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02 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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08 Held:

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09 Thursday, June 9, 2005

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11 Time:

12 7:00 p.m.

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14 Location:

15 Council chambers

15 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

16 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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23 Lisa M. Graff, RPR

24 Court Reporter

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01 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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03 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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05 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

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07 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

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09 MR. JOHN POCIUS

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11 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

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13 MR. MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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15 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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17 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Please stand for

02 the Pledge of Allegiance. Please remain standing for a

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

04 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

05 MR. McTIERNAN: Here.

06 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

07 MS. EVANS: Here.

08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

09 MR. POCIUS: Here.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Here. Mr. Walsh, if

14 we can dispense with the reading of the minutes,

15 please. Take your time.

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

17 PETITION TO REVOKE PERMIT PARKING IN THE 1700 & 1800

18 BLOCKS OF OLIVE STREET.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Let's do third order

20 and then we have two proclamations that we want to get
21 to before citizens participation. Are there any
22 comments on 3-A?

23 MR. POCIUS: Yes, one comment.

24 Mr. Walsh, do we have to send a revoking request to
25 public safety for a report back?

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01 MR. WALSH: I would think you do.

02 MR. POCIUS: And then when we get

03 it back, we would then send it to the administration to
04 draw up the repealing ordinance?

05 MR. WALSH: Yes.

06 MR. POCIUS: Okay. Then I'll make

07 a -- do I have to do it by motion? I'll make a motion
08 that we send this to public safety and the bureau of
09 police and report back to Council.

10 MS. EVANS: Second.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Motion on the floor

12 and a second. On the question? All those in favor,
13 signify by saying aye.

14 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

15 MS. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

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

21 NON-UNIFORM PENSION BOARD HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2005.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

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

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

25 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Saunders, if you
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01 know to go ahead with the clerk's notes, please.

02 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, Mr. President.

03 Last week we asked for the Lackawanna bridge update
04 during citizens participation. George Parker did
05 update me on that situation. He said bids are going
06 out December of '05 or January '06, and the project
07 will start next summer.

08 Signalization of downtown business

09 district, that was another question during citizens

10 participation, that will start next summer also using

11 new traffic patterns and a new traffic lights and lanes
12 are going to be changed. This has been in process for
13 a while.

14 On that note, Councilwoman Evans

15 asked about Meadow Avenue and River Street, the

16 situation up there, we've had many complaints in
17 Council's office about that intersection up there.
18 We asked through a letter to
19 Mr. Parker, he went up there, about having stop signs
20 up there, and he came back and answered that.
21 They would congest traffic and
22 then with three stops, it would congest them back on
23 Meadow Avenue and onto River Street. He said with two,
24 it would confuse traffic. He said that that is a part
25 of the signalization that will take part next summer.

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01 What is up there will stay the way it is.
02 The porta-potty at
03 Weston Field, I spoke with Bob Scopelleti about the
04 situation, and he said that Reeves is the company that
05 deals with the Porta-potties up there. He said the
06 company will just not put one out there. They have had
07 them vandalized in the past and are refusing to put one
08 out there.
09 And Bob is saying the same thing,
10 that there's just too much damage done to them. But he
11 did say that the Weston building is open from eight in
12 the morning until nine o'clock at night, on the
13 weekends from twelve noon to six.
14 He also noted the pool house also
15 has a lavatory in there, and that will be accessible to
16 the public also starting next week, I believe.
17 Mr. Bolus brought up homeplate
18 last week for the South Side Complex. I talked to Bob
19 Scopelleti about that, too, he said that every night
20 before any game that is scheduled there's games, T.J.
21 Schmidt is the groundskeeper down there, and from
22 playing in there in the past, he does a good job down
23 there, and has a lot of things to do, but the batter's
24 box is dug out. The first batter every night they fill
25 it in. The first batter just naturally digs it out.

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01 That's just a baseball thing. He said that problem
02 has been going on for years.
03 The U.S.S. Scranton, the plaque,
04 as I was directed by Council last week to look into
05 that situation, I did talk to somebody in the building
06 about that and they showed me. It has been taken down.
07 When the mayor's pictures were taken down, the plaque
08 was taken down, also.
09 That is in a closet downstairs. I
10 don't know what the situation is about what they're
11 going to do with that, so --

12 MR. DIBILEO: If you would,
13 Mr. Saunders, let the administration know that Council
14 supports having it displayed somewhere in City Hall,
15 and possibly we can find a home for it here, if
16 possible, if they can't find somewhere more suitable
17 within City Hall. So, if you would just pass that on
18 to the administration, I would appreciate it.
19 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, I will.
20 Watson Street and Main Avenue, Mr. DiBileo, you've
21 asked about this on numerous occasions. Did you get
22 the fax?
23 MR. DIBILEO: I did receive that,
24 yes.
25 MR. SAUNDERS: I received a letter
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01 late this afternoon on that. The story with that is
02 they filed a petition to ban truck traffic on
03 Watson and Main Avenue.
04 Mr. Parker denied that petition
05 stating that from curb to curb it's 30 feet, Watson
06 Street is, and they estimate a car being 8 feet, so
07 that's 16 feet.
08 He's saying that Watson Street has
09 a 14 foot clearing there, which is a little above
10 average. He said, like, if you were driving down
11 Route 81, one lane is 12 feet. He's saying
12 Watson Street has a clearance of 14 feet. That issue
13 has been taken care of. That is his response on that.
14 The other issue is up to Mike Wallace on all of the
15 other issues that are going on there, so I don't think
16 that's totally a dead issue. So, I will follow up on
17 that.
18 The police issue that we discussed
19 last week, after discussing this with many people,
20 Nelson Ancherani had discussed where the money would
21 come from to pay the officers that were over in Iraq,
22 the Scranton police officers that were over in Iraq,
23 that issue is -- I talked to Doug Heim, I talked to
24 Lisa Moran, Doug Heim works in the B.A.'s office, I
25 talked to Chief Elliott about the situation, it's a
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01 whole big picture, you have to follow me for a second
02 because it took me a little time to understand this,
03 the police -- there's a line item in the budget that
04 says that "X" amount of officers equals "X" amount of
05 dollars, so at the end of the fiscal year, we have
06 "X" amount of dollars spent on officers.
07 They were short. When they didn't

08 pay the officers that went over to Iraq, we were
09 short -- we had extra money in that line item. At that
10 point when the five officers go over to Iraq, we have
11 to back fill that with officers doing overtime. So,
12 the money that would be accessed in that account, they
13 now transfer that money into an overtime budget, and
14 that is where -- Mr. Ancherani is right, Mr. Pocius is
15 right, everybody is right here, but that is the
16 situation.
17 They had to actually transfer that
18 money into that account. Also when I discussed that
19 with Doug Heim, he's the assistant business
20 administrator, he said that the '04 books, once you
21 close the books on a year, they're done, you can't take
22 money back out of that year. It rolls into the next
23 year. So, that issue was asked about last week, too.
24 Nay Aug Pond, the fish pond up
25 there, I think Mr. Newcomb might have asked about that,
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01 I talked to Bob Scopelleti about that. He said that it
02 does look bad up there right now. He said an animal
03 did get into there and ripped the liner in there. The
04 city will take care of that, they do pay the bills on
05 that, and that will be done next week.
06 MEM, the last issue I have
07 tonight, MEM, Mr. Sbaraglia has discussed this many
08 times in the past, I think I can break this down into
09 very simple terms here, because there is a lot to
10 understand there, the city now took out \$7.5 million,
11 rough numbers here, on a loan to pay off PP&L for the
12 lights, the fixtures that comes off the lights as you
13 see the wooden light, you see the fixture that comes
14 off that.
15 They paid off that. They paid
16 PP&L. They will pay PP&L that money. As of right now,
17 that project has been completed. The transfer from MEM
18 and PP&L has been transferred over, that is done.
19 The city paid when they were
20 leasing these lights \$987,000 a year just to lease
21 them. Today they own those light fixtures and pay
22 \$987,000. So, the city leasing is paying the same
23 money amount as the city is owning.
24 They took on top of -- what
25 happened there is they took the \$7.5 million, that's
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01 what they're paying the 987 on, and there's \$2.8
02 million on top of that that they took out in capital
03 expenditures.

04 I talked to Mr. Kearns about this.
05 He said the possibility of some of the things that you
06 talked about in the past, that he has talked to you
07 about in the past, is that you might have read the
08 agreement between the Municipal Utility Alliance. This
09 is with the Municipal Energy Managers. That is all I
10 have, Mr. President.
11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
12 Mr. Saunders. Appreciate that. Before we go into
13 public participation, we have two proclamations to
14 present this evening, and I will present one, and
15 Mr. McTiernan will present another.
16 The proclamation I have tonight is
17 honoring a tremendous local organization that supports
18 youth and people in need for the last 50 years, and
19 that is UNICO National Organization.
20 I happen to be a member, a proud
21 member of that organization, and we have two gentlemen
22 here with this evening, Frank Castellano, who is
23 currently the president of our local organization and
24 First Vice-President Charlie Spano.
25 Now, just to give you a little
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01 information before I read the proclamation, the
02 Scranton Chapter of the UNICO National Organization is
03 the number one largest local chapter in the whole
04 country, so it just shows the kind of support that
05 UNICO has right here in Scranton.
06 They support various things, but
07 just a few to mention are they support scholarships for
08 college students at six local colleges, they support
09 St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, they support the Boys
10 and Girls Clubs, they support national efforts against
11 cancer and book donations, language classes, just to
12 name a few.
13 Now, they are celebrating their
14 50th year, and that's why they're here this evening.
15 This Saturday, if I could give them a little plug, that
16 being a member myself, UNICO is celebrating 50 years
17 here locally, and Saturday evening, June the 18th,
18 Saturday evening, June 18, a celebration party will be
19 held at St. Mary's Center.
20 There will be a mass at four
21 o'clock at Saint Peter's Cathedral and the festivities
22 start at St. Mary's at about 5:30.
23 And two past national presidents
24 will be honored along with two of the founding members,
25 Dr. D.J. Maldonato and John Morano.

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01 And if I can, I would like to
02 invite all of the City Council down in front and we'll
03 have Mr. Castellano and Mr. Spano come forward.
04 Before we do that, would you like
05 to talk about your proclamation or should we come back
06 to our seats prior to --

07 MR. McTIERNAN: It's up to you,
08 Mr. President.

09 MR. DIBILEO: How about we come
10 back to our seats and Bob will talk about the next
11 proclamation?

12 Okay. Whereas, the Council of the
13 City of Scranton is desirous of honoring the Scranton
14 Chapter of UNICO National on their 50th anniversary,
15 which will be celebrated on Saturday June 18, 2005; and
16 whereas, the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National has
17 served Scranton and Lackawanna County for 50 years; and
18 whereas the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National was
19 built from the initiative of Dr. D.J. Maldonato and
20 Attorney John Morano, among others; and whereas, the
21 Chapter was chartered in June of 1955 and immediately
22 began supporting community efforts through scholarships
23 and support of the then Boys Club; and whereas, offer
24 the I don't remember the Scranton chapter of UNICO has
25 grown in generosity and prestige supporting

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01 scholarships for college students at six local
02 colleges, supporting the good work of the Saint Francis
03 of Assisi Kitchen, the now Boys' and Girls' Club,
04 contributing to the national effort against cancer
05 with the Unico V Foundation, supporting Italian studies
06 through book donations and language classes and
07 providing convivial camaraderie among its members; and
08 whereas, UNICO is an Italian American Service
09 organization made up of many volunteers whose goal is
10 to give back to our communities as much as they can by
11 providing the many services they have to offer our
12 area; and whereas, the Scranton Chapter of UNICO
13 National is now the largest chapter in the country.

14 Now, therefore, be it resolved
15 that on Thursday, June 9, 2005, Scranton City Council
16 wishes to congratulate the Scranton Chapter of UNICO
17 National on its 50th anniversary.
18 Be it further resolved that this
19 proclamation be made a permanent part of the minutes of
20 this Council as lasting tribute to the Scranton Chapter
21 of UNICO National. Congratulations.

22 MR. CASTELLANO: Thank you,
23 Mr. DiBileo. Charlie and I accept this proclamation
24 on behalf of the 340 members of the Scranton Chapter of
25 UNICO, and we thank you and we thank all of Scranton
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01 City Council for this honor.

02 You know, as we approach our 50th
03 anniversary, it's a time for us to look back and to
04 honor the many hundreds, if not well over a thousand
05 men and women from the Scranton area who have donated
06 their time and energy over the last 50 years, and just
07 from the beginning right up until now, our efforts and
08 our energies have always been to give back to the
09 community through community service, through the
10 scholarships, through the programs and through the
11 events that we do, and I promise that we will continue
12 to do that for many years to come.

13 So, we thank the City of Scranton,
14 we thank all the people who support our events, because
15 it's through our fund-raisers that we are able to raise
16 the money. Our fund-raisers at LaFesta Italiana, our
17 fund-raisers at the Soccer Cup and the various
18 fund-raisers that we have throughout the year.

19 So, again, on behalf of all our
20 members as we look forward to the next 50 years and
21 beyond, we thank you and we thank the citizens of
22 Scranton.

23 I know Charlie shares in my
24 thoughts, and, again, we invite all of the public to
25 join us in our celebration. Tickets are still
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01 available, and we hope that many people join us on
02 June 18. So, thank you very much everyone.

03 MR. SPANO: I couldn't have said
04 it better myself. Thank you very much.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks for coming,
06 Gentlemen. Congratulations on your 50 years. Keep up
07 the great work an we look forward to 50 more years of
08 UNICO National. And I'll ask Mr. McTiernan if he would
09 discuss his proclamation that he has this evening.

10 MR. McTIERNAN: Thank you,
11 Mr. President. This proclamation is surrounding or in
12 regards a program and an issue that's nationwide, and
13 it talks about American lifestyles regarding obesity
14 and activity, and Blue Cross of Northeastern
15 Pennsylvania and several local organizations that I'll
16 mention in the proclamation, including CMC, and putting
17 forward a program called the Million Pound Meltdown,

18 and many of you have seen this on television
19 advertised. It's a popular program.
20 The Scranton School District is
21 involved in promoting healthy lifestyles and they have
22 a health committee that they have put together and are
23 studying school lunches or studying our programs, so
24 this attention nationwide to lifestyles and the way
25 we eat and the way we exercise is gaining a lot of
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01 attention.
02 This was brought to our attention
03 by James Davis, who is the Government Affairs
04 Representative for Blue Cross of Northeastern
05 Pennsylvania and it's supported by many local
06 legislators, including Senator Mellow and Mayor
07 Doherty, and the resolution is as follows:
08 Whereas, the Council of the City
09 of Scranton would like to recognize the Million Pound
10 Meltdown, an innovative partnership between Blue Cross
11 of Northeastern Pennsylvania, WBRE-TV and WYOU-TV which
12 is an effort to promote wellness and to encourage
13 Northeastern and North Central Pennsylvania residents
14 to lose weight and adopt healthy behaviors that will
15 help reduce their risk factors for chronic condition;
16 and whereas, research has shown that 61 percent of
17 Pennsylvania adults are overweight or obese, and nearly
18 two-thirds of people living in Northeast and
19 North Central Pennsylvania are overweight; and whereas,
20 an active lifestyle can prevent the occurrence or
21 severity of complications related to many diseases and
22 health conditions, such as obesity, diabetes, asthma,
23 heart disease, hypertension, stroke and certain
24 cancers.
25 Maintaining a regular exercise
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01 routine, along with practicing healthy eating habits
02 benefits the body and the mind; and whereas,
03 contributing to a culture of health and wellness and
04 promoting personal accountability for individual health
05 status in Scranton approves the quality of life for all
06 citizens.
07 Now, therefore, be it resolved
08 Scranton City Council encourages the residents of
09 Scranton to make daily physical activity and nutrition
10 a priority in their lives and to recognize the numerous
11 benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
12 Be it further resolved that the
13 governing body of the City of Scranton hereby proclaims

14 June 13, 2005 as Million Pound Meltdown Day in the City
15 of Scranton. I so move.

16 An interesting note to that is

17 that all of our government, not all of our government,
18 many of our government budgetary issues do surround
19 health care, and it's not limited to the city, the
20 school district, state and federal government, so this
21 is an interesting program that certainly dovetails with
22 a concern that's important to all of us. Thank you,
23 Mr. President. I will accept this on behalf of
24 Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania and I will see
25 that Mr. James Davis gets this proclamation. Thank

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01 you.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much.

