

1

1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING

2

3

4

5

IN RE: FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 37, 2006 - AN ORDINANCE -
6 VACATING A PORTION OF FIELD COURT/STREET BEGINNING AT
THE RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE 400 BLOCK OF NORTH CAMERON
7 AVENUE AND EXTENDING 100 FEET IN A SOUTHEASTERLY
DIRECTION WITH A WIDTH OF 20 FEET.

8

9

10

11

Held:

12 Thursday, June 29, 2006

13

14

15 Time:

11:45 a.m.

16

17

18

Location:

19 Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

20 340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

21

22

23 Lisa M. Graff, RMR
Court Reporter
24

25

.

2

1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

2

3 MS. JUDY GATELLI, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4

5 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT, VICE-PRESIDENT

6

7 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

8

9 MR. AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

10

11 MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

12

MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

.

3

1 MS. GATELLI: We'll now open the public

2 hearing. Roll call, Neil.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans. Mrs.

4 Fanucci. Mr. McTiernan.

5 MR. MCTIERNAN: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

9 MS. GATELLI: Here. Notice is hereby

10 given that Scranton City Council is holding a public

11 hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear

12 testimony and discuss the following:

13 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 37, 2006 - AN

14 ORDINANCE - VACATING A PORTION OF FIELD COURT/STREET

15 BEGINNING AT THE RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE 400 BLOCK OF

16 NORTH CAMERON AVENUE AND EXTENDING 100 FEET IN A

17 SOUTHEASTERLY DIRECTION WITH A WIDTH OF 20 FEET.

18 Does anyone care to address Council?

19 Let the record reflect that no one is present. I

20 hereby declare the public hearing closed. Thank you.

21

22 (HEARING WAS CONCLUDED.)

23

24

25

.

4

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

2

3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

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

6 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same

7 to the best of my ability.

8

9

10

LISA M. GRAFF, RMR

11 Official Court Reporter

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

.

1

1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

2

3

4

5 Held:

6 Thursday, June 29, 2006

7

8

9 Time:

10 12:00 p.m.

11

12

13 Location:

14 Council Chambers

15 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

17 Scranton, Pennsylvania

18

19

20

21

22

23 Lisa M. Graff, RMR

24 Court Reporter

25

.

2

1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

2

3 MS. JUDY GATELLI, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4

5 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT, VICE-PRESIDENT

6

7 MS. JANET EVANS

8

9 MS. SHERRY NEALON FANUCCI

10

11 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

12

13 MR. AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

14

15 MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

16

17 MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

.

3

1 MS. GATELLI: Please stand for the

2 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 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

9 MR. MCTIERNAN: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

13 MS. GATELLI: Here. Dispense with the

14 reading of the minutes.

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

16 CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING MAY 31, 2006.

17 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

18 If not, received and filed.

19 MS. GARVEY: 3-B, 2005 COMBINED AUDIT

20 REPORT FOR THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE

21 AUTHORITY.

22 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

23 If not, received and filed.

24 MS. GARVEY: 3-C, MINUTES OF THE

25 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE AUTHORITY

.

4

1 REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON MAY 18, 2006.

2 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

3 If not, received and filed.

4 MS. GARVEY: 3-D, MINUTES OF THE

5 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON MAY 24, 2006.

6 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

7 If not, received and filed.

8 MS. GARVEY: 3-E, MINUTES OF THE

9 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON MAY

10 24, 2006.

11 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

12 If not, received and filed.

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

14 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD

15 ON JUNE 28, 2006.

16 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

17 If not, received and filed.

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

19 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON MAY 24,

20 2006.

21 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

22 If not, received and filed.

23 MS. GARVEY: And that's it. I have no

24 clerk's notes at this time.

25 MS. GATELLI: I don't have any notes

.

5

1 prepared, because I thought today that we should talk
2 about the flood project and what has been happening
3 over the last several days.

4 All of Council has been to the flood
5 site, and we have seen the devastation in certain
6 neighborhoods. And I talked to Mr. Hayes this morning,
7 and he was walking with Congressman Kanjorski.

8 As you know, President Bush has
9 declared it an emergency area, and we will be getting
10 the proper funding from whoever will come here. FEMA
11 will be on their way.

12 I just have one letter here that was
13 E-mailed to me that I was asked to read. Honorable
14 City Council Members, on Tuesday, June 27, The Plot
15 neighborhood was once again under the threat of
16 flooding by the Lackawanna River as the result of
17 several days of heavy rainfall.

18 As you know by now, The Plot sustained
19 only minor flooding and was spared a major flood event
20 through the efforts of many people working throughout
21 the night building up a temporary levy and pumping out
22 storm water from the streets. These workers physically

23 saved our neighborhood while under emergency

24 conditions.

