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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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5 Held:

6 Thursday, April 27, 2006

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9 Time:

10 6:30 p.m.

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12

13 Location:

14 Council Chambers

15 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

17 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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23 Lisa M. Graff, RMR

24 Court Reporter

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1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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3 MS. JUDY GATELLI, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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5 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT, VICE-PRESIDENT

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7 MS. JANET EVANS

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9 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN (Arrived where noted)

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11 MR. JOHN MINORA, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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13 MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

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15 MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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1 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Please stand for

2 the Pledge Of Allegiance. Please remain standing for a

3 moment of reflection. Roll call.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

7 Mr. McTiernan. Mr. Courtright.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

10 MS. GATELLI: Here. I have a letter

11 here from Mrs. Fanucci that she will be unable to

12 attend Council's meeting this evening due to a prior

13 commitment.

14 And I'd like to make a motion that we

15 appoint temporary chair for Community Development for

16 this evening.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

18 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Mrs.

19 Evans, would you take that chair for this evening?

20 MS. EVANS: Certainly I will.

21 MS. GATELLI: Thank you very much. All

22 in favor.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

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1 have it and so moved. And Mr. McTiernan will be here.

2 He's at a conference for his school and he's on his way

3 back as we speak, so he will be here momentarily.

4 MS. GARVEY: Third order. 3-A,

5 CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING MARCH 31,

6 2006.

7 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

8 If not, received and filed.

9 MS. GARVEY: 3-B, MINUTES OF THE

10 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON MARCH 22, 2006.

11 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

12 If not, received and filed.

13 MS. GARVEY: 3-C, AGENDA FOR THE

14 MUNICIPAL PENSION FUND MEETING HELD ON APRIL 26, 2006.

15 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

16 If not, received and filed.

17 MS. GARVEY: 3-D, AUDIT REPORT OF THE

18 CITY OF SCRANTON AGGREGATED PENSION FUND FOR THE PERIOD

19 JANUARY 1, 2003 TO DECEMBER 31, 2004.

20 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

21 If not, received and filed.

22 MS. GARVEY: 3-E, PETITION FOR A

23 STREETLIGHT IN THE 300 BLOCK OF PHELPS STREET.

24 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

25 If not, received and filed.

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1 MS. GARVEY: 3-F, MINUTES OF THE

2 MUNICIPAL PENSION FUND MEETING HELD ON MARCH 22, 2006.

3 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

4 If not, received and filed.

5 MS. GARVEY: 3-G, MINUTES OF THE

6 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE AUTHORITY

7 MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 16, 2006.

8 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

9 If not, received and filed.

10 MS. GARVEY: 3-H, MINUTES OF THE

11 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON MARCH 22,  
12 2006.

13 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

14 If not, received and filed.

15 MS. GARVEY: 3-I, MINUTES OF THE POLICE

16 PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON MARCH 22, 2006.

17 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

18 If not, received and filed.

19 MS. GARVEY: For Clerk's notes, the

20 only thing I have is Councilman Courtright received a

21 complaint from a resident regarding a blocked catch

22 basin at the rear of 612 Dean Street.

23 The resident stated that the Scranton

24 Sewer Authority tried to clean it out last year, but

25 could not remove the lid. So, Councilman Courtright,

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1 that request was sent to the Sewer Authority to see if

2 they could remedy that situation. That's all I have.

3 MS. GATELLI: Okay. I have a few

4 things before we start. The 924 Taylor Avenue has been

5 cleaned up. We had a complaint about dogs running

6 loose up on the East Mountain, so we'd like to remind

7 the citizens that have any dogs that they're to be on a

8 leash and you're to pick up their remains when they go  
9 to the bathroom. That's a city ordinance.

10 I'd like to apologize to Kay.

11 Apparently last week when we were fooling around,  
12 someone in the viewing audience thought we were serious  
13 and they thought that Kay was being picked on. And  
14 they don't understand that we do have some fun here.  
15 So, Kay, I apologize if anyone thought that you were  
16 being scolded or picked on. We certainly would never  
17 do that to you.

18 MS. GARVEY: That's quite all right.

19 No.

20 MS. GATELLI: I talked to Mr. Fiorini  
21 and Mr. Wallace about the problem on East Locust  
22 Street, the dumping problem, and I was down there  
23 today, and it's now about 20 feet high.  
24 So, I talked to Don King, who has been  
25 very cooperative, and the law department is involved,

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1 and also we're going to get the soil conservation  
2 department involved with DEP.

3 I'd like to announce that Dunmore has  
4 also joined the Scranton Abington Planning Association.

5 I know that several members of Council were interested

6 in the other communities. I think it was Mrs. Evans.

7 MS. EVANS: And Mr. Sbaraglia. Do you

8 know it was originally his suggestion, I believe, that

9 this Planning Association be opened up to our

10 neighbors, and the good news is, as Mrs. Gatelli

11 announced, Dunmore has decided to join in, but you

12 should also know that now membership is in effect

13 closed because they don't want wish it to grow any

14 larger.

15 MS. GATELLI: The next message is that

16 the Christian Budney fundraiser is Sunday at Montage

17 from eleven to six. There's also an autism fundraiser

18 at St. Joe's Center on Saturday from five to seven.

19 MS. EVANS: No. The autism?

20 MS. GATELLI: What time is that?

21 MS. EVANS: It is from 6 p.m. to 11

22 p.m.

23 MS. GATELLI: Six to eleven. I'm

24 sorry.

25 MS. EVANS: Ticket cost is \$10, and

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8

1 it's a wonderful cause.

2 MS. GATELLI: It's at St. Joe's in

3 Minooka.

4 MS. EVANS: Sponsored by the Minooka

5 Lions Club.

6 MS. GATELLI: I'd like to bring to the

7 attention of Ray Hayes, there's a problem coming into

8 the city from Moosic Street. I'm sure he's aware of

9 it, because I've spoken to him before, but I'd like to

10 update the rest of Council and maybe we can do it in

11 the form of a motion.

12 When you come into downtown in the

13 morning from Moosic Street, there's a yield sign from

14 Route 81, but nobody yields. And this morning there

15 were two large tractor-trailers barreling out of that

16 exit, and there was a near fatality.

17 So, I'd like to send a letter to

18 Ray Hayes in the form of a motion to see what he can do

19 about the situation.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

21 MS. GATELLI: And I better pass the

22 gavel to the left under Robert's Rules, Mr. Courtright.

23 I make that in the form of a motion.

24 MS. EVANS: Second.

25 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All in

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9

1 favor?

2 MS. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

4 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: You can have it back.

6 MS. GATELLI: I'd also like you to see

7 if we can get a street sweeper schedule put in the

8 newspaper. A lot of people are calling asking about

9 the schedule.

10 Even if we had an idea, it doesn't have

11 to specifically be the blocks, but, say, you know,

12 South Side will be this week or North Scranton next

13 week. Just bear with me for a moment.

14 Mr. Parker was inspecting the Village

15 at Tripp Park this morning. He has already sent me a

16 report, and he has addressed them one by one.

17 Number one was Lot 18, the driveway

18 needs to be replaced, that would be the homeowner's

19 responsibility.

20 Number two, the paving in front of

21 Lot 20 needs to be corrected, that has been repaired.

22 Number three, the curb is cracked on

23 Lot 10, that has been repaired.

24 Number four, Lot 21, homeowner

25 responsibility.

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1 Number five, Lot 17, needs to be

2 seeded, that has been done.

3 Number six, the pavement in front of

4 Lot 24, that's been repaired.

5 Number seven, settlement in front of

6 Lot 52 on Spike Way, that has been done.

7 Number eight, Lot 54, that's been

8 repaired.

9 Number nine, Lot 50, the curb, that's

10 been repaired.

11 Lot 47, replace the curb, that's been

12 repaired.

13 Number eleven, Lot 79, the driveway

14 needs to be replaced, Pennsylvania American Water will

15 repair that.

16 Number twelve, stabilize the

17 embankments of the detention ponds, not done, was done,

18 did not last, and must be redone.

19 Number thirteen, clean out the

20 detention ponds, not done.

21 Number fourteen, place a clean stake

22 out in the detention ponds with the correct cleaning

23 elevation, done.

24 Number fifteen, the plans that were

25 approved by the City of Scranton's Planning Commission

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1 showed the trees were to be planted. Compromise is

2 possible on this, possibly \$50 to the owners. White

3 birches might be another type of tree that can be used.

4 Number sixteen, provide an engineering

5 solution for the drainage problem discovered in the

6 vicinity of 120, 129 and 130. He said, I believe the

7 water is coming from an underground source. The city

8 will have a camera run the length of the pipe to insure

9 that it isn't cracked or any joints are separated. If

10 the pipe is damaged, the contractor will repair. A

11 diversion berm, swale or french drain at the base of

12 the slope may be the only other solution. So, they're

13 still working on that.

14 Number seventeen, trim all pipes into

15 inlets at parging. That's been done.

16 Number eighteen, between Lots 130 and

17 131 there is a new swale, done.

18 Number nineteen is the lights on Euclid

19 Avenue, and that's going to be resolved with the

20 developer's legal counsel and the city solicitor.

21 And, also, at, I believe, at 1509

22 Euclid Avenue, Mr. Kashuba, they went to visit him

23 today, and his problems will also be corrected. So, we

24 are making a little progress, and we're happy about

25 that.

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1 There were quite a few potholes and

2 things filled this week, but I'm not going to report on

3 that, because I don't want to take up too much time.

4 I do want to talk about the article

5 that was in the paper about Scranton being the third

6 city in the United States for wage tax.

7 And it was very coincidental that the

8 next day was that the article was that the slots are

9 going to rescue us. Well, I haven't seen the slots

10 rescue Atlantic City, so I have my doubts if the slots

11 are going to rescue Scranton, Pennsylvania.

12 But I did feel a little insulted by the

13 article, because I don't think it's fair to describe

14 Scranton in the same way that you describe Philadelphia  
15 and New York.

16 We do have a wage tax, and it is  
17 burdensome, I will agree with that, but I don't like  
18 when they make us to be a very bad -- in a very bad  
19 light, because I don't think it's fair.

20 When I looked up the City of  
21 Philadelphia, which I only took one, for example, I  
22 didn't want to look them all up, I found at least 12 to  
23 15 taxes that they impose on the citizens of the City  
24 of Philadelphia.

25 They have an amusement tax, a business

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1 privilege license, \$250, one time free. The amusement  
2 tax is five percent of all admissions. They have a  
3 business privilege tax. They have a hotel room rental  
4 tax. They have a liquor sales tax. They have a net  
5 profits tax, a parking tax, a real estate tax, a real  
6 estate transfer tax, a sales tax, a school income tax,  
7 a use and occupancy tax, a vehicle rental tax, and a  
8 wage tax, and their wage tax is on residents and  
9 non-residents.

10 So, if we had all these, we wouldn't

11 have a wage tax at all. So, I just wanted to say that  
12 I think it is unfair to put us in the same light with  
13 these other communities.  
14 And I'm sure I didn't look up their  
15 property taxes, but I know it costs a lot more to live  
16 in Philadelphia and New York, than it does in Scranton,  
17 however, we are, and this Council, I know I can speak  
18 for Mrs. Evans and Mr. Courtright, we will certainly do  
19 whatever we can to lower the wage tax, if and when we  
20 have that good fortune to find a way to do it. And we  
21 are investigating it and looking into all different  
22 possibilities.

23 Mr. Quinn announced today in the paper  
24 that possibly the Emergency Services Tax could lower  
25 the property tax a little, and maybe then we can use

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1 that money to offset the wage tax. So, we're going to  
2 talk to Mr. Kresefski and see if that could be  
3 investigated.  
4 And certainly all persons' ideas are  
5 welcome, and I would also hope that the mayor would get  
6 behind this Council 100 percent, and the PEL, and  
7 endorse the non-profits to pay something to this

8 community, because all we need is \$800,000 and some,  
9 and we can lower the wage tax, you know, a tenth of a  
10 percent, which would certainly help.

11 So, if they would get behind us going  
12 after the non-profits, and we were all together on the  
13 same page, possibly we could lower the wage tax that  
14 way. And that was my intention when I brought up the  
15 non-profits.

16 I think that's all I have. I'm getting  
17 a little too winded here. Thank you very much. Does  
18 anyone else on Council have --

19 MS. EVANS: Yes. I just wanted to  
20 remind everyone that the Scranton Special Olympics  
21 cocktail party will be conducted tomorrow evening  
22 April 28 from seven to ten at St. Mary's Center.  
23 Tickets are \$30. They can be purchased at the door.  
24 It's a very, very worthy cause, and I hope that many of  
25 you will make every effort to attend.

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1 Now, as for our Junior Council, I have  
2 something for you tonight, and it's not really from me,  
3 it was delivered from me to present to you.

4 Kane Warehousing, Incorporated has

5 donated by means of a check made out to the Junior  
6 Council \$100 for your planting party. And I think we  
7 should all be very grateful for this type of donation.

8 Certainly Kane is Able is a very, very  
9 good neighbor and is happy to assist you, and we owe  
10 them certainly our gratitude for that. So,  
11 Mr. President, would you like your check? You're  
12 welcome.

13 And I might suggest that you would like  
14 to send a letter of thank you or a thank you card for  
15 such a donation.

16 And, Jackson, I received an E-mail that  
17 might interest you in regards a location in Bulls Head  
18 for your skate park. And it was once a mini park.  
19 It's an unoccupied piece of land right now. It is  
20 overgrown by bushes and some trees and some garbage,  
21 but it doesn't mean it can't be cleared. And so, I'm  
22 going to turn this E-mail over to you, and maybe you  
23 would like to further investigate.

24 MR. LOCKHEAD: Absolutely. Thank you  
25 very much.

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1 MS. EVANS: You're welcome. And that's

2 it.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

4 Mr. Courtright? Would any of the Junior Council care  
5 to speak?

6 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

7 Doug Miller. Before I begin with what I have to say, I  
8 would like to thank Mrs. Evans for that -- helping us,  
9 you know, with this project, and I'd also most  
10 importantly like to thank Kane for this wonderful  
11 donation. We really appreciate all of the donations  
12 that we've been receiving. So, thank you again.

13 Some people have questioned the  
14 communication between the chairman and the rest of this  
15 Council. I want it understood that every Junior  
16 Council member has a copy of all the phone numbers  
17 needed to communicate with each other, myself and the  
18 rest of Council.

19 So, my integrity and leadership is in  
20 question. I would like all the Junior Council members  
21 to please hold up the numbers that we have all had.

22 And tonight I will ask all Junior  
23 Council members to vote on the replacement of one  
24 Junior Council member, who for one reason or another,  
25 has decided not to come.

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1 And to move this Council forward, I  
2 think we need to make this replacement, because there  
3 are many kids out there who are interested in joining  
4 this Council, and it's not fair to them to have to see  
5 this go on every week. So, tonight we will vote on  
6 this for a replacement. Thank you.

7 And if there are any other Council  
8 members that would like to speak, please do so at this  
9 time. Thank you.

10 MS. ORGAN: Ms. Gatelli, I would just  
11 like to thank you for bringing up the yield sign on  
12 Moosic. I travel that way to Bishop Hannon every day,  
13 and I have noticed that it has become very dangerous,  
14 so I'd just like to thank you for that.

15 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Also, if  
16 anyone would like to meet with the Junior City Council,  
17 on Saturday we're going to meet over at the islands  
18 just to get our bearings and see what we're going to be  
19 doing for the next Saturday.

20 So, if anyone would like to volunteer  
21 to come over and give us some ideas for our planting  
22 the following week, you're certainly welcome to come.

23 MR. LOCKHEAD: Good evening, Council.

24 I just came up here to mention the unbelievably  
25 positive takes that I've gotten from everybody i the

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1 city. I've gotten a lot of positive input about this  
2 park. A lot of people want it, and a lot of people  
3 come to me and realize that it's for the children, but  
4 I also want to remember that it's for the entire city.  
5 It benefits everybody.

6 I've gotten wonderful E-mails from  
7 people who work in other states who have family here  
8 who are visiting that work with the YMCA, and they're  
9 really supporting this.

10 A lot of people are E-mailing me,  
11 giving me companies that would probably be willing to  
12 donate a lot of money or give grants and things like  
13 that. And, Mrs. Evans, this is really great. Thank  
14 you.

15 MS. EVANS: You're welcome.

16 MR. LOCKHEAD: Also, the Scranton  
17 Junior Council will be conducting a survey that has  
18 some questions about the skate park in the schools,  
19 maybe in homeroom or around lunchtime.

20 Basically all the questions are just  
21 general about do you think it's beneficial and where  
22 would you like to have it. And that's all I have.  
23 I just wanted to let everybody know for  
24 anybody who may not have a positive take on it or  
25 doesn't have any take on it at all, it's been

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19

1 overwhelming, the positivity I've gotten on it, and  
2 that's it. Thank you.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. If there's no  
4 one else. Mrs. Garvey.

5 MS. GARVEY: Fourth order, citizens  
6 participation.

7 MS. GATELLI: Before we start citizens  
8 participation, I'd just like to reiterate that please  
9 refrain from any talk of political campaigns and try to  
10 keep your comments to five minutes and keep them to  
11 city business. We would appreciate that. Thank you  
12 very much. Jim Stucker.

13 MR. STUCKER: We have a problem over at  
14 Mulberry. There's going down Capouse, right there  
15 there's a light out. There's a blinker light. The  
16 pole light is out. It has a green light yellow and

17 red. The whole three of them is out.

18 I ride the bike a lot down that way,

19 and that's what happened. The whole light is out. And

20 over there by the mall, by Oppenheim's and Globe Store,

21 the Globe Store, there's cars still parking there where

22 the busses are parking.