03 Did you say June 13?

04 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

05 MR. DIBILEO: That's when I'm
06 starting my diet, the 13th.

07 MR. McTIERNAN: Me, too.

08 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President,
09 before we go any further, Jim Davis from Blue Cross did
10 call, and they will be at the Central Boys Club on
11 Monday, they will be at Mercy Hospital also on Monday,
12 and if someone wanted to read that at their ceremony,
13 they have invited anybody that wanted to go to it.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Terrific. Thank you
15 very much, Mr. Saunders. And thanks again,
16 Mr. McTiernan.

17 MR. WALSH: Fourth order, citizen
18 participation.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a
20 sign-in sheet, and the first person on the sign-in
21 sheet is Andy Sbaraglia.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
23 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, Jay, I thank
24 for that information. Will it be possible to get a
25 copy of the purchase order?

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01 MR. SAUNDERS: Purchase order?

02 MR. SBARAGLIA: You said it went
03 through.

04 MR. SAUNDERS: What they do get is
05 from the PUC they get a nice piece of paper with gold
06 around it and the whole deal that Bob Kearns said he
07 will be happy to get us a copy of.

08 MR. SBARAGLIA: No. I want a copy
09 of how much they actually paid for the fixtures.

10 MR. SAUNDERS: I gave you that
11 number.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: No, you have me
13 \$900,000.

14 MR. SAUNDERS: They took out of --
15 they did a bond issue for \$7.5 million.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: True.

17 MR. SAUNDERS: Minus the \$2.8
18 million will you the number what they paid.

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: That's the exact
20 number they paid, not counting what we have already
21 spent out of that for this other company to administer
22 this stuff? Because they were paid to get into this
23 dealing from there Where is that actual piece of
24 legislation where they actually bought this thing?
25 Somewhere it has to be.

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Sbaraglia, Jay
02 and I were actually talking about this today, and I
03 suggested that representatives of the MEM organization
04 have a meeting with you and sit down, because I know
05 you're very concerned about this and all the details.

06 MR. SBARAGLIA: I can get it from
07 Rosemary, too, because we had to cut a check.
08 Somewhere Rosemary should have had a check cut, because
09 she's the controller and she's the only one who could
10 have wrote out the check for this purchase, so
11 somewhere I'll have the exact amount that we paid for
12 this to PP&L and then I can figure out what we paid for
13 the administration up until we bought the fixtures, and
14 that's probably the better way to go.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Now, did they
16 say that they would meet with Mr. Sbaraglia?

17 MR. SAUNDERS: I spoke to
18 Mr. Kearns today, and I actually -- he Emailed me, I
19 guess he watched the Council meeting last week. He
20 said at any time he will sit down and discuss this and
21 show you on paper exactly how this transition took
22 place.

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, I understand
24 how they purchase it, they had to go to the PUC and the
25 whole bit, I understood that part, I just wanted to

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01 know the figures. I'm a black and white person. I
02 don't care about how much they had to go through this
03 lawyer or that lawyer. That's doesn't interest me. I
04 only want to know exactly what they paid for the thing.

05 MR. SAUNDERS: He would be happy

06 to sit down with you. If you call my office tomorrow,
07 I will be happy to arrange you and Mr. Kearns sitting
08 down and discussing it.

09 MR. SBARAGLIA: I can get it from
10 Rosemary, too. It's just as easy to go through the
11 controller and asking her what we actually paid.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Roseann Novembrino.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: Right.

14 MR. DIBILEO: I suppose she did,
15 and she'd be more than happy, I'm sure, to share that
16 information with you.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Right. It's no
18 problem. I can get it from Roseann, and that's a
19 better way of doing it. Then you got exactly what they
20 pay, and then you can subtract the difference, what
21 they actually paid for. I know they took the \$2.8.
22 Well, I told you that many times. I quoted it as \$2.5
23 million. He said it was \$2.8 million that they took
24 out of it when they first borrowed this money to pay
25 off some debts in the city.

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01 MR. DIBILEO: And I'm sure between
02 Mrs. Novembrino and representatives of MEM, they would
03 be more than happy at your earliest convenience, Andy,
04 to sit down, because I want you to get this
05 information.

06 MR. SBARAGLIA: If it did go
07 through, Roseann had to write a check, and I could get
08 it from her. I can get a copy of that with no problem.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. Let's go
11 over there with 4-B, this forgiveness from Laminations,
12 okay? Apparently back in '92, Laminations wanted some
13 money, so they were borrowed some money from Midas and
14 they got the money from three different funds, they got
15 it from the UDAG loan and the CDBG grant, which they
16 gave to there.

17 Now they want to -- they did make
18 some payments, probably -- let's see, \$600,000. They
19 still owe \$468,251 on the EDA loan, \$700,000 on the
20 UDAG loan. They paid back \$577,000, and on the grant
21 from the Community Development Block Grant they paid
22 nothing back.

23 Okay. I presume this was one of
24 our interest free loans that they talk about, because
25 I -- there's no way in heck they could have been paying

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01 much interest on this loan from '92, with so little

02 amount they paid.
03 I wish you would look into it or
04 even I look into it. I would like to see a copy of the
05 original loan on this deal, because they want to --
06 what they want to do is, say, forgive us -- we'll pay
07 you, what did they say, \$900,000 up front and we'll
08 take a loss of about \$300,000, if we waited, but God
09 knows, maybe that loan was due, because unless you know
10 what the original loan is, you don't know how long they
11 borrowed the money for.
12 It's in '92, we're talking about
13 13 years into this loan for Laminations, and they want
14 to give 900 pieces and say write it off, you know, this
15 is it. So, I assume this loan was a
16 non-interest loan for \$1.5 million.
17 MR. DIBILEO: What we can do,
18 Mr. Sbaraglia, is to get more information on this prior
19 to voting on it in seventh order next week, and we can
20 have a -- Jay, why don't we ask a member of the Midas,
21 M-I-D-A-S, a representative from them to see if they
22 could come into private caucus just to give us a little
23 bit more detail on this arrangement next week, if we
24 can, please before we vote on this in seventh order.
25 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes.
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01 MR. DIBILEO: We'll get more
02 information. And you're welcome to be there, Andy.
03 MR. SBARAGLIA: I just want to
04 read that original note, because like I said before,
05 they didn't really pay too much money back on this
06 note.
07 Now, I assume it was interest
08 free, but all the other notes I ever read from the
09 city, they require payments all the way along, so it
10 would be a good idea to check into that and make sure.
11 And another thing, why all of a
12 sudden now does the city want this money? What do they
13 want this \$900,000 that they're willing to give up
14 \$300,000? Why did they want to mortgage -- they found
15 another asset to sell, they want to sell our loans off,
16 too.
17 I mean, how many more things does
18 this guy want to sell before he gets out of office? I
19 mean, you had this nice meeting last week where they
20 told you they were going to get 92 cents on a dollar,
21 which normally wouldn't bother me, but too many people
22 are blocked out of loans that wanted loans when they
23 went before them.

24 I'll never forget the guy who gave
25 that money up at Nay Aug and he was in for that loan
0026

01 and they wouldn't even look at him afterward because it
02 made them look small. So, you have to look at this
03 guy. Why does he want all this money now, this deal
04 and then selling off our loans and give us a flat rate
05 instead of waiting over 20 years, which wouldn't
06 normally bother me if it was maybe after the election
07 so actually we would know that maybe a different group
08 might have their hands out for it instead of the same
09 group. That's all I ask for.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We'll get
11 more information on it next week. And the little I
12 know about this, from what I understand, Laminations is
13 selling part of its company off, and one of the
14 arrangements has to be that this loan needs to be
15 satisfied. But we'll get all the details on it prior
16 to voting on it next week and you're welcome to be
17 there.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: I'll try to
19 anyway. Thank you.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Regina Yetkowskas.

21 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Regina
22 Yetkowskas. The recent primary election conclusively
23 showed to Mr. Doherty that his re-election to the
24 mayor's office will not be the easy stroll he and the
25 Scranton Times envisioned.

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01 Mr. DiBileo won the Republican
02 nomination. DiBileo and Doherty will have a run-off
03 election in November with the winner take all.
04 I would like to mention some
05 important formulas for the November election.
06 Mr. Doherty defeated Mr. DiBileo for the democratic
07 nomination by 574 votes. On the Republican side,
08 Mr. DiBileo defeated Mr. Doherty by 116 votes, and
09 that's with very little of the Republicans voting.
10 If Mr. DiBileo can retain his
11 proportionate share of the Democratic votes and add to
12 it the Republican party's support and votes,
13 Mr. DiBileo stands a very good chance to defeat
14 Mr. Doherty.
15 I'm sure many other persons have
16 substantially the same analysis as I. Two of them may
17 be Mr. Doherty and our local newspaper who supports and
18 will support him to the very end.
19 Mr. Doherty is probably concerned

20 with his past three and one half years of arrogance,
21 secrecy and the aloofness he displayed in his treatment
22 of the people who elected him.

23 Mr. Doherty is also to be
24 concerned that the people do not approve his
25 give-a-ways of valuable Central City land for less than
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01 its value and no taxes for ten years.

02 Mr. Doherty is also concerned that
03 he did nothing to listen to or solve the people's
04 grievances. The primary election results proved the
05 truth of all of these items.

06 So, now we have a new person who
07 claims to be Mr. Doherty transformed. According to the
08 local newspaper, Mr. Doherty goes to the neighborhood
09 meetings, which he never did before, he sends members
10 of his administration to City Council meetings, which
11 he never did before, he takes a position on the
12 Marywood parking project, which he never did before.

13 As a matter of fact,

14 Mrs. Janet Evans did most of the work on that project
15 and now Doherty wants to take the credit for it.

16 I must admit Mr. Doherty is now
17 doing what he can to soften his politically image and
18 appeal to the people to prepare for the November race
19 which will be an interesting race for his political
20 life.

21 But the people should sit back and
22 think of what Mr. Doherty is trying to pull off. The
23 people --

24 MR. WALSH: Ma'am, I apologize
25 because you're always very articulate and well informed
0029

01 when you come to the podium, but we're trying not to
02 speak solely about politics.

03 If you want to talk about job
04 performance, which you do quite often --

05 MS. YETKOWSKAS: No. I have the
06 right to free speech, sir, and I will continue. But
07 the people should sit back and think of what
08 Mr. Doherty is trying to pull off.

09 The people should ask the question
10 as to whether Mr. Doherty has really transformed
11 himself to work for the people or is his so-called nice
12 conduct only a show to get your vote in November.

13 I say the easiest answer is a
14 leopard just doesn't change his spots overnight, a
15 S Mr. Doherty would have you believe. The more

16 Mr. Doherty now strains to show how nice he is and how
17 much he works for the people, the less I believe him.
18 The same rule applies to our local
19 newspaper, in that the more columns and editorials it
20 writes about -- I'm sorry. You're off right there,
21 because this should only take me five minutes.

22 MR. DIBILEO: That was just the
23 one minute.

24 MS. YETKOWSKAS: All right. The
25 more Mr. Doherty now strains to show how nice he is and
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01 how much he works for the people, the less I believe
02 him.

03 The same rule applies to our local
04 newspaper, in that the more columns and editorials it
05 writes about Mr. Doherty changed and is now personally
06 attending to the people's problems, the less I believe
07 the newspaper, because all we know -- because we all
08 know how much it is in Mr. Doherty's corner.

09 In my opinion, the newspaper has
10 already lost its credibility. My reasons for stating
11 no matter what Mr. Doherty does or says since the
12 primary election, he still didn't change his spots is
13 because, No. 1, we do not see Mr. Doherty announce and
14 abandon his deficit policy of borrow and spend for the
15 big business; No. 2, we do not see Mr. Doherty
16 designate a high person in his administration who would
17 first provide City Council with requested documents and
18 then appear before City Council in an open hearing and
19 answer questions under oath on the mayor's recovery
20 plan, costs of labor arbitrations and the city's
21 current debt and its service. I just have one more
22 paragraph. May I finish, please?

23 MR. DIBILEO: Finish your thought
24 and we'll wrap it up.

25 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Thank you. In
0031

01 all of his time in office, Mr. Doherty never publicly
02 spoke or answered questions on his care of Scranton's
03 financial problems.

04 On the same subject, our local
05 newspaper never interviewed Mr. Doherty on Scranton's
06 financials problems, when it knows Scranton has serious
07 financial problems.

08 Until Mr. Doherty and his
09 newspaper let much light in on the subjects I just
10 mentioned, I believe the people will know their conduct
11 is just an act and the leopard did not change its

12 spots. The people will vote accordingly. Thank you.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Prior to
14 the next speaker speaking, you know, there's a fine
15 line between, you know, what can be allowed to be said
16 here and what may be over the line, so I would like to
17 ask the assistance of a professional, our professional
18 attorney here, Mr. Walsh, to assist me when he feels as
19 though that line is being crossed. I'd appreciate
20 that.

21 MR. WALSH: Mr. DiBileo, I would
22 be happy to do that. And when I do interrupt, and I do
23 apologize to the nice lady that was speaking there, I
24 don't do it, you know, to irritate anybody or to
25 aggravate anybody, I'll simply try and follow your
0032

01 direction.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

03 Mr. Walsh. Go right ahead.

04 MS. FRANUS: Hi, I'm Fay Franus.

05 I'm coming again before you to ask for your help with
06 this, and I don't know where else to go. I mean, I
07 certainly can't go and see the mayor. I mean, I wish I
08 could, but I know I wouldn't get anywhere, so maybe you
09 can do something about this.

10 How do we in the City of Scranton

11 do something about getting regular people on the
12 recreational authority? How do these people keep these
13 positions for years and not be replaced, and how could
14 we get these people not appointed by the mayor to do
15 his work?

16 I mean, I'm very serious about

17 this, because I was at a recreational authority meeting
18 the other night, and it was, as usual, it was a
19 horrible meeting.

20 We, the people, I don't think we

21 should have to be spoken to like that. Mr. Marinucci,
22 every time we spoke he said, You people. What does
23 You People mean?

24 Like, how would you feel if

25 someone said to you, You people? Isn't that sort of,
0033

01 like, derogatory when it's said like that?

02 I asked a direct question, I said,

03 How long do you have your terms? And Attorney Kelly in
04 his nice little sweet voice said, It staggers.

05 I never got a direct answer. I

06 don't know if that means one year, three years, five
07 years, but then Mr. Marinucci said later on that he's

08 been doing this job for 12 years. Twelve years the
09 same person has this position.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Mrs. Franus, let me
11 ask Mr. Saunders if he could check into whether or not
12 there are term periods for the recreation authority.
13 They might be a five-year term.

14 MS. FRANUS: Well, how is
15 Mr. Marinucci there for 12? Does he get renewed for
16 another five then?

17 MR. POCIUS: He was more than
18 likely appointed by Mayor Connors and got --

19 MR. DIBILEO: I think he got
20 appointed by a previous administration.

21 MS. FRANUS: So, it could be
22 indefinite. I guess it means staggered until you
23 stagger away to your grave or something, because what
24 do you do here?

25 MR. DIBILEO: I believe
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01 City Council would need to vote on each member for
02 re-appointment.

03 MS. FRANUS: So, is it going to
04 come -- I haven't seen where it's coming in front of
05 you for a certain person to be re-appointed lately.

06 MS. EVANS: I believe,
07 Mrs. Franus, that the mayor makes the selection in
08 terms of authorities and commissions, etc., and it's
09 brought before City Council for Council's concurrence,
10 but it's my understanding that even if Council were
11 not to concur, the mayor, you know, it's actual within
12 the mayor's ability to appoint any individual.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mrs. Evans,
14 didn't they tell us the one time we didn't concur, and
15 then they sent it down to us, Jay, if I'm not mistaken
16 as a courtesy to us, they really don't have to send it
17 to us if they don't want to?
18 Isn't that it, the mayor has a
19 right to appointees, and whether we agree or not,
20 that's the way it goes.

21 MS. FRANUS: So, then what is the
22 point of having Council?

23 MS. EVANS: Well, in that issue, I
24 can see where your statement is headed, but I think
25 Council does serve a purpose in other areas.

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01 MS. FRANUS: Oh, yes, until you
02 get your three votes and then the mayor vetoes
03 everything, so there's still no purpose here.

04 That's why I'm here, though,
05 because the mayor has too much power here for all his
06 authorities, and it should be just, like, for a person
07 like myself or anybody sitting here to be on these
08 committees or just pick a person out of a hat in the
09 neighborhood and say we'd like to be on this committee.
10 Get some honest people that are
11 not biased and are not doing the mayor's work. Whether
12 it be the mayor or any certain person that's appointing
13 these people, they're doing it for a reason, and these
14 people just have too much power, too much power
15 completely, and it's just disgusting.
16 This pool fee, it should not be.
17 The only thing I say about this pool fee is this, since
18 they're going to get the money, three dollars and a
19 dollar, but the fee went up to \$75 to \$100 for the
20 family, which I think is awful.
21 Take some of that money and give
22 it to the zoo. That woman they say might leave because
23 she doesn't have enough money for the animals, hey, oh,
24 yeah, feed the animals. Feed the animals.
25 I mean, come on. But get rid of

0036

01 this pool fee. But you don't have a say in this at
02 all. So I'm asking, what can I do or what can anybody
03 do to get these people off these authorities? What can
04 we do? Nothing?