25 The residents and businesses of The

.

6

1 Plot would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all

2 the people that were involved in the efforts to save

3 The Plot neighborhood.

4 The following are some individuals and

5 organizations that prevented a major flood event from

6 occurring in The Plot, City of Scranton DPW workers and

7 Director George Parker, Scranton Sewer Authority

8 workers and supervisor Paul Ludovici, Tri-State Casey

9 construction workers and supervisor Frank Henderson,

10 the Army Corps of Engineers, supervisor Al Zarnosky and

11 Director Jim Moore, P & W Washo construction workers

12 and all the independent truck drivers hauling material

13 throughout the night.

14 It is necessary to note that many

15 people put their lives in harm's way by working

16 alongside the violent floodwaters of the Lackawanna

17 River.

18 While this kind of dedication and hard

19 work can never be repayed by us, we truly believe it

20 was a team effort by many people, and for their
21 successful efforts, we say thank you. Tom Preambo,
22 President of The Plot Neighborhood Association.

23 Just one more quick update before we
24 get to the speakers for today. They are purchasing
25 bleach and brooms that will be distributed to the

.

7

1 residents that have been flooded, and they'll be
2 distributing them sometime this afternoon.

3 Anyone who needs anything, please call.

4 You can call the clerk's office, and we'll get the
5 message to the right people. Thank you. The first
6 speaker is Helen Cook.

7 MS. COOK: Good afternoon, City

8 Council. First of all, I would like to thank the
9 Council people for coming to The Plot and the other
10 areas that did get flooded these past few days. They
11 also made phone calls to a lot of people that resided
12 in The Plot, and we appreciate that very much.

13 Tuesday was a very scary day for a lot
14 of us, and this is the first time we were really spared
15 by all of those floodwaters.

16 But Scranton Sewer Authority and DPW

17 workers are to be so highly commended. They worked
18 until probably 3:30 yesterday morning, all of Tuesday
19 and all through the night with their spotlights, and
20 they moved that black material that was on that levy
21 system all night long.

22 You have no idea how wonderful it was
23 to see them. And many of the people, you know, were
24 sitting on their porches and watching.

25 The biggest problem that we always have

.

8

1 in The Plot is people coming to see grief of other
2 people. We are inundated down there with cars with
3 people just amazed that you had washers and dryers and
4 refrigerators on your porch, because people have to
5 move them out of their house, because we've always
6 gotten it before up to our first floor or including our
7 first floor.

8 So, some time down the road there has
9 to be something we can do to keep these people out,
10 even though we had a flood gate, and they did open that
11 about an hour ago, which was great, because it did keep
12 a lot of onlookers coming out from upper Green Ridge or
13 from other areas.

14 But I just wanted to say thank you,
15 that was all, to all of you and everyone that worked
16 tirelessly for these two days. Thank you very much.

17 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Bob Bolus.

18 MR. BOLUS: Good afternoon, Council.

19 Bob Bolus, Scranton. I will it was enjoyable to have
20 been able to sit in caucus with Council regarding the
21 potential of working on implementing a fee program that
22 would involve KOZs and non-profits in the city to start
23 generating additional income into the city to help with
24 the residents that live here that are paying taxes and
25 paying their way.

.

9

1 So, it made my afternoon worthwhile
2 coming down here today, and I'd like to thank Council
3 for their attention in doing what they're doing.
4 We discussed a variety of issues. One
5 thing is, I still talk about The Icebox deal from a
6 long time ago where we pay a dollar a year and somebody
7 is going to make millions of dollars over there and
8 we're being shortchanged in the city.
9 And, again, that goes back to the
10 Doherty administration putting themselves first and not

11 the residents in the city. And I think that's just
12 totally wrong, and I think it should really be looked
13 at to see how the city could resolve itself and get
14 some money back in our pockets instead of waiting
15 20 years at a dollar a year.
16 There are some people, and I know we
17 have the flood issue here in the city, some people have
18 a problem. If they are in need of some storage
19 trailers or something to load stuff into temporarily,
20 you know, we would like to provide that to them.
21 So, they could contact us at my Throop
22 office and make arrangements to get a storage trailer
23 on to help our people out in the city.
24 On Elm and Blucher, I live up on East
25 Mountain, I was coming down there this morning after

10

1 the rain, and as soon as you make the turn there,
2 there's a whole pile of trees.
3 Now, I don't know if it's the property
4 owner's responsibility or the city's, but as you make
5 that turn, you can't see anybody coming up Blucher
6 Avenue and turning onto Elm. And they should be
7 trimmed. I mean, it's really very dangerous.