23 Over there on Moosic Street where I

24 used to live, there's a bunch of junk in the back and a

25 bunch of junk in the front on the front porch, tires

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20

1 and stuff there. I was over there the other day help

2 watching a guy tear a house down.

3 MS. EVANS: Mr. Stucker, maybe you

4 could give Neil the address.

5 MR. STUCKER: Well, it's on Moosic

6 Street.

7 MS. GATELLI: I know where it is.

8 MS. STUCKER: I know where it is. I

9 used to live there, and there's stuff on the front

10 porch. I don't care what these guys says about the TV

11 shop, I don't care what they say, what he says, there's

12 a lot going on up over there, a lot of people down the

13 steps every day and every night.

14 I used to live there for two months.

15 The cop told me get out of there, so I got out. Now  
16 there's a lot of people going up and down them steps  
17 day and night.

18 MS. GATELLI: Okay.

19 MR. STUCKER: And I know I had an  
20 inspector a couple times over there, and the TV man  
21 ain't doing nothing about it. They're not doing a  
22 thing about it.

23 I came about that thing over there,  
24 last Thursday I told you about it. They didn't come  
25 and put the mulch around the trees on Providence Square  
.  
21

1 next to the laundromat. We've got to get mulch around  
2 that trees over there on Providence Square where the  
3 laundromat is. And I'm going to stay where I'm at.  
4 A lot of people have been asking me  
5 about the scooter. Again today I was walking around  
6 and he said, Well, Courtright's got the scooter. The  
7 firemen, I don't know what his name is, that little  
8 short guy, he's the fire chief over there. He walks  
9 around the courthouse a lot. He told me about the  
10 scooter. He said, Courtright's got it or Pocius got

11 it.

12 MS. GATELLI: Courtright has the

13 scooter because he knows it's very dangerous and you'll

14 get hurt on it.

15 MR. STUCKER: Well, I don't know where

16 it is, and I wish to have it back.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Jim, that lady stole

18 it from you, remember, a long time ago?

19 MR. STUCKER: Yeah, yeah.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: She stole it.

21 MR. STUCKER: Yeah.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: The police couldn't

23 find it.

24 MR. STUCKER: Okay.

25 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Thanks, Jim.

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22

1 MR. STUCKER: My knee is getting good.

2 My knee is getting better now. I went to the therapist

3 today.

4 MS. GATELLI: Good.

5 MS. EVANS: Very good.

6 MR. STUCKER: Okay.

7 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Thank you. Andy

8 Sbaraglia.

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, Citizen

10 of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, Judy, that was a

11 good pep talk on that EMS tax that we have added onto

12 the high cost of the 3.4 we already have to the wage

13 tax.

14 I mean, people are mad over that.

15 They're mad over that EMS Tax. We got a lot of

16 inquiries on it. But like I said before, there ain't

17 much we can do about it.

18 There was four votes to one on that, I

19 believe. Like I said before, we're going to see a lot

20 more of this. This is only the tip of the iceberg.

21 Well, as you know, we attended the

22 caucus on the parking garage on this note that they

23 want to float.

24 Now, we got to remember, they just

25 floated a 12.some mill. Now they added another six.

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23

1 So, it's like \$20 million that the parking authority

2 has added to their debt. And it's really getting

3 close.

4 I don't believe they can do it. This

5 accountant came up with a lot of different things. He  
6 did say by pulling money from here there and  
7 everywhere, they would come up with a bond payment.  
8 And I asked them, Fine. That's on the  
9 one garage. Now, what's going to happen with the other  
10 garage? And it's the same problem.  
11 So, I really -- one way or the other on  
12 this, I don't think you got much choice. I don't think  
13 they could make the bond payments, and I think that's  
14 why they're floating this note.  
15 That's what I believe in. And if  
16 that's the case, what choice have you got? You don't  
17 really have a choice. Because if you don't float it,  
18 they default, we're in more trouble than if we float  
19 it, because after all, it's your grandchildren that has  
20 to pay this back, because it's back at 2033. I won't  
21 be alive, and maybe none of you might be either. But  
22 somebody is going to have to pay it, but it won't be  
23 your grandchildren.  
24 Okay. Let's get back to Bennigan's.  
25 Well, let's see the right name for it. The Irish Pubs,  
.  
24

1 LLC, Molly Brannigans.

2 Now, I read this whole legislation on  
3 this, and believe me, there's no backup on it. First  
4 of all, there's another loan out there. Does anybody  
5 know what that other loan is? We're second. There's  
6 one in front of us.

7 So, you're asking us to co-sign a loan  
8 not knowing what the first loan is, okay? That's the  
9 important thing to find out what is the first loan. It  
10 may be easy to figure out.

11 I ran through some of the figures.

12 It's not ungodly, but, first of all, the loan you're  
13 trying to float is ten years. It's a ten-year loan,  
14 okay? They signed an agreement with the Parking  
15 Authority for five years fixed, and then they have in  
16 there they can renew it.

17 But they're only guaranteed to stay in  
18 that parking garage for five years, because that's what  
19 it is. That's what their parking authority City of  
20 Scranton lease agreement is. It's a five-year lease,  
21 but they have the option to renew.

22 Now, the guarantee on these loans is  
23 where the quirks is. It's guaranteed by the fixtures.  
24 But we don't have first crack at the fixtures. The  
25 bank has the first crack at the pictures. We only get

1 the second. And it runs pretty close to the hotel.

2 The only good thing is -- I don't know

3 exactly. Well, I have it in here, the backup on it,

4 you know?

5 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Sbaraglia, I don't

6 know of any loan where the city is in first position.

7 I could be wrong, but I think we always take second

8 position. Attorney Minora, would you know that?

9 MR. MINORA: We're always -- I only

10 ever recall one loan where we shared first position,

11 only one in all of them that I've reviewed over the

12 years, and in every other one we've had second position

13 or less.

14 MS. GATELLI: Or less.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: But you got to

16 remember, too, we've got to pay if it fails. We won't

17 get nothing back, just like with the hotel. And how

18 much do you think they got, Block D funds that they

19 keep backing up these loans? We will never see a

20 sidewalk in this town, other than in central city.

21 Anyway, there is no backup on it.

22 We're backed up by three people, okay? Whatever they

23 got in there, they're going to use this money to

24 actually run the business.

25 In other words, you're asking people to

.

26

1 come up here and say this is a business. We're going

2 to give you a loan from the bank. We're going to give

3 you a loan from the city. You don't have to come up

4 with any of your money, because we're good people.

5 But the backup in this is the names of

6 three individuals. That's it. You're not backed up by

7 whatever you told me these things was a --

8 MS. GATELLI: A franchise.

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: A franchise. You're

10 not backed up by the franchise. You're only backed up

11 by three individuals, and that's it, and the equipment,

12 that you'll never see.

13 So, I don't care what you do, but just

14 so you know there's a chance that this can go under.

15 And it's on your heads, not mine. Thank you.

16 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. There's

17 always a chance when there's an economic development

18 project. And if, my opinion is, if, you know, we don't

19 approve them and get businesses and restaurants and

20 things into our community, then, you know, we might as  
21 well close the lights and go home.  
22 That's what the city is all about is  
23 giving money that's risky. When I was in OECD, we gave  
24 a lot of money that, you know, businesses went under,  
25 but you have to keep on trying. And that doesn't mean  
.  
27

1 we're not going to help the neighborhoods, because that  
2 won't happen. Ray Lyman.

3 (WHEREUPON, Councilman McTiernan arrived.)

4 MR. LYMAN: Raymond Lyman. I took the  
5 long way. I got a couple of questions. Number one  
6 about the light petition that just went past you, I  
7 want to know when we're going to get that installed  
8 because we had another -- we got another vandalism on  
9 cars again on the 300 block of Phelps Street, where I  
10 live. So, Judy, I was --

11 MS. GATELLI: Did you hand in a  
12 petition?

13 MR. LYMAN: That's right. I handed it  
14 Monday -- Tuesday. So, I was wondering if the Council  
15 could send a letter to George Parker to get it hooked  
16 up.

17 MS. GATELLI: Yes, it goes to

18 Mr. Parker to be evaluated.

19 MR. LYMAN: Well, I mean, can you guys

20 send a letter?

21 MS. GATELLI: Yes, we will.

22 MR. LYMAN: Okay. Because last week I

23 heard that people had light petitions and they just

24 disappeared and never happened.

25 MS. GATELLI: No. It will go down.

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1 MR. LYMAN: Oh, okay. Now I'm

2 wondering about the trees on Phelps Street to be cut.

3 I know last week it rained. Mrs. Evans, do you have

4 any word about that? And hold my time, Kay.

5 MS. EVANS: No. I don't have any word

6 on that, but I believe the way in which we resolved it

7 last week was that when the funds become available,

8 then those trees will be addressed.

9 MR. LYMAN: Because the trees are on

10 the power lines. They can cause a fire.

11 MS. EVANS: As you know, you saw me

12 there.

13 MR. LYMAN: That's right. I saw you

14 there.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes. I walked the entire

16 area of Pine Brook. I saw exactly what you're

17 describing firsthand.

18 MR. LYMAN: And if they cause a fire,

19 they can burn all those row houses where I live and it

20 could be a fire storm. And who's fault is that?

21 Mayor Doherty.

22 And now I'm going to talk about the

23 robbery of the bars, because at twelve o'clock

24 Mayor Doherty was on 22 with the district attorney, and

25 he said, and this is his words, There is no crime in

.

29

1 Scranton with the district attorney Andy Jarbola, and

2 he said there's no crime in the City of Scranton. And

3 then Diane Lee said next headline, Robbery in Scranton,

4 another bar was hit.

5 Now, I was laughing when I heard that.

6 Now, I think this mayor is -- he's out in La La Land,

7 and someone must take the head by the horns and do

8 something.

9 I mean, now that crimes are hitting

10 bars and nightclubs and that, and this mayor is not

11 doing his job, I think he needs to be taken out, out of  
12 office, and we get someone in there that could do the  
13 job.

14 I mean, if he's still saying there's no  
15 crime, and there's crime being hit now. Now, if it's  
16 bars, even if they're closed, how do we know the next  
17 time a bar could be open and a robbery can occur? How  
18 do we know it can be a supermarket or a restaurant with  
19 people in there, Mr. Courtright? Hold my time, Kay.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: We don't know, Ray.

21 MS. GATELLI: Excuse me, Mr. Lyman.

22 But if a council member answers you and you ask  
23 questions, that is part of your five minutes.

24 MR. LYMAN: Yeah, but last week I only

25 had two minutes, because I had my --

30

1 MS. GATELLI: We don't overlap minutes

2 from week to week.

3 MR. LYMAN: No. Last week I only had

4 two minutes to speak and I was cut off.

5 MS. GATELLI: Well, you have five

6 minutes. You can wait until after the meeting and we

7 will talk to you then.

8 MR. LYMAN: Well, I have to get my  
9 insulin shot. And I also have one more question I want  
10 to ask you, Mrs. Gatelli.

11 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

12 MR. LYMAN: What about sidewalks for  
13 Pine Brook? Now, the trees caused the roots to be up  
14 like this, and we have disabled people to be -- they  
15 would fall over if they don't see them in the night,  
16 and some people who come down there who don't know  
17 about it.

18 And we had funds for it, but  
19 Mayor Doherty took them from Pine Brook, put it over to  
20 South Side, put it over to Weston Field, when they had  
21 that pool fixed, but we never got the funds back to fix  
22 the sidewalks. Now I'm asking for those funds back.

23 MS. GATELLI: Did the neighborhood  
24 president ever apply for that in the block grant funds?

25 MR. LYMAN: He did apply for it, and  
.

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1 Mayor Doherty took it back and he put it for that  
2 Weston Field for that indoor pool. Now I'm asking for  
3 that money back. I asked --

4 MS. GATELLI: I'll have to check that,

5 because I'm not familiar with that.

6 MR. LYMAN: I asked Mayor Doherty, you  
7 know what he said to me? Go to hell. That's what  
8 Mayor Doherty said to me.

9 MS. GATELLI: I don't think so. I  
10 don't think that he would say a thing like that.

11 MR. LYMAN: He didn't say that to me,  
12 Ms. Gatelli? He told me that right to my face.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: You can't say that,  
14 Ray.

15 MS. GATELLI: First of all, you can't  
16 say that at Council.

17 MR. LYMAN: Well, I'm sorry, but he  
18 said that to me, Mrs. Gatelli. I'm sorry. But he said  
19 that.

20 MS. GATELLI: All right. I'll  
21 investigate the sidewalks for you.

22 MR. LYMAN: All right. You come down  
23 tomorrow. You, Mr. Courtright, you come down.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, Ray.

25 MR. LYMAN: You come down. I'll show  
.

32

1 you the sidewalks.

2 MS. GATELLI: Okay. We'll be down.

3 Mr. Bolus.

4 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.

5 Bob Bolus, Scranton. It looks like Ray was on quite a  
6 role tonight.

7 MS. GATELLI: They're all on a role,

8 Bob. They come here, you know, so angry, and I just  
9 wish people would settle down a little.

10 And if we all work together -- there's

11 many people in here that are on committees and are  
12 working together, and it's much better when we can  
13 resolve things in a peaceful manner.

14 And we will meet with anybody. I mean,

15 I have met with anybody. There's committees formed.

16 And there really is no necessity to be nasty. And it  
17 upsets me greatly.

18 So, I really wish that you wouldn't do

19 that. We will meet with you after. I'll come to your  
20 house. Anybody up here is willing to meet with  
21 anybody.

22 Janet's been everywhere, I've been

23 everywhere, Bob and Bill. I mean, we will do whatever

24 we can to help you people. But we really, really don't

25 deserve to be treated nasty, and I'd appreciate it if

1 you wouldn't do that. Thank you.

2 MR. BOLUS: I totally agree with you.

3 You know, to come in here and to be ramping and raving

4 on stuff like that, you know, attacking Council --

5 there may be a reason sometimes to have a debate

6 between Council and someone speaking here, but not to

7 become abusive and some of the natures that you do see.

8 One thing I want to start with, and it

9 was brought listening to the kids here tonight, and

10 we've listened to it about the phones and the phones

11 and nobody can get anybody on the phones, I think some

12 of the parents have to just put this to bed.

13 Let the kids grow up on their own here.

14 I think they're doing one heck of a job. They're

15 trying. They don't need parent intervention here

16 complaining about phones or nobody can call anybody.

17 They've all produced it tonight, and they've had it for

18 a long time.

19 So, I just think, you know, parents

20 just have to, you know, sit down a little. Let the

21 kids start doing their chore here. I think they're

22 doing one heck of a job, and they're to be commended.

23 Where we need to start, and I want to  
24 bring this up, because Father Cottone had passed away  
25 this past week, and, to me, he was a mentor my whole

34

1 life.

2 When I was a little kid on three-wheel  
3 bike when he was a counselor, whatever we called him  
4 back at West Side around the park there on Tenth  
5 Street.

6 And he will be sorely missed. If it  
7 wasn't for him, I would not have been able to have the  
8 Christmas dinner we have at St. Lucy's Church. And  
9 last year over 2200 people came there here because of  
10 him.

11 And he's going to be really missed. He  
12 was not only a good friend to me, but he was a friend  
13 to everyone else. And I hope he has his rest now that  
14 he should enjoy.

15 On Carl Greco, how many years has  
16 Carl Greco been with OECD, like, his experience with  
17 OECD?

18 MS. EVANS: Since 2002.

19 MR. BOLUS: How many years would that

20 be?

21 MS. EVANS: Well, this is his fifth

22 year.

23 MR. BOLUS: Okay. The bid was that you

24 had to have three years' experience, was that my

25 understanding?  
.

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1 MS. EVANS: Oh, the proposal, you mean?

2 The RFP? The newest -- well, the only -- I'm sorry. I

3 stand corrected. Yes.

4 MR. BOLUS: Okay. I was just curious

5 if the bid was worked around him, if he had only been

6 there two or three years or whatever.

7 MS. GATELLI: Who was there in 2000?

8 MS. EVANS: I believe that would have

9 been Attorney Hughes, and perhaps Attorney Minora, yes,

10 yes, or Attorney Bolock.

11 MR. BOLUS: I was just curious, because

12 --

13 MS. GATELLI: Because the mayor was

14 there in 2000, wasn't he, Mayor Doherty?

15 MS. EVANS: No. He was on City

16 Council.

17 MR. BOLUS: It was a curiosity  
18 question, only because I know other people have worked  
19 in OECD and had the expertise and experience. That's  
20 why I faulted this bid to go just to two people.

21 And quite frankly, I'd like to see the  
22 contract voided, and let's go back to square one. The  
23 man's suing the city. Isn't there something about it,  
24 you can't sue the city?

25 MS. EVANS: That's one of the

36

1 requirements of the RFP, that you can't have sued the  
2 city for a period of ten years.

3 MR. BOLUS: Right. So, guess what? He  
4 just violated a contract. Ask the solicitor. I mean,  
5 get a legal interpretation. But --

6 MS. GATELLI: I think that we're going  
7 to get that when Amil comes back.

8 MR. BOLUS: John can handle that. He  
9 looks like Amil anyway. They're on the golf course  
10 together with --

11 MR. MINORA: With Carmen.

12 MR. BOLUS: -- the other Judge. He's  
13 okay. With Carmen. But I think we seriously have to

14 look at that, because it's an embarrassment to the city

15 and to the people here --

16 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, we voted on that

17 last week.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes. Mr. Bolus, last week

19 I made a motion that Council would take legal action to

20 prevent payment of that court order award, and we were

21 seeking the advice of our solicitor in order to

22 ascertain which legal procedure would be most

23 appropriate.

24 However, I'm just wondering if in the

25 interim as the clock is ticking, has Mr. Greco been

.