05 MR. DIBILEO: You have to take it
06 up with the mayor.

07 MS. FRANUS: And how would one go
08 about doing that, making a phone call?

09 MS. EVANS: That's a possibility
10 or writing a letter.

11 MS. FRANUS: But other than him
12 changing it, there's nothing we can do then, right?

13 These people could be here forever.

14 MS. EVANS: I would suppose
15 perhaps, Attorney Walsh, you could better address this
16 than I, but I would suppose that right is granted to
17 the mayor either through the Home Rule Charter or the
18 administrative code or both.

19 MR. WALSH: Generally speaking,
20 authorities have their own autonomy, they're separate
21 and distinct entities. The mayor is able to appoint
22 people to those authorities with the consent of
23 Council.

24 Now, the one authority that
25 Council does not need to consent to is the

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01 redevelopment authority, that was the authority that
02 Councilman Courtright referred to earlier.

03 But with respect to the

04 Recreational Authority, I'm quite certain that the
05 mayor would appoint with the consent of Council, and
06 then the Council would vote on those appointments.

07 Generally I think with the

08 Rec. Authority, that's the way it is. For many of the
09 authorities, that's the way that it is, but the mayor
10 does have the say on who he sends down.

11 If the Council were to turn one of

12 the people down that the he had -- that the mayor has
13 recommended, he may simply send down somebody else
14 that, you know, he would like to place on that
15 particular authority.

16 But right now I don't think any of

17 the terms are due, so there really is no authority on
18 the part of the Council to change any of the people
19 sitting there right now.

20 I think if that answers your

21 question, you want to know if you can do anything right
22 now.

23 MS. FRANUS: So, if somebody's

24 name came in front of Council, like, for example,
25 anybody on the Recreational Authority, they could
0038

01 say -- if they say no, then that means that person
02 wouldn't be on there then?

03 MR. POCIUS: No.

04 MR. WALSH: I want to check on the
05 Rec. Authority, but I know that certain authorities,
06 that they're appointed --

07 MS. FRANUS: That's the authority
08 that I care about.

09 MR. WALSH: They're appointed with

10 the, I think, the consent of Council, as well. I think
11 the mayor appoints them with the consent of Council. I
12 know that's way it is for several of the authorities.

13 But as I mentioned earlier, the Redevelopment Authority
14 is not that way, but some of the other ones is.

15 MR. POCIUS: Can I add something?

16 Attorney Walsh, on an appointment, if all the
17 authorities, other than ones that have separate stated
18 legislation are all under the Municipal Authorities
19 Act, I think it was 1945.

20 MR. WALSH: That's correct.

21 MR. POCIUS: However, to answer

22 Mrs. Franus' question, if a person is a seated member
23 of a board and is a re-appointment and Council votes
24 the appointment down, the person serves until he's
25 replaced.

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01 MR. WALSH: That's accurate.

02 MR. POCIUS: So, it's like a
03 revolving circle. There's really no way for Council to
04 remove him.

05 MR. WALSH: It's a circle.

06 MR. POCIUS: Right or wrong?

07 MR. WALSH: Exactly.

08 MR. POCIUS: He stays there. And
09 if his name comes up again and we vote him down again
10 for whatever reason, he still sits because --

11 MR. WALSH: I believe the way the
12 act reads, You serve until you're replaced.

13 MR. POCIUS: So, he's not
14 replaced, he's still there.

15 MS. FRANUS: And the mayor's the
16 only one who can replace him; is that it?

17 MR. POCIUS: Correct. See, the
18 Authorities Act set up the appointing powers, and I
19 think the Home Rule Charter and the Administrative Code
20 just kind of confer with that.

21 MR. WALSH: That's true.

22 MS. FRANUS: And just one more
23 thought, Mr. Marinucci made a point in saying, Have you
24 ever seen one person turned away from getting in
25 without paying, because he's saying if you can't afford
0040

01 to go there, then we will never turn anybody away.

02 So, I want to say this to the
03 people, every single person in this city should go
04 there, and if you don't have the money, don't pay, just
05 go right in because Mr. Marinucci said it's all right.
06 Don't even think about paying. Thank you.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Bob Bolus.

08 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,
09 Bob Bolus.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

11 MR. BOLUS: It was nice to see
12 administrative people here. I'm wondering where
13 everyone is coming from all of a sudden. They must
14 think this is the yellow brick road from downstairs to
15 here now, you know?

16 Everybody used to talk about is
17 the Council chambers saying this was a bunch of

18 lunatics up here, but, boy, everybody is coming here.
19 It's great.
20 It was nice to see the people in
21 here with PMA coming in. I think we should have a
22 lottery-type-effect if we're going to pick people.
23 Take it so we have more credibility to what they're
24 doing. Then there should be more investigations with
25 people who are on Workmen's Comp. claims that are on
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01 Disability that are out fly fishing or doing something
02 else or cutting their grass.
03 So, I think if they're going to
04 administer this, they should administer it properly,
05 because it's our dollar. And if they can't do that,
06 then the city should turn around and hire competent
07 people as employees in this city to do that job
08 separate from the administration, their own basic
09 organization to go out there and do the job, and maybe
10 we'll cut a lot more of our claims out, as we've seen
11 in the past with problems.
12 But the return to work should be
13 administered fairly, not just pick and choose just
14 because you know someone can't come and make them come.
15 So, there are a lot of flaws in this whole program that
16 really needs to be addressed.

17 It's sad to see that the zoo has
18 no money and they can't go on. And I sat there
19 thinking, I said, Jeez, just think, if Carl Greco and
20 Gene Hickey, all these people that are getting all this
21 money from the city gave up their salaries, Chris
22 Doherty, all of them, went up there and worked at the
23 zoo, after all, it was Chris Doherty's brainchild that
24 brought it here, and the animals shouldn't have to
25 suffer, and neither should little kids.

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01 And we're going right back to
02 square once again. Let's all go and spend millions at
03 Nay Aug. Well, we can see it's not supporting itself.
04 He has to take another hard look
05 at that. He has a Reflection Pond, but there's no fish
06 in it because the pool had a problem.
07 So, all this money is going out
08 now and we're not getting anywhere with it, but we keep
09 giving big, big salaries away.
10 More to executives, more
11 accountants, more consultants. Give the
12 Connell Building away money, but they're building a
13 resort in the Pocono's, they're not building it here in

14 Scranton.

15 The DPW complex, \$600,000, but

16 they have a big sign down there, For sale or lease.

17 See what their profit is going to be on that. That was

18 our money that Chris Doherty gave away again.

19 You just start turning around and

20 keep seeing the deficit spending that this man is doing

21 in this city, and it's really, really scary.

22 How do you take money that we have

23 from the senior citizens and the taxpayers in this city

24 and give it away?

25 The Rec. Authority said, hey, and

0043

01 Fay, she had it perfect, If you have no money, you can

02 swim free. So, absolutely, everybody go there and say

03 you don't have a dime in your pocket. It's free.

04 Perfect. Why should we be

05 discriminated against if we have \$2 or \$3 to swim, when

06 someone comes up and says, I don't have any money, and

07 they swim for free. So, it's either what's good for

08 one is good for everybody.

09 So, it just goes to show how

10 Doherty runs his administration. Here is the Rec.

11 Authority telling you to take a free ride, all you have

12 to do is say you don't have any money. So, it's really

13 great how they're handling that.

14 Now, the question is, when are we

15 going to start putting a fee on the KOZs and the

16 non-profits? Now, we've hammered away at this, I've

17 given information, I've spent a lot of time, energy and

18 money to give this Council and the administration the

19 opportunity to put tax dollars back in our pockets, fix

20 our streets, take care of our neighborhoods,

21 outsourcing money.

22 But, no, Doherty wants to just

23 borrow, pay interest, give it away, just like he did

24 the golf course, like he did South Side Complex.

25 These are the issues that are

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01 destroying this community, and we can't continue to

02 keep doing this.

03 He took jobs for Southern Union.

04 Well, let him take credit for the 10 or 15 people that

05 may show up there. They sure in heck aren't going to

06 turn Scranton around, are they?

07 So, when we go on and on and keep

08 seeing where the deficit spending is going, it's just

09 destroying the city. And I would really like to ask,

10 again, Doherty claims all the real people voted for
11 him, I'd like to know who the real people are, and I
12 really mean that, because I'd like to join them, not to
13 vote for him, but I would like to say I live in the
14 City of Scranton and I'm a citizen of this city,
15 because then I guess we'd be real people, because
16 apparently he doesn't think we are, even though it's
17 our money he's squandered.
18 So, you know, where do we head?
19 We keep heading into the hole. This city, this Council
20 is doing everything. Some members are here to get us
21 where we're going, and I don't see where we're heading
22 in the right direction with this administration.
23 what we need to do is take care of
24 our police, our fire, sit down with our unions and get
25 this nonsense straightened out. Don't try hammering
0045
01 everybody in the ground, and then turn around and
02 squander all our assets and then come back and say I've
03 got to borrow more money.
04 We don't have it, he's not going
05 to get it, and quite frankly I agree with Regina, I
06 don't think he will be here at the end of this term,
07 too. Thank you.
08 MR. DIBILEO: Lee Morgan.
09 MR. MORGAN: Good evening,
10 Council. The first thing I have is, I'd like to convey
11 a message to the next Council, because as everybody
12 knows, this is an election year, and we don't know who
13 the next Council is going to be, but I'd just like to
14 tell them, because we hear too many discussions about
15 who Council represents, and I'd just like to -- I'd
16 just like them to hear this message, that when they
17 come here, they don't represent the mayor, they
18 represent the people, and we want all this BS to end,
19 because it has to end, okay?
20 Topics should be driven by their
21 merit and not by somebody's political ideologies, and
22 that's why we are where we are.
23 There was a discussion here on
24 compensation. You know, I'm somewhat troubled by the
25 way the conversation went, because what we're talking
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01 about is we're talking about buyouts.
02 Now, if somebody is legitimately
03 hurt, why would we try to force them to take a buyout
04 at anything less than they're entitled to, because
05 evidently these people were employees of the city who

06 worked for the city and were injured while they were
07 working for the city, and now what we're basically
08 saying to them is, Well, you're injured, we want to cut
09 costs, and, well, too bad, and we're going to do
10 whatever we have to do to you to get you to accept
11 this.

12 You know, today I was at a
13 friend's garage and a former city -- well, this lady's
14 on compensation and she can't walk, she's in a
15 wheelchair most of the time, you know, and you take a
16 look at this, and here's a lady who came to work every
17 day for the city, she was a policeman, I don't want to
18 say what her name is, because I think she has a right
19 to privacy, but goodness gracious, I mean, these are
20 people that were legitimately hurt.
21 Now, I have to say that if we find
22 people that are manipulating the system and they aren't
23 hurt, then we should prosecute them, but let's move
24 away from this thing where we're going to force people.
25 It's like putting people in a vise
0047

01 and just squeezing them, you know what I mean.
02 MR. McTIERNAN: Mr. Morgan, can I
03 ask the solicitor, are we forcing people to take the
04 buyouts or do they have to agree?
05 MR. WALSH: Generally speaking,
06 the people have to agree, also. There would be a quid
07 pro quo there with the buyouts.
08 MR. MORGAN: Okay. So, all these
09 people that are going to be greeters and all this other
10 stuff, nobody is twisting their arm, there's no high
11 jinks going on. We know that everything is above
12 board. Do we really know that?
13 Let's not avoid the question, do
14 we really know that? Who is really the person that's
15 driving this?

16 MR. DIBILEO: Well, buyouts have
17 to be accepted, there's no question about that,
18 Mr. Morgan. I'm not sure about the greeter program.
19 MR. MORGAN: Well, you know
20 something, I'd like to say this, you know, in Cuba
21 we've got a place where we have Taliban, you know, they
22 volunteer information to us, do we break their arm or
23 what do we do to them, do we stick their head in the
24 pail for six minutes to see if they're still alive and
25 see if they cooperate?

0048

01 I mean, and that's my pint here.

02 We have no way to know how these people are being asked
03 to take a buyout, how they're being asked to become
04 greeters, how anything is being propelled here.

05 There's absolutely no way that we know what is going on
06 here, okay?

07 Now, on the South Side Sports

08 Complex I'd like to say this, On June 15 there's a
09 hearing at Judge Walsh's at nine o'clock in the
10 morning.

11 And you know something, I think

12 it's important for everybody to show up there, because
13 the Complex is not gone yet, and it's really an asset
14 to the city.

15 The other thing I'd like to see is

16 I'd like to see a proclamation by Council go to

17 Ozzie Quinn, I really would. There's a man that did a
18 lot. You know, we talked about what he did at Nay Aug
19 to the gorge and all the other things he did in the
20 city.

21 There's a man that has worked very

22 hard, had a lot to do with zoning, what from what I
23 understand. I asked him a question about properties
24 and zoning. He has all the answers. He worked with
25 Habitat for Humanity.

0049

01 He gave as much to the city as you

02 can give, and I really think that a proclamation in his
03 honor is definitely in order.

04 MS. EVANS: Mr. Morgan,

05 City Council had actually agreed to do just that, and
06 I'm sure that was unanimous in our intent, but

07 Mr. Quinn himself declined the proclamation, and his
08 preference is to have the original plaque that was

09 given by the state to that area of Nay Aug, to have
10 that erected in the area of gorge again, and to also

11 purchase a new plaque that would commemorate all of
12 those who had passed away in that area, so we're trying
13 to follow his wishes now.

14 MR. MORGAN: Absolutely. And I'd

15 just like to say that that just about proves to you
16 what kind of man he really is.

17 The other thing is Nay Aug, you

18 know, I hope that Council would have a meeting here
19 with the director of that organization at the park and

20 try to find an acceptable solution, if we can, to save
21 that, irregardless of how it got there, irregardless of

22 who did what, because I think it could have a very
23 important role in the city as far as bringing children

24 there, it could be expanded, maybe people would
25 contribute and add a wing to it. There's a lot there.
0050

01 You know, with the amphitheater
02 there now, the playground is there, it's all really
03 coming together, and we may not agree of how the money
04 was spent and how it was brought forth, but I don't
05 think we should lose that asset.
06 And the last thing I have is for
07 Mr. DiBileo here, UNICO, you are a member of UNICO?
08 MR. DIBILEO: Uh-huh.
09 MR. MORGAN: You know, maybe you
10 could help the city with a playground program. You
11 know, I got Mr. Spano's address, and I don't know if
12 you are a voting member, and I don't understand exactly
13 the rules that are, you know, in play in your
14 organization, but I hope that if you have any say there
15 hopefully, that you would support that.
16 And the other thing is, I'd like
17 to give a website, it's [www.xanga.com.lbmorgan59](http://www.xanga.com/lbmorgan59), and
18 I'd just like to say that there are a lot of people
19 interested in a playground program in the city, a lot
20 of people, you know, have come on this site and said
21 that they were willing to work towards that, and I'd
22 just like to say that anybody would hear 61, that this
23 is -- this isn't just about the city, this is about a
24 very wide encompassing program that can be as diverse
25 as it has to be, and that's all I have. Thank you.