8 And I know Doug Miller brought that up
9 a while ago when they had some potholes up there that
10 they fixed, but nobody's bothered anything with the
11 trees.
12 I think we need to get the motorcycle
13 back on East Mountain. We had it there. I think we
14 need to put it back up there again.
15 One of the things I'd like to discuss
16 now, and there has been a lot of publicity, I guess, on
17 the robbery that happened up at our place, but the
18 robberies happening here in the city.
19 And people sitting back and saying, Oh,
20 well, you know, you shouldn't do this and you shouldn't
21 do that. Well, on our property we believe that if
22 you're hungry, we will feed you. If you want to rob
23 us, we'll deal with you. It's as simple as that. .
24 I think the businesses in this
25 community have to start taking a very firm stand to
.

11

1 protect our property, not because of what I did, but
2 these people have no right to think there's a free ride
3 in America by robbing people to support whether it's a
4 drug habit or whatever their other problems are.

5 And I'd like to participate with
6 businesses and people that want to sit down and discuss
7 how we better protect our business.

8 You know, you may walk in with a weapon
9 and get the money and run out. The question is, are
10 you going to get to spend it when you get out of there?
11 You know, and that's the bottom line. And we've got to
12 take a firm stand.

13 The District Attorney's got to stop
14 cutting deals and letting people out on the street. We
15 attended a hearing yesterday where this individual --
16 they want to reduce bail and they want to do this and
17 do that, and the guy tried killing us in a car. So,
18 let's be realistic.

19 They've got to start doing their job.
20 The county prison's got to start doing its job to keep
21 these people in-house and treat them in the jail, not
22 send them out on some so-called rehab deal and they're
23 back out on the street, you know, and they're back
24 robbing.

25 Everywhere you go in the city, right

.

12

1 after we were robbed, they're in the city robbing

2 stores and markets.

3 They're walking into the mall with

4 guns. I mean, it's got to come to a halt. And the

5 only ones that are going to take this positive position

6 are the citizens who are being robbed.

7 The police could only do so much, but

8 if we don't help them, they can't do their job. And

9 quite frankly, some of the things I've seen in Central

10 Court and with the judicial system with these people

11 going out, I don't even know why police don't just turn

12 their ahead and drive the other way, because the

13 efforts and the risks these men are doing and women are

14 doing to bring these people to justice are being

15 overshadowed by the way they're being let free and the

16 efforts for nothing.

17 So, we need to take a firm stand. And,

18 again, I'd like to work with the city or any other

19 business, contact us, that we get together and we start

20 implementing training for our people or security or we

21 get people on there to start protecting our interests

22 to let them know, you come into our place of business,

23 you're going to be dealt with, not just run away and

24 think you're going to get away and terrorize somebody

25 else tomorrow. Thank you.

13

1 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr. Bolus,
2 also thank you for volunteering and volunteering your
3 equipment the other day. I did pass the information
4 on.

5 MR. BOLUS: That's what Scrantonians
6 are about. Thank you.

7 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Nancy Krake.

8 MS. KRAKE: Good afternoon, Council. I
9 have a couple questions this afternoon. The first is,
10 Mrs. Gatelli, have you heard anything back from OECD
11 about if they're following up with the KOZ compliance?

12 MS. GATELLI: I talked to you Chuck Cox
13 yesterday, and he said that as far as he knows,
14 everyone so far has been compliant, and, also, that we
15 should talk to the state. But I told him I already
16 talked to Lee Namey, and Lee didn't have any
17 non-compliance issues presently.

18 MS. KRAKE: Didn't Mr. Namey put the
19 responsibility back on OECD from the conversation?

20 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

21 MS. KRAKE: Would he be able to make
22 public the documents he has been keeping -- using to

23 keep track of the compliance? Would you kindly ask

24 OECD to do that?

25 MS. GATELLI: Sure , sure.

.

14

1 MS. KRAKE: I thank you.

2 MS. GATELLI: You're welcome.

3 MS. KRAKE: Mrs. Fanucci, have you

4 heard when the next Pennsylvania Economy League meeting

5 will be?

6 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: No, I have not.

7 They put everything on hold until the budget and

8 everything has been passed.

9 MS. KRAKE: Which budget?

10 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: All of the -- I

11 guess all of their budgets. They're being auditing and

12 they're doing independent auditing for PEL and everyone

13 else, I guess. So, they just wanted to wait until

14 everything was cleared up. I guess in the next two

15 weeks we should know the next schedule.

16 MS. KRAKE: That was their answer to

17 you, the budget? And they didn't specify whose budget

18 or what budget?

19 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: No.

20 MS. KRAKE: That's awfully sad. Well,
21 assuming their consultants for the entire state, it
22 would be odd --

23 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I don't think
24 their meetings had ceased. I believe their meetings
25 with us have ceased. I don't believe that they've

15

1 stopped figuring out or doing their meetings or stopped
2 their jobs. They just figured they would not meet with
3 the city until then.