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1 paid.

2 MR. BOLUS: I guess there's only one

3 person you can ask that. That's the guy at the top.

4 MS. GATELLI: Or Mrs. Novembrino. I

5 have a letter to her, but I haven't received the

6 answer.

7 MR. BOLUS: We can do that. I know

8 we've had a dialogue here on some of the things. Could

9 I just get a little bit of extra time here?

10 MS. GATELLI: No, you can't, Mr. Bolus.

11 Now, I can't treat you any different than anyone else.

12 MR. BOLUS: Well, everybody was

13 talking, so I thought maybe I'd get a little here. Is

14 it possible to finish up just one thing?

15 MS. GATELLI: Just finish up your

16 thoughts.

17 MR. BOLUS: Okay. We were talking

18 about KOZs and non-profits, I had requested either

19 Mr. McTiernan or Mrs. Evans to supply the solicitor

20 with the information I had supplied a long time ago.

21 Has that been done at all?

22 MR. MCTIERNAN: Mrs. Garvey got back to

23 me with a large amount of information regarding KOZs

24 and KOEZs, and I'm searching my memory now, but a lot

25 of the KOZ information we gathered indicated that the

.

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1 fees that would be imposed with regard to impact fees

2 are usually put in place when the developer's

3 agreements are put in place.

4 And as I announced several weeks back,

5 we're pretty far beyond those dates.

6 MR. BOLUS: That was kind of a

7 generalization to allow you to look at the fee

8 structure, and it could be called anything, other than

9 an impact fee. It could be called any kind of fee.

10 What I try to do is give you the

11 mechanism used in other areas to allow the solicitor to

12 be able to incorporate something.

13 Because if we're going to move forward,

14 the only way we're going to start moving forward is to

15 cut costs in the city. I said charge for the police,

16 the fire department two hours at their cost.

17 MR. MCTIERNAN: I'd be the first person

18 to vote for the impact fees. I just don't know if we

19 can do them, Mr. Bolus. But, again, I'd be willing to

20 listen to the solicitor's advice.

21 MR. BOLUS: Yeah. I think go beyond an

22 impact fee. It could be a maintenance fee. It could

23 be any terminology our solicitor determines it should

24 be called. But I think we need to get on that and not

25 let that slide, and maybe we can stop the slide and the

.

39

1 expenses. Thank you.

2 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

3 Mr. Jackowitz.

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening, Council.

5 Bill Jackowitz, city resident, taxpayer, retired United

6 States Air Force.

7 You guys threw me a curve ball tonight,

8 because Mrs. Fanucci is not here, so I guess I will

9 have to wait for next week. So, I had to revise my

10 whole talk here.

11 First of all, I don't think -- well,

12 first of all, as far as parents getting involved with

13 Junior City Council, parents have ruined little league

14 baseball, youth basketball, youth football, so I really

15 think they need to let the kids run this, okay, because

16 they are doing a good job.

17 Also, Mrs. Gatelli, you stated that you

18 guys are here to answer questions. My questions never

19 get answered. I'm still waiting for a question from

20 Mr. McTiernan from three weeks ago about the South Side

21 Complex.

22 MR. MCTIERNAN: \$700,000 to

23 Mr. Kalinosky. There's a balance of over \$100,000.

24 All of the money was used for park improvements as

25 stipulated in the agreements. I spoke with Mr. Shane a

.

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1 week ago.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: Oh, okay. Were you  
3 going to talk about that later this evening or --

4 MR. MCTIERNAN: No. I just did.

5 That's all I have to say.

6 MR. JACKOWITZ: Oh, okay. I just  
7 wanted to know if you were going to -- okay. No  
8 problem. I'm not going to argue with you.

9 Okay. There are 56,900 practicing  
10 attorneys in Pennsylvania, large selection. Possibly  
11 next year Scranton will be more selective on who they  
12 choose.

13 City Council, do you realize that  
14 Scranton has been a distressed city for 13 years, that  
15 the recovery plan was voted on and passed in the year  
16 2001 and still has not been implemented?

17 City Council, are you aware that parts  
18 of Downtown Scranton have been under camera  
19 surveillance since 1999? I'm talking about blocks and  
20 allies. I know. I worked it. Center Court and  
21 Wyoming Avenue in front of Steamtown Mall. Check it  
22 out.

23 I would like to make a suggestion that  
24 all votes are taken by roll call, this way there's no  
25 question on which Councilperson voted yes or which

41

1 Councilperson voted no.

2 Scranton has a mayor who will not

3 answer citizens' concerns, a DPW director who tells

4 elected officials what he wants, a City Council

5 President who states, It's the government's job to give

6 money to risky business. We will not throw away jobs.

7 No wonder Scranton is a distressed city

8 for over 13 years. A Recovery Plan, which has not

9 recovered anything, except directions to the courtroom.

10 Restore the Pride, don't take the Bait.

11 Somebody will have to answer for the

12 tax increase. I am looking at the four somebodies

13 right now, because it's going to shift right to City

14 Council. I guarantee you.

15 Councilman McTiernan and Mr. Kresefski

16 attempted to mislead the residents by giving erroneous

17 financial information about the PEL. At least Mrs.

18 Evans and Mrs. Gatelli challenged his remarks. Where

19 was Mrs. Fanucci and Mr. Courtright?

20 My hope is that Mr. McTiernan will be

21 more upfront about the down payment on the South Side

22 Complex. I'm still waiting, and you were more upfront

23 --

24 MR. MCTIERNAN: Are you suggesting  
25 that I'm not being truthful? I'm giving you the

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1 information that I was given by Mr. Shane, sir. So, if  
2 you don't agree with that, it's not that I'm  
3 untruthful. Maybe my information might not be  
4 accurate, but please dont --

5 MR. JACKOWITZ: I hope this isn't going  
6 against my time, because I did not engage Mr.  
7 McTiernan, he engaged me.

8 MR. MCTIERNAN: Give him all the time  
9 he needs.

10 MS. GATELLI: You can have time, but  
11 he's allowed to rebut if you accuse someone of being  
12 untruthful.

13 MR. JACKOWITZ: All I'm saying is last  
14 week the letter that he wrote was about how much did  
15 the city give to the PEL. We all know the city has not  
16 paid PEL anything, the state pays it.

17 So, Mr. Kresefski and whoever wrote  
18 that letter did not give the proper information, and  
19 that was the information that was relayed to the

20 citizens of Scranton. We all know --

21 MR. MCTIERNAN: So, when we ask for a  
22 letter and we read a letter sent to us, you're going to  
23 say that I was misleading the public because I read a  
24 letter somebody else sent to the Council?

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: If that -- if you knew

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1 in advance that that was not the information that we  
2 asked for, yes. If you did not know in advance that  
3 that was not the information --

4 MR. MCTIERNAN: I merely read the  
5 letter that was printed in front of me from Mr.  
6 Kresefski.

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: But you also knew that  
8 that wasn't the -- we were talking about the money the  
9 state has paid. Mrs. Gatelli has stated --

10 MR. MCTIERNAN: Approach that any way  
11 you like. It wasn't untruthfulness.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: -- on several occasions  
13 when she was there, that we paid at least a million,  
14 and that was 13 years ago.

15 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Jackowitz, that's not  
16 dead yet. We're still investigating that.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: I understand that. I'm  
18 just saying, you know, if we're going to get the  
19 information -- when I ask -- or when citizens ask for  
20 information, they should be given accurate and most  
21 current information. And if the information is not  
22 correct, then it should not be put out to the public.

23 MS. GATELLI: Well, it was correct.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yeah, the city has not  
25 paid, exactly, but that was not --

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1 MS. GATELLI: They misinterpreted the  
2 question.

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: Somebody misinterpreted  
4 the question.

5 MS. GATELLI: Well, I probably did it,  
6 because I said how much did the city pay PEL. But I'm  
7 sure they knew --

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Because we all know the  
9 city doesn't pay PEL. We know that.

10 MS. GATELLI: But they knew what I  
11 meant.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: You know, I'm not a  
13 tenth grade biology student, so I already knew that,

14 okay?

15 MS. GATELLI: Right.

16 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay. In closing, I

17 have questions for Mrs. Gatelli and Mr. Courtright.

18 You can answer during 5-A motions.

19 Mrs. Gatelli, Is it customary for an

20 appointed director to tell elected officials what he

21 will do and will not do? I'm talking about Mr. Parker.

22 Mr. Courtright, as chairman of the

23 Community Justice Program, what recommendations do you

24 have for slowing down crime in the city? Your

25 recommendations only. How do you plan to implement

45

1 them? I will be here until the end of the meeting.

2 So, like I said, 5-A motions, if you will be kind

3 enough to address these questions.

4 And do you agree with Mayor Doherty

5 that there's no crime in the City of Scranton? Again,

6 he said those words today. Twenty-eight years

7 basically experience in that field, I disagree with

8 him. Thank you.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll answer you now,

10 if you like. Mr. Jackowitz, I can answer now.

11 MR. JACKOWITZ: It doesn't matter. The  
12 only way I see of trying to reduce the crime in this  
13 city is we need more police officers.  
14 It was my hope that when the EMS Tax  
15 was put in place, that we would get more police  
16 officers. And do I agree that there's no crime in the  
17 city?

18 If you watch the debates, they call me  
19 the crime czar. Absolutely, I do not agree with that.  
20 Does that answer your question?

21 MR. JACKOWITZ: That answers my  
22 question. Now if you can only relay that information  
23 to the mayor and get the mayor to come here and address  
24 his citizens. We are his citizens.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: I've tried that in the  
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1 past without much success. I think you know that.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: And are still waiting  
3 for the invitation. The deadline was two weeks ago for  
4 the mayor to attend here. I haven't gotten an answer  
5 back on that one yet either.

6 MS. GATELLI: Stan Narsavage.

7 MR. NARSAVAGE: Stan Narsavage, city

8 resident. First of all, I would like to thank  
9 Mrs. Gatelli for having the graffiti -- the tagging  
10 cleaned up at the playground on Dorothy Street. Second  
11 time this week.

12 I've been going back to the playground  
13 every day. And thanks, Bill, for the signs that are up  
14 on the pole. The one that leads off of Dorothy Street  
15 into the playground has already been bent and somebody  
16 has tried to rip it off the pole. That's an ongoing  
17 problem there, and it's going to continue until  
18 something happens. I don't know what.

19 Anyway, I went back there today and I  
20 spoke to a gentleman by the name of -- well, he said he  
21 was TJ, his first name is Tom, He's with the parks  
22 administration, and he was cleaning the graffiti while  
23 I was there.

24 Now, supposedly that was cleaned  
25 earlier in the week, but I don't think happened, and if

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1 it did, evidently they didn't get it all off, because  
2 all of that ugly language is there. Kids are reading  
3 that. Absolutely a shame.

4 It's a beautiful park. The mayor

5 always talks about the park on Dorothy Street. What

6 good is it if the children aren't allowed -- the

7 mothers won't allow the children to go there?

8 And, of course, we don't have a beat

9 cop. I guess I have to beat that to death, but I don't

10 think that's going to happen. Because we need cops in

11 this whole darn city.

12 Mr. Courtright, I sent you an E-mail

13 and asked you to give me an account on the number of

14 robberies that were reported this month.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: You know what, Mr.

16 Narsavage, just as they said, it got misinterpreted,

17 Mr. McTiernan's question.

18 I asked Kay to send a letter down, and

19 you used the word robberies, well, I also used the word

20 robberies, and then I realized afterwards if -- did the

21 letter go, Kay?

22 MS. GARVEY: Yes.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. We're not going

24 to get the answer we want. I'm going to have to send

25 another letter. When we use robberies, as opposed to

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1 burglaries, I should have asked for burglaries, because

2 I think you were talking about, like, the Villa Maria

3 and placed like that, correct?

4 If I say robberies, they're going to

5 give me an answer -- say, for instance, if somebody

6 comes up to your person and robbed you.

7 So, in order to get your answer, I'm

8 going to have to send another letter and use the word

9 burglaries. So --

10 MR. NARSAVAGE: Well, I'll have to

11 check The Times. Maybe we have to notify The Times

12 also about the proper --

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: I just think that's

14 what's going to happen, is when the letter comes back,

15 they're going to come back and tell me how many

16 robberies there were in police terminology. So, I'm

17 going to try to head that off and send a letter out

18 before that one comes back to me.

19 MR. NARSAVAGE: Okay. I appreciate

20 that. Someone told me or denied that the Villa Capri

21 was robbed for the third time?

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes. The Villa Maria

23 on Washburn Street, yes.

24 MR. NARSAVAGE: I believe they have a

25 silent alarm there?

49

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: They have an alarm,

2 yes.

3 MS. GATELLI: I was told they didn't

4 have an alarm.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: I believe I saw on TV

6 said that they have an alarm, but by the time someone

7 got there, these people were in and out. That's my

8 understanding.

9 MR. NARSAVAGE: Well, that seems to be

10 the mode of operation for these people that are doing

11 these burglaries. They know they have enough time to

12 do it before a policeman can get there.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right.

14 MR. NARSAVAGE: You can't blame the

15 policeman.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: No. No, and they've

17 -- and without me disclosing information that I can't

18 disclose, they're trying to take some measures to catch

19 these people with the manpower that they have. And I

20 think we all would agree that we need more manpower.

21 But they are -- I just can't say what they're doing.

22 They are trying to catch these people, and they're

23 exploring avenues that I am not at liberty to say right

24 now or else it will jeopardize their

25 investigation.

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1 MR. NARSAVAGE: I understand. The

2 playground is becoming a job for me. I'm going to

3 visit that playground every day. It's less than one

4 full block away from my house. I'll be there tomorrow.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: You know what I think?

6 MR. NARSAVAGE: And I have your number,

7 Mrs. Gatelli.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think we need to put

9 a camera there so we can catch these kids, you know?

10 And then we'll catch them.

11 MR. NARSAVAGE: I'm waiting for the

12 houses to start getting tagged alongside of the

13 playground.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's probably not

15 far behind.

16 MR. NARSAVAGE: Okay. I just have one

17 more thing, if I can have another second. Last week I

18 asked the person that's not here tonight about an audit

19 that HUD did, the HUD audit, and she was supposed to

20 have a copy for me. That wasn't left with you, was it,

21 Kay, a copy of the audit?

22 MS. GARVEY: No.

23 MS. GATELLI: We'll leave her that note

24 tomorrow.

25 MR. NARSAVAGE: Okay. That's all I

51

1 have. Thank you.

2 MS. GATELLI: Thank you very much. Les

3 Spindler.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.

5 Les Spindler, Scranton. I do have to talk about the

6 \$650,000 for Molly Brannigans. Mrs. Gatelli, you said

7 you believe in giving loans for economic development?

8 MS. GATELLI: I do.

9 MR. SPINDLER: Why do we have to give a

10 loan to a multi-million-dollar restaurant chain? They

11 don't need the money. That's why this city is over

12 \$200 million in debt.

13 We're giving loan after loan after

14 loan. We're never going to get out of debt giving

15 loans. I urge you not to vote for that -- to pass that

16 tonight. It's ridiculous. Why do we have to give

17 \$650,000 to a place that makes billions? It's

18 ridiculous.

19 Again, I want to comment also about the

20 mayor saying there's no crime in this city. As Ray

21 Lyman said, This guy's living in a world of his own.

22 We had the home invasion on Mount Vernon Street last

23 week, a drug bust last week, we had a stabbing a few

24 nights ago, The Lounge on Jackson Street was robbed,

25 the Villa Maria was robbed three times. And this is

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1 just in the last two weeks. And there's probably

2 things I missed. I mean, this mayor is -- he's

3 dreaming. I mean, he better wake up. I don't know

4 what's going on here.

5 MS. GATELLI: When did he say that?

6 MR. SPINDLER: It was on the news

7 today.

8 MR. LYMAN: Twelve o'clock news on 22

9 with the District Attorney Andy Jarbola.

10 MS. GATELLI: Please, please. Don't

11 talk from the audience.

12 MR. SPINDLER: It was on the noon news

13 today.

14 MS. GATELLI: I'll have to try to catch

15 it at eleven.

16 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Next thing.

17 MS. GATELLI: We all agree with you,

18 Les, that there is crime. I think everyone up here --

19 MS. EVANS: Yes. And, Mr. Spindler --

20 MR. SPINDLER: And I don't blame the

21 policemen. I know, as everybody said, we need more

22 help. They need more policemen.

23 MS. EVANS: I think it is evident that

24 the mayor must concede to the crime problem by virtue

25 of the fact that he's investigating the purchasing and

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1 location of video cameras throughout the city. If

2 indeed there were no crime, there would be no need for

3 such.

4 But I -- my own opinion on this is

5 before such purchase and placement occurs, I'd like to

6 see that issue put to referendum for all of the

7 citizens of the city to decide whether they would like

8 to be under surveillance or if they would not.

9 MR. SPINDLER: But these -- the cameras

10 are going to be downtown, right? These burglaries are

11 --

12 MS. EVANS: No. We don't know exactly

13 where these cameras are going to be.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Because these burglaries

15 are all in residential areas.

16 MS. EVANS: Nor do we know who will be

17 monitoring the cameras and then to whom those reports

18 are given. It seems to be a very muddy situation, not

19 transparent yet to all of us.

20 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. The next thing, I

21 have to speak about the Buona Pizza situation. I think

22 that's terrible what this city is trying to do, and I

23 think it's all political.

24 I mean, I know during the election last

25 year, they had the wrong side on the side of their

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1 building, and I think that's why they want to boot them

2 out of there.

