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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL

2 SINE DIE MEETING OF COUNCIL

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5 Held:

6 Monday, January 2, 2006

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9 Time:

10 10:00 a.m.

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13 Location:

14 Council Chambers

15 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

17 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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21 Lisa M. Graff, RMR

22 Court Reporter

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1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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3 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

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5 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

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7 MR. JOHN POCIUS

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9 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

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11 MR. AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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13 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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15 MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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1 MS. EVANS: Good morning, ladies and

2 gentlemen. Please rise for the pledge of allegiance.

3 Please remain standing for a short prayer. Roll call,

4 please, Neil

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

6 MR. McTIERNAN: Here.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Here.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Pocius.

10 MR. POCIUS: Here.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. DiBileo.

14 MS. EVANS: Reading of the minutes,

15 Kay.

16 MS. GARVEY: Okay. We will dispense

17 with the reading of the minutes. Third order, No

18 business at this time. Fourth order, citizens

19 participation.

20 MS. EVANS: Before calling up the first

21 speaker, I'd like to wish everyone a happy and healthy

22 new year, and to thank all of you for attending this

23 meeting today, and we are particularly honored at this

24 time to have two mayors with us this morning, our

25 current mayor who was recently re-elected,

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1 Mr. Chris Doherty, and our former mayor,

2 Mr. Jim Connors, who served for 12 years. So, let's

3 please welcome them to Council chambers.

4 I ask speakers to adhere to the

5 five-minute rule, due to our time constraints today,

6 and to comment on matters pertaining to city business.

7 The first speaker is Terry Gabriel.

8 MS. GABRIEL: Thank you, Madame

9 President. Good morning. My name is Terri Gabriel,

10 and I am the sister of John Pocius. I would like to

11 begin by reading a short story that I feel relates to

12 John's 12 years of experience on Scranton City Council.

13 The title is, Making a difference. An

14 old man walked up on a shore littered with thousands of  
15 starfish beached and dying after a storm.

16 A young man was picking them up and  
17 flinging them back into the ocean. Why do you bother,  
18 the old man scoffed? You're not saving enough to make  
19 a difference.

20 The young man picked up another  
21 starfish and sent it spinning back to the water. Made  
22 a difference to that one, he said.

23 John, for the past 12 years, you have  
24 always given above and beyond yourself . I truly  
25 believe that you always did what you thought was best  
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5

1 for the people and always did your job with sincerity  
2 straight from your heart.

3 Today, on behalf of your wife Cathy,  
4 our Mom, Eleanor, your daughters, Kara and Katie, your  
5 two grandchildren, Abby and Jack, you know, it seems  
6 just like yesterday you were up there announcing from  
7 Council chambers their births. The whole family wants  
8 you to know that we are proud of all you've  
9 accomplished.

10 And in closing, if a message could be

11 sent down from heaven, I'm sure that dad would agree,  
12 and he'd be saying, job well done. You, too, certainly  
13 have made a difference.

14 MR. POCIUS: Thank you, Terri.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. There are no  
16 additional names on today's speaker list. Is there  
17 anyone in the audience at this time who would like to  
18 come up. Mayor.

19 MR. DOHERTY: Thank you,  
20 Madame President, and to the Pocius Family to the  
21 people in the audience.

22 It's a bitter sweet day, John, for me,  
23 I remember eight years ago, you know, almost two weeks  
24 before today seeing your dad sit over there in the  
25 middle seat, as he came to many of the Council

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1 meetings.

2 You know, those who don't know John's  
3 dad, he was a police officer in the City of Scranton,  
4 was the Chief of Police in the City of Scranton. The  
5 pocius name is synonymous of public service, of giving  
6 back to a community, and doing it without any type of  
7 gratitude given from anybody else.

8 You did it because you believed in the  
9 city. The Pociuses are part of Scranton, you make up  
10 out fabric, you're part of our foundation.  
11 Throughout the 12 years, it's really  
12 14 years, you've made a lot of tough decisions, but  
13 you've always don't the right thing, you've always done  
14 what's best for the city in the long-term, and I think  
15 the people of Scranton should take note of that today  
16 and say thank you to you, because you are a great  
17 example to your father who served our city so well, but  
18 you're a great example of those who come after you,  
19 whether it's fellow Council people, whether it's  
20 children, your children's friends or your own children  
21 or your grandchildren, to know that you served this  
22 city well and you made the city better.  
23 This city is better today than it was  
24 when you came here 14 years ago, and that's the  
25 greatest legacy you can live, next to the legacy of --

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1 I know how much loved you loved your father, and how  
2 proud he'd be today, to see you as you wrap up your  
3 career and what an outstanding job you did and what an  
4 example you are to this community.

5 And you gave him the greatest gift,  
6 that you followed in his footsteps. Congratulations.

7 MR. POCIUS: Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mayor. And I  
9 wanted to take the opportunity to publicly congratulate  
10 you on your re-election and to let you know that I am  
11 looking forward to working with you on any issue that  
12 directly benefits the people of this city.

13 MR. DOHERTY: Thank you very much.

14 MS. EVANS: Oh, Mayor Connors, yes,  
15 please.

16 MR. CONNORS: I thought you'd never  
17 ask. I can't believe I'm getting a microphone after  
18 all of this time.

19 I wasn't going to speak, but I want to  
20 thank Madame Chairwoman for your words, and I want to  
21 thank the mayor for offering me the seat next to him,  
22 and, John, I want to congratulate you for the 12 years  
23 that you and I spent together here, and I think of the  
24 time that you and I were here partners, that Jimmy Klee  
25 and your father, The Chief, always had a wonderful

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1 relationship together, and they were kind of partners

2 together when you and I, and they kind of kept us  
3 partners all the time and goodwill.  
4 And John and I did a lot together while  
5 we were here, and always had a good relationship, and  
6 our families always had a good relationship.  
7 And I want to say one thing that my  
8 father used to kid about that he came from  
9 Old Forge and was in Minooka for 49 years, and he  
10 always teased and said he was still a carpetbagger, but  
11 everybody in Minooka knew my father, Tommy Connors was  
12 always accepted in Minooka, and there was another  
13 person that always accepted in Minooka as one of their  
14 own, and that was John Pocius, and I think everybody in  
15 Minooka who will watch this on television will know  
16 that I'm speaking the truth when I say that from the  
17 Minooka Notre Dame Club to the Lyons Club, to what John  
18 and I participated in from the beginning as two young  
19 men, which I fondly remember John from, more so than in  
20 this building really, because it's where he and I got  
21 our start, was the Minooka Neighborhood Association,  
22 which John and I were charter members of, and I believe  
23 I followed you as president.  
24 Sometimes I forget whether you followed  
25 or I followed you, but Bob Schneider, Chris Powell,

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1 from the school district, because there's a few  
2 Chris Powells, and John and myself, and Jimmy Powell,  
3 John O'Gorman, Johnny Riley, Gene Joyce, that was the  
4 foundation really, Tommy Barrett and his family built  
5 the Minooka Neighborhood Association, and John and I  
6 really were -- followed one another, and we were really  
7 partners together.