4 MS. KRAKE: I'm confused. Until then,
5 then being what?

6 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: They told me in
7 the next few weeks they would call me and give me the
8 next schedule.

9 MS. KRAKE: So, they will be calling
10 you in the next few weeks to tell you when the next
11 Pennsylvania Economy League meeting is?

12 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

13 MS. KRAKE: Okay. And that being said,
14 I know Council was looking into having the distressed
15 status lifted. Has there been any further discussion
16 on that, Mrs. Gatelli, or Mrs. Fanucci?

17 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: No.

18 MS. KRAKE: No? Would that be a topic,
19 do you believe, at your next Pennsylvania Economy
20 League meeting, having the distressed status lifted?

21 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: It can be.

22 MS. KRAKE: Well, I would like to
23 request that it be, and maybe Council may back you up
24 on that.

25 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Well, I'll discuss

16

1 it with Council and then we will decide.

2 MS. KRAKE: And, also, I wanted to
3 remind you, and I'll remind you again in two weeks at
4 the next -- at the last meeting before Council
5 adjourns, to remind them to look into the actions of
6 the Single Tax Office and how and if they are
7 collecting all of the taxes they need to be collecting
8 from everyone fairly, okay? As you said --

9 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: What I think,
10 Nancy, is we seem to have a problem here with you and I
11 with information.

12 You can get this information yourself.

13 I believe that you want me to get information for you

14 that you can actually acquire yourself.
15 You keep asking me for these documents
16 and everything that I'm trying to get, but I cannot get
17 them. So, you being a resident actually can write and
18 ask them, and maybe we wouldn't have -- I know you have
19 a problem with me being the designated person with
20 Council and my job, so I think being that the case, I
21 will get my information and you get your information,
22 and then we can come together and maybe come to some
23 type of conclusion.

24 MS. KRAKE: I didn't understand that,
25 but if that's how you feel, that's fine.

.

17

1 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yeah, I think you
2 should get it.

3 MS. KRAKE: Okay.

4 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Okay.

5 MS. GATELLI: Is there a problem that
6 that can't -- information can't be obtained by --

7 MS. KRAKE: Yeah. It's always been
8 non-obtainable. I thought everybody knew that.

9 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: But why would you
10 want me to get it then?

11 MS. KRAKE: I don't want you to get it.

12 I've asked you to ask PEL to look into how that office
13 is collecting.

14 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: My meetings with

15 PEL are not to designate what PEL does for the city.

16 That's where I think we have a problem.

17 Our meetings were to look at what PEL

18 was doing and then come to a conclusion. I can't guide

19 them, like, along the way. That's where I think we

20 have a misunderstanding. I'm not in charge of PEL.

21 MS. KRAKE: So, we have no input with

22 them?

23 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: You have input

24 with them. You do have input. Everybody has input

25 with PEL. You write a letter, you tell them what you

.

18

1 think. Of course you have input with t hem. But my

2 job is not to input to PEL exactly what, you know, our

3 -- it was just to look at the information. That's all

4 our meetings were they were to look at information.

5 They were not to decide, they were not

6 to make decisions until after everything was over. And

7 I had stated that many times.

8 It wasn't to say, let's try this or
9 let's do that, because I'm not qualified to say what
10 should be done or what shouldn't be done.
11 MS. KRAKE: I still don't understand,
12 but --
13 MS. GATELLI: Nancy, I think that what
14 we should do is, I don't think PEL has any jurisdiction
15 over the Single Tax Office. I think that Council when
16 it comes to motions will make a motion and send it to
17 Mr. McDowell and ask him the specific questions.

18 MS. KRAKE: I appreciate that.

19 MS. GATELLI: And I think that that
20 would probably work better than her trying to let PEL
21 do it.

22 MS. KRAKE: My point was for PEL to say
23 that we are distressed, they have not looked at the
24 revenue side in anything at all as far as this last
25 Recovery Plan, where the first Recovery Plan under

.

19

1 Connors addressed both sides of the budget, revenue and
2 expenditures. They did nothing on the revenue side.
3 So, there is the -- (COUNCIL MEETING AUDIO STOPPED.)
4 MS. GATELLI: When we get our answer.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Back on.

6 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Spindler.

7 MR. SPINDLER: Good afternoon, Council.

8 Les Spindler, Scranton resident. I was thrilled to
9 wake up and read the morning paper on Tuesday and see
10 that Council is looking into doing something about the
11 pit bull situation.

12 For the benefit of Mr. McTiernan and
13 Mrs. Evans, they weren't here at the June 8 meeting
14 because of Scranton High's graduation. I'd like to
15 repeat a little of what I said that evening. I don't
16 know if they watched the replay of the meeting or not.