3 There's vacant buildings on that block

4 they can use for the purpose. They want to build loft

5 apartments for \$350,000? Who's going to move into

6 those apartments for \$350,000? So, I hope Council

7 could do something to --

8 MS. GATELLI: Les, I'll move into the

9 one next to you.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah. Buona Pizza's

11 been a staple in this community for 40 years. I think

12 the only -- I think Coney Island is the only place that

13 has been in this city longer.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Les, I went down there

15 the other night and spent about an hour or so with that

16 gentleman, and I --

17 MR. SPINDLER: I spoke to Mr. Piccolino

18 last Friday, too.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: I asked him a lot of

20 questions, and he gave me some information I wasn't

21 aware of. So, this week I asked Kay to ask Mr. Minora

22 to look into that, to see what the actual agreement

23 was.

24 Because I still believe -- my

25 understanding was at the time, and I hope I'm correct,

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1 that when this project took place, we were all in

2 favor, all of us that were here at the time, and the

3 understanding that I had was that if you wanted to keep

4 your building, you were allowed to keep it, and you

5 would have gotten the facade done on it. If you did  
6 not want to, then you could sell it. And I still hope  
7 that's the way it is.

8 But he gave me some information that  
9 before I say it on the air here, I'm going to confirm  
10 it with Mr. Minora. That makes it even worse than I  
11 thought it was.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I hope Council can  
13 do something.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: So do I.

15 MR. SPINDLER: There's buildings on  
16 that block that are vacant for years. Why can't they  
17 use them, instead of throwing an established business  
18 away? I think it's totally political. Like I said,  
19 the wrong sign was on the side of that building.

20 The next thing, I want to speak about,  
21 the wage tax was in the paper the other day. The mayor  
22 said -- I heard this on the radio the other day, the  
23 mayor said this is going to prevent people and  
24 businesses from moving into the city.

25 Well, why doesn't he make an attempt to

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1 lower it like he promised when he ran for mayor four

2 years ago? The man doesn't do anything he promises.

3 And, Mrs. Gatelli, the 3.4 wage tax is

4 for our police, firemen and garbage collection, right,

5 DPW, so why do we have to pay a garbage fee, also?

6 Does Council have the authority to either lower or do

7 away with the garbage fee?

8 MS. GATELLI: I think we do.

9 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I'm suggesting

10 that someone make a motion that you look into that.

11 Because if we're paying this wage tax, we also have to

12 pay a garbage fee. That's totally ridiculous.

13 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Julie Jones.

14 MS. JONES: Good evening, Council.

15 Julie Jones. Just a few things. Mrs. Gatelli, we did

16 see the article in the newspaper, and we were a little

17 disturbed by it.

18 A couple months ago I had brought in

19 figures to do -- to help with the wage tax. I asked

20 you guys to look at them and get back to me. I go no

21 reply, not even, Oh, Mrs. Jones, it's not going to

22 work. It was just like I handed it to five blind

23 people up there. Now here it is again in the

24 newspaper.

25 So, once again, I'm going to read it.

1 Our city leaders believe there are no solutions in  
2 lowering the wage tax. Every candidate in the past has  
3 run on the platform of reducing this burdensome tax.  
4 So, when it comes to be seated in  
5 office, they throw up their hands and they say, It  
6 can't be done. So, what has been tried in the last  
7 five to ten years?  
8 We know what the commuter tax did in  
9 the nineties. It gave us bad publicity and was  
10 scraped.  
11 Well, call it today as the EMS Tax.  
12 Well, there are opportunities. We give them to  
13 businesses every day. But what our officials have  
14 forgotten is that we must give new residents the same  
15 opportunities.  
16 Currently if you build a new home in  
17 the city, you can get a tax break up to two years.  
18 What we need to focus on is on the purchasers of  
19 existing homes and people that rent. They need  
20 incentives, too.  
21 What we can do is offer up to  
22 50 percent reduction on property tax and wage tax for

23 the purchase of existing homes for ten years.

24 Also, offer up to 50 percent wage tax

25 reduction for renters for the same period. You would

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1 then take 50 percent of those dollars collected and

2 pool it and reduce the wage tax incrementally for

3 current residents.

4 The theory is that when we had nothing

5 and are now getting something by offering incentives to

6 new residents and increasing the tax base at the same

7 time. This is the only way, if we aren't going to cut

8 expenses.

9 The city and school district would

10 realize dollars that wouldn't have -- they wouldn't

11 have had before if new residents haven't moved in.

12 They would benefit by other fees, as

13 well, and be in line with possible increase -- to do

14 the increased population.

15 The biggest key in doing anything in

16 marketing is embracing new ideas. We may be able to

17 market this new idea, OECD funds, or ask our state

18 government to assist us in marketing the idea.

19 Finally, we attract new businesses,

20 aren't just tax breaks, but people to do business with.

21 We have nothing to lose by try.

22 Instead of waving the white flag and

23 giving up, reduce taxes creates opportunity.

24 The current residents of Scranton would

25 be receptive in an idea that isn't a quick fix, but a

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1 positive direction towards the future.

2 I'll pass you out a copy of this when

3 I'm done. A couple other things I wanted to mention.

4 The railroad crossing at South Washington and Cherry

5 Streets. Many times I travel that way four, five times

6 a day. You see a lot of cars that they want to race

7 the train.

8 So, I would like to see if at all

9 possible if we could have the rail -- the drop arms

10 placed there. They used to be there years ago. They

11 replaced them all the way down South Washington Avenue,

12 except for there. And I have seen some cars almost get

13 hit in the tail end because they were racing over the

14 tracks before the train came.

15 I E-mailed a couple of you this week.

16 Does anybody have any word on Mr. Scopelliti, as far as

17 my house goes?

18 MS. GATELLI: He said he would get back

19 to me within the week.

20 MS. JONES: Okay. Thank you.

21 Mr. Courtright, any more movement on the grave markers?

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think, as I told you

23 in the E-mail, I spoke to two retired officers, and

24 they're not quite sure. They think it just kind of

25 diminished and there was nobody interested in doing it.

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1 I can ask, as we speak now, if there's

2 any retired officers or Boy Scouts, anybody that would

3 like to do that. But the people that were doing it, I

4 don't know if they passed away or if they moved away or

5 what. They just stopped. So, I did speak to two

6 retired officers.

7 MS. JONES: Well, I mean, I would like

8 to see it up and going. Corey and I would be more than

9 happy to help, if anybody thinks Corey is able, because

10 obviously people think that Corey's not able of doing

11 anything.

12 I understand that Mrs. McCollough's

13 strings class was invited to perform in front of

14 Council. Can I finish what I was going to say?

15 MS. GATELLI: Uh-huh.

16 MS. JONES: I feel that that would be a

17 major milestone, considering the Scranton School

18 District is trying to drop music out of the Scranton

19 schools.

20 Lastly, Junior Council, just because a

21 member does not make the meetings does not mean they're

22 not interested in involvement of Junior Council

23 projects.

24 Not only my son, but other kids who

25 wanted to be part of it did not sign up because they,

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1 like my son, have to work on Thursday nights.

2 I mean, he wanted to be part of it.

3 Obviously there's a problem. So, for whatever reason,

4 the reason is. But it's just a shame, because there

5 are kids out there that want to be part of it.

6 I've heard comments from Junior Council

7 members themselves about different things on Council

8 already. So, I just think it's unfair.

9 I mean, they're there to help. And,

10 you know, kids today, instead of running the streets,

11 why not let them help? Why, because they can't sit

12 here and watch you guys?

13 MS. GATELLI: They can certainly help.

14 We had a cleanup in South Side, and none of them came.

15 I'm so disappointed. And we're doing our planting

16 project on May 6. So, any student is certainly

17 welcome. We do announce it every week, things and

18 activities that the kids can, you know, can come to.

19 All the children are certainly welcome to come to any

20 projects that we have.

21 MS. JONES: Okay. Well, that's all I

22 have this evening. I'm going to give you copies of the

23 figures I just wrote.

24 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

25 Anthony Trozzolillo.

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1 MS. JONES: And here's Corey's -- his

2 thing back, since he's getting booted today.

3 MR. TROZZOLILLO: I'm

4 Anthony Trozzolillo. I live at the Village at Tripps

5 Park. I'd like to first thank Council for the caucus

6 they held last week. I'd like to thank Mrs. Evans for

7 reading my letter to Council into the record. I

8 apologize I could not attend. I did see the replay on  
9 Channel 61, and I'm here to correct the record and many  
10 of the statements that were made by the developer,  
11 Chris Speicher.

12 Before I do that, though, I'd like to  
13 saw two things. First, when I returned to the area in  
14 1999, my father told me not to live in the city. And  
15 when I built a home in 2002, he told me not to build in  
16 the city. But I love the city, and I'm in the city to  
17 stay, regardless of what happens in Tripps Park.

18 Just to rebut some of Mr. Speicher's  
19 statements, number one, he said that the issues I  
20 raised in my letter, I did not raise with him in our  
21 meeting on April 17.

22 He's partially correct on that. The  
23 meeting was held in front of Mr. Blackledge's house.

24 He was a half hour late. When he arrived, he  
25 immediately made it adversarial. He accused me of

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1 being a ring leader. He accused me of trying to get  
2 him on Channel 61 so Mrs. Evans could pick on him and  
3 make him look foolish.

4 When we discussed the water issue on

5 Abby Lane, behind Mr. Blackledge's house, he says, Not  
6 on the punch list. He wasn't going to resolve it. Too  
7 bad.

8 When we discussed the lighting on Abby  
9 Lane, he said -- in spite of the fact he had promised  
10 the residents there lighting when they bought their  
11 lots, he said he wasn't going to provide lighting.

12 It's the city's problem.

13 At that point I didn't discuss my  
14 issues with him. I terminated the meeting or  
15 terminated myself from the meeting and left.

16 Number two, Phase III. There was a lot  
17 of discussions about Phase III, and you heard my  
18 neighborhood, Mr. Gowarty's story. I have the same  
19 exact story, and the comments and representations that  
20 were made to me by Mr. Speicher were made in front of  
21 witnesses.

22 He never disclosed in his sales  
23 contract with me that he didn't own the land I was  
24 buying or that he was brokering the land. It wasn't  
25 until some time later, in fact, when Phase III was

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1 being developed the we found out he didn't own any of

2 the land there.

3 During our negotiations, for my lot, he

4 said that he would never develop the land behind us,

5 which is now going to be Phase III. He said it was

6 economically impossible and infeasible to do that.

7 He said that even if he could figure

8 out a way to do it, he would preserve the integrity of

9 the two neighborhoods by maintaining a tree line.

10 Much to our chagrin, that didn't happen

11 when he decided to start Phase III. And, in fact, he

12 apparently was planning Phase III when he had his

13 discussions with myself and Mr. Gowarty and the other

14 members of Emily Avenue.

15 When we heard of Phase III, we called a

16 meeting at my house with Mr. Speicher. And our choices

17 were pretty clear. None of us had that in our sales

18 contract that he couldn't develop, and quite frankly, I

19 got an opinion from a contract lawyer that I work with

20 who said it would be unenforceable anyway, but there

21 are tort laws that would apply.

22 And when we sat down with Mr. Speicher,

23 we discussed litigation for fraud and the inducement

24 and misrepresentation. And after six hours and

25 consulting with my neighbors, what we attempted to do

1 then was to negotiate a settlement by getting the best  
2 sales price that we could for the land, rather than  
3 tying ourselves up for three years before the case  
4 would be resolved in court.

5 And in the meantime, he would sell the  
6 land and we would lose the tree line to begin with.  
7 So, we didn't have three years to play with, so we  
8 tried to negotiate the best deal that we could.

9 Number three, selling lots and taking  
10 deposits for Phase III, not only without a developer's  
11 agreement, but telling people who he's taking deposits  
12 from that he has been fully approved by the city to  
13 develop and giving them date certain; i.e., April 1 to  
14 break ground. I know this, because he told it to  
15 friends and he's told it to my wife's family members.

16 The tree issue. The tree issue is  
17 number four. That is absolutely -- his position on  
18 that is absolutely ridiculous and laughable.

19 We all have trees in our yard that we  
20 put in at our own expense, and the trees are thriving.  
21 It insults our intelligence. And I have with me the  
22 design standards to submit that shows all of the trees

23 that are acceptable within the city.

24 The storm drain at Emily and Hawthorne

25 Avenue. It's not connected. Mr. Parker wants it

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1 connected. Mr. Parker said that Mr. Speicher paid the

2 city \$32,000 to connect is not acceptable, but it's not

3 on the punch list and it's not connected. Why isn't it

4 on the punch list?

5 The retention pond. The retention pond

6 is an issue of health, safety and welfare. This

7 Council, regardless of what the developer's agreement

8 says, can legislate, can make a law or an ordinance

9 that that retention pond be fixed -- fenced, excuse me.

10 You can do that under 53 PS 37403 Subsections 12 and

11 60. Two more points, Mrs. Gatelli.

12 MS. GATELLI: Yes, go ahead.

13 MR. TROZZOLILLO: The blight. All you

14 have to do is drive there, and you will see it. The

15 defense that it's -- he repeatedly says it's not in the

16 developer's agreement or it's not in the original plan,

17 the original Euclid Avenue had lights, that's why it's

18 not in the plan. The lights were taken down to build a

19 new street.

20 Mr. Smith in my neighborhood said,  
21 Either the plan's defective, the design in various  
22 places are defective or the construction is defective.  
23 He made the plan, he hired the  
24 engineer, he hired the contractors. He's responsible  
25 for their work and their mistakes.

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1 As a lawyer, if one of my paralegals  
2 makes a mistake, I'm responsible, not you, not the  
3 city, not the taxpayers.

4 And just in concluding, Mrs. Gatelli, I  
5 apologize for going over, if you don't hold the man  
6 accountable, you're sticking the people of this city  
7 with the bill. And then he'll move on to the next  
8 phase, and then they'll be stuck with another bill.

9 So, I encourage you to keep the  
10 pressure on and hold his feet to the coals.

11 MS. GATELLI: We will.

12 MR. TROZZOLILLO: And last thing, I  
13 think he's the only developer that, since I've been  
14 home, since '99, that I've seen brought before City  
15 Council and talked to City Council with the disregard  
16 that he did. I'll leave the guidelines.

17 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: I think I could confirm

19 that, and possibly my two male colleagues can, as well,

20 that at least during our tenure on City Council, no, we

21 have not brought a developer to a public caucus for

22 such purposes.

23 We have in terms of new developments,

24 someone who has a proposal who's trying to work that

25 out with neighbors, et cetera, but not a pre-existing

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1 development that has encountered this many problems.

2 Not to my knowledge.

3 But you were not here last week. I

4 know you indicated that you saw the tape. I said it

5 last week, and I will say it again to you, that until

6 you are 100 percent satisfied, I will not be satisfied.

7 And when we are not satisfied, Mr. Speicher gets no

8 developer's agreement.

9 When you are satisfied, then he'll be

10 satisfied. And until that date arrives, and I am very

11 pleased with the progress that's been made, however, as

12 Mrs. Gatelli read through the punch list tonight, I

13 believe there were six items that still need to be

14 addressed, and some of them are quite major.

15 And I would also indicate to you that I

16 would speak with our solicitor. I believe that we

17 should create such an ordinance stating that retention

18 ponds must be fenced in. It's simply a matter of

19 public safety.

20 MS. GATELLI: Just let me interrupt you

21 there for one minute, but Mrs. and Mrs. Cummings that

22 live in your development --

23 MR. TROZZOLILLO: Yes.

24 MS. GATELLI: And forgive me, because I

25 just got it in the mail, and I didn't have time to

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1 review it, but they sent me literature of the pros and

2 cons of fencing in detention ponds.

3 So, I'll make a copy and send it to

4 you. I haven't read it yet, but I'm not sure if they

5 should or shouldn't be. So, I'll make them for you,

6 too, so we can all see --

7 MS. EVANS: There must be something,

8 though, that would prevent --

9 MS. GATELLI: I'm sure there is, but I

10 don't want to commit to that --

11 MS. EVANS: -- potential accidents.

12 MR. GATELLI: -- before we read the

13 literature on that.

14 MR. TROZZOLILLO: I've enclosed or

15 submitted to the clerk the current guidelines

16 concerning fencing, but for the fact that this

17 retention pond abuts back yards where children are

18 playing.

19 And I can tell you this, should

20 something happen, God forbid, on Mr. Speicher's watch,

21 it will be a huge problem, but God forbid if something

22 happens on the city's watch, sovereign immunity won't

23 protect the city.

24 MS. GATELLI: I will send you a copy of

25 what they sent me.

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1 MR. TROZZOLILLO: And two last things,

2 the drainage issue behind Mr. Blackledge's house, the

3 retention pond fence, and also the storm drain there on

4 Hawthorne, those aren't on the punch list, and they

5 need to be. Thank you.

6 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Pat Cicci.

7 MS. CICCI: My name is Pat Cicci, and

8 I'm a resident of the 2000 block of North Washington  
9 Avenue at the corner of Grandview Street and North  
10 Washington.

11 When this first started with the  
12 petitions and the parking, I was under the impression  
13 that it was done by city blocks, and as a result, I  
14 submitted petition for the 2100 block.

15 So, I'm here to represent the neighbors  
16 in the 2100 block, which I am told that if the parking  
17 permits go through, I will not be one of the people  
18 that will benefit, because I'm in the 2000.

19 So, I have passed on a petition to the  
20 neighbors in the 2000 block to see if they are going to  
21 do it.

22 The history of this, I will give to you  
23 very shortly, but I do want to -- I have two things to  
24 say. I'm very, very proud of the young Council here.  
25 I think they are doing a fantastic job as young adults,

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1 and are certainly learning government and participating  
2 well. And their listening and their attentiveness has  
3 made a real good impression to me. I'm really  
4 impressed with them.