8 And that's my fondest memories of you,  
9 John, and that's, I think, what carried me through all  
10 of our 12 years when many times we were on different  
11 issues, I remembered our relationship from that.

12 And many people don't know, but Cathy  
13 and I are short-tailed relations, and I played cards  
14 with her dad when I was in the school district many  
15 times. So, anyway, I just want to say that I have fond  
16 memories of John Pocius.

17 And like Harry Truman going back to  
18 independence after his years in the White House, John  
19 will come back to Minooka and we'll welcome him home.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. POCIUS: Thank you, Mayor. Thank

22 you very much.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Are there any

24 other speakers? Yes, Mr. Bolus.

25 MR. BOLUS: I guess it's good morning,

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1 Council.

2 MS. EVANS: Good morning.

3 MR. BOLUS: It's nice to see two mayors

4 here. You know, I know Jimmy, and I know Chris, and of

5 course we've always gone head to head on a lot of

6 things at this podium, and hopefully now maybe we'll

7 move in a different direction knowing that they both

8 found their way back upstairs here that we can get a

9 lot of issues addressed here.

10 I know John's stepping down and moving

11 on, and of course we've gone head to head on a lot of

12 issues, but we could always walk outside and walk away

13 as friends or whatever it is.

14 I think everybody understands when we

15 come in here, it's a different forum than it is outside

16 the door. I think people all have to recognize that

17 with this past Council and the new Council coming in,

18 people come here for a reason, they have the right to

19 speak their views, they have a right to get answers.

20 After all, they are the taxpayers, they're the people  
21 who pay for this.  
22 And hopefully we'll move forward in a  
23 more positive direction in '06. I'm sure there's going  
24 to be challenges. Just because we changed the  
25 calendar, I don't think we've changed a lot of the

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1 issues in the city.  
2 I think everybody has one objective,  
3 and that's to make the city a progressive financially  
4 secured city.  
5 There were a lot of questions that I  
6 believe were unanswered in '05, and hopefully we'll get  
7 a lot of those answers in '06.  
8 I would like to see the mayor, the  
9 second mayor, Jimmy, Mayor Doherty, come here, address  
10 this Council.  
11 Statements were made, and I know that  
12 we've all gone around, that politics is what kept the  
13 mayor from coming here, but I think people need to hear  
14 not only from the council, but from the administration,  
15 they need to be able to address their questions and be  
16 able to get answers.

17 And I think some of the hostilities  
18 that people tried to say happened here, I don't think  
19 that was the issue, I think it was frustrations, more  
20 than it would be a hostility of not getting answers.  
21 So, hopefully as you go forward in your  
22 next four years, Mayor, you'll recognize some of the  
23 things that we addressed and questions we asked that  
24 maybe the voice of the people should be heard, and I  
25 think a question should be answered.

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1 With that, I wish you the best in the  
2 next four years in the leadership. And, John, good  
3 luck where you head. And God knows where we're going  
4 to head in the next Council now. Thank you very much.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

6 Mr. Morgan.

7 MR. MORGAN: Good morning, Council.

8 MS. EVANS: Good morning.

9 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I'd like  
10 to say is that I hope when the new Council takes its  
11 seat, we're moving into a new era in the City of  
12 Scranton.

13 I really can't say at this point

14 whether it's going to be a new era or not or whether  
15 it's going to be politics as usual. I do have some  
16 questions, I'm glad to see you here, Mr. Mayor.  
17 You know, there has been so many  
18 questions asked her at Council, and since the mayor has  
19 come to council, and you do have access to this podium,  
20 I'd like to ask, okay, a couple of questions here that  
21 haven't been answered in all the years I've come here,  
22 my first question is, Why isn't there a playground  
23 program that encompasses the whole city in the City of  
24 Scranton?

25 And another question I have is,

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1 This city borrowed, I believe it was, \$72.3 million and  
2 paid to get a better bond rating, and it cost the city  
3 a lot of money to do that, but why is the city bond  
4 rating a junk overall?

5 There's questions about Mr. Mayor's --

6 the mayor's first political campaign on whether he took  
7 contributions from a corporation which he owns, and I  
8 don't find any of these things to be laughable things,  
9 because what we have here, and this does have to do  
10 with city business, because you know what, we're

11 running a city here and we're electing public officials  
12 to do the right things, and there's a lot of questions  
13 here that have never been answered, and they're still  
14 not answered.

15 There's even questions about the new  
16 Council taking place and how certain individuals got  
17 moved from one position to another.

18 I'm not here to grandstand for myself,  
19 I think the residents of this city deserve an answer to  
20 why property values are plummeting, all the properties  
21 on the market and all the political shenanigans taking  
22 place behind the scenes, okay?

23 And from what I understand, Janet Evans  
24 is going to be moved from finance chair. I find that  
25 to be a very troubling thing for the city, okay, I find

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1 a lot of things that have taken place where people  
2 don't come to this podium and speak about what's  
3 actually taking place here, I find that troubling.  
4 We're going to give everybody credit  
5 for all the direction this city is taken, when a lot of  
6 people that were politically connected got a free ride  
7 and everybody else paid for them.

8 And, Mr. Mayor, if you would please  
9 stand up to the podium, you can stop smiling, and  
10 answer some questions. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Mr. Mayor, that is your  
12 option whether you would care to respond or not. It's  
13 --

14 MR. DOHERTY: I would be happy. One  
15 thing, I think as a Councilperson and someone who sat  
16 there and as the vice president who served as  
17 president, this is John Pocius' day.

18 Let's honor a man who honored our city.

19 I'll be happy to answer any questions, but today is  
20 John Pocius' day, and we celebrate what John Pocius has  
21 done.