0051

01 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.
02 I'll mention that, Mr. Morgan, to Mr. Spano what you
03 just talked about regarding the playground. Thanks.
04 Mike Dudek.
05 MR. DUDEK: Good evening. My name
06 is Mike Dudek, 608 Depot Street. Scranton, PA. That's
07 in the Plot. I'm a taxpayer of the City of Scranton,
08 not one of the true taxpayers, but a taxpayer
09 nonetheless.
10 This past Sunday the Sunday Times
11 component of the News Censorship Alliance published its
12 version of comprehensive new articles. These articles
13 raise the prospect that taxpayer money would be spent
14 to recount Scranton's mayoral election result. By
15 making that comment, I believe that that opens this
16 microphone up to a rather strong rebuttal.
17 Basically I could reduce the
18 production of what appeared in the Sunday Times to my
19 own personal political cartoon. In my cartoon

20 Gary DiBileo is standing in the center dripping in
21 ooze.
22 On one side of Gary is a
23 ghostbuster who looks alike like Borys Krysedick, and
24 on the other side is another ghostbuster who looks an
25 awful lot like Lynn Slack Shedlock smiling. At Gary's
0052
01 feet is a chicken I labeled Jennifer Henn, who is about
02 to lay a great big golden egg. The caption has Gary
03 simply saying, The Censorship Alliance slimed me.
04 The Censorship Alliance censored
05 out the fact that with the Republican party being
06 unrepresented in the mayor's race, Pennsylvania Law
07 allowed the mayor candidates the other parties to run a
08 write-in vote on the Republican line in the Scranton
09 mayor's race.
10 The tone of the
11 Censorship Alliance articles clearly is that the
12 Republican voters should vote for Mayor Doherty because
13 County Commissioner Robert Cordaro backs Doherty, as do
14 other Republican leaders who failed to provide a
15 candidate of their own.
16 The Censorship Alliance censored
17 out the fact that Judge Nealon waived any possibility
18 of any fees or taxes or any kind of taxpayer money
19 having to be spent on this recount, that was never
20 mentioned.
21 The Censorship Alliance censored
22 out the fact that Mayor Doherty has run his office like
23 a right-wing Republican. He's never consulted with
24 City Council.
25 He has never, never done hardly
0053
01 anything as far as the city's infrastructure is
02 concerned, almost never talks to the city employees
03 about their thoughts.
04 The Censorship Alliance clearly
05 advocates clearly advocates Gary DiBileo changing
06 political parties, censoring out the fact that this
07 action could hurt him with the very kind of democrat he
08 tends to attract, the voter who would vote against him
09 if he did change parties.
10 The Censorship Alliance trumpeted
11 Mayor Doherty appearance at the Plot Neighborhood
12 Association meeting that I attended. It censored out
13 the fact that Mayor Doherty's first ever appearance at
14 any neighborhood meeting, which was at that one, was an
15 appearance in which he was so uncomfortable, he kind of

16 reminded me of Queen Elizabeth making her appearance at
17 the Throop Cow Flop.

18 As to Jennifer Henn, the egg she's

19 laying in her writing is going to be very truly golden

20 and for one Joseph Corcoran. Given the damage done by

21 her and the Censorship Alliance to former Commissioner

22 Joseph Corcoran, I would sue the Scranton Times and

23 this alliance for nothing less than \$20 million.

24 Mr. Corcoran lost office, income,

25 political influence, personal prestige and professional

0054

01 prestige.

02 I was personally asked to help the

03 National Catholic Reporter in 1996, when they were sued

04 for \$45 million by Briggs and Stratton, the engine

05 maker.

06 The Catholic paper said that

07 Briggs and Stratton violated Catholic morality by

08 sending jobs from Milwaukee to Mexico.

09 By making that statement, the

10 engine makers sued the paper for \$45 million saying

11 since there was no priest or bishop on the board of

12 that paper, they had no standing to make such a

13 statement, and that was the first motion thrown at the

14 paper, and when by the time I got done with them, that

15 motion went bye-bye, their lawyers were looking into

16 the law books and they were looking in the wrong law

17 books.

18 The precedent that I had them

19 stand on was a Vatican presentation in 1517 to a

20 Catholic layman named Henry VIII, adding the honor of

21 defender of the faith to his title for writing a paper

22 on morality called, On Defense Of The Catholic Faith.

23 That precedent made that whole thing go bye-bye for

24 him. So, I do have some standing in talking about

25 First Amendment issues.

0055

01 I hope the newspaper alliance

02 approaches Mr. Corcoran, genuflects, says,

03 (UNTRANSCRIBABLE) and try to do something to make this

04 thing go away, because I think it's going to be very

05 interesting to see this play out.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Leland Palmere.

07 MR. PALMERE: Good evening,

08 Council, Attorney Walsh, Mr. Saunders.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

10 MR. PALMERE: I'm here regarding a

11 certain ordinance, 6-B. My name is Leland Palmere, I

12 live at 659 Wales Street in Scranton over in the
13 North Scranton section of town.
14 You voted on this last week for a
15 sale of a delinquent property, which you have it down
16 here as 659 Wales Street, which is incorrect, because
17 that property is actually my house.
18 Yes. I had numerous phone calls
19 about that thinking that I owe taxes or something.
20 You're selling this to American Water Company for
21 \$4,000 to build a pumping house, I believe.
22 This is actually right next to my
23 house. It's a wooded lot on the end of the block
24 there. I don't know if you guys actually know what you
25 were voting on last week, but this is in a residential
0056
01 neighborhood, which is a deadend block, and there's
02 numerous people that have lived there for numerous
03 year.
04 I mean, we have people that live
05 there for 50 years and never had any problem with their
06 water whatsoever, and now all of a sudden the American
07 Water Company wants to buy this land and put a pumping
08 house right next to my house.
09 I have a petition here that was
10 signed by everybody on the block, which I have no
11 problem. Everybody is totally against it. I came here
12 tonight to ask that you guys vote against it for
13 further investigation of what it is.
14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Lee, can I
15 interrupt you for a minute?
16 MR. PALMERE: Sure.
17 MR. COURTRIGHT: I was out of town
18 most of the week, but last week someone came in on your
19 behalf, two individuals, and we were discussing it, and
20 I think -- where did we send them, Kay, to the law
21 department to see what could be done, and I was out of
22 town, so I don't know where that went. Does anybody
23 know?
24 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, they went up
25 to the law department and discussed the situation, and
0057
01 I think the recommendation from the law department was
02 to let it go through and then challenge it afterwards,
03 but I --
04 MR. PALMERE: Why would you let it
05 do through?
06 MR. SAUNDERS: I agree with you on
07 that.

08 MR. PALMERE: I mean, right here
09 you're voting on something that's on my property as
10 you're stating right here, 656 Wales Street. As you
11 guys see right in front of you, that's actually my
12 property.
13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right, right.
14 And these people came in and pled your case, and I
15 really didn't know the answers, so we sent them to the
16 law department and then I went out of town, so I didn't
17 know what transpired after that.
18 MR. DIBILEO: Leland, what is your
19 address?
20 MR. PALMERE: 659 Wales Street,
21 which is right down there, ordinance 6-B.
22 MR. DIBILEO: I think we should
23 probably just hold this up until we look into it
24 further.
25 MR. PALMER: Okay. I also have
0058
01 that petition signed by everybody on the block that's
02 totally against it.
03 MR. SAUNDERS: I believe
04 Solicitor Farrell wasn't in the office, but I will
05 discuss this with him tomorrow about the situation on
06 that. They did bring it to our attention that it was
07 the address, but I think it was the map number they
08 were going off, but I'll take a look on that.
09 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Walsh, you'll
10 look into it, too?
11 MR. WALSH: Yes, I will.
12 MR. COURTRIGHT: The other
13 question I think was asked of us after it was presented
14 in fifth order and they put a bid on it or whatever the
15 case may be was Mr. Palmere able to bid on it at this
16 point in time or was he precluded from doing that?
17 MR. PALMERE: That was one of the
18 questions, sorry to interrupt you. Nobody knew about
19 this whatsoever, and now all of a sudden American Water
20 Company wants to come in and build a pump house on the
21 block, when none of us knew that they were going to
22 purchase the property.
23 So, I would assume they would have
24 to come around and speak to the residents about what
25 they're going to build there, because this is a
0059
01 residential property and they're going to come here and
02 put a pump house next to people's houses? It just
03 doesn't seem right.

04 MR. SAUNDERS: This isn't
05 something the city advertises, that's something that
06 American Water has researched and found that property.
07 So, I mean, it's not that we were out --
08 MR. POCIUS: Can I interject
09 something, Mr. Saunders, if you don't mind,
10 Mr. President, as far as the tax delinquencies, they
11 started at the treasurer's office and they work their
12 way through the process, and then we advertise the sale
13 at the introduction, so there is public notice there.
14 The way this happens is,
15 Mr. Palmere, if this was approved by Council, then this
16 has to go -- actually the buyer's attorney would
17 present this to the courts and they have to be
18 approved. The sale has to be approved in court.
19 That notice is, Mark, what do
20 you -- it's not advertised in the paper, but it's in
21 your journal or legal journal or --
22 MR. WALSH: Yes.
23 MR. POCIUS: You know what I'm
24 talking about, it's like the legal paper, and then
25 anyone has a right to go to that hearing and outbid the
0060
01 price that's here.
02 You have a right, you know, that's
03 the place where this -- it's not -- you can't overturn
04 the price right at this point in time, but when it gets
05 to that next level, then you have a right to outbid
06 actually down the court, you say \$4001, whatever, keep
07 going.
08 As far as the water company having
09 a right to put a facility such as that in a residential
10 done, under the zoning ordinance pretty much every law
11 is that it's for a public use, meaning a public
12 utility, has a right to construct facilities basically
13 in any zone if deemed necessary to help their, which is
14 required by their own, what am I trying to say here,
15 whatever they need for their system.
16 After all, we can put sewers in
17 residential properties, build pump stations, the water
18 company can put water tanks or whatever, they can put
19 poles or whatever, PP&L, but you do have some recourse,
20 but, again, there's enough confusion with this as far
21 as the address and the lot and everything, and I think
22 it's best that Council hold this, Mr. President, I'll
23 agree with you on that.
24 MR. DIBILEO: Good points,
25 Mr. Pocius.

0061

01 MR. POCIUS: I'm trying to give

02 you a little background on how things go.

03 MR. PALMERE: No problem. Yeah, I

04 understand.

05 MR. POCIUS: Being both on the

06 planning and Council for so long, I know people say,

07 Well, I would have gave you \$4,000 or \$5,000, well, the

08 place for that is down at the Lackawanna County Common

09 Pleas court, when this sale has to be approved in

10 court.

11 MR. PALMERE: The other part I'm

12 saying is they want to put a pumping house there on a

13 deadend block, which is -- there's numerous neighbors,

14 like I said, that lived there for 50, 70 years that

15 never had any problem with their water. Now all of a

16 sudden, they want a pumping house right there.

17 MR. POCIUS: I can't understand

18 that, because I'm not an engineer for the water

19 company, I don't know what their thoughts are.

20 MR. PALMERE: But you guys are

21 going to be voting on it tonight, that's what I'm

22 saying. We have a petition here signed by everybody on

23 that block that does not want this in their

24 neighborhood. It's a wooded lot, and it's just going

25 to take property value down of the houses just

0062

01 because -- go ahead.

02 MS. EVANS: Would you give Kay the

03 petition?

04 MR. PALMERE: Yes, I have it right

05 here signed by everybody on the block.

06 MS. EVANS: I would say if you

07 would present that to her. Also, have you or your

08 neighbors, anyone in that general vicinity, experienced

09 flooding?

10 MR. PALMERE: No, nothing -- no

11 sorts of problems with water whatsoever. And I have

12 actually people on here that have been there for, like

13 I said, 70 years.

14 MR. DIBILEO: We appreciate your

15 concern, if that's your address 658 Wales Street.

16 MR. PALMERE: Yes.

17 MR. DIBILEO: So, be sure to leave

18 that petition with Kay. Mr. Walsh will look much more

19 deeply into it, and we'll get --

20 MR. POCIUS: Why don't we contact

21 the water company, too, and just see what exactly are

22 they doing there, because, I mean, we don't know.

23 MR. DIBILEO: We'll hold this up

24 until we know about it.

25 MR. PALMERE: Because, see, you

0063

01 guys are voting on something that you really have no

02 information about.

03 MR. DIBILEO: We'll hold it up

04 until we get all the information we need.

05 MR. PALMERE: Yeah, that's --

06 MR. DIBILEO: It won't even be on

07 here next week if we don't have it, trust me.

08 MR. COURTRIGHT: Kay, it wasn't

09 for flooding, was it, it was for water pressure. They

10 wanted to increase the water pressure.

11 MR. PALMERE: That's what I

12 believe, it was for water pressure, but I don't have

13 bad water pressure.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: And I was told by

15 the people in there that they don't have a problem with

16 their water pressure, so like the president is saying,

17 we'll look into it and we can get more information.

18 MR. DIBILEO: I wouldn't be

19 concerned about it at this point, and leave that

20 petition for us.

21 MR. PALMERE: Okay. Thank you.

22 That's all I have. Thank you.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

24 Mr. Palmere. And how about your phone number, also, if

25 you can leave your phone number with Kay, please.

0064

01 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

02 Les Spindler.

03 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,

04 Council, Les Spindler. First of all I want to thank

05 Mr. Saunders and Council, that fire hydrant on Euclid

06 Avenue I spoke about, it's all cleared out now, it's in

07 plain view. As a matter of fact, they did the whole

08 block so much distance into the woods, it looks good

09 now.

10 Secondly, was anything done

11 looking into the street signs that we're taking from

12 the pole?

13 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, that was sent

14 out. I believe that they will send somebody or did

15 send somebody up there. I'll get back to you on that.

16 It's the corner of Bulwer and North Rebecca.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Another thing, I've

18 spoken many times about when it rains, like it did
19 Monday, my sidewalks getting flooded, all the rain
20 comes in off the street, and I know letters have been
21 sent, still nothing has been done.
22 Monday when we had that big storm,
23 I couldn't get out my front door, it was like 4 inches
24 of water on the bottom of my steps. This is a problem
25 the city caused.

0065

01 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, any response

02 there, Mr. Saunders?

03 MR. SAUNDERS: No. Again, what is

04 the address on that? Give Kay the address on that,

05 would you please?

06 MR. SPINDLER: It's the same

07 corner.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Jay --

09 MR. SAUNDERS: Okay. All right.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, call somebody

11 this week regarding that, okay?

12 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Monday

13 morning a coworker came up to me and said, you know,

14 Les, you might be right. I said, What? He said about

15 Nay Aug Park.

16 He said my wife and I went up

17 there for years and we went up over the weekend, he

18 said the place is a dump. Of course he didn't use the

19 word dump, the word he used I can't use here tonight.

20 He said if you go look where the

21 elephant used to be, he said, the place is a mess. He

22 said down where the new playground is, there's still

23 piles of leaves from last year.

24 He said, Where's the million

25 dollars worth of landscaping and other stuff they put

0066

01 in there? He said it's unbelievable. And by the way,

02 this man voted for Mayor Doherty.

03 There's a picture in the

04 Sunday Times, Something Should Be Done, they have a

05 picture every week, picture of the breathtaking

06 Davis Trail. It's got a pile of lumber on one side and

07 a broken bench on the other side. It says,

08 Something Should Be Done.

09 It looks like Mayor Doherty's

10 famous Davis Trail is more like a garbage dump than a

11 walking trail. It's in Sunday's paper.

12 About these pool fees, something

13 in the paper the other day with Tony Marinucci had to

14 saw, Well, you people fail to realize we're not the bad
15 guys, says authority member Tony Marinucci. We're just
16 trying it pay the bills and maintain a facility that
17 everyone can enjoy.

18 Well, if they're not the bad guys,
19 aren't they the ones charging the fees? Who are the
20 bad guys then? I would like Mr. Marinucci to answer
21 that question. And about maintaining the pool, how was
22 the pool maintained all these years when there were no
23 fees charged?

24 I went up there for years, the
25 pool was fine, there were no fees charged. The pool
0067

01 was maintained just fine. If we had a mayor who knew
02 how to make a budget and budget money for the pool, you
03 don't have to charge fees.

04 And on that same subject now, the
05 Recreation Authority, they're appointed, as was pointed
06 out before, they're not elected officials. They're
07 taking taxpayers' money that they're charging up there,
08 and we don't know where they're spending it, that's
09 taxation without representation. That's a violation of
10 the United States Constitution. Maybe

11 Mr. Walsh can correct me on that, but I was told that
12 for a fact. Like I said, we have no idea where that
13 money is going. They don't --

14 MR. DIBILEO: Do they talk about
15 their finances at their meetings? I don't know.

16 MR. SPINDLER: I haven't gone to
17 one of their meetings.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes, briefly.

19 MR. SPINDLER: They don't have to
20 report to anybody where their money goes. It doesn't go
21 through the controller or the office or anywhere. Like
22 I said, that's taxation without representation.

23 They cannot spend taxpayers' money
24 because they are not elected officials, so they should
25 be stopped right now from charging these fees. That's
0068

01 all I have. Thank you.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Larry McAndrew.