5 And, secondly, I'd like to thank  
6 Council and the people that work for Council. I think  
7 you're doing a great job. You're patient, you're  
8 listening, you're willing to take input from the  
9 community.  
10 And I've never attended a Council  
11 meeting in my almost 34 years in the City of Scranton.  
12 It's a beautiful facility, and you really do a really  
13 fine job, and I do want to thank you for that.  
14 And that's not to gloss anything over,  
15 it's just that I -- it's a new experience. I think  
16 everyone who comes into the city should before they buy  
17 a home have to attend a Council meeting so that they do  
18 experience it and see what this is like.  
19 We submitted a petition. We are two  
20 and a half blocks from Marywood College in front of St.  
21 Joseph's Center and between -- halfway between St.  
22 Claire's and school, and we are a residential  
23 neighborhood.  
24 Thirty years ago we were a totally  
25 residential neighborhood, as some of the veteran  
·  
72  
1 residents can attest to.

2 We submitted a petition because we are  
3 beginning to have a problem. Thirty years ago one  
4 student drove to Marywood and had a car full of six  
5 students with them or five people and charged a gas  
6 fee.  
7 Now every student going up has four,  
8 five, six-passenger SUV and is looking for a parking  
9 place.  
10 When my children went to college, they  
11 paid a fee to park their car. Evidently there's a way  
12 to get around the fee, and that is to park in the 2100  
13 or 2000 block of North Washington Avenue.  
14 And Marywood doesn't realize it, but  
15 they are losing money because they are not getting  
16 parking fees, maybe they don't have the parking spaces,  
17 but they should provide them for their students.  
18 And we submitted this because we are  
19 having a problem. And when we submitted it,  
20 unfortunately when Corporal Bachman came out, he was  
21 unaware that Marywood was on spring break.  
22 So, as a result, he looked and he said,  
23 There are plenty of parking spaces. Well, there were,  
24 because Marywood wasn't there that week.  
25 So, we came back, and I said, What can

1 I do to appeal? Well, first I was told, There's no  
2 appeal. I said, Wait a minute. This is America.  
3 And they said, Well, you can try again.  
4 So, that was -- the pictures were taken between  
5 Corporal Bachman's first trip and his second trip.  
6 They show a string of cars parked.  
7 They do not show that there are nine driveways in that  
8 two-block area, because you can't tell where the  
9 driveways are. The cars are parked so closely to it.  
10 And the other thing that they do not  
11 show is that there are two bus stops, a fire hydrant, a  
12 school, which is a restricted parking area, and a  
13 crosswalk, which is shaped probably more like a  
14 trapezoid than a rectangular or square because of the  
15 island on Woodlawn Street, which we're going to do such  
16 a good job cleaning up.  
17 Therefore, it has been -- it's a real  
18 problem for us, because the students come, park their  
19 cars, leave five, six o'clock at night.  
20 Along with this, there are two rental  
21 properties in the area. And now these two rental  
22 properties -- one of the rental properties has right

23 now six residents. It had seven residents.

24 Each of these seven or six residents,

25 one has moved out, is supposed to replace someone so

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1 she doesn't have to pay the rent, each one of these

2 students have a car.

3 So, if you are talking between

4 Grandview Street and Woodlawn Street, there are six

5 parking places that are taken 18 to 20 hours a day,

6 because these kids, of course, walk to class and walk

7 back.

8 Now, I would be a little upset and

9 probably be at the second Council meeting in my life if

10 these people as renters are granted a rebate on the

11 wage tax for any earnings they earn. They are not

12 paying any parking fee and they are taking parking

13 places from elderly people, who have to walk a block

14 and a half with their groceries because they can't find

15 a place to put their car, people who cannot get in

16 their driveways because driveways are blocked.

17 One parent actually said to one of the

18 students, if that were my Honda, I would respect it a

19 little bit more, because I have two teenage drivers

20 whose perception is not the greatest, and you are so  
21 close to my driveway that one of them is going to hit  
22 it.

23 Unfortunately, it was the neighbor's  
24 car that was parked in front of her driveway the day  
25 the perception wasn't so great, and the neighbor's car

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1 is the person whose car got hit.

2 Another person had her mother-in-law  
3 who comes down and does cleaning for her and  
4 straightening in her house and watches for various  
5 delivery men, had to call her other daughter-in-law for  
6 a ride one day because her car was blocked in the  
7 driveway, and come back three hours to pick up her car,  
8 because the students came, left their car there and did  
9 not come back.

10 So, we certainly see a need for this.

11 One of those pictures, I counted the numbers, and it  
12 was more than 70 -- it was 75 percent of the parking  
13 places were occupied, and that was at 10:30 in the  
14 morning.

15 There was a school -- St. Clare's

16 School is there, there's a traffic problem, there's a

17 school bus stop for Northeast Intermediate up at the  
18 corner of Woodlawn and North Washington. There are  
19 various issues, such as dismissal time.

20 Mrs. Young came with us. She's a  
21 crossing guard. If you have any questions, you can  
22 certainly ask her.

23 So, we've come to try and appeal --  
24 many of the neighbors couldn't make it tonight, but we  
25 do have a good representation of experience, et cetera,

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1 and we do want you to please reconsider parking  
2 permits.

3 We're willing to pay for the fees for  
4 the parking so that we can park our cars in front of  
5 our house. And if these students that live in these  
6 houses, if they want to pay a fee, they would have a  
7 permit, too.

8 But we feel as though with paying comes  
9 responsibility, and they are not taking responsibility  
10 for the community. They have disregard for our rights.

11 This week we were very happy to see the  
12 Gas and Water Company putting their pipes in, because  
13 we didn't have to worry about the Marywood parkers,

14 except for the girl who parks in front of my house.

15 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Cicci, is the

16 petition here?

17 MS. CICCI: The petition is in your

18 file. You've had two copies of it. They are in the

19 Council files, because Mrs. Garvey gave me the copy. I

20 had to search the second letter, and they are in your

21 file.

22 MS. EVANS: It appears it was turned

23 down, not by City Council --

24 MR. CICCI: By Officer Bachman, yes.

25 MS. GATELLI: We'll resubmit it.

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: He'll come back out.

2 MS. EVANS: But, you know, I live very

3 near Mrs. Cicci, and I can attest to all that she has

4 testified to this evening. The parking problems are

5 insurmountable.

6 MS. CICCI: Well, that's why you got

7 permit parking in your block, because you were closer.

8 Now they're walking two and a half blocks instead of

9 one and a half, and they've decided to come down by us,

10 because we don't have the permit parking.

11 MS. GATELLI: We will get that petition

12 and send it back.

13 MS. CICCI: And Dunmore has put it in

14 that whole area. I mean, there's no parking in -- no

15 student parking in Dunmore at all.

16 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Mrs. Cicci.

17 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Gatelli, I'd like to

18 make a motion, though, that we send a letter with those

19 petitions from the residents indicating that City

20 Council would like the parking permit provided in this

21 instance, because I really don't believe --

22 MS. GATELLI: Do we have a second?

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second it.

24 MS. CICCI: There is a date when

25 Marywood will be getting out of school within the next

.

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1 two weeks, so if Officer Bachman --

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: I will talk to him

3 personally and ask him to go out there when school is

4 in session. I'm sure he will do it.

5 MS. EVANS: And you know what, it's

6 difficult, though, Mr. Courtright, because school is in

7 session. It can begin at 8 a.m. and end at 9 p.m. So,

8 the cars are coming and going and coming and going  
9 constantly, not to mention the fact that at the  
10 intersection of North Washington Avenue and Woodlawn  
11 Street, other than the hours at which our school  
12 crossing guard is present, by and large the students of  
13 Marywood are ignoring those stop signs and just  
14 speeding through.

15 And I shouldn't just be, I think,  
16 pointing them out, because very often I see most cars  
17 doing the same, just ignoring those stop signs.

18 And, you know, I think we do need some  
19 monitoring there when the police are able to do so,  
20 some ticketing, but we also have to make sure that  
21 these residents do receive the permit parking.

22 MS. GATELLI: All in favor.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
2 have it and so moved. We'll just send a letter from  
3 Council. I think that will suffice. Larry McAndrew.

4 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Cicci, do you want

5 your photos?

6 MS. CICCI: Yes. I will keep them for

7 my records. Thank you.

8 MR. MCANDREW: Good evening, Council.

9 Larry McAndrew, Scranton resident, also Vice-President

10 of the Scranton-Lackawanna County Taxpayers

11 Association, and we are incorporated.

12 Briefly, earlier this evening, Judy,

13 you said comments about Mr. Quinn's suggestion about

14 the wage tax. As everyone is quite aware, the

15 Philadelphia Inquirer has posted that the City of

16 Scranton is third in the nation here.

17 We have a definite problem here with

18 this. And Mr. Quinn has made a suggestion to see if

19 this is feasible. I think that we should check into

20 it, and if there is needed the help here, the taxpayers

21 are willing to cooperate in any way possible we could

22 help.

23 My one question is, The mayor or this

24 administration has not come out yet and said what they

25 planned on doing with this revenue from this EMS tax.

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1 We know there's few options available, but we don't

2 have any commitment here of what we're going to do with  
3 it. Does anybody know what the mayor's plans are?

4 MS. EVANS: Well, I couldn't tell you

5 unfortunately, because the mayor doesn't communicate

6 with me, but perhaps one of the other Council members

7 can fill you in.

8 MS. GATELLI: I didn't communicate with

9 the Mayor, but I did request some information from Len

10 Kresefski to see how much money will be coming from the

11 EMS tax.

12 He said \$2.1 million was budgeted in

13 the line item. Actually it would be \$1.8 million above

14 what the occupational privilege tax brought in.

15 But all of that has changed since it

16 was amended to \$12,000 by this Council, because their

17 figures were for people making \$1,000 and up, so the

18 \$1.8 is a little inflated, and they don't know by how

19 much yet, because they don't know how many people fall

20 into that category.

21 It says, He doesn't know how much this

22 will bring in and probably won't know for maybe a few

23 years due to many things, such as crossover from one

24 year to the next, as some will be refunded in the new

25 year. So, estimating this will be quite a task, which

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1 I agree partially.

2 He also said as far as what exactly

3 they will be used for, most things are not earmarked or

4 appropriated for specific things or individual causes.

5 He told me to ask Rob Farrell this question.

6 Rob Farrell called back and said that

7 it can and will be used only for the purposes stated in

8 the ordinance, which is police, fire, roads and

9 reduction of property tax in certain instances.

10 You cannot use it for a shortfall in

11 revenue to use on expenditures. There will be -- there

12 are more than enough expenditures within these areas to

13 use this tax for.

14 You can't use it for a reduction in the

15 wage tax, which we know, but you can use it for a

16 reduction in the property tax.

17 So, I think that we will be asking

18 exactly what they intend to use it for, and I'm sure

19 they're going to get at least a million dollars out of

20 it, and possibly increase police protection, I think,

21 would be number one on the list.

22 MR. MCANDREW: All right. On the

23 agenda tonight on 7-F, I see where it says here the  
24 Economic Development Administration Loan Program is set  
25 forth here amount of \$650,000, and it says to Scranton

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1 Irish Pubs, then it has in quotation here Molly

2 Brannigans.

3 The \$650,000, is that just for this one

4 pub or is it for all the Irish pubs in Scranton?

5 MS. GATELLI: No, it's just for that

6 one.

7 MR. MCANDREW: Well, my question is,

8 when these other Irish pubs were established here in

9 the City of Scranton, did they come forward to the City

10 of Scranton and ask for a loan?

11 MS. GATELLI: Quite a few of them did.

12 MR. MCANDREW: Were they given any

13 money?

14 MS. GATELLI: Yes, a lot of businesses

15 in Scranton were given economic development loans.

16 MR. MCANDREW: All right.

17 MS. GATELLI: It's for job creation,

18 and that's why it comes from HUD, and it's to be used

19 for those purposes.

20 MR. MCANDREW: I have friends in  
21 Ireland that told me about this franchise, and over in  
22 Ireland this is nothing but a hamburg stand that's  
23 coming to Scranton.

24 Moving on. We have the election coming  
25 up, and I think people really don't know who to vote

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1 for, and they ask their friends, Who are they voting  
2 for. And the response is, Well, this person we know or  
3 that person has been there or has been in this position  
4 for a while, vote for them.

5 I think it comes down to three things  
6 that the voting people should decide, one, is the  
7 person's education, two, that person's experience, the  
8 qualifications they have, and thirdly, and most  
9 important, what they're going to do for we, the people,  
10 the taxpayers, not what their intentions are or how  
11 they can gain for themselves. I thank you very much.

12 Good evening.

13 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Mr. McAndrew.

14 Also, there will be another debate on May 10 at the  
15 Lackawanna Junior College at seven o'clock for the  
16 113th district candidates.

17 For any of you that are interested,  
18 they're very informative. I did go to the last one  
19 that was at the Lackawanna Junior College, and you  
20 really get to see what the candidates are all about and  
21 what they stand for. And if you can't get there, then  
22 make sure you watch it on Channel 61.

23 I'm very disappointed that there's not  
24 one for my district, because I don't live in the 113th,  
25 I live in the 112th, and I don't see any debates being

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1 held for the candidates in the 112th, and that  
2 certainly is very sad that no one is addressing that  
3 issue.

4 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Gatelli, I agree with  
5 you 1,000 percent. That occurred to me, because, of  
6 course, I'm a candidate who's participating in numerous  
7 debates, and I thought probably even more important is  
8 the fact that an incumbent is being challenged by a  
9 newcomer, and certainly the people of that legislative  
10 district deserve the opportunity to not only hear from  
11 the incumbent candidate, but to hear the ideas of the  
12 challenger.

13 And I don't know how one can make an

14 informed decision never having heard a discussion of  
15 one issue from either of the gentlemen.

16 So, maybe the League of Women Voters  
17 might, you know, pick up the baton and hopefully  
18 schedule a debate for those two gentlemen.

19 MS. GATELLI: I made a little note here  
20 to call Andrea, because it is unfortunate --

21 MS. EVANS: I agree.

22 MS. GATELLI: -- that they're not  
23 having -- you people had several already, and one ore  
24 to come, and the 112th didn't have any. All right.

25 Mr. Morgan.

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1 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

2 MS. GATELLI: I'm sorry I wasn't able  
3 to attend your --

4 MR. MORGAN: That's fine. That's fine.

5 But thank you. The first thing I want to say is, you  
6 know, Mrs. Gatelli, you read a list of taxes, and I  
7 think that if you looked into that, you'd find out that  
8 the city has not -- if it doesn't have all of those  
9 taxes, it has most of them already.

10 MS. GATELLI: I disagree with you,

11 Mr. Morgan. We'll look at them later.

12 MR. MORGAN: Okay. That's fine. I

13 really think what we need to consider in this city is

14 that what we've been doing is we've been taxing people

15 and allowing businesses -- some businesses to skirt

16 their obligations to pay taxes.

17 And I don't -- I'll use one example

18 that will really highlight this whole thing, and that's

19 the Mall at Steamtown, \$400,000 assessment. And you

20 have to wonder, who's picking up the rest of the tab?

21 And it's the taxpayers.

22 In order to abolish the 3.4 wage tax,

23 we have to go after the people that aren't paying

24 anything or they have assessments made on their

25 properties, either because they had connections in

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1 politics a long time ago and got favorable assessments,

2 or they through other means they've lowered their

3 taxes. And what's happened is, all this tax has gone

4 on to the properties in the neighborhoods.

5 So, as this thing snowballs, the people

6 who have a reasonably good job have the money to leave

7 the city, and that erodes the tax base further, and

8 then you have blight and you have -- I mean, it's the  
9 absolute truth that you have flight from the city.  
10 And I think that in order to make the  
11 changes that have to be made, we have to abolish the  
12 3.4 wage tax. The school district has to take one  
13 percent off, and the city has to take 2.4 off.  
14 Now, when the county does the  
15 reassessment, it's going to even things out to a large  
16 degree. And I'm not for the reassessment, but I'm only  
17 going to state what it's going to do, okay?  
18 But in the long run, the city's  
19 financial situation is so dire that the mayor and some  
20 city official in the near future is going to have to  
21 raise taxes at an amount that's almost astronomical.  
22 So, you're not going to get absolutely  
23 any relief, okay? And I think part of the problem here  
24 is that the Council needs to slow down, pay attention  
25 to what it's doing and start really looking at the

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1 legislation it passes.  
2 I think the best course of action for  
3 the city to take at this point is to go back to all the  
4 people we owe money to and tell them that we're in

5 really bad economic straits here and we need you to  
6 renegotiate and forgive some of our debt.  
7 We also have to go to the state and  
8 tell them, you know, we really appreciate you paying  
9 the PEL for us, but all you're doing is you're tying us  
10 to a debt, and we can't carry it anymore. So, we have  
11 to void and just totally cease to deal with the PEL in  
12 any manner whatsoever. Send them back to Harrisburg.  
13 They have nothing to offer, okay?  
14 If all of these things can't work, then  
15 we have to file bankruptcy, because we're a  
16 corporation. Harrisburg almost did it, okay? There's  
17 lots of other communities that have almost done it.  
18 And we have to remember that we have  
19 that opportunity. And what we have in this city is a  
20 city that has an infrastructure for 160,000 people, but  
21 we have 70,000 people living here.  
22 And what's happened over the course of  
23 many years is the non-profits came here because  
24 property values were cheap, so they could buy a  
25 building, set up shop, and then erode the tax base  
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1 further.