22 Sine Die is always about recognizing  
23 leaders who've done great things for our city. Today  
24 is John's day. And after this, it's the new Council's  
25 day, and after that, we do the business of the city.

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1 So, I will be happy to do that. As for  
2 Mr. Morgan, I'm in the building all day, walk  
3 downstairs, I'd be happy to answer any questions he  
4 has.

5 MS. EVANS: Mr. Morgan, please, now,  
6 you're no longer at the podium, so you're out of order.  
7 I would agree with the mayor to an extent, that it is a  
8 time to say goodbye to former Council members, however,  
9 Mayor, I would respectfully disagree, in that this is  
10 the people's forum, and at any time the people have the  
11 right to speak on city business, and I believe  
12 Mr. Morgan was addressing city business.  
13 They are, in fact, our supervisors, our  
14 bosses, yours, mine, and every elected official, and I  
15 think more than every four years having the opportunity  
16 to question or to change their leadership, they have  
17 the opportunity each week here to question and comment  
18 and suggest.  
19 So, if I might briefly at least respond  
20 to one of your questions regarding the playground, I  
21 know that the mayor has been working very closely with  
22 some members of the school board to better the City of  
23 Scranton and the school districts' playgrounds and  
24 their programs, and he's certainly to be commended for  
25 that, as is the Scranton School Board.

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1 But I know from having had a meeting

2 with certain members of the school board, that the  
3 school district offers quite an extensive program over  
4 the summer months, and in fact runs many after school  
5 programs at a number of its school buildings, even I'm  
6 sure Mr. McTiernan could comment in much greater depth  
7 on that than I, but those programs truly are available,  
8 they're out there for the taking. Children and parents  
9 have but to register.

10 Two things, first of all, it's nice  
11 that talk about a program that has been funded by the  
12 city, we fund that; second of all, today is John's day.  
13 Leadership, and leadership and controlling a meeting,  
14 and leadership about running a city is being in front  
15 of the crowd making the decisions which is best.  
16 The people of the city pay the taxes,  
17 and they ask us to run the city, they ask us to be  
18 leaders, and they ask us to do it with decorum, to be  
19 polite and to be respectful. Today is sine die, today  
20 is John Pocius' day. Thank you very much.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

23 It's very nice to see you here, Mayor. John, I wish  
24 you all the best. You've done a great job.

25 I'd just like to ask if -- I don't know

1 who could answer this, now that Mrs. Evans isn't going  
2 to be in charge of finance, will you still be able to  
3 have access to all the records that you should have as  
4 a member of Council, say, for example, you wanted to  
5 see something in finance, because when you were the  
6 head of finance, you let people know exactly what was  
7 going on in the city, and without that knowledge, we  
8 will be lost. You're invaluable.

9 MS. EVANS: Well, the information that  
10 is given to any one Council member, Mrs. Franus, is  
11 distributed to all five Council members, so in that  
12 respect, I will receive the same information that the  
13 new chair of the finance committee will receive.  
14 Beyond that, I would hope that I  
15 wouldn't encounter any more difficulty than I have in  
16 the past, and you can be sure, if I might, you can be  
17 sure that though I no longer chair that committee, I'll  
18 certainly keep an eye out for the finances of this  
19 city, because I consider that to be my priority, my  
20 job, to be the watch dog of the people's money.

21 MS. FRANUS: That is what I wanted to  
22 hear, and that is what the people want to hear.

23 MS. EVANS: Oh, Mr. Courtright would

24 like to add something.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Ms. Franus,

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1 irregardless of what committee we chair, every

2 Councilperson has the right to look at everything, so

3 no matter what seat Mrs. Evans sits in, she most

4 certainly will be able to, finance, safety, DPW,

5 economic development. Just because we chair that,

6 doesn't mean we're pigeon holed just in that one

7 particular area, so I think everybody is allowed to

8 take a look at everything.

9 MS. FRANUS: Well, I was just curious

10 if she were to ask City Hall for some information and

11 finances, that she would get it, not necessarily from

12 each other. If she were to ask the mayor or --

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: I would hope that that

14 would be true.

15 MS. FRANUS: I would hope so. And,

16 Mr. McTiernan, I hope you do half the job that

17 Mrs. Evans did, and we'll see. I hope you speak up on

18 matters, because we don't want silence here, we wan to

19 know exactly what's going on in the city, like

20 Mrs. Evans let us know about everything.

21 MR. MCTIERNAN: Thank you for your vote

22 of confidence.

23 MS. EVANS: Are there any other

24 speakers?

25 MR. JOHNSON: Erik Johnson, taxpayer.

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1 It's nice to see you, mayor, here with us, and I thank

2 you for being here, and also so, Mayor Connors, but

3 it's really great seeing our present mayor here,

4 Chris Doherty.

5 And also I want to thank John Pocius

6 for his services here at City Council. He did a

7 recommendable job, and he's well respected throughout

8 the city, and he was always friendly towards me, and

9 likewise with myself, and I wish him all the luck in

10 whatever he pursues in his next direction.

11 Also, I want to thank Gary DiBileo for

12 his services as President of City Council. He did a

13 recommendable job, and I also wish him the best in what

14 his direction would be in politics.

15 Also, I want to thank all the rest of

16 the City Council members that are included. They have

17 done a great job, they did their best, whatever they  
18 saw fit, and I believe that our Council at the present  
19 time will move in a direction that will be working with  
20 the administration and to do their best with  
21 administration and the City Council to move in the  
22 right direction, which we really need here in Scranton.  
23 We don't need division. We need a united front in  
24 Scranton here, otherwise it's not going to go anywhere.

25 Also, I want to thank a good friend,

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1 Paul Kelly, the most difficult times that I had for the  
2 holiday, it would have been a very nasty holiday if it  
3 wasn't for him, and he had came to bat for me and hit a  
4 nice home run for me, otherwise I would have been out  
5 in the street. I just want -- I had to bring this up,  
6 even though it has nothing to do with city business,  
7 but it sure made an impact with my life from now on.  
8 And I do want to wish you all a happy  
9 and prosperous new year equally to every one of you,  
10 none above the other.

11 I believe in equality, and I believe  
12 equality goes a long way within the city here, when it  
13 comes to wages, when it comes to services, I really

14 believe that everybody should be treated fairly and  
15 without any prejudice.