17 On June 1, I was walking my dog at
18 about quarter of ten at night, which I just purchased
19 two weeks before, and we were attacked by two pit
20 bulls, and I would like to give them copies of what I
21 gave to Council.

22 MS. GATELLI: Les, were they on a
23 leash, the dogs? No?

24 MR. SPINDLER: No. Those dogs were
25 loose and they ran and they were attacking my dog. And

·
20

1 thank God the owners heard me yelling. They came and

2 got them in a pretty quick manner, and thank God the
3 dog and I were both okay, because there were two pit
4 bulls against one dog. Thank God I got a big dog now.

5 I think Council, according to this, you
6 can't ban the pit bulls, but I think we can do what
7 Pittsburgh did, because if Pittsburgh did it and
8 Monroeville did it, we can do it in this city. They
9 can put the 8-foot fence up and get the special license
10 and have the liability insurance.

11 Oh, and for Mr. McTiernan and Mrs.

12 Evans, the paper I just gave you on Page 3, the
13 highlighted area, by Pennsylvania law, those dogs that
14 attacked mine are supposed to be put down, if you read
15 that Section B right there that's highlighted. And as
16 of right now, as far as I know, those people weren't
17 even cited.

18 And I know we have no more animal
19 control officer now; is that true? I heard he
20 resigned, because it was too much of a work load.

21 Well, why don't we hire somebody else to help him out?

22 MS. GATELLI: I don't think it was the
23 work load. It was another reason I'll discuss with you
24 later.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I know I was

21

1 speaking to a policeman that's looking into the
2 situation for me, and he said the animal control
3 officer is overworked.

4 And, Mr. Courtright, I don't know the
5 name of the officer that responded, but it was June 1
6 at a quarter to ten at night. I'm sure there's records
7 of all of that. Could you look into that for me, if
8 and when these people are going to be cited? And I'll
9 leave the address with Neil? I don't want to say it on
10 air.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Give Neil
12 the information. I will ask.

13 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Next, Mrs.
14 Gatelli, last time I was here also, I brought up about
15 Council maybe writing new legislation to have Nay Aug
16 free swimming. Did you look into that?

17 MS. GATELLI: No, I didn't.

18 MR. SPINDLER: Are you going to?

19 MS. GATELLI: I can ask Attorney Minora
20 to look into the Recreation Authority.

21 MR. SPINDLER: No. Council has the
22 authority to write legislation. I know that for a

23 fact.

24 MS. GATELLI: To get rid of the

25 Recreation Authority?

.

22

1 MR. SPINDLER: No, no, to have free

2 swimming. Council could write legislation for

3 anything. So, why can't you write new legislation to

4 have free swimming at Nay Aug? You have the power to

5 do that.

6 MS. GATELLI: Well, I will ask Attorney

7 Minora that question.

8 MR. SPINDLER: Well, can he answer now?

9 MS. GATELLI: I think he'd have to

10 research it.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I know when

12 Attorney Walsh was here under the last Council, he

13 wrote new legislation for certain things. I know that

14 for a fact.

15 MR. MINORA: The fact is the

16 legislation that was drawn up excluded -- the

17 legislation drawn up by Mark Walsh excluded Nay Aug

18 Park because it was a fee generated by the Recreational

19 Authority.

20 MR. SPINDLER: I'm not talking about
21 Nay Aug Park. He wrote legislation for other things.
22 MR. COURTRIGHT: We can write
23 legislation, Les. I think what Mr. Minora, and I'm not
24 trying to speak for him, is saying that we don't know
25 if we can write it pertaining to Nay Aug Park. He

23

1 would have to research that. Is that correct,
2 Mr. Minora?

3 MR. MINORA: I believe it's on the
4 agenda for tonight -- today, eliminating fees for
5 everywhere.

6 MS. EVANS: The neighborhood pools.

7 MR. MINORA: The neighborhood pools
8 except Nay Aug.

9 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. The next thing,
10 correct me if I'm wrong, part of our 3.4 wage tax goes
11 towards garbage collection; am I correct? Does anybody
12 know?

13 MS. GATELLI: I think your property tax
14 goes towards the garbage collection.

15 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I think the wage
16 tax does, also. But anyway, if that's true, then why

17 do we have to pay a garbage fee also?

18 MS. GATELLI: Because they instituted

19 it I don't know how many years ago.

20 MR. SPINDLER: Well, that's another

21 thing. Council can do away with the garbage fee.

22 Because I know under Mayor Connors, Mayor Connors

23 wanted to do it, but he couldn't get Council's okay.

24 I think we're paying for a fee twice.

25 We're paying with our wage tax and we're paying it with

.

24

1 the garbage.

2 MS. GATELLI: We are. And I remember

3 back then the neighborhoods fought that garbage fee.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Mayor Connors wanted to

5 do away with it and Council wouldn't let him.