2 We've allowed the University of  
3 Scranton to take complete control of the Hill Section.  
4 And now they're -- and, Mr. McTiernan, when it goes to  
5 the South Side Sports Complex, all we have to do is go  
6 take some of that golf course money back and give it to  
7 the University of Scranton.  
8 It's not a very complex issue. There's  
9 nothing complex about it. There's \$2 million sitting.  
10 Give them their \$700,000 or whatever they gave the city  
11 and it's done, okay?  
12 And in regards to the playground  
13 program, the people I think should sit on this board  
14 are, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, all  
15 right, I think that the juvenile judge should sit, I  
16 think that one representative from every neighborhood  
17 association should sit, I think the mayor should sit  
18 there, and I think that we should open it up to every  
19 religious congregation in the city.  
20 If they want to send a representative,  
21 we should allow them to send a representative. We can  
22 make this playground program happen.  
23 Now, Mrs. Stulgis came from the police  
24 and had a discussion with us at the tax group, and she  
25 also acknowledges that the drug problem in this city is

1 out of control. I mean, it's completely out of

2 control, okay?

3 And you know what I'm saying to this

4 Council is, let's step forward, let's step to the

5 plate, let's do something. And that's all I'm asking.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Gunner Nole.

8 MR. NOLE: Good evening, City Council.

9 My name is Gunner Nole. I live in West Scranton. I'm

10 a homeowner and a taxpayer.

11 Mrs. Gatelli, you kind of stole some of

12 my thunder about Philadelphia, because I'm here to talk

13 about taxation mostly.

14 As far as I heard you speak in

15 regarding attempts at a tax reduction, and, to me, I'm

16 going to tell you the way I see it. Those words have

17 no iron in them.

18 You've already squandered an

19 opportunity to reduce the city wage tax. And the ink

20 wasn't even dry on your paperwork when you got sworn in

21 and you raised taxes by implementing the EMS, \$52, from

22 people that don't even live in the city and can't even

23 vote in the city.

24 And we're doing that all throughout the

25 state, and it's a shame, because I know there's people,

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1 like myself, that have more than one job.

2 Every time you go for another job,

3 whether it's part-time or not, they yank you for

4 another \$52.

5 Now, how do I -- you know, how do you

6 get that money back? You know, I paid it to Dunmore

7 already, I paid it to one or two other ones. My wife

8 has paid it.

9 So, like, is there a form I fill out to

10 get my \$52 back?

11 MS. GATELLI: Yes, there will be. At

12 the end of the year there'll be a form. And you'll pay

13 it to the place of your principal work.

14 MR. NOLE: At what time?

15 MS. GATELLI: The city that you make

16 the most money in, that's who'll get the \$52.

17 MR. NOLE: I thought it was, according

18 to Act 22, I thought it's where you were employed at

19 the beginning of the year when it's taken out in

20 January.

21 MS. GATELLI: No. I was told that it's

22 where you make the bulk of your money.

23 MR. NOLE: Okay. Well, I read the act,

24 and it doesn't say anything about a bulk of money in

25 there.

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1 MS. EVANS: Mr. Nole, though, my

2 concern is that you'll be paying \$52 again in 2007

3 before you ever seen a rebate from 2006, because the

4 tax office is dreadfully backed up. They still haven't

5 even provided rebates from 2004 and 2005 --

6 MR. NOLE: No doubt.

7 MS. EVANS: I believe Council invited

8 Mr. McDowell in. We had hoped that he would generate a

9 plan whereby, I can't say immediate reimbursements

10 would occur, but certainly it would facilitate the

11 process and help things move along for far more

12 quickly, because I think that plan has to be put in nut

13 place now, rather than in January when they are flooded

14 with these requests. They have to be prepared well in

15 advance and take care of it in a timely fashion, but we

16 never heard from Mr. McDowell.

17 MS. NOLE: Yes, ma'am. And, you know,  
18 I've read this act many times and I've been meeting  
19 with the taxpayer group to talk about it, and it  
20 specifically says in there what the money can be used  
21 for. It doesn't say what it cannot be used for, it  
22 just says what it can be used for.  
23 So, I'm told that one-tenth of one  
24 percent in this city is equal to somewhere around  
25 \$800,000.

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1 MS. GATELLI: That's correct.

2 MR. NOLE: You had an opportunity to  
3 lower the wage tax by one-tenth of a percent. You  
4 could have used \$800,000 of that and still come out  
5 about a million dollars ahead.  
6 You're right, I will submit that it is  
7 guesswork, because we don't know how much it's going to  
8 bring in yet.  
9 But that would have been a perfect  
10 opportunity, but instead we pass a budget for a few  
11 million dollars more. We had a perfect opportunity to  
12 cut things.  
13 I mean a real cut. Like, let's say we

14 take a part-time employee that makes \$15,000 a year.

15 Let's say, oh, a City Councilperson and we cut that by

16 \$5,000, well, if I confiscate \$5,000 from the Junior

17 City Council and make that up, that's not a tax cut.

18 You're just shifting it around. So, the people are

19 getting fed up with that.

20 And balanced budgets, that's a scam,

21 too. In 1919, the City of Philadelphia passed a law

22 saying you have to submit a balanced budget. Well,

23 that's fine. They submitted a balanced budget, all

24 right, but a bulk of it was borrowed money.

25 So, what good is a balanced budget if

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1 you're borrowing most of it to say, yeah, it's

2 balanced. We're going to pay it back. Here's an IOU.

3 So, I will respectfully disagree with

4 my colleague Mr. Spindler regarding loans. There's a

5 big difference between giving a loan and taking one

6 out. And he specifically mentioned a multi-billion

7 dollar company. Well, who better to give a loan to

8 than a multi-billion dollar company with good credit,

9 because that's a system of generating money. That

10 actually generates money.

11 Simply confiscating taxes from  
12 taxpayers, that's not generating money. I can do that.  
13 I could go rob some guy at an ATM. That would generate  
14 money.  
15 Now, you know, if you want to act like  
16 a bunch of pirates with the taxpayers in here, we're  
17 all going to remember that come election time. So,  
18 you're going to have to stand by your votes. It's  
19 done. You already voted for it.  
20 But another year will go by and you'll  
21 have a chance to trim the budget, and perhaps lower the  
22 wage tax.  
23 It says it's the third highest tax. It  
24 mentioned it once, okay? It's the second highest in  
25 the state of Pennsylvania. I'm not very concerned with  
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1 New York right now. But they also have a non-resident  
2 tax in Philadelphia, because they're a bunch of  
3 pirates, too.  
4 And I don't know what's wrong with  
5 those governors. If I was the governor of New Jersey  
6 and some mayor in Philadelphia is taxing my citizens of  
7 New Jersey, I'm not going to stand for that.

8 What would you do if Lackawanna County  
9 was taxed by Luzerne County? Why don't we tax people  
10 down in Luzerne County? How long do you think we could  
11 get away with that?  
12 Of if we put toll booths in front of  
13 every entrance and charge everybody a quarter to come  
14 into the city. That's not generating money.  
15 There's new technology out called BPL,  
16 I will say this real quick. Does anybody know what BPL  
17 is? Broadcast over power lines. Every power outlet in  
18 your house, there's the technology available to get  
19 internet service over the electricity of the utility  
20 system.  
21 Why doesn't Scranton partner with the  
22 utility company and become the great electric city it  
23 once was and offer this internet service? That's a way  
24 to generate money, not simply confiscating it from all  
25 the taxpayers.

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1 So, thank you indulging me. Have a  
2 good evening.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you very much.

4 MS. EVANS: Mr. Nole, just for the

5 record quickly. Number one, I did not vote in favor of  
6 the mayor's budget in any year during which I've been  
7 seated on this Council; number two, I've never voted to  
8 allow the mayor to borrow more money, additional  
9 millions each year, and number three, I did not vote  
10 for the EMS Tax.

11 MR. NOLE: That's duly noted.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MS. GATELLI: Is there anyone else that  
14 cares to speak?

15 MR. GARZARELLA: I would like to speak  
16 tonight in regard to Mrs. Jones' statement. I must  
17 confess that I was rather taken aback by her  
18 characterization of the Junior City Council.  
19 The fact of the matter is that Corey's  
20 inactivity is an issue. We have a great deal of work  
21 to do, and we need people who will do their share.  
22 I realize that his work schedule is a  
23 commitment, but a balance has to be achieved, and it's  
24 possible.

25 I would like anyone who currently has a  
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1 job to raise his or her hand. So, as you can see, it

2 can be done.

3 This is not to say, though, that Corey

4 isn't welcomed to participate in our various service

5 activities, because we certainly need the help.

6 But in conclusion, to criticize a group

7 of high-school-aged young people who are working hard

8 for their community and to have really tried to give

9 back, I'm sure you'll all agree, is sinking to a low.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr. Davis.

12 MR. DAVIS: Assalaam Alaikum. I've had

13 several groups of people come to me and ask, how do we

14 get a grant from OECD for a business loan? And I told

15 them where to go for it and things like that and they

16 would give them all the qualifications and all the

17 things they need to qualify for the loans.

18 None have ever received anything from

19 OECD, though. And this is the reason why I wonder why

20 this group here, these are just companies that are

21 asking for \$200,000, whatever the amount, as a loan, as

22 a grant, from OECD.

23 Where is the background on these

24 people? Have you done the homework on this? Do you

25 know that these people are valuable people? Because

1 Lackawanna Avenue is filled with people like this.

2 We have empty stores down there for

3 years and years and years of people who've come in

4 here, gotten their grants, OECD grants, to fix their

5 awnings or whatever it is, and jumped town, and the

6 stores are vacant.

7 They're not -- they don't supply people

8 with jobs. The only jobs they get is the money they

9 put in their pocket and walk out of here with.

10 Now, we have a population of kids that

11 need jobs. We are not -- if we take one of these

12 grants, just one of these grants, and start a CETA

13 program and pay the kids \$7.50 an hour. I'd rather

14 them work. I'd rather them have respect for themselves

15 where they can help their families, where they can help

16 themselves, than to be some sort of derelictual problem

17 to the community, because the kids will get in trouble.

18 They are not angels. We realize that.

19 And unless we put something like employment in their

20 way, they will not learn how to work.

21 And we cannot keep sitting on and

22 pushing back those that are economically deprived or

23 unable to dress properly or talk properly or whatever  
24 it might be. We're still losing too many kids out of  
25 our educational system every single year.

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1 I had a fantastic day. I was down at  
2 the school, I saw Mr. McTiernan. I talked to a lot of  
3 people. And I've watched the students. They're very  
4 mannerly. I think they're more mannerly than we were  
5 when we were in school, truthfully, because I thought  
6 we were wild, and we probably were. The Class of '55  
7 weren't really considered the most nice people.  
8 But at any rate, our kids are very  
9 intelligent. I run into them every day, I talked to  
10 them every day, and we're not doing our job.  
11 Our job is to lead and guide our kids to  
12 the best of our ability, not people who've already made  
13 their money and want to give these kids \$5.00 jobs and  
14 say, Well, we've employed the kids.  
15 But the kids have no upward mobility  
16 within those jobs. They're not going to become  
17 managers there, because the owners are going to  
18 maintain their managementship until the kids get tired  
19 of working for five dollars an hour and get shipped off

20 to somewhere else or quit and try and find another job

21 somewhere.

22 They probably won't even give them a

23 decent recommendation for another job. That's the

24 problem that we have.

25 We have a problem -- we have a dead end

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1 alley for our kids. And maybe you don't hear it, maybe

2 you don't see it to be true. Maybe it's time for us to

3 start speaking to our children about what they want

4 when they look for a job, maybe what they want when

5 they look to good onto education. And we're not doing

6 it.

7 (UNTRANSCRIBABLE) You people of many

8 colors -- our friend Pablo or Pedro is going to have a

9 fiesta a (UNTRANSCRIBABLE), a party on Saturday. I

10 want you to come out and I want you to make him feel

11 welcomed in this city. I really think it is time for

12 us to unite, unite in such a way that our vote and our

13 power can be felt.

14 If we don't, we're going to lose more

15 and more children every single day of our lives.

16 They're going to end up in prison, and you'll never see

17 them again, because they wouldn't want to come back to  
18 Scranton. And that's the most heartbreaking thing that  
19 a parent can do, for a child to tell them, I don't want  
20 to come to Scranton. I don't need to live in Scranton.

21 I don't have to. So, have a nice day. Asssalaam

22 Alaikum. And I didn't attack you.

23 MS. GATELLI: Shalom Alaikum.

24 MR. DAVIS: Alaikum Assalaam. Shalom

25 Alaikum is Jewish.

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1 MR. SLEDZINSKI: Good one, Judy.

2 MS. GATELLI: Come on, Chrissy.

3 MR. SLEDZINSKI: I got a list for you

4 to do this week, Janet. See it, Janet?

5 MS. EVANS: Yes, sir. I see it.

6 MR. SLEDZINSKI: Thank you. Judy, I

7 got one question for you this week, our parade's for

8 the little league on Saturday at nine o'clock in the

9 morning up at the park. So, anybody who can be there.

10 Support the kids. Thank you.

11 MS. GATELLI: Thanks, Chris. Senor

12 Gonzales.

13 MR. GONZALES: Good evening, Council,

14 and all in attendance. My name is Pedro Gonzales,  
15 Scranton resident. I should say South Side resident,  
16 excuse me, registered voter, and always a concerned  
17 citizen.

18 I have a couple of announcements, like  
19 usual, up and coming events, things to that effect.

20 The first one is April 29. It's a big day for the  
21 Latin people in this city.

22 We have the Children's Advocacy  
23 Fundraiser at the Icebox Arena. It's a roller skating  
24 event. There's fliers all over the high schools and  
25 different areas of the city, Channel 61, so forth and  
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1 so on.

2 But this event is to raise money for  
3 abused children, abandoned children, so forth and so  
4 on.

5 And the Boy Scouts will be there, along  
6 with the Lackawanna Library, the children's library.  
7 Keystone College Stepping Girls will be there. They  
8 will be there performing.

9 The Scranton Police Department will be  
10 there doing other electronic fingerprinting. The Lupus

11 Foundation will also be there promoting Lupus  
12 Awareness, and so forth and so on.  
13 It's a big event. We're going to have  
14 a blast. It's all about the kids, as usual. It's all  
15 about the kids.  
16 It's just \$6.00 to come in. The skate  
17 rental is included for that \$6.00. Half of the  
18 proceeds raised that day will go to house, the other  
19 half will go to the Children's Advocacy Center. The  
20 basket raffles, we're also having a basket raffle.  
21 The money raised for the raffles will  
22 be going to the burn victim family from the West Side.  
23 All that money, you know, we hope that it will help in  
24 any shape or form.  
25 And, again, I'm just here as a  
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1 representative of some of the Latin people of the city,  
2 and I'm here as a representative from the Scranton  
3 Latin Alliance, and we're just here trying to help.  
4 We're just here trying to help. We're  
5 not trying to take over, things like some people out  
6 there saying. We're just trying to help, just trying  
7 to do the right thing.

8 Second of all is the Central City  
9 Little League, my man just got off saying that opening  
10 day is this Saturday. That is correct.  
11 We have a couple of Latin kids this  
12 year for the first time that will be playing. We  
13 partnered up with them, the Scranton Latin Alliance and  
14 the Central City Little League, and we hope that this  
15 summer is going to be a blast for a lot of Latino  
16 children in the city that's never played baseball  
17 before, never had the opportunity to play organized  
18 sports period.  
19 In their country, there's really not a  
20 whole lot of that, depending on where you come from,  
21 what island you come from, what country you come from,  
22 so forth and so on.  
23 But the summer should be a very  
24 interesting one and a fun one for a lot of Latin kids  
25 ages from six to 12, you know? It's going to be a

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1 great experience for them.  
2 Third is Cub Scouts. We joined up with  
3 the Cub Scouts up at Montage is their central office  
4 there, and we're going to have our first Latin Cub

5 Scout Troop.

6 May 4, Thursday, May 4, we are having a

7 Cub Scout meeting at 317 South Main at the offices down

8 there at the Latin Alliance office. It's going to

9 start about 6:30, six o'clock. The fliers are going

10 around now around town, things to that effect. And,

11 again, it will be the first Latin Boy Scout troop in

12 the City of Scranton.

13 And, third, fourth and fifth, I have a

14 couple more announcements. We are having a

15 Cinco De Mao Friday, Friday next week. We are having a

16 Latin Dedication Festival, Downtown Courthouse Square.

17 The Lackawanna Commissioners' office is

18 sponsoring it. They are dedicating that day in

19 recognition of the Latin people. I think a

20 proclamation will be read that day, which is

21 tremendous.

22 There will be a couple of speakers, so

23 forth and so on. There will be some Latin vendors

24 selling food. We will have a DJ out there. And,

25 again, it's just a festival. It starts at 5 p.m. to

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1 seven, 7:30 p.m. it's just a dedication ceremony.

2 Again, the first one of its kind here  
3 in the City of Scranton. I thank God the Lackawanna  
4 Commissioners office is very accepting of diversity.  
5 Last but not least is Cinco De Mao  
6 later on that night. I know a couple of you guys, you  
7 go to bed pretty early. Me and my people like to hang  
8 out, you know?  
9 So, we're having a party after the  
10 festival from five to seven, 7:30 down at courthouse  
11 square. We will be at Don Pablo's starting at ten  
12 o'clock, ten p.m. until closing.  
13 We're having a festival. We are going  
14 to party hard, enjoy the holiday, so forth and so on,  
15 and there will be, again, a couple of speakers down  
16 there, and the whole point is to have fun and enjoy the  
17 holiday and thank God that this city is as diverse as  
18 it is.  
19 And if I may, if I may one more, one  
20 more thing, there is a couple of other Latin people and  
21 a group of people that are having a Latin festival at  
22 the Riverfront Sports Arena, The Riverfront Sports  
23 Arena.  
24 Again, it's also Saturday the 29th. IT  
25 starts from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. There's a whole sleeve of

1 events and entertainment and food, dancing, all kinds

2 of stuff going on Saturday.