16 But anyway, may God bless you all and  
17 may you all have a happy new year. Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

19 MR. MCANDREW: Good morning, Council,  
20 good morning, Mr. Mayors.

21 MS. EVANS: Would you state your name,  
22 please, and address?

23 MR. MCANDREW: Sure. My name is Larry  
24 McAndrew, I'm a taxpayer, I'm also a vice president of  
25 the Lackawanna County Taxpayers Citizens Association.

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1 I would like to thank Mayor Connors for  
2 being here and thank you, Mayor Doherty, for finally  
3 showing up at a Council meeting. Thank you for being  
4 here.

5 You know, I come to this Council  
6 meeting today to thank one individual that sits at that  
7 City Council, and her name is Janet Evans.

8 For the last two years, the remarkable  
9 work this woman has done for the taxpayers, to look out  
10 for them, to fight for them is remarkable. We need

11 more like you, Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MR. MCANDREW: You're outstanding.

14 This might be for Mr. Pocius his day, but, Mrs. Evans,

15 you did a remarkable job for these people here in

16 Scranton. I thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.

18 MR. MCANDREW: And my understanding is

19 that there's a possibility that you will not be finance

20 chairman in charge of finances, and that in my opinion

21 the leadership is right here in this woman, and she

22 should be Council president. She should not be

23 overlooked and given minor duties. She has the

24 experience, she took on the responsibility, she has the

25 leadership.

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1 And since Mayor Doherty is here, and I

2 have come to this podium the last year, and so many

3 other speakers have come here, and he addressed

4 Mr. Morgan's issue that access to certain records are

5 available, my question is, how come we come here and we

6 look for answers, letters are sent out and they're

7 ignored and there is no response? How come? Why is

8 there no response at all? I thank you.

9 MS. EVANS: Mr. McAndrew, as the mayor  
10 has already stated, he doesn't intend to respond to any  
11 questions today. He prefers that the spotlight remain  
12 on Mr. Pocius at this time.

13 So, perhaps you could visit him in his  
14 office and have a conversation about those issues that  
15 are of such great concern to you and your taxpayers  
16 group. Are there any speakers?

17 MS. EVANS: Fourth order.

18 MS. GARVEY: 5-A, motions.

19 MS. EVANS: Mr. McTiernan, do you have  
20 any motions or comments?

21 MR. MCTIERNAN: Just a few comments.

22 Thank you, Mrs. Evans. First of all, I'd like to thank  
23 Mr. DiBileo, who's not here today, but thank him for  
24 his service and wish him well in his future endeavors,  
25 and secondly, I would like to thank Mr. Pocius for what

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1 probably feels like an eternity of service.

2 I will miss you greatly as first and  
3 foremost a friend, a great leader, and absolutely an  
4 ally and someone I look to when I make some of my

5 decisions, so best of luck and congratulations, John.

6 MR. POCIUS: Thank you, Bob.

7 MR. MCTIERNAN: That is all, Madame

8 President.

9 MS. EVANS: Mr. Pocius, any motions or

10 comments?

11 MR. POCIUS: Yes. I just have a few

12 brief comments. As always, I will continue to thank

13 everyone, especially my family, my dear wife Cathy, my

14 mom, my sister for that wonderful talk, my sister Judy,

15 who's the quiet one, she never has anything to say, but

16 she's -- in my heart, I know that they followed these

17 last couple of years, and sometimes they weren't happy

18 with what was said about me up here, and they would ask

19 why I would continue to do it, I continued because the

20 last people I want to thank are those citizens of

21 Scranton who had the faith and confidence in me to

22 elect me to four terms on City Council.

23 I would never do anything in my life

24 differently than I've done right now. As the song

25 says, I did it my way, and I think that's the only way

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1 everyone has to be.

2 You can look at a glass of water and it  
3 can be half full or it can be half empty, my glass of  
4 water is always half full. I'll take the least little  
5 bit of anything and make it the best, and that came  
6 from the upbringing of two great people, my mom and my  
7 dad, my dad who's not here, but my mom, I'm lucky and  
8 blessed to have her here, and they instilled the right  
9 values in me from an early age, sent us to Catholic  
10 school, where that basically was re-entrenched in our  
11 heads all the way through life, and you can look at  
12 anything and always see a bright side.

13 My dad always did that, and it was very  
14 important to me that you take every issue as they come  
15 and you deal with it, and once it's over, you put it  
16 aside, and the only reason you look back is to learn  
17 from your prior experiences, never to be mad about  
18 something, never to be gloating over something you  
19 might have won, but to learn and to move on from that  
20 one experience so to help you in your next experience.

21 I've enjoyed my 14 years, 14 years and  
22 five months on City Council, it's been something that  
23 I've always enjoyed.

24 Looking back over my 12 years with  
25 former Mayor Connors, I still call him mayor to this

1 day because he earned that title, and he will always be  
2 the mayor.

3 He spent 12 wonderful years, we didn't

4 always see eye to eye, but I think that's a perfect

5 example of how we moved on to the next issue, we built

6 a mall, we built a theater, we started the

7 rejuvenization of the downtown, we were both thoroughly

8 committed to better police protection, we did

9 everything we could inside of our means to do what we

10 had to do.

11 And Jimmy knows, like he said, we would

12 always go onto the next issue. We didn't always agree,

13 but I think that's what government is about, you work

14 your way through, you compromise, and you move on.

15 Probably, if I go onto the next mayor,

16 if you go back to our time on Council together, if you

17 looked at the voting record, it would probably say it

18 was a tumultuous record. Chris and I probably, I'll

19 call him Chris for now, and then I'll say something

20 about him being mayor, Chris and I probably fell on

21 different sides of many issues. Key votes, we were --

22 probably on certain things, budgets, borrowings,

23 there's certain things we fell on difference sides of

24 certain issues.

25 But if you look back when it really

.

26

1 counted and things had to move ahead, we got together,

2 like every good Council should do, and we did what was

3 best for the City of Scranton.

4 And the only reason that I even thought

5 about coming back when my colleagues called me to come

6 back on City Council, when I got the encouraging call

7 from Mayor Doherty and said, John, I heard -- we're

8 looking to tap you, the Council members would like to

9 bring you back, they need some experience, he is the

10 only reason I came back.

11 My family didn't want me to do it,

12 really, my business didn't want me to do it, we

13 suffered because of it, not only just getting our name

14 in the paper for some things that never should have

15 been said about them, as a fine upstanding business

16 here in the City of Scranton, but I did it because I

17 saw the direction the city was going in, and I liked

18 that.

