlier, it's not over 'til it's
22 over.

23 MR. POCIUS: Yeah, there was some

24 great Yogi quotes in the paper last week.

25 MR. DIBILEO: And I just want to
0099

01 say it's a good thing we don't have hanging chads in
02 Scranton. But I do want to congratulate Mrs. Evans on
03 a big victory and Mr. Pocius on running for office.

04 You know, you and I actually --

05 our fate may be decided tomorrow with the recount of

06 so-called write-in votes. So, we're going to be

07 looking at stickers -- well, they're going to be

08 looking at stickers and they're going to be looking at

09 rubber stamps and handwritten names, and we'll see what

10 the fate is of two of us up here hopefully soon.

11 But I just want to thank everyone

12 for getting out to vote, regardless of who you voted

13 for. And this is America, and that's what makes us

14 free.

15 The last thing I want to say is

16 that I'd like to remind everyone that this Saturday is

17 the Veterans Day Parade. And I'm not certain, I think

18 it's ten o'clock, if I'm not mistaken. 10:30, okay.

19 10:30 downtown, and I think we should all get out and

20 show our appreciation of all the veterans that served
21 our country, and in some cases gave their lives for
22 what we have today, and let's get out and have a big
23 crowd on Saturday for the Veterans Day Parade. I know
24 I'll be there. And that's all I have. Jay just gave
25 me the bell again, so I'm done. Thank you.

0100

01 MR. WALSH: Fifth order. 5-B,
02 FOR INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING THIRTY
03 (30) MINUTE PARKING AT CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE CORNER
04 OF ASH STREET AND PRESCOTT AVENUE, KNOWN AS
05 PETERSBURG CORNERS, SPECIFICALLY ALONG ASH STREET FROM
06 FARBER COURT TO THE INTERSECTION OF PRESCOTT AVENUE
07 ALONG THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF ASH STREET, AND ALONG
08 PRESCOTT AVENUE FROM THE INTERSECTION OF ASH STREET TO
09 AND INCLUDING 953 PRESCOTT AVENUE ON THE WESTERLY SIDE
10 OF PRESCOTT AVENUE ONLY.

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

14 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

16 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

17 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

18 MS. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
22 ayes have it and so moved.

23 MR. WALSH: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION
24 - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
25 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
0101

01 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
02 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS
03 AFFAIRS REGARDING THE USE, MAINTENANCE AND SCHEDULING
04 OF THE LEACH RANGE FOR THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.

05 MR. DIBILEO: We need to have
06 quiet in the back of the room, please. Thank you. At
07 this time I'll entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
08 introduced into its proper committee.

09 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

11 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question,
13 Mr. President, I'd just like to say briefly it's my
14 understanding that Sergeant Robert Martin and
15 Lieutenant Price and Sergeant Martin's brother,

16 General Martin, had a real lot to do with this, it's
17 something that's going to benefit the Scranton Police
18 Department, and I just want to thank them for all their
19 hard work. They're the guys that brought this about.
20 I just want to thank them for that.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, I, too, would
22 like to thank these gentlemen and ladies for all the
23 hard work they did in having this legislation come
24 about. We greatly appreciate it. If there's no
25 further questions, all those in favor, signify by
0102

01 saying aye.

02 MS. EVANS: Aye.

03 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

04 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

07 MR. WALSH: 5-D, FOR INTRODUCTION

08 - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
09 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN
10 AMENDMENT TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION TRUST AGREEMENT
11 TO REFLECT MODIFIED FUNDING REQUIREMENT FOR THE RESERVE
12 ACCOUNT.

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

16 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

18 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

19 Just on the question, we are going to get a little bit
20 more information on this in case anybody has questions
21 on it between now and next week. And all those in
22 favor, signify by saying aye.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

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

04 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 132, 2005 - AN
05 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF CITY OWNED
06 PROPERTY BY SEALED BIDS TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, PROPERTY
07 LOCATED AT REAR 1217 BLAIR AVENUE, AND RECORDED AT
08 RECORD BOOK 1071, PG. 333.

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

11 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move

12 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.
13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.
14 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?
15 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.
16 MR. POCIUS: Aye.
17 MS. EVANS: Aye.
18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.
19 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
20 ayes have it and so moved.
21 MR. WALSH: Seventh order.
22 Mr. President, there's no business this evening in
23 seventh order.
24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
25 Mr. Walsh. Seeing no further business on the agenda,
0104

01 I'll entertain a motion we adjourn.
02 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.
03 MS. EVANS: Second.
04 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.

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07 (MEETING WAS 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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