3 And although it is not a Latin Alliance

4 event, it is a positive Latin event. And no matter who

5 you are, what race or nationality, we just want to help

6 and promote that in any shape or form, and we thank God

7 that these group of people have come together in unity

8 to have this.

9 So, please come out also for that event

10 on the 29th from one to 9 p.m. at the Riverfront Arena.

11 My name is Pedro Gonzales, and thank you for letting me

12 express myself. God bless you all.

13 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Is there

14 anyone else?

15 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council. My

16 name is Nancy Krake.

17 Last night I attended a hearing that

18 was held by the Department of Community Economic

19 Development of the state in Nanticoke. The hearing was

20 to see whether Nanticoke should be declared distressed.

21 Well, it really wasn't a shock to

22 anyone that after their investigation, they felt that

23 Nanticoke should be distressed. You really only need  
24 to meet one criteria in the act, so it's not very  
25 difficult, even though as we know here in Scranton it's  
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1 extremely difficult to get out of being distressed.

2 Their president of their firefighters

3 union spoke very well. Even though everyone knew that

4 the reality of the situation was that it was a done

5 deal, he spoke and change really only comes from

6 stating the truth, as we've done here for several

7 years, and hoping that some people hear it.

8 Unfortunately the law is such that only

9 DCED ultimately has a say, in fact, what I'd like to

10 know is how could any one or any group decide what is

11 good for an entire community and its workers?

12 I suggest they just give us the low

13 interest loans and possibly revenue share with the

14 cities what they would have paid to the consultants.

15 And I believe, Mrs. Gatelli, at one

16 point in time it had been close to three or four

17 million dollars when we were doing our initial

18 negotiations with Connors. So, I'm sure it's well

19 above that at this point. We know what is best for our

20 cities and our people.

21 Obviously being declared distressed is

22 not the solution to financial recovery, since every

23 municipality is still distressed.

24 In fact, I think after the state is

25 finished with the cities, we can be sure to see

.

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1 counties and school districts being declared

2 distressed.

3 The lawyers and consultants are so

4 consumed by greed, and have for now anyway until this

5 law is changed, a stranglehold on the entire state.

6 What is the point to being distressed

7 if everyone in the state will be declared distressed?

8 It does, however, expose their motivation, greed.

9 We are distressed so they can make lots

10 and lots of money and donate it back to the respective

11 politicians that hired them. They're spending our tax

12 dollars on consultants, lawyers and apple polishers.

13 This makes absolutely no sense.

14 DCED and the consultants knew they had

15 Nanticoke wrapped up last night. In fact, I had

16 several questions from Mrs. Fanucci, who is not here

17 tonight. Mrs. Gatelli, I don't know if you have the  
18 answers. I know Mrs. Evans was working with PEL, but I  
19 believe you've resigned.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes, I did. I found  
21 scheduling conflicts, but in addition to that, I do  
22 feel we have a difference in philosophy. And like you,  
23 I question the wisdom of the entire program now, when  
24 the City of Scranton has remained distressed for  
25 13 years, and it certainly appears that the end is

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1 nowhere near in sight.

2 And with so many millions upon millions  
3 being pumped into that agency from our state taxes, I  
4 think the elimination of the Pennsylvania Economy  
5 League could go a very long way to helping quite a  
6 number of issues throughout the State of Pennsylvania.

7 MS. KRAKE: I totally agree with that  
8 remark. In fact, if Mrs. Fanucci, if anyone could,  
9 Mrs. Gatelli, I don't know if it's appropriate if you  
10 can request it or how this would work, if we can find  
11 out what's been happening up to date, because it's  
12 going to be, according to the mayor, who I asked at a  
13 meeting you were present at, he said te philosophy of

14 the first Recovery Plan will be the same in the second

15 recovery plan. And we all know where that got us .

16 Absolutely nowhere.

17 Over \$4 million in raises for

18 administrators, no revenue raising items, nowhere near

19 financial recovery. Very, very scary.

20 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.

21 MS. KRAKE: Thank you. Anyone else?

22 Mr. Ancherani? No. Come on, now. I'm counting on

23 you. You're always the last one. I didn't find

24 anything out about the police officers. I've been

25 trying to contact Lisa Moran, only since yesterday, and

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1 I haven't been able to touch base with her. So, just

2 to give you an update on that. Okay. Mrs. Garvey.

3 MS. GARVEY: 5-A, Motions.

4 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening. First, I

6 would like a meeting of the Hollow Avenue neighborhood

7 to be held in City Council chambers before a regularly

8 scheduled Council meeting on the first available

9 Thursday.

10 I would also request letters to

11 Mr. Parker, Mr. Fiorini and Mr. McKeon requesting their  
12 attendance. If the city employees refuse to meet with  
13 Council and the citizens of Hollow Avenue, then I  
14 believe these taxpayers, at the very least, must be  
15 able to present their problems and issues to this City  
16 Council.

17 Next, Attorney Minora, were you -- he  
18 just stepped out. Well, what a coincidence. I had  
19 wanted to ask him if he has any recommendations for  
20 legal action that City Council can pursue to prevent  
21 the payment of Attorney Greco.

22 The mayor has stated on the record that  
23 \$134,000 is a bargain. He fails to address the fact  
24 that he overstepped his powers as a mayor to thousands  
25 of taxpayers. \$134,000 is a sizeable chunk of change.

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1 Many would work three to four years in a full-time job  
2 to earn those wages awarded for a part-time job for  
3 under a year and a half. And how many years of income  
4 does that represent for the average senior citizen, 12,  
5 14 years, more?

6 A transfer of funds was made from  
7 professional services to court awards in the city's

8 operating budget. Are we paying Mr. Greco with city  
9 tax money?

10 Senior citizens can't afford

11 prescription drugs. They can't afford the 48 percent

12 county tax increase, the rising prices of natural gas

13 to heat their homes, and the skyrocketing cost of

14 gasoline at the pumps.

15 \$134,000 would go a long way to helping

16 many seniors with their sacrifices and their daily

17 worries. Seniors are selling their homes. They can't

18 afford to keep them any longer, and that I'm learning

19 as I go door to door each day.

20 You know, the waste and the cronyism is

21 one huge factor that explains this bloated budget and

22 the inability to lower taxes in Scranton.

23 I also have this week's citizens

24 requests, but before I go on to that, I would like to

25 ask Attorney Minora, who's now returned, if you have

.

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1 any recommendations for legal action to be taken in the

2 case of Attorney Greco receiving a payment of \$134,000.

3 MR. MINORA: Not at this point.

4 MS. EVANS: And how soon might we

5 expect that?

6 MR. MINORA: I think by next week.

7 MS. EVANS: Okay. I certainly hope so.

8 But, Kay, in addition, if you could please notify

9 Mrs. Novembrino that should that payment occur and come

10 before her for signature, I'd like City Council to be

11 notified immediately.

12 MS. GARVEY: I thought that has already

13 been paid. Didn't you receive that information from

14 her?

15 MS. GATELLI: She gave that to us

16 already.

17 MS. GARVEY: That that had already been

18 paid?

19 MS. EVANS: That was paid. What I

20 thought I saw was a signature of Attorney Farrell

21 agreeing to the Court order issued by Judge Mazzoni.

22 MS. GARVEY: Right. With that there

23 was a voucher, from what I understand, that showed

24 payment of that.

25 MS. EVANS: He has already been paid?

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1 MS. GARVEY: I believe so.

2 MS. GATELLI: I talked to Mrs.

3 Novembrino last week, and she said that you had gotten

4 it. She had given it to your husband or your husband

5 had asked for it, and it wasn't ready, and then she

6 sent it over. And it only went in your box, not in any

7 of our boxes.

8 MS. EVANS: But from what I read, I

9 didn't see, now I'll go back and find it, hopefully --

10 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, I have it now,

11 because I just got it in the box tonight.

12 MS. EVANS: Okay.

13 MS. GATELLI: I can't put my hands on

14 it.

15 MS. EVANS: Okay. Well --

16 MS. GATELLI: Did you put -- you might

17 have put it back in my box, Kay.

18 MS. GARVEY: Yeah, it's probably in

19 your box. It may also be in yours. I don't know if --

20 MS. EVANS: I haven't gone through what

21 I received tonight yet, but I will.

22 MS. GATELLI: Yeah. She told me it was

23 paid.

24 MS. EVANS: That's a disgrace.

25 MS. GATELLI: She said that when she

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1 receives an order like that, I mean, it's not against  
2 her.

3 MS. EVANS: Oh, absolutely not.

4 MS. GATELLI: I mean, she paid it, but  
5 it's not the disgrace against her, because she's  
6 ordered to pay it. And she said that this has happened  
7 to her numerous times, you know, over the city's  
8 history that people weren't paid and they went to court  
9 and got the money. And she is obliged to pay the bill.

10 MS. EVANS: I agree with that. And I'm  
11 not casting aspersions at our city controller. I'm  
12 casting aspersions where they belong, at the  
13 administration, who circumvented City Council and the  
14 Home Rule Charter. And the saddest bottom line here  
15 is, all of us have to pay for this, all of us.

16 Now, citizens' requests. First,  
17 replace street signs at the intersection of Depot and  
18 Comegys Avenue. Remove graffiti on flood gates at  
19 Sanderson Avenue.

20 606 Reed Street in The Plot resident  
21 has reported flooding problems in the front of her home  
22 to no avail. Please investigate the cause and respond

23 in writing with the course of action.

24 Northend Lumber, windows are falling

25 out and glass litters the area.

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1 Now, I understand it's not owned by the

2 city, however, I've received reports that the DPW

3 appears to use the building for storage and had worked

4 out of that structure for the past few months, so I

5 would request that DPW board up those windows and clean

6 up the glass.

7 1218 Crown Avenue, there is no road in

8 this location. The only access to the home is by means

9 of Drum Place, an unpaved alley, which is very worn,

10 and the ruts at both ends of the alley have grown so

11 deep that it is now impassable to vehicles.

12 Residents have called the Pothole

13 Hotline without any results, and they ask for either

14 gravel to fill in these ruts or paving.

15 Residents request the installation of a

16 no parking sign on Ruth Avenue at the intersection of

17 Ruth and Detty, and this is the second request.

18 2904 Cedar Avenue, across the street

19 from this location is a vacant city-owned lot which is

20 littered with bottles, garbage and condoms. And I

21 please request that that is cleared as soon as

22 possible.

23 The intersection of Church Avenue and

24 Ferdinand Street, please clean two catch basins. Also,

25 vehicles are speeding through stop signs at this

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1 intersection.

2 And Mr. Liskowski and I would like to

3 acknowledge and thank Mr. Brazil for his cleanup around

4 the flag pole at Connell Park.

5 And finally, just a brief comment on

6 something that occurred earlier. Mrs. Jones is

7 returning a proclamation that was given to her child by

8 Scranton City Council, and I think that is -- that is

9 very upsetting, in that, I don't know what the rules of

10 this Junior Council are, I don't know, in fact, if you

11 have any policies, procedures and rules, but I do know

12 this, if I don't approve of the work of any of my

13 colleagues, if I feel, for example, they are not

14 working while I am working overtime, that they may be

15 receiving pensions while I, myself, decline a pension,

16 I have no ability to request their removal from this

17 Council, nor would I.

18 I feel that, you know, as I look  
19 around, there are certain members who are here week  
20 after week after week, and that is laudable. There are  
21 others, though, who miss meetings, and that is  
22 understandable, because you have a very busy  
23 schedule.

24 And then there are those who possibly  
25 cannot be here, but they still can continue to serve.

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1 And I believe that just as a Councilperson cannot be  
2 removed, I don't believe a Junior Councilperson can be  
3 removed.

4 And it's just my opinion. As I said, I  
5 don't know if you have any policies or an  
6 administrative code developed, but I would really like  
7 to return this to Mrs. Jones and ask that when Corey is  
8 available to join in with his colleagues, as  
9 Mrs. Gatelli said, he's welcomed to do so.

10 So, I am going to leave this here for  
11 you and hope that you will reconsider. And that's it.

12 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

13 Mr. McTiernan.

14 MR. MCTIERNAN: Nothing at this time,

15 Mrs. Gatelli.

16 MS. GATELLI: Ut-oh. I don't like

17 that. Two weeks in a row. That's not a good sign,

18 Bob.

19 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Courtright.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes. Excuse me. I

21 met again this past weekend with Representative Cawley

22 about Birney Avenue. They're getting very close to

23 having a meeting set up, and all the parties concerned

24 will be invited.

25 One thing that was discussed is going

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1 in and out of Dunmore to go into Throop, at one time

2 the two streets there, Dunmore and Cypress, were two

3 lanes.

4 And what they did up there -- it didn't

5 eliminate the problem, but it made it much more

6 liveable, was have one of the lanes as a turning lane.

7 And although that's not what we're

8 looking for on Birney Avenue, that's an option somebody

9 brought up.

10 So, in the very near future, I think

11 we'll all be invited to the meeting. Now, I know the  
12 last time there was more than three of us there, and it  
13 was felt that we couldn't be there, but I don't think  
14 there'll be a problem with that because of more than  
15 three Council members at one time.

16 Just yesterday I had an individual that  
17 travels into Scranton three times a week from down the  
18 Wilkes-Barre area, and she said to me, When are you  
19 people going to put some markings on the road coming  
20 into Downtown Scranton, you know, it's terrible.

21 Nobody knows where they're going, there's accidents.

22 Finally the road's opened up, but nobody knows which  
23 lane to go in.

24 And as she's telling me that, I had

25 other people chime in about our crosswalks, you know,

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1 they aren't painted.

2 And I tried to explain to them we had a

3 lot of them painted, and Director Parker said that

4 we're using paint now that's different than we used in

5 the past so that it meets the environmental codes.

6 And this person said to me, well, then

7 what are they using on PennDOT, because they seem to be

8 lasting a lot longer on the highway than they are in  
9 the City of Scranton.  
10 So, Kay, maybe we can ask Mr. Parker  
11 what they are using for PennDOT. I'm guessing it's  
12 probably a money thing. They're probably spending more  
13 money for their paint than we are. I think he might  
14 have even told us that.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes. If you remember, this  
16 issue arose over the crosswalks at Scranton Prep and  
17 that they had lasted so much longer than those at any  
18 of the other schools throughout the city, and that was  
19 the answer, that it was a different type of material  
20 and it was more expensive, but, yes, the, you know, the  
21 initial cost is more expensive, but when you're going  
22 to get that kind of bang for your buck year after year,  
23 it seems well worth that initial expenditure to, you  
24 know, reap the benefits of not having to do this  
25 several times per year.

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right. I assume that  
2 we can save the money and the manpower. So, maybe he  
3 can break that down for us and -- I know the ones just  
4 right out here. I don't think they lasted six months

5 right out in front of the building. So, I don't think  
6 it's worth it if we're only getting six months out of  
7 it.

8 And while we're at it, not that he  
9 doesn't have enough to do, does he have a schedule of,  
10 you know, when we're doing crosswalks and when they're  
11 going to get painted? I know we always ask around the  
12 time that school is in, but I'm just talking throughout  
13 the city.

14 And one more thing, Kay, if you don't  
15 mind. I know the administration has every intention on  
16 appealing the arbitration, but I know there's a time  
17 line on that.

18 And are we anywhere near the end of  
19 that timeline? And I understand they intend on  
20 appealing the arbitration, but when is the end of the  
21 time line and have they appealed it? Has he file the  
22 appeal yet? I don't believe he has, but if you can  
23 find it out for me, I'd appreciate it. And that's all  
24 I have. Thank you.

25 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Kay, I'm

.

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1 going to have you write a few letters, how about that?

2 One to Mr. Fiorini. We got parking lot bills from him  
3 when we asked about the parking lots. He sent us the  
4 bills that were sent out, but I'd like to know who paid  
5 them for 2006.

6 The next non-profit meeting will be  
7 next Thursday at 5:30. And, Mr. Narsavage, we figured  
8 -- did those figures that you had, and they were  
9 correct. We will talk about that. I'll give you a  
10 call.

11 I'd like to make a motion that we have  
12 the solicitor investigate removing the distressed  
13 status from the City of Scranton. I think that  
14 Council can do it. So, I would like to have  
15 Attorney Minora investigate that.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second that.

17 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All in  
18 favor.

19 MS. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

22 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? It's  
23 unanimous. We don't need a roll call for that.

24 And the Molly Brannigans, I know that  
25 many people spoke against that, but I am still going to

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1 vote for Molly Brannigans. It is an economic  
2 development project, it is being used with money that  
3 is specifically for that purpose.

4 We cannot use that money for police.

5 We cannot use that money for housing. We have to use  
6 it for job creation.

7 And I'm going to vote for that. And as  
8 long as I sit on this Council, I am going to vote for  
9 projects that create jobs. That is part of my goal  
10 here, to create jobs in the City of Scranton.

11 And even though they might not be the  
12 jobs that you like, they are for low to moderate income  
13 people, and that is the goal of OECD, to benefit low to  
14 moderate income people. And there will be 19 jobs  
15 created by Molly Brannigans.

16 So, I'm just telling you that that's my  
17 reason for that.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Can I speak on that  
19 for one second?