19 And I might have been sitting here for

20 a another four years, if I wasn't so closely aligned to  
21 the mayor in the primary election. But again, I don't  
22 look back and say, You know, I should have stayed away,  
23 I should have been neutral.

24 I always did what I thought was best,  
25 and what was best for the citizens of the City of

27

1 Scranton, and I firmly believe in the direction that  
2 the city was moving in, and continues to move in.

3 And what I do is I charge the next

4 Council with the goal of doing the time right thing.

5 If you look at every decision you make up here, if you

6 do the right thing, not the popular thing, not the

7 thing that's going to be politically, you know,

8 sensitive to a certain amount of people you think you

9 have to please, but the right thing, when you weigh it

10 at the end of the day, you can go home, take your socks

11 and your shoes off, climb in the bed, put your head on

12 that pillow, and you'll know that you did the right

13 thing.

14 You'll have that feeling in your heart

15 that your vote was what counted and you affected the

16 most taxpayers, the most citizens, the most people that

17 even work here in the city, because they're always --  
18 we're responsible for them on a day to day basis.  
19 And always, like my mom is looking at  
20 me, she always told me, Jackie, do the right thing.  
21 Never, never, never, like, do something evil to  
22 someone, never do anything that's going to hurt you,  
23 and I believe I've done that up here.  
24 Believe me, I've taken some shots, I've  
25 taken some very slow shots up here from some people,  
.  
28

1 and you know what, people would say, How come you don't  
2 respond, that's not like you?  
3 Well, I have another side of me, I can  
4 lose this Lithuanian temper and flip out and go crazy  
5 in a heartbeat, but, you know, I try to keep that under  
6 control, because a Lithuanian on the rampage is  
7 something you really don't want to see happening too  
8 often.  
9 Because you think the Irish can go  
10 crazy on St. Patrick's Day, you should see us on Flag  
11 Raising Day, we can really raise some muster up there.  
12 But what I'm saying is that you've  
13 go to just be yourself and you've got to be the kind of

14 person that you want the next people to be.  
15 And it's getting late, and there's a  
16 whole new Council coming in, and it's their day more so  
17 than it's my day, but I charge this new Council when  
18 they reorganize to do what's right, to do what's best,  
19 and I would be remiss if I didn't just say, thank you,  
20 Dad, for all you've done. And that's it. Thank you.  
21 Excuse me. One more thing, by the way,  
22 when I left here, I passed my key to Mrs. Gatelli, so  
23 now she has -- the new president has her own key to be  
24 able to get into City Council chambers, so I passed it  
25 over, okay?

29

1 So, Neil, as a bookkeeping record, I  
2 turn my key over, so record that, okay? Thank you.  
3 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Pocius. Mr.  
4 Courtright.  
5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes, Mrs. Evans. I  
6 spoke at the last meeting how I felt about Mr. Pocius  
7 and Mr. DiBileo, and because we do have a whole hall  
8 full of people out there, I just want to wish them both  
9 well in their private and public life.  
10 And I -- you are a family man, John, so

11 I guess you'll have a little bit more time now to spend

12 with your family, and the best of luck to you.

13 MR. POCIUS: Thank you, Bill.

14 MS. EVANS: I wish to recognize two

15 Council members who are leaving us today, Mr. Pocius

16 and Mr. DiBileo, and I'm sure everyone joins me in

17 thanking them for their dedicated service to the City

18 of Scranton.

19 And I also want to thank my other two

20 colleagues, Mr. Courtright and Mr. McTiernan, I enjoyed

21 working with both of you, and I look forward to working

22 with you in the future.

23 MS. GARVEY: Fifth order, no business

24 at this time. Sixth order, no business at this time.

25 Seventh order, no business at this time.

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1 MS. EVANS: I'll entertain a motion to

2 adjourn.

3 MR. POCIUS: For the last time, so

4 moved.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

6 MR. POCIUS: This will be the last

7 time.

8 MS. EVANS: Meeting adjourned.

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11 (MEETING WAS CONCLUDED.)

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1 CERTIFICATE

2

3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

5 notes taken by me on the hearing of the above cause and

6 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same

7 to the best of my ability.

8

9

10

LISA M. GRAFF, RMR

11 Official Court Reporter

12

1

1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL

2

3 REORGANIZATION MEETING OF COUNCIL

4

5

6 Held:

7 Monday, January 2, 2006

8

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10 Time:

11 11:00 a.m.

12

13

14 Location:

15 Council Chambers

16 Scranton City Hall

17 340 North Washington Avenue

18 Scranton, Pennsylvania

19

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21

22

23 Lisa M. Graff, RMR

24 Court Reporter

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1 MS. GARVEY: If everyone would please

2 stand now for the Pledge of Allegiance. I would now

3 ask Monsignor Gray to come to the podium for the

4 invocation.

5 (WHEREUPON, prayer was observed.)

6 MS. GARVEY: In accordance with the

7 Home Rule Charter, the City of Scranton designating the

8 first Monday of January As the day for City Council to

9 reorganize, I hereby call this 2006 reorganization

10 meeting to order. I'll now do a roll call.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Here.

13 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Fanucci.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

15 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

16 MR. MCTIERNAN: Here.

17 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

19 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Gatelli.

20 MS. GATELLI: Here.

21 MS. GARVEY: I would now ask

22 Mayor Doherty, if he would like to say a few words.

23 MR. DOHERTY: Good morning, Madame

24 President, and to the new council members,

25 Mrs. Fanucci, Mrs. Evans, congratulations.

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1 Mr. Courtright, and Mr. McTiernan, welcome.

2 It is a great day for the City of

3 Scranton as you start on the next four years in moving

4 the city forward. I look forward to working with you,

5 I offer you my heartfelt congratulations, and I look

6 forward to making the city better than it is today.

7 As our goals are always simple, to make

8 things better than we found them, and I'm very

9 confident and I look forward to working with you, but  
10 today is your day, so I congratulate you on your  
11 successes in your election, and I wish you all the  
12 best. Have a nice day.

13 MS. GARVEY: I have before me the  
14 certificate of election of Kenneth McDowell, tax  
15 collector. Will the Council adopt a motion to the  
16 effect that the certificate be received and ordered  
17 filed and made a part of the minutes?

18 MR. MCTIERNAN: I so move.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

20 MS. GARVEY: All those in favor, say  
21 aye.

22 MS. EVANS: Aye.

23 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

24 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

2 MS. GARVEY: Those opposed? The ayes  
3 have it and so ordered. I will now ask that Mr.  
4 McDowell step to the podium is where the microphone is  
5 set up with Judge Munley.