6 MS. GATELLI: I remember they wanted

7 people to not pay it, and it didn't happen.

8 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Well, could you

9 look into doing that? See if you can do that.

10 MS. GATELLI: We can look into it and

11 see how it would impact the budget, because I don't

12 want to cause property taxes to go up. You know, if

13 you're going to take one away and the other one is

14 going to go up, you're in the same boat. We need some
15 revenue producing items, that's what we need.

16 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Next thing. Two
17 weeks ago I went down to Weston Field to sign my
18 daughter up for soccer, and I drove into that parking
19 lot, and that parking lot is like a mine field. I
20 think there's roads in Bagdad that were better than
21 that.

22 I was told two years ago that lot was
23 going to be paved, and it's still not paved. Can we
24 look into getting that done? And during soccer season,
25 that parking lot is filled every Saturday. Like I
.
25

1 said, it's two years, and they still haven't done
2 anything.

3 Lastly, everybody is aware of the rain
4 that we've had the last couple of days. I couldn't get
5 out my front door for obvious reasons. Rain was --
6 water was a couple inches high. You said you gave all
7 the information to Mr. Parker. Could you follow up on
8 that, please, Mrs. Gatelli?

9 MS. GATELLI: Yes, I will see if he can
10 check that.

11 MR. SPINDLER: I wish you could have
12 come up and seen the front of my house during that
13 rainstorm, because it was like a lake. I mean, this is
14 outrageous. I mean, I've complained about this for
15 four years. It looks like maybe I'll have to wait for
16 a different administration to take over until it's
17 fixed, but I don't know. That's ridiculous.

18 MS. GATELLI: Did you get any water in
19 your basement?

20 MR. SPINDLER: Just normal. It seeps
21 through my foundation a little bit, but that's normal.
22 I'm not upset about that, but I am upset about the
23 outside, because this is a problem the city caused by
24 taking the curb out and making it handicap accessible,
25 but they didn't do it the correct way. The sidewalks
26

1 slope down into my property. It should be sloped down
2 into the street.

3 MS. GATELLI: Okay.

4 MR. SPINDLER: That's all I have.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Andy

7 Sbaraglia.

8 MR. SBARAGLIA: Good afternoon, City
9 Council. Andy Sbaraglia, citizen of Scranton. Fellow
10 Scrantonians, I would like to see when your Council is
11 going to be appointed point so when that money starts
12 coming in from the federal or from the state or
13 somewhere along the line, that we get an idea of who
14 needs money, who does not need money, because I know
15 you have money in home rehab.
16 So, I would imagine that you would want
17 to rehab these homes that were flooded, so money could
18 be taken from home rehab to rehab those homes that were
19 flooded, but I don't want to see anybody make out like
20 a bandit either, but I would like to see a fair shake
21 done to any of the victims.
22 Now, on the pools, I know this is on
23 the agenda. I'd like to see that moved up, you suspend
24 your rules and move that for final passage. Summer is
25 waning. This thing went before we even opened the
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215
216
217
218
219
220
221
222
223
224
225
226
227
228
229
230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
280
281
282
283
284
285
286
287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
310
311
312
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
320
321
322
323
324
325
326
327
328
329
330
331
332
333
334
335
336
337
338
339
340
341
342
343
344
345
346
347
348
349
350
351
352
353
354
355
356
357
358
359
360
361
362
363
364
365
366
367
368
369
370
371
372
373
374
375
376
377
378
379
380
381
382
383
384
385
386
387
388
389
390
391
392
393
394
395
396
397
398
399
400
401
402
403
404
405
406
407
408
409
410
411
412
413
414
415
416
417
418
419
420
421
422
423
424
425
426
427
428
429
430
431
432
433
434
435
436
437
438
439
440
441
442
443
444
445
446
447
448
449
450
451
452
453
454
455
456
457
458
459
460
461
462
463
464
465
466
467
468
469
470
471
472
473
474
475
476
477
478
479
480
481
482
483
484
485
486
487
488
489
490
491
492
493
494
495
496
497
498
499
500
501
502
503
504
505
506
507
508
509
510
511
512
513
514
515
516
517
518
519
520
521
522
523
524
525
526
527
528
529
530
531
532
533
534
535
536
537
538
539
540
541
542
543
544
545
546
547
548
549
550
551
552
553
554
555
556
557
558
559
560
561
562
563
564
565
566
567
568
569
570
571
572
573
574
575
576
577
578
579
580
581
582
583
584
585
586
587
588
589
590
591
592
593
594
595
596
597
598
599
600
601
602
603
604
605
606
607
608
609
610
611
612
613
614
615
616
617
618
619
620
621
622
623
624
625
626
627
628
629
630
631
632
633
634
635
636
637
638
639
640
641
642
643
644
645
646
647
648
649
650
651
652
653
654
655
656
657
658
659
660
661
662
663
664
665
666
667
668
669
670
671
672
673
674
675
676
677
678
679
680
681
682
683
684
685
686
687
688
689
690
691
692
693
694
695
696
697
698
699
700
701
702
703
704
705
706
707
708
709
710
711
712
713
714
715
716
717
718
719
720
721
722
723
724
725
726
727
728
729
730
731
732
733
734
735
736
737
738
739
740
741
742
743
744
745
746
747
748
749
750
751
752
753
754
755
756
757
758
759
760
761
762
763
764
765
766
767
768
769
770
771
772
773
774
775
776
777
778
779
780
781
782
783
784
785
786
787
788
789
790
791
792
793
794
795
796
797
798
799
800
801
802
803
804
805
806
807
808
809
810
811
812
813
814
815
816
817
818
819
820
821
822
823
824
825
826
827
828
829
830
831
832
833
834
835
836
837
838
839
840
841
842
843
844
845
846
847
848
849
850
851
852
853
854
855
856
857
858
859
860
861
862
863
864
865
866
867
868
869
870
871
872
873
874
875
876
877
878
879
880
881
882
883
884
885
886
887
888
889
890
891
892
893
894
895
896
897
898
899
900
901
902
903
904
905
906
907
908
909
910
911
912
913
914
915
916
917
918
919
920
921
922
923
924
925
926
927
928
929
930
931
932
933
934
935
936
937
938
939
940
941
942
943
944
945
946
947
948
949
950
951
952
953
954
955
956
957
958
959
960
961
962
963
964
965
966
967
968
969
970
971
972
973
974
975
976
977
978
979
980
981
982
983
984
985
986
987
988
989
990
991
992
993
994
995
996
997
998
999
1000