03 MR. McANDREW: Good evening,

04 Council, Larry McAndrew, Scranton resident and
05 taxpayer.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

07 MR. McANDREW: The other evening I
08 turned on to my local TV station and I seen where our
09 mayor, Mr. Doherty, was criticizing this recount and

10 how it was taking away the jobs that the county
11 officials were supposed to be doing, this was taking
12 away from their duties, is what he said.
13 Low and behold, this morning's
14 paper, on the front page is a picture of Mayor Doherty
15 with two of his lawyers, Mr. Paul Kelly and
16 Mr. Carl Greco, and if you notice this picture, it
17 shows a voting booth behind him and they're standing
18 there observing this voting booth.
19 It's to my understanding that
20 these voting booths are stored in Dickson City. If
21 Mayor Doherty is so concerned about this primary
22 election and the results, I think I have a question to
23 ask him, Why wasn't he in his office at City Hall
24 instead of being up in Dickson City observing this?
25 Monday evening myself and several
0069

01 taxpayers attended a meeting, the Scranton Recreational
02 Authority meeting, and a vote was taken about this hot
03 item that we discussed here at City Council the last
04 several months involving a fee for the pool.
05 What was accomplished, they
06 lowered the fee from \$5 to \$3. This is great, but it's
07 unacceptable. Why is it unacceptable? I'll tell you
08 my reasonings.
09 To begin with, that authority, I
10 think, shouldn't be allowed to -- at all. There should
11 be an amendment made in the Home Rule Charter that
12 gives City Council authority to make the regulations on
13 what -- if there should be a pool fee for that park.
14 This Recreation Authority should be abolished.
15 Attending that meeting there was
16 no chairman there. He had other business to take care
17 of. I guess his son's graduation was that night. I
18 can understand that.
19 But the vice chairman did not
20 conduct this meeting, I figured, properly. He let this
21 one board member dictate what was said or to be said.
22 This was incorrect.
23 There was nothing there for us to
24 see what was on the agenda. There was no figures to
25 tell us how our money is being spent, although there
0070

01 was a gentleman there from the parks and recreation,
02 Mr. Scopelleti, I believe that's his name, and he
03 informed us in the year 2001, that they came up with
04 this idea of putting the slide in because there was
05 low-lives that were up at that park and that family

06 orientation of people were not coming there.
07 This slide cost the city
08 \$209,000. It's too much money. That \$209,000 could go
09 for our police, it could go for our firemen for
10 protection.
11 In Manhattan is a park, also,
12 Central Park, in New York City, where families come and
13 they enjoy. I only have one more thought. This park
14 up here at Nay Aug Park an be family orientated. We
15 don't need this waterslide. This money can be spent on
16 other important issues. Thank you very much.
17 MR. DIBILEO: Ann Marie Rosato.
18 MS. ROSATO: Hi. My name is Ann
19 Marie Rosato and I live at 602 Delaware Street, and I'm
20 just here again tonight to bring you up to date on the
21 issues that we're having with the Daron Block Plant on
22 Dickson Avenue.
23 First I just want to tell you a
24 little story that happened to me, and I can empathize,
25 I guess, with public officials now, because I was in
0071
01 the grocery store last week and a woman came up to me.
02 She recognized me from Channel 61, and she proceeded to
03 tell me that I should be ashamed of myself for coming
04 on TV and saying bad things about the mayor.
05 And I just want to say that I
06 never said anything bad about the mayor or anybody in
07 his administration, I came before Council with what I
08 thought was a legitimate problem, a legitimate health
09 and safety issue that was affecting or neighborhood,
10 and unfortunately before we came to Council, this
11 problem had been festering for several years, and
12 nothing was done about it.
13 Numerous phone calls, numerous
14 complaints. It was only until we came before Council
15 that action started to get taken, and I just want to
16 acknowledge Mrs. Evans, because she is the one that
17 actually took this problem and ran with it and actually
18 supported the people of our neighborhood.
19 And to that end, I do want to
20 thank her, because she really did -- her election is
21 over, and it didn't matter to her. She still kept
22 after this, and there are things that are being done so
23 far.
24 And just to update everyone, the
25 Daron Block management did talk to me and several of my
0072
01 other neighbors this week, and they reiterated

02 pretty much what Mr. Fiorini already said at Council
03 last week about putting -- they're going to pave, they
04 have a paving project scheduled actually for the week
05 of July the 4th. They're closing down the plant and
06 they're going to be paving that week.
07 They did say that they were going
08 to try to not have the trucks there early in the
09 morning, late at night. They did move the piles of
10 dirt further back into the property.
11 While we're cautiously optimistic,
12 you know, that things are going to change and get
13 better, you know, and we're willing to give them a
14 chance on the cleanup.
15 We're not going to be silent on
16 this. We're still going to -- if we see that they're
17 not conforming, if they're still having problems --
18 there are things that they do need to do, you know,
19 that are not in place yet.
20 For instance, just this past
21 Monday there was a storm that happened, and it was
22 preceded right before the storm, it came in late
23 afternoon, I don't know if anyone remembers it, there
24 was 60 mile an hour winds.
25 And as I was running through my
0073
01 house to shut all of my windows, because the smoke that
02 was coming from across the street was just horrendous,
03 it was actually so bad that people were pulling over
04 their cars because they couldn't see, they couldn't see
05 to drive.
06 And when something gets that bad,
07 something has to be done. So, I mean, I hope they
08 would address the issue of the aggregate piles by
09 putting some sort of silos.
10 I mean, you know, PennDOT has
11 those kind of things that they cover the salt sheds
12 with, you know, something similar to that.
13 MS. EVANS: Did you call DEP to --
14 MS. ROSATO: Yeah. Several of us
15 put in calls to DEP to complain. Actually they sent
16 someone out that day, they did send someone out that
17 very day, on Monday.
18 I don't know what happened, I
19 don't know what happened with that, but they did send
20 someone out that day.
21 MS. EVANS: Well, actually maybe I
22 can give you a quick update on that. Daron has been
23 ordered to utilize liquid calcium by the end of this

24 week, and hopefully that will tie over the situation
25 until the paving program begins in July.

0074

01 And I also understand from, I
02 believe his name is Mr. Belles, Roger Belles, who is
03 the supervisor with DEP, that Daron has extended its
04 paving program beyond the entrance to all the interior
05 roads, so they were very deep -- he was very pleased
06 with that addition, and they also indicated to me that
07 if the liquid calcium is insufficient between now and
08 the time that the paving program begins, DEP will stay
09 on top of this, but you as residents are to report any
10 incident immediately.

11 DEP will return once again, and
12 Daron will be asked or told rather to comply, institute
13 another measure that will just keep this situation
14 under control until the actual paving occurs.

15 Thereafter, in other words,
16 following the paving program, DEP will return to
17 re-evaluate the situation, and it's at that time that
18 they will also re-evaluate the storage piles.
19 I believe they told me when they
20 had last visited for that type of evaluation, it wasn't
21 a very windy day, so they didn't consider the storage
22 piles to be a significant factor in the migration of
23 the dust, but they would return on a day with
24 conditions -- well, we certainly hope we don't see
25 those conditions again.

0075

01 MS. ROSATO: I hoped they did come
02 on Monday, because they would have gotten a treat.

03 MS. EVANS: Yes, yes, that's why I
04 was anxious to know if you had complained about that.

05 MS. ROSATO: Yeah, we did complain
06 actually on that day to DEP, and they did say that
07 someone, and I don't remember his name, Lester, was
08 actually on his way to the site at that point, and that
09 was right before the storm, so I'm hoping that he did
10 catch, you know, did see it.

11 MS. EVANS: Maybe a Mr. Sabula?

12 MS. ROSATO: I don't know.
13 Honestly, I don't remember his name, but she dis say he
14 was on his way over there and they were going to look
15 at it.

16 So, you know, I hope they do
17 implement the changes that they're saying they're going
18 to. We're going to keep on this because it is our
19 neighborhood.

20 MS. EVANS: And DEP has promised
21 that they are keeping their eye on this and they
22 feel -- they are impressed with the measures that Daron
23 has indicated they will take, and as I said, they
24 assured me that they will re-evaluate afterwards to
25 insure that the dust migration has terminated and, you
0076
01 know, between now and then.
02 And as I said, during any of this,
03 just make those phone calls, because that's what's
04 going to trigger DEP back out there again.
05 MS. ROSATO: And I have been
06 spreading the word to my neighbors, too, about making
07 phone calls and things like that.
08 There was actually a compliance
09 check there today. DOT had the police department out
10 there, and they had trucks lined up all the way down
11 the road, and they cited quite a few of them actually.
12 The chief of police did speak with
13 me and he did tell me that unfortunately they can't
14 enforce the early morning and the late evening until we
15 get a sign there, and he asked me, and I did say that,
16 you know, I knew the process was going and I don't know
17 how long it would take for that process to go, that
18 they were going to put a sign there, and he jokingly
19 said to me, It takes about 15 minutes.
20 So, I would hope that that's
21 something that will be done as soon as possible, at the
22 very least, to get the sign there to say no trucks
23 before seven, no trucks after seven.
24 But in closing, I just want to say
25 that the problem of our neighborhood is really the
0077
01 problems of all our neighborhoods. Probably this
02 problem is as important to us as tree stadium is to the
03 people that will live by Marywood. It's important to
04 us as the Flexible Foam Plant is to the people that
05 live in Minooka.
06 I sense that a trend is coming,
07 and our neighborhoods are disintegrating in favor of
08 big business.
09 And I just want to say that if the
10 neighborhoods crumble, big business is going to
11 crumble, also, because it might take a couple of years,
12 but believe it or not, the surrounding communities are
13 building up.
14 They have parks, they have
15 businesses. Just look at Viewmont Drive. You know,

16 people aren't going to come back into the city to use
17 city businesses, to patronize our parks if they move
18 out.

19 The people that are going to
20 patronize the businesses and the parks are people that
21 live in the city. And if you chase us away, the city
22 is going to crumble eventually. And I just want people
23 to realize that.

24 This is an election year, and I
25 urge people to find out what is important in their
0078

01 neighborhoods, to know what's going on.

02 Had I known that this plant was
03 coming, I certainly wouldn't have purchased my home on
04 Delaware Street. But I didn't. And I did, and now I'm
05 trying to live with it.

06 So, know what's important, find
07 out. Get involved in your neighborhood associations.
08 Know what you want. And go for it. Vote that way on
09 Election Day.

10 I'm really quite a happy tax
11 paying citizen. I believe that it's my duty to pay
12 taxes, and I pay them well, you know, I pay them
13 gladly. It's my right as a citizen, and my son gets a
14 great education in Scranton. I'm happy to pay my
15 taxes, but I want results for my taxes.

16 I want the city to listen to what
17 my concerns are and my neighborhood's concerns. And
18 that's really all I wanted to say. Thank you.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

20 Mrs. Rosato. JB Davis.

21 MR. DAVIS: Yesterday I caught on
22 the news, both WBRE and WDAU, they were giving a
23 tribute to a man that I know very well,

24 Mr. Morgan, Mr. William Morgan.

25 This 87-year-old was getting cited
0079

01 for being a crossing guard, beautiful, because he's
02 helped kids from the ages of kindergarten all the way
03 up through, and he's truly a hero in our community.

04 And I thought it was very nice of
05 them to give him some sort of a credit for what he's
06 done before he dies.

07 And I, myself, I stand in awe of
08 what you've done, Mr. Morgan. At 87, you should have
09 retired many years ago, but you knew what you were
10 doing, and I'm glad that they came through and they
11 gave you the citation that they did.

12 And I heard somebody before
13 talking about getting -- proclaiming something for
14 people, and I would really feel very good about
15 Scranton if you could maybe make the legislation that
16 would give him a proclamation.
17 MS. EVANS: Certainly.
18 MR. DIBILEO: Very deserving, I
19 think, Mr. Davis.
20 MR. DAVIS: Yes, yes. It's a
21 positive story. He's a very positive person, and I
22 would like that very, very much. I would appreciate
23 it, and many others would.
24 Okay. A Mrs. Boone, who is the
25 publisher and writer of the Mellanian News, on the same
0080
01 day as UNICO is having this on the 18th of June, is
02 having a festival in the park, and the purpose of it is
03 to unify Scranton.
04 She has after one year of putting
05 out this newspaper all by herself, fantastic work,
06 she's decided to celebrate by having a festival in the
07 park from twelve o'clock until seven o'clock in the
08 evening.
09 It's in front of the museum, the
10 area there, and there will be food and fun, and perhaps
11 by growing together, by going together and just meeting
12 there and listening to the music and talking to one
13 another, we can find out what the problems of the area
14 are and perhaps be able to solve them.
15 I'm coming to you as sort of a
16 liaison of hers and I'm announcing to you that you are
17 all invited. The whole city is invited, and we would
18 like very much that you come, join us with a good
19 heart, eat some good food and perhaps impart your
20 information to the people of the area.
21 I mean, we are also inviting the
22 Latinos, the Hispanics, as some people want to call
23 them, the Islanders, the Asians, the Mexicans. You're
24 all welcome to come. This is like our diversity.
25 It seems as though every year
0081
01 we're doing something with a diverse motif to it.
02 We're trying to bring people together, not so much to
03 solve a problem, but just to let them know that they do
04 exist, and if they do have a problem, then they'll know
05 who to go to in order to solve it.
06 Last point here, the
07 James Davis they were talking about is not me. I am

08 trying to lose weight, but I'm not trying very hard. I
09 enjoy my weight, I enjoy eating, and it shows.
10 If you come on the 18th, do us a
11 favor, write down what you like about the city and what
12 you'd like to complain about the city, either or, and
13 we're going to try and solve the problem that are
14 brought to us.
15 We're going to have a large box
16 there. You can take your statement, because they are
17 statements to us, and drop them in there, and if you
18 leave a name and if you leave a number, we'll try and
19 find the answer to it and get back to you.
20 We need to unify the city so that
21 we can get everything done for everyone, and everyone
22 has to have a say-so in it, and we hope that you'll
23 come and enjoy us. Thank you.
24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
25 Mr. Davis.
0082
01 MR. DIBILEO: That's it for the
02 sign-in sheet.
03 MR. STUCKER: How are you doing?
04 Good. All right. I have a problem, the cops have been
05 after my back about having yard sales.
06 I was up the other day, the other
07 day up on the top of the hill, Harrison Avenue, they
08 had a yard sale and they had no permits, and I want to
09 know why the cops stopped me and says you got to put
10 stuff on the porch because I didn't have a permit.
11 Is there a reason for them and
12 that I can't have a yard sale and everybody else does
13 in Scranton?
14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Jim, I don't
15 know, do you have one on a regular basis?
16 MR. STUCKER: Saturdays and
17 Sundays.
18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Every single
19 week? Maybe that's why.
20 MR. STUCKER: Saturdays and
21 Sundays.
22 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't think you
23 can continually have them. It's like you're operating
24 a business then, you know?
25 MR. STUCKER: I don't have them on
0083
01 business days, Saturdays and Sundays, that's the only
02 time.
03 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Let

04 me try to explain it to you, Jimmy. If you have it
05 once in a while, I think it's okay. If you're going to
06 have it every single Saturday and Sunday, it's like
07 you're conducting business, and you don't have a
08 license to conduct business. That's why they're
09 bothering you about it, you know? Do you follow that?
10 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. There's no
11 reason why, because everybody else does. That's what
12 I'd like to know.
13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Jim, listen to
14 me, Buddy, listen to me for a minute, I believe you
15 can't have it every single weekend.
16 MR. STUCKER: I only have it once
17 a weekend, that's it. That's all. Every other
18 weekend.
19 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right.
20 I don't know what else to tell you. I've been trying
21 to explain it to you, but I guess I'm not getting the
22 point across.
23 MR. STUCKER: All right. Right
24 there on Moosic Street, we need a sign up for kids
25 going across on Moosic Street, and people like us, we
0084
01 can't get across right by the gas station. We need a
02 sign up, stop, or have a sign slow up or something.
03 MR. DIBILEO: How about crossing
04 lines there, do we have crosswalks?
05 MR. STUCKER: There's no lines at
06 all there on the road. There's no lines on the road.
07 All four corners don't have a line.
08 MR. DIBILEO: Maybe that's what we
09 can try to help you with, Jim. That's a busy corner
10 there. Jay, can you look into that, please?
11 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, I will.
12 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Jim.
13 MR. STUCKER: All right. And down
14 by the Chinese food there around by the bridge, we need
15 a line there, too.
16 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, the first
17 corner off the bridge, also.
18 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes.
19 MR. DIBILEO: Okay, Jim. Good.
20 Thank you.
21 MR. STUCKER: I'm happy what you
22 did, it was on TV and the radio.
23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.
24 MR. STUCKER: I'm glad you did
25 win.

0085

01 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Jimmy.

02 Appreciate it. Thanks a lot.

03 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening,

04 Council. I'm Joanne Williams, a citizen and homeowner
05 of Scranton.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

07 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes, I really hope,

08 Mr. DiBileo, and I'm not trying that I could be -- I

09 listened to people speak up here, and I'm courteous,
10 and I hope that I get the same.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Absolutely.

12 MS. WILLIAMS: I would really
13 appreciate that.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Let me remind people

15 now if they would keep all talking down in the audience
16 down, please.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: I just wanted to

18 elaborate on what Mr. Davis said about Mr. Morgan, the

19 crossing guard, up at Prescott School. He crossed my

20 daughter, and I've seen him cross many children. He

21 took great care and pride in what he did, and

22 congratulate him.