6 (WHEREUPON, Ken McDowell took the oath for  
7 tax collector.)

8 MR. MCDOWELL: Well, first I'd like to  
9 congratulate Judge Munley on his great victory, it was  
10 a pleasure campaigning with him, we're happy to have  
11 him as a judge, and I'm honored that I was your first  
12 swearing in.

13 JUDGE MUNLEY: And believe me, actually  
14 I'm going to get a plaque and put that on my wall in my  
15 chambers. Thank you very much.

16 MR. MCDOWELL: First I'd like to thank  
17 the citizens of Scranton for entrusting me with the  
18 office of tax collector for another four years. I'd  
19 especially like to thank my family, my daughter Kelly  
20 here, she's always by my side, my best campaigner, my  
21 mother Jane, my sister Christy over there. Without  
22 them, I'd never be able to get anything accomplished,  
23 and I thank them for that.

24 I want to wish the new Council great  
25 luck. I've worked with many of you in the past through

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1 different phases, I know you're going to do a good job,  
2 I'm very happy for you.

3 I want to thank Mr. Pocius for his  
4 years of dedicated service to the city. I'd like to  
5 thank Mayor Doherty, and congratulate him on his  
6 victory, and thank you all for coming.

7 MS. GARVEY: I have before me the  
8 certificates of election of Janet Tomko Evans,  
9 Judy Gatelli, and Sherry Nealon Fanucci as city  
10 Councilpersons, would the Council adopt a motion to the  
11 effect the certificates be received and ordered filed  
12 and made part of the minutes?

13 MR. MCTIERNAN: I so move.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

15 MS. GARVEY: On the question? All  
16 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

19 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

21 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

22 MS. GARVEY: I will now ask that the  
23 Honorable Nealon come to the forefront, and Sherry  
24 Nealon Fanucci.

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1 JUDGE NEALON: I'd first like to thank

2 Sherry for asking me to swear her in and be part of

3 this historic day.

4 As we know, this will be the first time

5 in the history of the City of Scranton that a majority

6 of our City Council will be women, and I thank Sherry

7 for the honor of swearing her in today and being part

8 of that history.

9 And I, too, would also like to

10 recognize and thank John Pocius and Gary DiBileo for

11 their many years of public service.

12 And finally, just for the record,

13 Sherry and I are not related.

14 (WHEREUPON, Sherry Nealon Fanucci took the

15 oath for City Councilperson.)

16 MS. GARVEY: I now will ask the

17 Honorable Carmen Minora to step forward to the podium

18 and administer the oath of office to Janet Tomko Evans

19 for the elected office of City Council.

20 JUDGE MINORA: I'd just like to remark

21 about the fact that when John and Gary were here, I

22 never kissed anybody on Council, so I wanted to say

23 that.

24 That's one of the advantage of a women  
25 majority. We always note that whenever we greet

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7

1 Judge Corbett, that's also a distinguishing factor when  
2 she's in chambers. Also, Tom, this is not my first  
3 oath, I just want you to know that.

4 (WHEREUPON, Janet Tomko Evans took the oath  
5 for City Councilperson.)

6 MS. GARVEY: I will now ask

7 Judge Minora if he'd just stay up here, and

8 Judy Gatelli, please come up to be sworn in.

9 JUDGE MINORA: This is a pleasure and a  
10 privilege, as was with Janet, to share in their very  
11 special day, but it's also a pleasure because we go  
12 back a few years. Joe and I graduated high school

13 together, and I think Judy was about four or five years  
14 behind us, as I recall, isn't that right?

15 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

16 JUDGE MINORA: And I think my mother or  
17 her mother were in each other's wedding parties, so we  
18 go back a couple generations.

19 MS. GATELLI: Yes, they were.

20 (WHEREUPON, Judy Gatelli took the oath as

21 City Councilperson.)

22 MS. GARVEY: I will now accept

23 nominations for temporary chairperson. What is your

24 pleasure?

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that

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1 Robert McTiernan be appointed temporary chairperson.

2 MS. EVANS: Second.

3 MS. GARVEY: All those in favor say

4 aye.

5 MS. EVANS: Aye.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

7 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

9 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

10 MS. GARVEY: Those opposed? The ayes

11 have it, and so ordered. Mr. McTiernan, will you

12 please take over as temporary chair?

13 MR. MCTIERNAN: Thank you, Mrs. Garvey.

14 We will proceed with the reorganization. I now ask for

15 nominations for the city clerk.

16 MS. GATELLI: I nominate Kay Garvey,

17 City Clerk.

18 MS. EVANS: I second that motion.

19 MR. MCTIERNAN: I ask for a roll call,

20 please, Neil.

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

24 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

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1 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

5 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

6 MR. MCTIERNAN: The motion is adopted,

7 and I declare Kay Garvey duly and legally elected City

8 Clerk. Congratulations, Kay.

9 I now call for the nomination of a

10 permanent President of Scranton City Council for the

11 ensuing two years, and I'd like to nominate

12 Mrs. Judy Gatelli as permanent chairperson and

13 President of City Council.

14 MS. FANUCCI: I second the motion.

15 MR. MCTIERNAN: I will ask for a roll

16 call, please, Neil.

17 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

22 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

2 MR. MCTIERNAN: The motion is adopted,

3 and I declare Judy Gatelli duly and legally elected

4 President of Scranton City Council. Congratulations,

5 Mrs. Gatelli.

6 MS. GATELLI: Thank you very much.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. MCTIERNAN: And I would probably

9 need to offer, an historic day, as everyone has

10 mentioned earlier.

11 I now call for nomination of Vice

12 President of Scranton City Council for the ensuing  
13 two-year.

14 MS. EVANS: I nominate William

15 Courtright as Vice President of Scranton City Council.

16 MS. GATELLI: I second the motion.

17 MR. MCTIERNAN: Neil, may we have a  
18 roll call, please?

19 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

24 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

3 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

4 MR. MCTIERNAN: The motion is adopted,

5 and I declare William Courtright duly and legally

6 elected Vice President of Scranton City Council.

7 Congratulations, Bill.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: At this time, I'd like

9 to make a motion that we appoint Amil Minora, Esquire,  
10 to the position of City Council Solicitor.