5 the Scranton Recreational Authority for a buck a year
6 for 198 years, and that should make everybody happy,
7 because the mayor loves that 198 years for a buck a
8 year.

9 Okay. I'm going to say a little on
10 your -- let's see. I guess on your agenda there for
11 5-G, 5-G, Emit and Chris Pisano. What is a revolving
12 loan for? What is the meaning of a revolving loan? Is
13 that to generate income or just to give income without
14 anything coming in besides what you give out?
15 Because I notice it's a no interest
16 loan, and that's a lot of money, \$250,000 for no
17 interest, into a revolving fund. Why, your next one
18 underneath it for Scranton-Dunlop and Corporation has a
19 five percent tacked onto it.

20 MS. EVANS: Andy, we discussed this
21 during our caucus a while back now, and it appears that
22 the loan given to Dunlop is a CDBG loan; whereas, the
23 loan given to Pisano is a commercial industrial
24 revolving loan.

25 CDBG evidently has an interest rate

.

28

1 attached to it, although we also learned that if the

2 designated number of jobs that they have proposed to
3 create are indeed created within a three-year period,
4 that mortgage is forgiven by the city.

5 Conversely, when we're looking at the
6 Pisano loan, it's at a zero interest rate, however, it
7 will be -- the \$250,000 will be repaid over 30 years.
8 And it appears that he received a zero percent interest
9 rate.

10 I'm not going to make a blanket
11 statement and say that all commercial industrial
12 revolving loans receive a zero percent interest rate.

13 If you are interested, though, I do
14 have a list of those organizations, companies,
15 individuals, who also have received a zero percent
16 interest rate.

17 However, it appears that since the
18 developer is putting so much of his own monies into the
19 project, and because its located in an area that's
20 considered a gateway to the city, that administration
21 has granted a zero percent interest rate to the
22 individual.

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: I thought the loan was
24 just to buy a building. Am I incorrect to assume
25 that's what the loan was for, for him to acquire a

1 building? I think that's what it's in there for. I

2 think it requires a building.

3 In other words, he wants to buy a

4 building, but the money we're loaning to him somewhere,

5 like you say, the gateway into the city. It's over on

6 Moosic Street, I believe.

7 MS. EVANS: Right. But it appears that

8 buildings were demolished there by the city at the

9 city's cost, and in order to replace those vacancies, a

10 restaurant and some retail stores will be constructed.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, I think there's a

12 bunch of retail stores, little mom and pop stores

13 there.

14 Okay. One other thing. This is just

15 for information. The school board on Saturday voted to

16 borrow \$60 million. Now, the cost to the taxpayers of

17 Scranton if this thing goes through is \$6.50 per

18 thousand, so all you have to do is figure how much your

19 house is assessed at and you know what this loan is

20 going to cost the city -- your residents of the city.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Ray Lyman.

23 MR. LYMAN: Ray Lyman. Mrs. Evans,

24 could I have a copy of that, too?

25 MS. EVANS: Of the information I

.

30

1 discussed with Mr. Sbaraglia?