23 Just to move on a little bit, you

24 know, I listen to the Council meetings at home and I

25 don't come, and I do hear a lot of people saying what

0086

01 they feel, and they have their right to do that, but

02 this is how I feel, I feel if you look back prior to

03 the Doherty administration and take a look at this city

04 and see what it was and what it was becoming, it was

05 sort of sad.

06 There were no buildings coming to

07 our downtown area, even though, you know, I know a lot

08 of people speak about KOZs, personally I'm not for KOZs

09 for homes, but for businesses, yes.

10 I don't think a business is going

11 to come down to a city that has been, let's call it

12 somewhat ghost town, you know, and say they're going to

13 put millions of dollars. I think they need some kind

14 of, you know, incentive to come to the city. And I'm

15 glad they've come to the city.

16 Also if you took a look at our

17 parks prior to the Doherty administration, they were

18 deplorable, not only Nay Aug Park, the other parks.

19 You were afraid to walk in them, to do anything in

20 them.

21 You know, when we talk about a

22 lot, and I hear people say that this mayor doesn't get
23 out and speak to the people enough, well, you know, I
24 think he does, and there may be sometimes he doesn't,
25 but I think he's a mayor that has a vision for this
0087

01 city and he stuck and he had to work and do what he had
02 to do to make the city come back to life, and he's done
03 that.

04 You know, when I met Mr. Doherty
05 he was on Council and I didn't know him well. I
06 listened to what he had to say when he was running for
07 mayor the first time, and everything he said, he kept
08 his promises.

09 Somebody mentioned Ozzie Quinn,
10 also, and I think Ozzie Quinn is a nice man. He had a
11 vision for, I guess, the Davis Trail, but unfortunately
12 he didn't have a mayor to back him at that time.
13 You know, we have a mayor now that
14 has a vision for this city to move it ahead, to move it
15 along. You know, he may not get out there and attend
16 every birthday party, every funeral, you know, and
17 that's fine for mayors who want to do that, but this is
18 a mayor who needs to do a job to move this city ahead
19 for all the citizens of this city.

20 Now, someone also has come up here
21 and said about the zoo being deplorable this evening
22 and the playground, I was up there a few days ago, it
23 doesn't look like that, it doesn't look like that at
24 all. I am very proud to walk into our parks and our
25 city to see what is coming.

0088

01 Also I noticed, I do listen to
02 Mayor Doherty on TV now on 61, which I think is a great
03 idea, you know, and he has stated several facts about
04 the street paving, 120 blocks, 35 alleys, 450 streets
05 in office. The mayor will continue to do that.

06 Also, Providence Square, which is
07 being renovated, and let's give the credit where the
08 credit is due. Let's give it to former Council member
09 Kevin Murphy, who had the vision for that.

10 And basically it's just that, you
11 know, everybody has their own opinion, which is fine,
12 but my opinion about this city, I've always loved this
13 city. There were times I thought what was going to
14 happen to the city because it was going down the tubes
15 there for quite a few years.

16 This mayor had the vision and his
17 administration and the courage and the strength to move

18 this city ahead.

19 And like when you have a home and

20 you have to remortgage, you know, you have to pay back,

21 and I think this is what this mayor has to do. For us

22 to have a city that's going to come alive again, bring

23 people back, you have to do things like that. That's

24 the way things were. Your house breaks down, you can't

25 let it go, you remortgage.

0089

01 And just in closing, Mr. Pocius, I

02 want to thank you. And in the beginning, we didn't get

03 along years and years ago, years ago, I don't know if

04 you remember that, oh, no, this is years ago, you know,

05 but I've watched you and I've listened to you.

06 You know, I want to thank you for

07 your concern, but most of all offer your intelligence

08 and questions that are sometimes the answer to this

09 Council, that you are the one that knows how to answer

10 them.

11 Not putting anybody down, well,

12 you're lucky to have him, you're learning from him.

13 But you know, I know you love this city, and you've

14 done a great job and I want to thank you for that.

15 Thank you for letting me speak.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

17 Mrs. Williams. Thank you. Any other speakers?

18 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,

19 Council, Charlie Newcomb.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

21 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: I know it's

22 been spoken here tonight a lot about the

23 Recreation Authority and the meeting that happened on

24 Monday, I didn't attend the meeting, because I was at

25 work late.

0090

01 To be perfectly honest with you, I

02 don't like to attend those meetings, because it's like

03 going outside on a windy day and spitting up in the

04 air, but it's to my understanding that they decreased

05 the fee to \$3 for the slide, and \$1 for the pool.

06 It still isn't free. It's a start, but it still isn't

07 free.

08 We preached about this last year.

09 My personal opinion, election time is coming up, so

10 we've got to take some steps in the right direction.

11 At that meeting Mr. Marinucci kept

12 asking the citizens that were there, Where are we

13 supposed to get the money from, when the people would

14 ask about the fee. That's his job to find out where
15 they're supposed to get the money from.
16 But where do they have -- what do
17 they have to do? Like, what I'm saying is, where did
18 they get the money from for the last 50, 60 years to
19 pay for the pool?
20 It's not our problem that you have
21 to pay for a \$290,000 waterslide. They created that.
22 There's your decision to find out where you're going to
23 get the money to pay for that waterslide.
24 It's not our problem that you went
25 and paid for a reflection pond that's in deplorable
0091
01 condition that we now have to foot the bill for it to
02 fix. That's not our solution to find out, that's
03 yours.
04 I wrote the following letter to
05 Mr. Kelly, and I mailed it yesterday, and I'm going to
06 give a copy to Council, and I would like you to listen
07 very closely at the questions that I ask in this
08 letter, because it seems to me that they have much,
09 much more power than you have, and I want you to know
10 what has gone on at this meeting.
11 Dear, Mr. Kelly, I would like to
12 request the following information about the
13 Recreation Authority. I'm requesting this information
14 under The Right To Know Act, and as you are well aware
15 of, the timing for this request is five days.
16 First, at your past meeting
17 Mr. Marinucci stated that the Authority is now a state
18 agency, can I please have a full explanation of this,
19 and also, I'm requesting a copy of the last meeting's
20 minutes.
21 It was also stated that \$50,000
22 was collected from the new admission cost at
23 Nay Aug Park from 2004, I would like a complete
24 breakdown of where this money was spent, and please
25 send me all receipts and vouchers for each expense, as
0092
01 well as how much money is left, if any, and a copy of
02 the ledger for the Authority.
03 Finally, it was stated that the
04 Authority was going to receive a \$500,000 donation.
05 This donation was supposed to be from the Weinberger
06 Memorial, I believe the name of it is, so I would like
07 you to please ask the Authority members to state where
08 the intended use of this money will be spent.
09 I thank you in advance for your

10 cooperation. I am sending you this request, because as
11 of yet, the Authority has no known address to request
12 this type of information.

13 So, let me just sum this up, what
14 I mean in this letter, how did the Recreation Authority
15 become a state agency? Does that just happen
16 overnight? Is a city authority a state agency?
17 It's a good question. If I get an
18 answer, I'll let you know, since Council isn't aware of
19 that, which they should be, because I don't understand
20 how that could happen. And were you aware that they
21 were going to get a half a million dollar donation?
22 Also when asked for the ledger of
23 the Scranton Recreation Authority at the last meeting,
24 it wasn't available, because they said it was given to
25 the accountant.

0093

01 So, my question is, how can you
02 run a meeting that has to do with taxpayers funds and
03 read the numbers off of a piece of paper? Something is
04 wrong here, and this needs to be investigated.
05 Something is drastically wrong.
06 So, if I don't receive a copy of
07 these letters or these answers next week, I will be
08 here and I'll let you know what is going on.
09 Finally, I stated last week about
10 the 200 block of North Cameron Avenue. I'm really
11 asking somebody from Council or somebody from the city
12 to come out and see what exactly the problem is so you
13 can see for yourself.

14 The storm that we had last Monday
15 that was spoke about here before, but we still had
16 water before it even started raining. Today that was
17 left over from that storm.
18 And the simple solution is, I'm
19 not an engineer and I have no idea how, but if somehow
20 that road could be arched a little bit to kind of get
21 that water down from that area, there's two sewer
22 drains at the end of the block, so maybe it could be
23 fixed there.

24 And finally, I'd like to ask, can
25 we find out where the pothole patching machine is? Is

0094

01 that being used? I haven't seen that in a very long
02 time, and we paid, I believe it was, about \$50,000 for
03 that, and this is the season to use it, and I don't
04 honestly know where the heck it is. Thank you.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Chris,

06 did you want to --

07 MR. SLEDZINSKI: Right, Janet?

08 MS. EVANS: Yes.

09 MR. SLEDZINSKI: I got a problem,

10 Billy, for you. Back on Rock Street, Kevin's hubcaps

11 were stolen off his truck, his hubcaps. Have the cops

12 come and check that area out, you know.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: We'll stop down

14 after the meeting and we'll ask them.

15 MR. SLEDZINSKI: All right, Billy.

16 Thanks, Billy.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right.

18 You're welcome. Thanks for the gift.

19 MR. SLEDZINSKI: You're welcome.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks, Chris. If

21 there's no further speakers -- Mr. Fiorini.

22 MR. FIORINI: Good evening,

23 Council.

24 MS. EVANS: Hello.

25 MR. FIORINI: I have an update

0095

01 Daron. I had a conversation or phone conversation with

02 Dave Lewis, who is the manager, and yesterday I

03 received a phone call from DEP, and we discussed some

04 issues.

05 The water truck is on site, the

06 broom will be on site next week. They are going to do

07 another calcium treatment either this weekend or early

08 next week. That was a request by DEP. The paving

09 program will start the week of June 20.

10 Also Dave mentioned to me that he

11 talked to several of the neighbors on Dickson Avenue,

12 and he addressed some of their concerns, and he will

13 keep on addressing that.

14 And I think Yvonne, she's here,

15 she asked him about if they could have another route

16 with the forklift at night, and which he did, did he do

17 that? Okay. He did change the route, so she's

18 satisfied with that.

19 There's other couple problems

20 there with that heavy rainstorm down there, all right,

21 and part of the problem is the exit that comes out,

22 during the course of the winter they plowed and all

23 that column stuff was all pushed up against the fence,

24 so when it rained, the water did come down

25 Dickson Avenue onto several of the properties, the mud

0096

01 from that.

02 Also, there is on the corner of
03 Delaware and Dickson, I mentioned it to George Parker
04 today, that the catch basin there, the throat of that
05 is only about an inch and a half wide and it should be
06 about 4 inches, so that adds another water problem
07 coming down, so that's going to be addressed.
08 The other thing I talked to
09 Mr. Parker about today is every Friday until they get
10 the paving done, I want the street watered and then
11 with the sweeper come up the street, so he assured me
12 that he would get that done. So, that should alleviate
13 a lot of the dust.
14 And you were told about the trucks
15 stopped today down there, so we are doing what we have
16 to do and address the problems for the people down
17 there.
18 And that's basically the reason
19 why I'm here. I'm here on my own free will, not
20 because I'm told, okay?
21 MS. EVANS: I know.
22 MR. FIORINI: I'm just addressing
23 a problem that was said before.
24 The other thing is the U.S.S.
25 Scranton plaque, it was -- it's my fault. It was an
0097
01 oversight. When we took all the pictures down, the
02 plaque was stored in a different location, all right?
03 And, also, I'm a veteran myself,
04 but I want to publicly apologize to the veterans who
05 have served on the U.S.S. Scranton and those that are
06 serving on it.
07 And the plaque will be put up this
08 weekend, and I intend to put it right here between
09 Council on the outside between the elevator and
10 Council's door here.
11 MS. EVANS: Wonderful.
12 MR. FIORINI: I'm sorry, but with
13 so much I have going on on my plate, it's just an
14 oversight. Thank you.
15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.
16 MR. POCIUS: Bill, excuse me.
17 There was a resident that came here a few weeks ago,
18 Mrs. Evans received a call that was intended for me,
19 could you take a check on the Walgreen's site on the
20 corner of Luzerne Street and Main Avenue to see that
21 everything that they were supposed to put in place is a
22 part of their approved land development plan?
23 You don't have to answer it

24 tonight, because we're running long enough, but --

25 MR. FIORINI: I can answer on some
0098

01 of the things.

02 MR. POCIUS: But all I'm saying is
03 that there was a thing, like, that there was a
04 temporary barrier left in, the fencing was switched,
05 just to give us a report.

06 MR. FIORINI: The original fencing
07 was supposed to be a cedar fence, okay, and they
08 changed that to the chain link fence, and I think one
09 of the reasons is because being up on the hill
10 there, with the cedar fence, the wind could not go
11 through it and eventually it would blow over, all
12 right? So, you know as well as I do, when a job starts
13 there's a lot of changes to the project.

14 MR. POCIUS: Was there anything
15 that's basically, let's say, not in the, quote, good
16 spirit of the approved plans? I mean, you can make
17 changes, but was there anything left out or substituted
18 that --

19 MR. FIORINI: Well, I think I
20 heard the conversation here of that gentleman. The
21 developer paid for all this; in other words, the
22 contractor didn't make money on it, it was the who --
23 MR. FIORINI: I understand.

24 You're not answering my question, the question is, we
25 said there was still temporary barrier up in the alley
0099

01 rather than a guide rail --

02 MR. FIORINI: Oh, yeah, the
03 concrete barriers.

04 MR. POCIUS: So, I mean, is this
05 stuff going to be corrected or --

06 MR. FIORINI: Yes. The thing is,
07 John, originally it was supposed to be a concrete
08 retaining wall going up. They changed that.

09 MR. POCIUS: They changed it to
10 some --

11 MR. FIORINI: They changed it to a
12 block wall. So, I really don't know, and I would have
13 to check over there, that if there is enough room,
14 because that wall is now battered going up instead of
15 plumbed going up, and I don't know if there is any room
16 in the court to put in landscaping. The guard rails, I
17 know, have to go in, and I already talked to the
18 developer on that.

19 MR. POCIUS: That's what I'm

20 asking about.

21 MR. FIORINI: And I also talked to
22 him about putting trees up where he's supposed to.

23 MR. POCIUS: I'm more concerned of
24 the public safety issues, such as the guide rail and --
25 I'm sure the landscaping will get in place once it's
0100

01 agreed, but if there's a temporary barrier and it's
02 supposed to be a permanent guide rail, then that's what
03 should be there. I mean, you told me that's going to
04 go in?

05 MR. FIORINI: Right. That's what
06 was approved by the planning commission, and
07 George Parker is well aware of that.

08 MR. POCIUS: Very good.

09 MR. FIORINI: I also talked to the
10 developer on it already. He just got back from Vegas.

11 MR. POCIUS: Did he win?

12 MR. FIORINI: I don't know.

13 MR. POCIUS: I didn't.

14 MR. FIORINI: But I got that from
15 the last council meeting.

16 MR. POCIUS: Got you. But anyway,
17 we want to stay on top of that, because until it's
18 resolved, we're going to keep continuing to get
19 comments, I don't want to call them complaints, but
20 comments, and I like to have the answers here.

21 And if you're telling me the guard
22 rail is going to go in, then I know it will go in.

23 MR. FIORINI: Yeah. I mean, I
24 will have the conversation again. At the time I didn't
25 know when I called him on his cell phone he was Vegas,
0101

01 but he's back now and I'll address the concerns.

02 MR. POCIUS: Very good. Thank
03 you.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Fiorini, one
05 last question, if I could, I'm sorry, who would need to
06 approve a speed bump in an alley just across the side
07 street there from where we're talking at Walgreen's
08 behind the Sunoco A-Plus convenient market, 200 block
09 of South Decker Court?

10 MR. FIORINI: I don't think you
11 can put speed bumps on roads, only private property. I
12 think that's something that you have to, you know,
13 discuss with public safety.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Fiorini, you
15 know what the problem is, they did it over in

16 South Scranton behind Smith's Restaurant, so any time
17 somebody comes to me and asks me for a speed bump and I
18 tell them they can't do it, that's what they point out
19 to me, and the answer was given to me the reason that
20 they did it over there was because people were
21 bypassing the light and cutting through the alley and
22 it was a safety issue.

23 Because I know two years ago or
24 maybe a little less than that, a woman asked me not too
25 far down the alley from Smith's to have a speed bump
0102

01 put in.
02 And I wasn't on council at the
03 time, Mr. DiBileo looked into it for me, and I think
04 that was the answer we were given. So, I would imagine
05 Mr. Parker maybe.

06 MR. FIORINI: I would -- I don't
07 know, but I'll find out for you.

08 MR. COURTRIGHT: If you could.

09 MR. FIORINI: I'll talk to
10 George Parker on that.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Maybe we can make
12 an announcement here, because, boy, we get a lot of
13 requests for those speed bumps.

14 MR. DIBILEO: It's because of the
15 unusual circumstances involving that alleyway because
16 of the A-Plus convenient store there. They get a lot
17 of traffic.