11 MS. EVANS: I second that motion.

12 MS. GATELLI: All those in favor, say  
13 aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

16 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

18 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Those opposed? The  
19 ayes have it and so ordered.

20 MS. GARVEY: I will now ask

21 Councilwoman Gatelli to please come to the podium to be  
22 sworn in as Council President by the Honorable Carmen  
23 Minora.

24 (WHEREUPON, Judy Gatelli was sworn in as  
25 Council President.)

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1 MS. GARVEY: I will now ask Councilman

2 Courtright to come forward to the podium to be sworn in  
3 as Council Vice President by the  
4 Honorable Thomas Munley.

5 (WHEREUPON, William Courtright was

6 sworn in as Council Vice President.)

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: I just want to thank

8 the other Council members for their support, and, Judge

9 for coming in and swearing me in, and I hope that I

10 could fill the shoes that Mrs. Evans just left, I'll do

11 my very best. Thank you.

12 MR. MCTIERNAN: I would now like to ask

13 Judge Munley to remain at the podium and ask Mrs. Kay

14 Garvey to be sworn in as Scranton City Clerk.

15 (WHEREUPON, Kay Garvey was sworn in as

16 Scranton City Clerk.)

17 MS. GARVEY: I would just like to say

18 thank you to all of you sitting here for your

19 confidence in me to take on this job, and I hope to

20 serve each of you in the capacity that you deserve,

21 okay?

22 And I also would like to thank my

23 family, my husband who is up there playing chicken

24 right now, didn't come down, I would like to thank all

25 of them for supporting me in my decision, and it was a

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13

1 rough road and it was a long road to come to this

2 decision, and I hope that this is the right one, and I

3 thank them for their support.

4 MR. MCTIERNAN: Kay, I believe that you

5 made the right decision for the City of Scranton, we

6 thank you for stepping up to the plate and filling

7 Mr. Saunders' shoes.

8 MS. GARVEY: Thank you.

9 MR. MCTIERNAN: We appreciate that. I

10 think everyone is in place now. I would now like to

11 ask that Mrs. Judy Gatelli take over as permanent

12 chairman and President of Scranton City Council.

13 MS. GATELLI: We are now ready to

14 consider the rules of procedure by which this Council

15 will be governed during the next two years. What is

16 your pleasure?

17 MR. MCTIERNAN: I move that the rules

18 of Council be adopted by Resolution No. 1, 2006, as

19 required by the Home Rule Charter.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

21 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Garvey, would you

22 please read the resolution?

23 MS. GARVEY: RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2006 -

24 ADOPTING THE RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE

25 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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1 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

2 those in favor, say aye.

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Any opposed? The

8 ayes have it and so ordered.

9 The following will be the committee

10 chairpersons for the next two years. Community

11 Development, Sherry Nealon Fanucci, Public Works,

12 Janet Evans, Public Safety, William Courtright,

13 Finance, Robert McTiernan, Rules, Judy Gatelli.

14 Subcommittees, Pension Review and

15 Administration, Sherry Nealon Fanucci, Downtown

16 Revitalization, Judy Gatelli, Boards and Commissions,

17 William Courtright, Revenue and Taxes, Robert

18 McTiernan, and Inter-Governmental Relations,

19 Janet Evans.

20 I will now call on each Council member

21 for a few remarks. Mrs. Evans.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I humbly thank

23 the people of Scranton for placing their confidence in

24 my once again. I also wish to thank the hundreds of  
25 supporters who worked on my campaigns tirelessly. And

15

1 to the thousands and thousands of voters I met, I want  
2 you to know how beneficial our conversations are to me.  
3 I find more wisdom in my meetings with  
4 citizens than in any of my meetings with politicians,  
5 and I will do my very best to represent you. My vote  
6 will always be your vote.

7 My fellow Scrantonians, I call your  
8 attention today to a few historical notes, I have the  
9 honor to be the third woman elected to Scranton City  
10 Council, and I am very pleased to be joined today by  
11 the fourth and fifth. Another interesting note, I'm  
12 the first woman to ever be re-elected to Scranton City  
13 Council.

14 My dear friends, I will live up to your  
15 vote of confidence and do my job to the best of my  
16 ability to insure that worthy candidates, both male and  
17 female, are re-elected in the future. Certainly no  
18 office is deserved, it must be earned.

19 Finally, I lovingly thank my family,  
20 particularly my darling mother, who is present today,

21 and although we lost my dear father early during my  
22 first term of office, I know he's with both of us  
23 today, and my greatest hopes are to live by the strong  
24 values my parents taught me, love of family, hard work,  
25 honesty, service and compassion, and to make

.

16

1 Marion and Carl Tomko half as proud of their daughter  
2 as Janet Tomko Evans has always been of them. Thank  
3 you.

4 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Fanucci.

5 MS. FANUCCI: I don't think one of us

6 can sit up here and not appreciate the wonderful

7 support we've had from all of our family and friends.

8 It starts there with the support and the knowledge that

9 you can actually go out and change and believe you can

10 change and help a wonderful city like ours.

11 I want to thank the people who rallied

12 around me in the beginning when this was just a notion

13 and an idea of mine.

14 I've always said that my family did

15 curse me with way too much self esteem, and I think

16 it's paid off in the long run. You get here and you

17 believe that the changes you can make are actually

18 going to be beneficial for all of us.

19 The people who just gave so much to let

20 me go out and be a candidate and let me be the person

21 that I wanted to be and didn't have to change that,

22 they're the people who kept everything going behind the

23 scenes.

24 My daughter, who probably gave me most

25 of my inspiration, Isbella, nine years old, who made me

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1 realize that this is their good old days, right now.

2 They're going to look back at now and want this to be

3 different and be great, and that's how I look at my

4 life. I look at this city as a wonderful place to be.

5 I grew up in a wonderful family who was

6 part of this community for years, the Skettino's, and

7 although people don't think like a super grocery store

8 is anything wonderful, they were such a part of this

9 community, and Scranton embraced them and gave them te

10 will to want to be here, and that's all I learned from.

11 You know what, I'm not your normal

12 person, I didn't come out here saying that I knew

13 everything about politics, although my dad has

14 instilled a lot of my wonderful ideas in believing in

15 the system and how the system could work, and my mom  
16 gave me the values, Isabelle, to believe that just  
17 being a good person is enough, and you can go out there  
18 and make wonderful changes.