20 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: I understand they're  
22 not good paying -- what we consider good paying jobs,

23 but they meet the criteria of the program. And as  
24 Mrs. Gatelli said, we can only use the monies for that.  
25 I would love to see them being paid \$20, \$25 an hour.  
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1 But they meet the criteria, and we need to spend the  
2 money on those things.  
3 We could spend money for police, but I  
4 believe we were told, and I believe we were shown in  
5 writing, that we're capped out on how much money we  
6 could spend for OECD for police.  
7 I would love to see that raise. I  
8 don't know how that -- if that's even possible to have  
9 happen. That might be something that I'm going to look  
10 into to see if we can have that dollar amount raised,  
11 how much money we could put into police, because I  
12 certainly would like to see it go there.  
13 I'm going to vote for Molly Brannigans,  
14 also, just due to the fact that it is economic  
15 development. No, they're not high paying jobs, but  
16 they are jobs, and we have to spend the money on what  
17 it's designated for. Thank you, Mrs. Gatelli.  
18 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Gatelli, do you know,  
19 while you're on the topic, what the limit is on the

20 amount of any particular loan that can be granted from  
21 the Economic Development Administration Loan Program?

22 MS. GATELLI: No, but I know it's all

23 tied to job creation. You have X amount of dollars, X

24 amount of jobs have to be created. You know, there's a

25 balance there.

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1 MS. EVANS: So, this is not the

2 Commercial Revolving Loan Program.

3 MS. GATELLI: No, no. I don't know

4 the, because I haven't been there in so many years, but

5 there is a criteria for how much you give per job.

6 MS. EVANS: Right. And that --

7 MS. GATELLI: It might be a thousand

8 dollars per job. That's just a hypothetical.

9 MS. EVANS: Right. And that seems to

10 be the case with all of these programs, but I know, or

11 at least we had been told in the past that involving

12 the Commercial Industrial Revolving Loan Program, no

13 more than \$250,000 could be given to any one business.

14 MS. GATELLI: Right. And you see

15 sometimes that's where the money is for the loans that

16 we give out, and they don't exceed \$250.

17 All right. Let's see. The only other  
18 thing I have is the EMS Tax. Everybody keeps talking  
19 about the EMS Tax. I voted for the EMS Tax, and we  
20 voted to raise the limit to \$12,000.

21 All of the other communities that  
22 surround us enacted that legislation last year, so  
23 they've all been collecting it, and they're collecting  
24 it on people that only make thousand dollars.

25 So, I didn't think it was fair to our  
.

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1 community that we weren't collecting it and everybody  
2 else around us was.

3 We need the money, and the people that  
4 don't live here and work here should pay us, the way  
5 the people that live here and work in Dunmore have to  
6 pay Dunmore. So, that's my rationale for the EMS Tax.

7 I'd like to have it lowered for the  
8 people that live here, but unfortunately we can't do  
9 that. And our goal at the time was to lower the wage  
10 tax so the people in Scranton wouldn't be suffering the  
11 brunt and it would be more or less like a commuter tax.

12 And we'll get there eventually, I believe.

13 MS. EVANS: Well, you know what,

14 Mrs. Gatelli, I think it's not an issue really for  
15 pointing a finger of blame at the city, because the  
16 state, and I've said this before, the state dropped the  
17 ball here, and the state should have made provisions  
18 for this particular act that would include, for  
19 example, rather than \$12,000, maybe \$20,000 and less.  
20 Those earning that amount of money would not be subject  
21 to this tax.

22 And they also could have included a  
23 schedule of payments that would have lessened the  
24 impact, the financial impact, on so many individuals ,  
25 especially those who are earning between, let's say,  
.  
125

1 \$12,000 and \$20,000. This really is a hardship.

2 MS. GATELLI: It is.

3 MS. EVANS: So, I think the state needs  
4 to get its act together and fix this before it happens  
5 again next year.

6 MS. GATELLI: And, also, when I wrote  
7 to the state about it, I recommended that it be a  
8 sliding scale according to your salary. That's the  
9 only fair way.

10 Because a person making \$60,000

11 shouldn't be paying a person that's paying \$20,000. It

12 should be a percentage of a person's salary. And then

13 it would come out every week like the wage tax.

14 So, maybe if someone we know gets into

15 the legislature, and we have two of them sitting with

16 us, that maybe they'll listen to us and change that

17 when they get there. That's all I have.

18 MS. GARVEY: 5-B, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN

19 ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 1028

20 BUNKER HILL ROAD, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO JOSEPH AND

21 CONSTANCE GENTILE, 116 SAND STREET, DUNMORE,

22 PENNSYLVANIA, 18512, FOR THE SUM OF \$2,000.00.

23 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

24 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

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1 MS. EVANS: Second.

2 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

3 those in favor.

4 MS. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

8 have it and so moved.

9 MS. GARVEY: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN

10 ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 305-307

11 SPRING STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA TO JANET

12 STRENKOSKI, 2119 WAYNE AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,

13 18508, FOR THE SUM OF \$1,100.00.

14 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

15 entertain a motion to introduce the item.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

17 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

18 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

19 those in favor.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

23 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

24 have it and so moved.

25 MS. GARVEY: 5-D, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN

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127

1 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC

2 CONTROLS AND THE CORRESPONDING REGULATORY SIGNS AT THE

3 INTERSECTION OF BROADWAY AND RAILROAD AVENUE.

4 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

5 entertain a motion that 5-D be introduced.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

7 MS. EVANS: Second.

8 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

9 MS. EVANS: Yes. I met with Mr. Parker

10 and Chief Elliott and Mr. Chomko and Mrs. Franus back

11 in December of 2005 about this situation, and I'm very

12 glad to see that there are strong results in this case

13 at least that are really going to benefit the residents

14 of Railroad Avenue.

15 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the

16 question? All in favor.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

20 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

21 have it and so moved.

22 MS. GARVEY: 5-E, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

23 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

24 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

25 COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE SCRANTON PARKING

.

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1 AUTHORITY REGARDING THE RECEIPT OF A GRANT OF FOUR

2 MILLION (\$4,000,000) DOLLARS UNDER THE REDEVELOPMENT  
3 ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM PERTAINING TO THE MEDALLION  
4 PARKING GARAGE.

5 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
6 entertain a motion to introduce Item 5-E.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

8 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

9 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All in  
10 favor.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

14 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
15 have it and so moved.

16 MS. GARVEY: 5-F, FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
17 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF  
18 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN  
19 AGREEMENT WITH THE REDEVELOPER BRT ICE, L.P. FOR  
20 REDEVELOPMENT OF THE 800 BLOCK OF PROVIDENCE ROAD  
21 FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE CITY OF SCRANTON, DEPARTMENT OF  
22 PUBLIC WORKS PROPERTY.

23 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
24 entertain a motion that 5-F be introduced.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

1 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

2 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

3 MS. EVANS: I thought, now, I could be

4 wrong, because this predates you, Mrs. Gatelli, but the

5 \$600,000 was to have been turned over to the city at

6 the time of the demolition of the DPW, and yet we're

7 still waiting, and now it's tied to a redevelopment

8 agreement. And from what I've read, we're going to

9 get, what is it, 20 yearly installments of \$30,000 per

10 year at no interest. So, I'm not very pleased with

11 that.

12 MS. GATELLI: Would you like someone to

13 come in to discuss it?

14 MS. EVANS: Oh, I think someone should,

15 yes.

16 MS. GATELLI: Okay. We'll do that.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: We never received the

18 money, right?

19 MS. EVANS: No, no. What it's saying

20 is if you will approve of this redevelopment agreement

21 --

22 MS. GATELLI: Instead of him paying the

23 \$600,000, he's asking for a mortgage.

24 MS. EVANS: Right, and he's going to

25 pay it over 20 years with no interest, but this flies

.

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1 in the face of what appeared to be at least a verbal

2 agreement of about a year ago, Mr. Courtright, and

3 Mr. McTiernan, so, yes, I'd like to hear more about

4 this, but as it reads, no, I can't approve this.

5 MS. GATELLI: This is just

6 introduction.

7 MS. EVANS: Uh-huh. Well, I wouldn't

8 even introduce this at this point.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think I'm going to

10 have to agree with you on this. I normally always vote

11 for introduction, because it is just introduction, but

12 --

13 MR. MCTIERNAN: I make a motion to

14 table.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second it.

16 MS. GATELLI: All in favor.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

20 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

21 have it and so moved. We will table that item, and Kay

22 we will make arrangements to have someone come and

23 discuss it with us, please. 5-G.

24 MS. GARVEY: 5-G, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

25 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

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131

1 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO

2 ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN FROM THE

3 URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT REPAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM,

4 PROJECT NO. 400.16 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED

5 \$75,000.00 TO LAVISH SKINCARE, INC. TO ASSIST AN

6 ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

7 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

8 entertain a motion that it be introduced.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

10 MS. EVANS: Second.

11 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All in

12 favor.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

16 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

17 have it and so moved.

18 MS. GARVEY: 5-H, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

19 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

20 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO

21 ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN FROM THE

22 URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT REPAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM,

23 PROJECT NO. 400-15 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED

24 \$250,000.00 TO PAPERLESS PRACTICE INC. TO ASSIST AN

25 ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

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1 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

2 entertain a motion that 5-H be introduced.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

4 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

6 those in favor.

7 MS. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

10 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

11 have it and so moved.

12 MS. GARVEY: Sixth order. 6-A, READING

13 BY TITLE - AN ORDINANCE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 32, 2006

14 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS  
15 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO LEASE AGREEMENTS  
16 WITH VARIOUS LITTLE LEAGUE, TEENER LEAGUE, MISS-E  
17 LEAGUE, AND JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE ASSOCIATIONS FOR USE  
18 OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY IN CONNECTION WITH APPROVED  
19 LITTLE LEAGUE, TEENER LEAGUE, MISS-E LEAGUE, AND JUNIOR  
20 FOOTBALL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD  
21 BEGINNING APRIL 15, 2006 AND ENDING APRIL 14, 2009.

22 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading by  
23 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6-A  
25 pass reading by title.

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1 MS. EVANS: Second.

2 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All  
3 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

4 MS. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
8 have it and so moved.

9 MS. GARVEY: Seventh order. 7-A, FOR

10 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR

11 ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 27, 2006 - AMENDING FILE  
12 OF COUNCIL NO. 162, 2005 AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED GENERAL  
13 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2006 BY ADDING ACCOUNT NO.  
14 01.011.00011.4080 (OVERTIME SALARY) IN THE DEPARTMENT  
15 OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

16 MS. GATELLI: What is the  
17 recommendation of the chairperson on finance?

18 MR. MCTIERNAN: I move that Item 7-A  
19 pass reading by title.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

21 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll  
22 call.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

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1 Mr. McTiernan.

2 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

6 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

7 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

8 MS. GARVEY: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
9 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF  
10 COUNCIL NO. 28, 2006 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
11 162, 2005, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED GENERAL CITY OPERATING  
12 BUDGET 2006 BY TRANSFERRING \$200.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.  
13 01.011.00011.4420 (TRAVEL/LODGING-PUBLIC SAFETY) TO  
14 ACCOUNT NO. 01.011.00011.4080 (OVERTIME SALARY-PUBLIC  
15 SAFETY) TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR OVERTIME SALARY.

16 MS. GATELLI: What is the  
17 recommendation of the chairperson on finance?

18 MR. MCTIERNAN: I recommend final  
19 passage of Item 7-B.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

21 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll  
22 call.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

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1 Mr. McTiernan.

2 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

6 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

7 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

8 MS. GARVEY: 7-C, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

9 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -

10 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 29, 2006 - DECLARING THE CURRENT

11 REFUNDING OF THE OUTSTANDING PARKING REVENUE BONDS,

12 SERIES OF 1995 OF THE PARKING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF

13 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA AND THE ACQUISITION,

14 CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION OF EXISTING PARKING

15 FACILITIES OWNED BY THE PARKING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY

16 OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA AND LOCATED IN THE CITY OF

17 SCRANTON AND OPERATED BY THE CITY PURSUANT TO AN

18 OPERATING AGREEMENT, TO BE A PROJECT OF THE CITY FOR

19 WHICH LEASE RENTAL DEBT IS TO BE INCURRED; DETERMINING

20 TO INCUR LEASE RENTAL DEBT IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF

21 \$6,300,000 IN RESPECT OF THE PROJECT, SUCH DEBT TO BE

22 EVIDENCED BY BONDS TO BE ISSUED BY THE AUTHORITY AND

23 SECURED BY RENTALS PAYABLE TO THE AUTHORITY BY THE CITY

24 UNDER A LEASE (INCLUDING A FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL LEASE)

25 OF THE PARKING FACILITIES, AND BY A COVENANT OF

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1 GUARANTY OF THE CITY CONTAINED IN SAID FOURTH

2 SUPPLEMENTAL LEASE; STATING THE ESTIMATED REALISTIC  
3 USEFUL LIVES OF THE PARKING FACILITIES; AUTHORIZING  
4 CERTAIN CITY OFFICERS TO PREPARE, CERTIFY AND FILE WITH  
5 THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
6 THE DEBT STATEMENT REQUIRED BY SECTION 8110 OF THE  
7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT AND STATEMENT REQUIRED  
8 BY SECTION 8026 OF SUCH DEBT ACT TO QUALIFY THE DEBT  
9 INCURRED AS SELF-LIQUIDATING DEBT; AUTHORIZING THE  
10 PREPARATION OF A BORROWING BASE CERTIFICATE;  
11 SPECIFICALLY APPROVING AMOUNTS OF FIXED RENT AND OTHER  
12 PAYMENTS (INCLUDING THE GUARANTY OF DEBT SERVICE ON  
13 SAID BONDS) TO BE MADE BY THE CITY UNDER SUCH LEASE;  
14 APPROVING AND ACKNOWLEDGING NOTICE OF THE AUTHORITY'S  
15 ASSIGNMENT OF SUCH RENTALS TO TRUSTEE IN RESPECT OF THE  
16 AUTHORITY'S BONDS; AUTHORIZING INCIDENTAL ACTION;  
17 REPEALING INCONSISTENT PRIOR ORDINANCES; AND APPROVING  
18 THE FORM OF, AND AUTHORIZING, SUBJECT TO RECEIPT OF  
19 NECESSARY STATE APPROVALS, EXECUTING AND DELIVERY OF  
20 FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL LEASE AND THE OPERATING AGREEMENT.

21 MS. GATELLI: What is the  
22 recommendation of the chairperson on finance?

23 MR. MCTIERNAN: I recommend final  
24 passage of Item 7-C.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

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1 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

2 call.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

4 MS. EVANS: Yes.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

6 Mr. McTiernan.

7 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

11 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

12 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

13 MS. GARVEY: 7-D, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

14 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF

15 COUNCIL NO. 30, 2006 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY

16 AT 1130-1132 LUZERNE STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO

17 EDWARD J. BACKUS, 608 NORTH HYDE PARK AVENUE, SCRANTON,

18 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR THE SUM OF \$16,000.00.

19 MS. GATELLI: What is the

20 recommendation of the chairperson on finance?

21 MR. MCTIERNAN: I recommend final

22 passage of Item 7-D.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

24 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

25 call.

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1 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

4 Mr. McTiernan.

5 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

9 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

10 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

11 MS. GARVEY: 7-E, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

12 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF

13 COUNCIL NO. 31, 2006 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY

14 AT 412 WILLOW STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO KEY

15 EQUITY, LLC, 705 ROSEN COURT, APT. 2, SCRANTON,

16 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, FOR THE SUM OF \$1,000.00.

17 MS. GATELLI: What is the

18 recommendation of the chairperson on finance?

19 MR. MCTIERNAN: I recommend final

20 passage of Item 7-E.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

22 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

23 call.

24 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

25 MS. EVANS: Yes.

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1 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

2 Mr. McTiernan.

3 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

7 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

8 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

9 MS. GARVEY: 7-F, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

10 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION -

11 RESOLUTION NO. 48, 2006 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

12 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF

13 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN

14 FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION LOAN

15 PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 06-500.2 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO

16 EXCEED \$650,000.00 TO SCRANTON IRISH PUBS, LLC (d/b/a

17 MOLLY BRANNIGANS), TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

18 MS. GATELLI: What is the

19 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on

20 community development?

21 MS. EVANS: As chair for the committee

22 on community development this evening, I recommend

23 final passage of Item 7-F.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

25 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

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1 MS. EVANS: Yeah, just one second on

2 the question.

3 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Sorry.

4 MS. EVANS: What concerns me is that

5 should we lose -- I mean, on the one hand we're asked

6 to loan quite an amount, a significant amount of money

7 to this new business, and as I think it might have been

8 Mr. Sbaraglia mentioned earlier this evening, there are

9 there individuals involved in this, rather than the

10 franchiser chain, but that will produce revenue.

11 You know, in addition to the loan

12 payments made on a monthly or annual basis, there will

13 be rent paid in terms of the Casey Garage, and it seems

14 that the survival of the garages is going to depend on  
15 a very precarious financial balance of anticipated  
16 revenues.

17 So, to pull the plug on this would --

18 Mrs. Gatelli, do you know how much that would decrease  
19 the amount of revenue needed for those bond payments  
20 annually?

21 MS. GATELLI: I think it was about  
22 \$108,000, if I'm correct.

23 MR. MINORA: That's correct.

24 MS. EVANS: Which means, you know, when  
25 it falls short, it's my understanding that in the event  
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1 that the Parking Authority, or in this case possibly is  
2 it the Redevelopment Authority, the mayor?

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Redevelopment  
4 Authority.

5 MR. MCTIERNAN: The Redevelopment  
6 Authority owns the Casey.

7 MS. EVANS: The Redevelopment  
8 Authority, if they were to fall short here, then the  
9 responsibility passes on to the citizens, the  
10 taxpayers, because your full faith and credit has been

11 extended.

12 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the

13 question? Roll call.

14 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes.

16 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

17 Mr. McTiernan.

18 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

19 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

22 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

23 7-F legally and lawfully adopted. Do I have a motion

24 to adjourn?

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Second. All in favor?

2 Adjourned.

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4 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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25 CERTIFICATE

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2 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

3 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

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

5 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same

6 to the best of my ability.

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LISA M. GRAFF, RMR  
10 Official Court Reporter

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