18 MR. FIORINI: But I don't know if
19 there's any, you know, liability. I don't know, the
20 one over at Smith's they could have put that in
21 themselves, I don't know, but I'll find out for you.

22 MR. DIBILEO: As a matter of fact,
23 in the block where the temporary wall is right now and
24 fencing, a gentleman who lived in that alley put up a
25 speed bump himself.

0103

01 Now, I don't know if, you know, if
02 he was allowed to do that or if it would be taken down,
03 but he did it himself, and I think it's still there.

04 And Mr. Bingham, who's asking
05 about it in the 200 block of South Decker Court, if the
06 answer is no, that the city won't do it for him, you
07 know, he's willing to do it himself, as long as he's
08 able to.

09 MR. FIORINI: Well, that could be
10 a liability if the city does it, that's the problem.

11 In other words, if a car comes speeding through there,

12 if the city put that in and he had an accident, he can
13 blame that -- well, hey, you know, the city put a speed
14 bump in here and caused me to lose control of my car.
15 So, I'm just going to have to find
16 out. I'll talk to the city solicitor about that and
17 I'll talk to George Parker. There might be a liability
18 to the city on that.
19 I mean, Delaware and Dickson,
20 there's a stop sign there, but, you know, they come
21 flying up there, they don't even stop at it. They make
22 a right-hand turn and they're beating the light up on
23 Green Ridge and Sanderson. I mean, you have the same
24 scenario, too, there, but similar.
25 But I know the court is tight and
0104

01 the house is, you know, when you open the door, there's
02 only a couple steps before you get into the court.
03 MR. DIBILEO: And there's a lot of
04 children there, and, you know, God forbid there's ever
05 an accident, then people would say, well, they asked
06 for a speed bump and didn't get it, so the city is
07 liable for that, too.
08 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, maybe
09 there can some additional signage.
10 MR. FIORINI: See what's the least
11 of two evils on the things.
12 MR. POCIUS: Maybe some signs and
13 pavement markings, slow, children at play signs,
14 whatever they say, and maybe some pavement markings,
15 like, pavement markers, like painting slow on the road
16 and different things to alert the public.
17 I mean, I don't know. Speed bumps
18 have inherit problems with them, as far as they
19 redirect drainage, you know, they redirect drainage.
20 MR. FIORINI: Drainage coming
21 down, that's another problem.
22 MR. POCIUS: They're a liability
23 to the traffic public, like you say, they're a
24 liability when plowing through snow and different
25 things like that.

0105
01 MR. FIORINI: I mean, I'll get
02 Mr. Parker myself, we can go over and take a look at
03 the situation and see what we can do with it.
04 MR. DIBILEO: We appreciate it.
05 MR. POCIUS: Thank you.
06 MR. FIORINI: If he puts in, then
07 but, again, it may cause, like Mr. Pocius said, it may

08 cause water problems depending on which way that court
09 drains.

10 MR. POCIUS: Maybe there's other
11 means, additional signage and pavement markings, you
12 know.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Well, let's look at
14 it.

15 MR. POCIUS: Absolutely.

16 MR. FIORINI: Okay. I'll have
17 some answers for you on that.

18 MS. EVANS: And just one last
19 thing, Mr. Fiorini, this is back to Dickson Avenue, if
20 you could take a look at, possibly you have already,
21 but in the event you haven't, some of the lighting
22 conditions there in the evening, maybe you could speak
23 with Mrs. Xanthis about this, and when you have the
24 opportunity, maybe you could check that out and see if
25 they might require a shield over the lights.

0106

01 You know, if there's any question in your mind about --
02 I think it's Section 511.

03 MR. FIORINI: Of the zoning
04 ordinance? I mean, I know, but there are more street
05 lights on Dickson Avenue, I think than any other city
06 street really. It's really lit up with a lot of street
07 lights there.

08 I think she might be getting the
09 one light out towards the rear. I mean, when you look
10 into it, you do get glare from it, so I'll ask them if
11 they could put a shield on it to shoot it down.

12 The other thing I forgot is
13 Mr. Lewis said they have \$120,000 grant that they can
14 get their hands on to put a rail crossing in, so I sent
15 you a letter, and I think you got it today, Jay --

16 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes.

17 MR. FIORINI: -- okay, on the
18 powers to be at Lackawanna County, so maybe, you know,
19 with you putting pressure, maybe some of the public
20 calling the county putting pressure on it down there,
21 maybe we'll get it done.

22 MS. EVANS: That would be an ideal
23 solution.

24 MR. FIORINI: Okay. I'll address
25 that light with -- it's just the one light, the one

0107

01 right directly across from you, that's the one all the
02 way at the end of the property. Okay. I'll call
03 Mr. Lewis tomorrow and take care of it.

04 MR. POCIUS: Bill, one more thing,
05 because we tried to explain to the gentleman before
06 about yard sales, I think they're covered under our
07 zoning ordinance that you can have maybe one or two a
08 year or something like that, but for someone to run
09 one, this is just for the general public, to run one
10 constantly, doesn't that constitute a business?

11 MR. FIORINI: Yes, it does.

12 MR. POCIUS: Then it's subject to
13 mercantile tax and permits and everything else.

14 MR. FIORINI: Right.

15 MR. POCIUS: That's what we were
16 trying to get across, but it's not that he's being
17 picked on for any reason.

18 MR. FIORINI: No. It's just like
19 setting up tents, you know, you're only allowed to have
20 a tent up for a certain period of time.

21 MR. POCIUS: I questioned you one
22 time at the people that sell from South Side, and you
23 said he gets a vendor's permit every week he sets up
24 down there, so it's a business and he's subject to
25 whatever.

0108

01 MR. FIORINI: Actually he's really
02 a vendor at that point. I mean, normally people that
03 have yard sales, is just to get rid of stuff out of
04 their house.

05 MR. POCIUS: Yeah. I'm the one
06 that's keeping him here.

07 MR. DIBILEO: That was for
08 Mr. Pocius.

09 MR. FIORINI: You'll pay for that,
10 Jay. Thanks.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks.

12 MR. WALSH: 5-A, Motions.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. McTiernan, do
14 you have any motions or comments?

15 MR. McTIERNAN: Just one question,
16 a request for Jay. Jay, Mr. McGuire has asked about
17 the Mulberry Street corridor project and is funding,
18 can you look into the status of that so I can have an
19 answer for Mr. McGuire?

20 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, I will.

21 MR. McTIERNAN: Thank you very
22 much. That's all, Mr. President.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

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

25 MS. EVANS: Jay, could you call

0109

01 Pat McMullen as soon as possible, hopefully tomorrow or
02 Monday, and ask him if he could get the no trucks
03 allowed sign up on Dickson Avenue?

04 MR. SAUNDERS: I'll call him
05 tomorrow.

06 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

07 MR. SAUNDERS: Is it just no
08 trucks, no trucks between certain hours?

09 MS. EVANS: You know what, why
10 don't you have the conversation with Mr. Fiorini,
11 because this originally was his idea, because he felt
12 that with the sign, he would in conjunction with that
13 ask Daron to notify the company's, you know, who are
14 sending the trucks to and from that they're not
15 permitted there or only during certain hours, so I
16 think he can clarify that for you better than I.

17 MR. POCIUS: Mrs. Evans, can I
18 suggest something? Maybe -- Mark, I know the city can
19 do things for the betterment of public health and
20 safety, which this is, but maybe we should entertain an
21 ordinance that after they're there for like -- this is
22 for the short-term, so they could permanently be
23 established there, just like we do these parking
24 things, Mark, you know, change 30 to 15 or back,
25 vise-versa, so then would be not challengeable by some
0110

01 truck driver not coming in from somewhere saying
02 getting ticketed a couple times and challenging you and
03 we don't have an ordinance to back it up.
04 The public health and safety issue
05 will probably carry for 90 days, 35, but we can back
06 that up. We can get the ordinance down to make it a
07 permanent installation, and then put a fine in there
08 for it or whatever.

09 MS. EVANS: And next I wanted to
10 just comment briefly on a meeting I attended on Monday
11 meeting that specifically was a meeting of the
12 Recreation Authority, and because I had attended the
13 Weston Field neighborhood meeting, I arrived late to --
14 well, actually I arrived too late to publicly address
15 the Recreation Authority members, but just in time to
16 hear the discussion of the fees at Nay Aug pool.
17 No decision for free swim passes
18 for underprivileged families was reached, and although
19 lowering the fees was a small step in the right
20 direction, it's far from the best solution.
21 The Authority is an autonomous

22 body responsible neither to City Council, nor, the
23 taxpayers of Scranton. They have established their own
24 bank account at Penn Security Bank, and they handle all
25 monies generated at Nay Aug, as well as the bills
0111

01 incurred.

02 While they pride themselves on
03 their autonomy, some members also complain that Council
04 doesn't give them any money to pay their bills, and so
05 I would propose the following alternatives, either fund
06 the costs of weekly pool chemicals and lifeguard
07 salaries through donations from KOZs, KOEZs,
08 non-profits and other local businesses who want to be
09 good neighbors in their community and show concern for
10 the children of Scranton, or perhaps the mayor might
11 consider designating the Recreation Authority as an
12 advisory committee to City Council and return final
13 approval rights to City Council, who then could work
14 cooperatively with the Scranton Recreation Authority to
15 provide sponsorship and funding for Nay Aug.

16 The bottom line is, I believe free
17 swimming at Nay Aug is the best choice. Higher fees or
18 fees, any fee, I should say, is only serving one
19 purpose, and I think that's to segregate or
20 discriminate between, you know, the wealthy and the
21 poor and the middle class, and free swim passes and
22 having to admit to having no money to swim are
23 humiliating human experiences.

24 And as was noted before by one of
25 tonight's speakers, the Recreation Authority also
0112

01 raised the fee for a family swim pass from \$75 to \$100,
02 so in effect they lowered a slide fee from \$5 to \$3,
03 and at the same time retrieved their lost money from an
04 increase in season passes.

05 But you know, today I received an
06 Email that impressed me very much, and this writer I
07 think speaks very eloquently to this issue and caused
08 me to really think about the fees themselves and any
09 compromise that I might have been entertaining in terms
10 of the fees, and I'm not going to read it in its
11 entirety, but just the portions I think that most
12 affected me.

13 As you may know or may not know, a
14 large number of children cannot afford lunch at the
15 Scranton School District. If the school district deems
16 that a large number of local children cannot afford
17 lunch and thus provides the lunch for them, it's

18 important that we assume that city children cannot
19 afford to pay even a dollar to swim.
20 Also, where do we expect these
21 children to come up with the dollar? Many of the
22 children are too young to work and fend for themselves,
23 and it's a strain on parents to come up with a dollar
24 nearly every hot day, especially in an ever increasing
25 cashless society.

0113

01 Our public pools, and I'm skipping
02 ahead now, are not a commodity. Public pools were not
03 meant to generate money. Public pools were set up with
04 a progressive sentiment during the 1920s, as a way for
05 a city to provide free recreation, and this institution
06 became especially important during the
07 Great Depression.
08 In other words, the public pool is
09 a guaranteed socializing mechanism during a time of
10 social and economic instability and it provided
11 protection from fluctuations in a liberal economy.
12 Lastly, and most important to me
13 personally, is the issue of swim vouchers. I frequent
14 Weston Field nearly every day. They compel people who
15 cannot afford the fee to line up inside Weston Field,
16 fill out paperwork and take a photograph.
17 Let me describe to you what that
18 process is like. It is a long wait in a hot room. I
19 swear they turn the AC off on purpose, despite so many
20 people who are bunched up in a small area.
21 Many of the citizens waiting are
22 single mothers with young children, and most of the
23 children become restless from the long wait. Parents
24 are then interrogated and asked personal financial
25 information and have their picture taken by an

0114

01 employee, usually a lifeguard.
02 I find it problematic that
03 vouchers are administered that way. Just make swimming
04 free and save the children the trouble of carrying
05 around a voucher. We pay enough in taxes. It is the
06 least we can get for our tax dollar.
07 And you know, I thought about
08 particularly the comment about the lunch program, and
09 I've noticed how things have changed through the years,
10 because, you know, it occurred frequently that many
11 children who couldn't afford a lunch were not -- the
12 parents of those children were not completing these
13 forms because the family was too embarrassed to do so

14 and the child was too embarrassed in a cafeteria to
15 stand in line and, you know, have to make a statement
16 or be singled out in any way among his or her peers,
17 and as a result, that process has changed greatly, and
18 fortunately for those many children, you know, they're
19 no longer singled out in that manner, but certainly,
20 you know, that raises a very important issue. If so
21 many children can't afford a lunch, how could they
22 afford the dollar to swim?

23 I'd also like to send a letter,

24 Mr. Saunders, to Ray Hayes asking him to consider
25 application to the Pilot Program for House Bill 1050.

0115

01 Maybe Mr. Courtright is aware of this. It's the local
02 use of radar.

03 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes. Mr. Pocius

04 provided me with that information last week, and as I
05 said, I was out of town. I was going to turn it over
06 to some people. I have it right here.

07 MS. EVANS: It's great, yes. And

08 just to inform the public a bit, if Scranton were one
09 of the cities selected by the state, our police

10 department could effectively monitor areas, such as
11 West Market Street, Birney Avenue, Pittston Avenue,
12 etc. for speeding, and at the same time raise revenue.

13 The city would be permitted to

14 keep 5 percent of its budget in revenue raised from
15 fines or speeding that would have been detected through
16 the use of are a doctor and then of course anything
17 above the 5 percent could be remitted to the state.

18 But 5 percent of our annual budget is a sizeable number
19 in terms of renew.

20 I'd also wish to recognize

21 Officer Gary McPhillips and city inspector

22 Jack Liptai for their excellent work in North Scranton.

23 Citizens have raved about their work on blighted

24 properties and abandoned vehicles.

25 And on that same topic, a

0116

01 resident, actually more than one resident, had called
02 me about abandoned vehicles in the Hill Section, and
03 they were wondering if the program instituted back in
04 April was still in effect, because they've noticed that
05 a -- well, many vehicles have not been tagged, not been
06 towed, and they would really like to get the inspectors
07 and the police back out in their area.

08 Also, a resident asked me a

09 question this week that I didn't know the answer to

10 frankly, so I'm hoping that someone here, maybe
11 Mr. Pocius, would know the answer to this.

12 MR. POCIUS: You put me on the
13 spot.

14 MS. EVANS: Well, you might know
15 this.

16 MR. POCIUS: All right. Shoot.

17 MS. EVANS: If you own an
18 apartment building and it contains several units, does
19 the DPW pick up the garbage for that apartment
20 building, regardless of the number of apartments?

21 MR. POCIUS: I think it's six or
22 more. Six or more has to get private hauling. So,
23 what they would have to do is up to six, correct me if
24 I'm wrong, I think they would have to take out
25 actually -- pay five refuse fees. The sixth one
0117

01 triggers you into private hauling.

02 MS. EVANS: Private hauling at the
03 six. Okay. Thank you very much.

04 And finally, I'd like to remind
05 everyone to attend the saluting our military ice cream
06 social on June 15. That's next Wednesday at seven at
07 St. Peter's Lutheran Church in East Scranton. I'll be
08 there, and I hope you will, too. That's it.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
10 Mrs. Evans. Appreciate that. Mr. Pocius, any motions
11 or comments?

12 MR. POCIUS: Just a comment for
13 Mrs. Evans, thanks for tossing me a softball without a
14 curve there, okay? That was good.

15 Two quick things, maybe three,
16 three things real quick. Number one is bids were
17 received on the senior center, the Oakford Court
18 paving. The bids were very competitive and they're in
19 review right now and hopefully that project will be
20 starting soon.

21 Number two, we received a notice
22 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Public Utility
23 Commission that the initial pre-hearing conference for
24 our Luzerne Street railroad crossing will be held in
25 the state office building on Wednesday, July 27, 2005
0118

01 at 10 a.m.

02 Mark, when you read this, I think
03 we're going to have to have you coordinate your efforts
04 with Attorney Farrell, because items one through five
05 have to be complied with, and I think they combine the

06 complaints to make the city and the Council's complaint
07 one complaint, I think. You better check with Rob.
08 They're very simple, but just make
09 sure we follow the right whatever we have to do to make
10 sure that we don't jeopardize our position on this,
11 because it does say failure to do some of these things
12 may throw our case out.