19 My husband, who probably gave up as  
20 much from this campaign and learned that takeout is  
21 part of a normal day, and his support was endless and  
22 tireless, and I totally appreciate that with knowing  
23 that his office and his work is, you know, is just as  
24 important as mine.

25 And I just want to thank all of my

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1 family who picked up the slack, totally picked up the  
2 slack and realized that a mom who is out there and  
3 being a candidate is, you know, you're going to have to  
4 look for the clean towel once in a while and pick up my  
5 daughter when I need you to, and I totally appreciate  
6 that.

7 I'm here to want to work with everyone,

8 and I really believe that the best way to get our city

9 where we need to be is to open up and embrace

10 everybody's ideas, not just my own, but everybody's

11 ideas are good, and I know that if we work together and

12 we listen and we take from that what we need to take,  
13 we're going to get where we need to go.

14 And I just want to thank everyone, I  
15 know there's so many people I'm probably leaving out,  
16 but all of you are important to me, and I just want to  
17 thank all of you.

18 And I look forward to this position and  
19 knowing that I can work with these great colleagues of  
20 mine who already I think were -- we realize that, you  
21 know, pulling together, we're going to make a great  
22 difference up here, and I appreciate all of your  
23 support, from now and in the future.

24 I just want to thank all of you, and  
25 let you know that I am here and I'm going to do the

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1 best job I possibly can do, not only for Scranton, but  
2 for each of you who are home and thinking that maybe,  
3 you know, you don't have to make a difference, I will  
4 make the difference for you. And I want to thank all  
5 of you, and I'm honored. Thank you.

6 MS. GATELLI: Mr. McTiernan, do you  
7 have anything to say?

8 MR. MCTIERNAN: Thank you, Madame

9 President. I will speak.

10 MS. GATELLI: I couldn't resist it,

11 Bob.

12 MR. MCTIERNAN: I will speak, but I

13 will be very brief. That's a surprise. I'd like to

14 congratulate the newly elected Councilpersons, and of

15 course welcome them.

16 I'd also like to thank Mr. Courtright

17 for his continued commitment to the City of Scranton,

18 and I believe Scranton is on the precipitous of change,

19 and I think we only have great things to offer, and

20 this city will get better.

21 I do believe that the changing face of

22 the seated City Council will offer new ideas and will

23 allow the city to move forward. I look forward to

24 working with all of you. Thank you, and

25 congratulations.

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20

1 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

2 Mr. Courtright.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'd just like to

4 welcome the two new members, and say that I'm very

5 pleased to be vice president, and I just -- I think

6 Mrs. Evans did a very good job as vice president, and  
7 I'm going to do my best to do as good a job as she did.  
8 I want to just comment on Kay Garvey, I  
9 know it was a very tough decision for her to move into  
10 this position, but I kind of grilled her on a daily  
11 basis, along with some others, and asked her to take  
12 it, it was a very big move for her.  
13 I think she's going to do a wonderful,  
14 wonderful job. She's fair, she's honest, she's  
15 hardworking, and I just want to congratulate her and  
16 welcome her in her new position, and I look forward to  
17 working with the rest of this Council for the next  
18 couple of years. Thank you.

19 MS. GATELLI: I normally don't write my  
20 speeches, I'm usually pretty good off the cuff, but I  
21 figured I'd be really nervous today, and I better write  
22 down some of my thoughts.

23 First I'd like to thank Monsignor Gray  
24 for being with us today. There couldn't be anyone more  
25 appropriate to be with me on a very special day like

21

1 this.

2 It was a very powerful prayer, The

3 Prayer of St. Francis, and we should all lead our lives  
4 by its words.

5 The first people I'd like to thank are  
6 my family. And for anyone that thinks that I'm going  
7 to sit up here and do what I'm told, they can just ask  
8 Joe Gatelli, because he said, Judy, don't do it, and I  
9 did it anyway, so that will just give you an idea of  
10 where I come from.

11 Most of you that know me know I'm a  
12 straight shooter, and I'll do what I want anyway, but  
13 he supported me in the end.

14 Also, my daughter Dawn, my daughter  
15 Gina, my son-in-law Jeremy, and even the kids, because  
16 the kids had to sacrifice without being with their Noni  
17 all the time.

18 I was going to mention people, and I  
19 thought I better not, because I'm going to miss  
20 someone, and it might be someone very special, and I  
21 would really feel badly about that, so I generalized  
22 and I starred with people who encouraged me to run and  
23 help to organize my campaign.

24 Also, the people who I've worked with  
25 over the years in City Hall and the people that gave me

.

1 a job at City Hall so that I could prove that I was

2 worthy of this seat.

3 Also, the monetary contributors, those

4 who designed my logo, the sign hangers, those who

5 walked door to door, went to bingos and picnics,

6 members of the Monday night group at Smith's

7 Restaurant, poll workers, envelope writers and

8 stuffers, those who made phone calls and spoke to

9 others on my behalf.

10 A special thanks to the South Side

11 Residents Association, its officers and members who

12 stood by me every step of the way.

13 Also, to all of the citizens who voted

14 for me and had faith in me. No act was too small. It

15 all made an impact, and you all share in a part of my

16 victory, and for that, I thank you all from the bottom

17 of my heart.

18 As a neighborhood leader for 25 years,

19 I pledge to remain dedicated in a special way to the

20 neighborhoods of the city and its residents.

21 As President of this Council, I will

22 seek consensus on issues from my colleagues, and

23 everyone's opinion will count.

24 A good leader empowers the people,  
25 makes them part of the decision and part of the  
.

23

1 solution. Then and only then will we make our city a  
2 better place to live, work and play. That should  
3 always be our goal. Together we can make it happen.

4 Finally, there are two important people

5 I need to thank today, they were the most influential  
6 people in my life, one taught me to put others first

7 and never to be selfish, the other taught me that all

8 people must be represented, especially when they cannot  
9 do it for themselves.

10 This day is not for me, I would like to

11 dedicate it to them for making me the person I am

12 today, my parents, Jean and Joe Maldonato. Thank you.

13 I will now call for a motion to

14 adjourn.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

16 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

17 MS. GATELLI: The meeting is adjourned.

18 There being no further business, the next regularly

19 scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12

20 at 6:30 p.m. Thank you all for coming.

21

22 (MEETING WAS CONCLUDED.)

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### 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

5 notes taken by me on the hearing of the above cause and

6 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same

7 to the best of my ability.

8

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LISA M. GRAFF, RMR

11 Official Court Reporter

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