13 And being that I was at the field
14 conference when we saw the trains go by, I would like
15 to be a witness there, because I --

16 MR. WALSH: I think you have to
17 be.

18 MR. POCIUS: Yeah. So, we got
19 better than a good month to coordinate this, so let's
20 just --

21 MR. WALSH: I'll make sure I call
22 Attorney Farrell this week.

23 MR. POCIUS: Then if we have to
24 prep or, I don't want to say rehearse, but go over what
25 we're going to do to make sure we're fine before that.
0119

01 Also, one other quick thing, I've
02 been asked, and I gave this to Jay in the office, but I
03 think I'll just say it out here, would you check for
04 me, Jay, would you check for me and -- I asked you to
05 see if that -- the sidewalks on the 400 block of
06 Linden Street on the southerly side from basically the
07 corner of Wyoming Avenue to the alley of the post
08 office are scheduled under this UDAG downtown sidewalk
09 program. I think they're one of the last pieces not
10 done, just to check with OECD to see if that's -- or if
11 it isn't, is it eligible to be concluded. Because
12 every time I get my shoes signed in Vince's, I'm asked
13 when are the sidewalks going to be done. So, it would
14 be a nice boom to that block, because the federal
15 building is done, the parking authority, the Diocese,
16 the Chancellor Building, and it's the last little piece
17 there, and they have been done for other businesses,
18 and I think it wouldn't be a bad idea if it could be
19 done. That's it.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

21 Mr. Pocius. Mr. Courtright, motions or comments?

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes,

23 Mr. President. I can't quite recall. I've been out of
24 town, so I'm all messed up here. I got a call from
25 Mr. DiBileo who was at a South Side neighborhood
0120

01 meeting, and I guess they were questioning him about

02 possible grants for the police departments, and I was
03 trying to explain it over a speaker phone,
04 Mr. DiBileo's cell phone, and I asked him where he was,
05 and I was close by, so I went over and I spoke to the
06 people, and Mr. DiBileo was there, Judy Gatelli, who I
07 believe she's the president, is she not of that, and
08 several residents and Patti Lafferty from the D.A.'s
09 office, and one of the things they were questioning me
10 about was something -- as some of you may recall, I sit
11 on a board that governs the education and the training
12 of the police in the state, and I had mentioned about a
13 year ago about a program called the Weed and Seed
14 Program, and evidently they were watching the meeting
15 and they were interested in it.

16 I had turned that information over
17 to the administration, and evidently nothing was done
18 with it. Evidently they either didn't want to do it or
19 they thought it wasn't worthwhile, but these people
20 were interested, and I explained the program to them.

21 The next day I got a call from
22 Patti Lafferty from the D.A.'s office, and she has
23 their grant writer filling out the application to put
24 in for these monies, and it's monies to fight drugs, to
25 bring equipment and dollars into the city in the war
0121

01 against crime and drugs.

02 So, I would just like to thank
03 Patti Lafferty, she got right on that, and hopefully it
04 will be a good result, we'll get some monies in here.
05 The other thing is Mr. McGuire had
06 asked me about a light on Moosic Street and a turn
07 signal, I didn't get to it, to be honest with you, so I
08 didn't forget about you, I just didn't get to it.

09 North Scranton Teener League, I
10 know every week I bring it up, they want \$17,500, and I
11 guess Sara Hailstone said to Jay she's trying to find
12 the money. What is she looking for it in, OECD funds
13 or --

14 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, the money
15 that we did an ordinance by, the OECD --

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: The block grant.
17 But I never asked for that. What I asked for, and I
18 don't know if you told her, I said UDAG or re-re money.
19 If we can find it in there, if you can ask her, you
20 know, these people are --

21 MR. SAUNDERS: I think she
22 initially thought that it was block grant money, but I
23 had mentioned to her it's UDAG or re-re money.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Initially that's
25 what I said. So, there may be a little
0122
01 misunderstanding there.
02 The pool fees, you know, evidently
03 they're set. When I came home, I saw something in the
04 paper. But one thing Mrs. Evans touched on, I'd like
05 to talk about. They said they haven't made up their
06 mind yet, I guess, with these free passes.
07 I think they have to do something
08 there. I think we need to have these passes. I agree,
09 you know, how could you ask a kid or anybody to walk up
10 there and say I don't have the money?
11 That's embarrassing and it's degrading, and I just
12 don't think it's necessary.
13 But I would really like for them
14 to consider giving these free passes, and I don't know
15 how if you don't -- we did several of them last year,
16 correct?
17 MS. EVANS: Many. In fact, if I
18 recall correctly, there were so many free swimming
19 passes, it exceeded the amount that really I think had
20 been set aside for that particular purpose, you know,
21 to almost cover that or create a wash, but it was many
22 times the original amount.
23 MR. COURTRIGHT: I have to believe
24 that we have at least that many people again this year.
25 I mean, what are those people going to do if those
0123
01 passes aren't there? I don't even want to think about
02 that, so I would respectfully ask the
03 Recreation Authority to look into that and very
04 quickly. I mean, the pools will be open soon.
05 One last thing, I had a pleasant
06 surprise Saturday, I went by Powderly park, which the
07 woman brought it up two weeks ago here on Main Avenue,
08 and I don't know who to credit for this, so come and
09 tell me if you did it, somebody cemented a bench in
10 that park and then somebody came along and put a flag,
11 an American flag, on a pole behind it.
12 I'm being told that Mr. Rossi, who
13 we all know from West Scranton is a big man with the
14 flags over there, I'm being told he might have put the
15 flags there, but I just don't know who put the bench in
16 so I'd like to give them the credit for it, but they
17 now have a bench there. And that's all I have. Thank
18 you.
19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

20 Mr. Courtright. Yeah, I noticed the bench there
21 myself. It looks very nice. I'm glad you brought that
22 up.

23 As of today actually, the primary
24 election season officially came to an end, and some
25 races were recounted and other races were not, and it
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01 basically became official that two of us up here on
02 City Council won't be sitting here come the end of the
03 year, and that's Mr. Pocius and myself.

04 Our, you know, next six months
05 will be our last here on City Council, and I just want
06 to wish Mr. Pocius the best during these next six
07 months, and it will be six months on top of a very
08 distinguished career of public service as an elected
09 official.

10 And, you know, we may not always
11 agree, but, Mr. Pocius, I highly respect you and I
12 really wish you a lot of luck.

13 MR. POCIUS: Thank you.

14 MR. DIBILEO: As for me, you know,
15 I hope to continue my service in another capacity with
16 the city, and that will be determined at a later date.

17 So, we'll see how that goes.

18 Last week we voted for free
19 swimming for all city pools except for Nay Aug, and
20 that legislation actually won't be passed, it's not
21 even on our agenda tonight, we wanted to discuss it
22 briefly in caucus before we put it on the agenda for
23 next week, so the legislation won't be passed in time
24 for pools to open, which I think is Saturday, and that
25 can't come soon enough, because, you know, everybody
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01 knows it's a real hot week, and I'm sure a lot of kids
02 are really anxious to get in there on Saturday.

03 So, until our legislation is
04 officially passed, I'm hoping that the administration
05 would consider not charging any fee at all from the
06 time that the pools actually open on Saturday, whatever
07 time they may be opening until the legislation becomes
08 official. I'm not sure what the intentions were, but
09 just wanted to pass that along and ask that that be a
10 possibility of the administration.

11 This past weekend I took notice
12 that Channel 61 is carrying a show called From The
13 Mayor's Office, which is a good thing, information that
14 gets passed along to the public is always a good thing
15 from elected officials.

16 What surprised me a little bit was
17 the fact that the mayor was responding to actions that
18 we took at last week's City Council meeting,
19 specifically about the free swimming at all city pools,
20 except Nay Aug, but that was actually the only part
21 that I got a chance to watch was the fact that he
22 basically was saying that free swimming was a bad idea.
23 He thought that by charging a fee it had kids, you
24 know, respect the pool more or something to that
25 effect.

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01 But, you know, I still think that
02 a better way to respond to City Council is to do it
03 directly to us, in addition to talking to the public,
04 because he can achieve that, you know, right here in
05 this room, and I think taxpayers are better served when
06 elected officials speak directly to each other, and
07 other invitation, you know, I think we've invited him
08 numerous times, our invitation still stands to allow
09 him to come here and address us directly and to be that
10 sixth city councilman that he once said he would be.
11 So, he's welcome to be here and I hope to see him
12 soon.

13 I spoke to Sister Adrian Barrett
14 today on the telephone, and she's doing very well. She
15 had, as everybody I think knows, had a setback with her
16 health, and she had some heart problems, and she's at
17 Marian Convent up at Marywood and she's taking therapy,
18 and I just would like to let everyone know she's doing
19 well and she's up there and keep her in your prayers
20 for a speedy recovery.

21 I also would like to ask if we can
22 get an update, maybe somebody even knows, where the
23 Mulberry Street corridor project is at. Okay. You did
24 ask that this evening. I'm sorry. That's right,
25 Mr. McGuire actually brought that up. I guess I wasn't
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01 listening, Bob, I apologize.

02 You know, so many things go
03 through your mind when our people are talking, you're
04 not even listening half the time, and I'm sorry about
05 that. So, if we can get an update on the Mulberry
06 Street corridor project, that will be good.
07 Somebody brought up tonight,
08 Mr. Davis, brought up Mr. Morgan, the 87-year-old
09 crossing guard, and, you know, I'm going to guess that
10 maybe he's the oldest crossing guard we have, and if he
11 is, that we take up Mr. Davis' request that we honor

12 him with a proclamation, if we could.
13 And if there happens to be other
14 crossing guards in the city that are his, you know, age
15 or possibly older that we bring them in, also, and
16 thank them for their service.
17 And the last thing I have,
18 actually second to last thing, Mr. Courtright brought
19 up the South Side Neighborhood Association meeting, and
20 at that meeting not only were they asking a lot of
21 questions about getting additional funds for police
22 protection, they're concerned about the blight
23 situation, and all this is really involving lower
24 South Side, and at that meeting I suggested something
25 we brought up several weeks ago, months ago, about
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01 having a public caucus meeting with neighborhood
02 groups, and they liked the idea, so I want to ask
03 Mr. Saunders if he could set up a public caucus meeting
04 with members of the South Side Neighborhood Association
05 board, anyone else that would like to attend, and
06 possibly have members of the administration come in and
07 we can just talk about the concerns in lower South Side
08 involving, you know, some incidents that are occurring
09 recently and also the blight concerns that they have.
10 So, I don't know if we have any
11 upcoming public caucus meetings, but we might be able
12 to accomplish that as early as next Thursday, if
13 possible. So, we'll try to look into that and inform
14 them. They might be able to do it on short notice.
15 The last thing I want to ask is if
16 Mr. Saunders could look into a situation where
17 Kevin Marx from 321 Fifth Avenue applied for -- he
18 applied for, let's see here, home abatement program.
19 He applied for a home abatement loan, and he hasn't
20 heard anything back since he did that in May of 2001,
21 actually early in 2002, and he's been asking about
22 that, sent us a letter, and I just want to know if we
23 can look into that situation, Mr. Saunders, for him,
24 get back to Mr. Marx. And that's all I have under
25 fifth order.

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01 MR. WALSH: Fifth order. 5-B, FOR
02 INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
03 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF
04 SCRANTON TO EXECUTE A MORTGAGE SATISFACTION CONCERNING
05 THREE LOANS MADE ON MAY 21, 1992 TO MUNICIPAL
06 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF SCRANTON (MIDAS),
07 AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION LOAN (EDA LOAN)

08 AN URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT REPAYMENT PROGRAM
09 (UDAG LOAN) AND A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
10 (CDBG LOAN) ALL OF WHICH ARE SECURED BY ONE MORTGAGE.

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 MR. POCIUS: Didn't we ask before
18 to get somebody in?

19 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, for next week,
20 we can get somebody in for next week.

21 MR. POCIUS: Maybe we can get Paul
22 LaBelle and the chairman of the Midas board and maybe
23 they can just give us a quick update on why it's
24 needed.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Let's see if we can
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01 do that and get them in so that we can achieve --

02 MR. POCIUS: Larry Durkin is the
03 chairman of Midas and Paul Labelle is the solicitor.

04 They can explain to us their thinking on this and what
05 went into it.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Thank you,
07 Mr. Saunders. Anyone else on the question?

08 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

09 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

10 MS. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

15 MR. WALSH: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION
16 - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
17 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
18 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BERKHEIMER
19 OUTSOURCING FOR THE USE OF THE BERKHEIMER SYSTEM AND
20 TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO ORGANIZE, SEARCH AND UPDATE CITY
21 TAX RECORDS.

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

25 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

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01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

02 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

03 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

04 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.
05 MS. EVANS: Aye.
06 MR. POCIUS: Aye.
07 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.
08 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
09 ayes have it and so moved.
10 MR. WALSH: 5-D, FOR INTRODUCTION
11 - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
12 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
13 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BERKHEIMER
14 OUTSOURCING FOR THE TASK OF SCANNING, INPUTTING AND
15 OTHERWISE COMPUTERIZING CITY TAX RECORD BOOKS.
16 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll
17 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced into its
18 proper committee.
19 MR. POCIUS: So moved.
20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.
21 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?
22 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.
23 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.
24 MS. EVANS: Aye.
25 MR. POCIUS: Aye.
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01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.
02 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
03 ayes have it and so moved.
04 MR. WALSH: Sixth order. 6-A,
05 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 134, 2005 - AN
06 ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF
07 SCRANTON TO ALTER THE USES TABLE FOUND AT PAGE 3-6 OF
08 THE ORDINANCE, SPECIFICALLY MISCELLANEOUS USES, TO
09 REQUIRE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR THE CREATION OF SURFACE
10 PARKING LOTS FOR INSTITUTIONAL USES ON LOTS ON WHICH A
11 PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE DID NOT STAND AS OF JANUARY 1,
12 1993.
13 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading
14 by title of Item 6-A. What is your pleasure?
15 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move
16 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.
17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.
18 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?
19 MR. POCIUS: Just on the question,
20 I discussed this with Mr. Saunders and Mr. Walsh.
21 There's a schedule to follow -- with scheduling the
22 public hearing and everything like that, maybe they can
23 give us a report next week when this will all
24 transpire. It's kind of once we get this out the
25 planning commissions with the county and city, okay?

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. If
02 there's no further questions, all those in favor,
03 signify by saying aye.
04 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.
05 MS. EVANS: Aye.
06 MR. POCIUS: Aye.
07 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.
08 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
09 ayes have it and so moved.
10 MR. WALSH: Mr. President, it's my
11 understanding that we're holding 6-B, so I'll pass on
12 to seventh order.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Yes, we are.

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

15 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE PUBLIC WORKS -
16 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 145, 2005 - AUTHORIZING
17 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
18 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN INVENTORY AND INSPECTION
19 REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT NO. 048738 WITH THE
20 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
21 TRANSPORTATION (PENNDOT) TO REINSPECT THE LOCAL BRIDGES
22 IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

23 MR. DIBILEO: What's the

24 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on
25 public works?

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01 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move
02 for final adoption of 7-A.

03 MR. COURTRIGHT: Seconded.

04 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

05 Roll call, please, Kay.

06 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

07 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

08 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

09 MS. EVANS: Yes.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

11 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

14 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby

16 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

17 MR. WALSH: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION

18 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION

19 NO. 146, 2005 - APPOINTMENT OF JERROD HANDY,

20 1604 PINE STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 TO

21 SERVE A STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ON THE HUMAN RELATIONS

22 COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE MAY 26, 2005. MR. HANDY IS A
23 STUDENT AT SCRANTON HIGH SCHOOL AND HE WILL BE
24 REPLACING GINA CAVOTTO WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON APRIL 5,
25 2005. MR. HANDY'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON APRIL 5, 2006.

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01 MR. DIBILEO: As chairperson for
02 the committee on rules, I recommend final passage of
03 Item 7-A.

04 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

05 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

06 Roll call, please, Kay.

07 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

08 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

09 MS. GARVEY: Ms. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

12 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

13 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

15 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby

17 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

18 MR. WALSH: 7-C, FOR CONSIDERATION

19 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION

20 NO. 147, 2005 - APPOINTMENT OF ANTHONY BAUMAN,

21 1623 JACKSON STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 TO

22 SERVE A STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ON THE HUMAN RELATIONS

23 COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE MAY 26, 2005. MR. BAUMAN IS A

24 STUDENT AT WEST SCRANTON HIGH SCHOOL AND HE WILL BE

25 REPLACING LINDSEY NICHOLS WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON APRIL

0136

01 5, 2005. MR. BAUMAN'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON APRIL 5,

02 2006.

03 MR. DIBILEO: As chairman for the

04 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of

05 Item 7-C.

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

07 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

08 Roll call, please, Kay.

09 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

10 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

11 MS. GARVEY: Ms. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

14 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

15 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

17 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby
19 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted. Seeing
20 no further business on the agenda, I'll entertain a
21 mowing to adjourn.
22 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.
23 MR. McTIERNAN: Second.
24 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.
25 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

0137

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

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02

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

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08 _____
08 LISA M. GRAFF, RPR

08 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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