2 MR. LYMAN: With Andy.

3 MS. EVANS: Surely.

4 MR. LYMAN: Mrs. Fanucci, you know that

5 audit that you're getting from PEL? Would you give me

6 a copy of that? Okay. Thank you, Sherry, Mrs.

7 Fanucci. Mrs. Gatelli, I had --

8 MS. GATELLI: You're going down the

9 line, I guess.

10 MR. LYMAN: Yeah. We had flooding in

11 our basement from the wall from the rain. I was

12 wondering, like, I don't know where you get -- where

13 you could fill out for assistance for that.

14 MS. GATELLI: Do you still have water n

15 the basement?

16 MR. LYMAN: No. We got it out, but

17 it's wet, the floor. Because we have -- the one side

18 is dirt and the other side is wood on it, but --

19 MS. GATELLI: Did it affect your

20 furnace or your hot water heater?

21 MR. LYMAN: I checked it.

22 MS. GATELLI: It didn't go that night?

23 MR. LYMAN: We have dirt there and it

24 went down into where the dirt is.

25 MS. GATELLI: If it didn't affect your

31

1 furnace or your hot water heater or your electrical

2 panel --

3 MR. LYMAN: But the wall -- we have the

4 water heater by that side.

5 MS. GATELLI: And was it damaged?

6 MR. LYMAN: It's working.

7 MS. GATELLI: Was it under water?

8 MR. LYMAN: It was -- just that side

9 where the pipes are, it was, like, I would say about

10 like that (INDICATING).

11 MS. GATELLI: If you have any question

12 about any of those things, whether they were under

13 water or not, you should call Mr. Fiorini and have an

14 inspector come out and check, because if they were

15 under water, you may need to have them replaced.

16 MR. LYMAN: Well, what is his number?

17 MS. GATELLI: 348-4193.

18 MR. LYMAN: He will give me the number.

19 MS. GATELLI: You can probably just go

20 right upstairs and leave a message with his secretary.

21 MR. LYMAN: On the third floor?

22 MS. GATELLI: No, the fourth floor. If

23 they were under water, they should be checked.

24 MR. LYMAN: Okay. And today around ten

25 o'clock we had a big drug bust on Capouse Avenue. And

32

1 I told the police, and there were other people that

2 these people -- first they were living on my street.

3 This was over a year ago, these people were -- with

4 drugs. And then they moved on Capouse Avenue.

5 Because I was talking to the two cops

6 and they -- and there were other cops. There were

7 undercover detectives. They were watching them. They

8 pulled over the car, and then one of them threw the

9 drugs.

10 And this poor -- I'm not going to

11 mention the lady, but they threw the drugs in her yard,

12 and then they went -- and one of them must have

13 squealed.

14 The other one ran down, you know, down
15 the -- you know where the -- where the Sandy Banks.
16 You know where that is, Judy. And then he got away,
17 and then later they caught him, like, 35 minutes later,
18 you know, where the flood gates are.
19 Then the first guy they caught, he
20 squealed. Then they went to the one I told you where
21 the drug house is. They pulled out four more people
22 out. And I went into the, you know, the Pine Brook
23 Market. I come out, and they're still pulling people
24 out of that house.

25 And the Vice President of the Pine

.

33

1 Brook Association says there's no crime in Pine Brook.
2 And I said to her face, You said there's no crime in
3 Pine Brook, Mary Chilipko, and I said, Look At this.
4 And it amazes me. No beat cop. So,
5 Mr. Courtright, I'm asking you, you're the fourth one
6 down the line. What happened to our beat cop?
7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Your beat cop is being
8 shared with other areas until what time that I think
9 they have approximately three their training, and I'm
10 being told that once those three are out on the street,

11 that they should be put back in your area.

12 MR. LYMAN: Oh, okay. Now, I got two

13 more --

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Maybe four. I'm not

15 sure.

16 MR. LYMAN: I got two more questions.

17 Now, the Pine Brook Association got a grant for flags

18 they put on Capouse Avenue and flowers. I was

19 wondering. She said, Mary Chilipko said, they got a

20 grant from the City Council from the city, and I was

21 wondering if they could put it on Phelps Street, the

22 American flags and flowers. She said she got a grant

23 from the city.

24 I was wondering if you guys could do

25 that for Phelps Street. She said she got a grant from

.

34

1 you guys.

2 MS. GATELLI: If she's talking about a

3 block grant, then you have to apply for that within the

4 next few weeks.

5 MR. LYMAN: She said she applied for

6 it, but she never put it on our street, but she put it

7 on Capouse Avenue and I was wondering if she got the

8 money for that, why didn't she do it to our street?

9 MS. GATELLI: I don't know. You'd have

10 to ask her that question.

11 MR. LYMAN: I asked her and she said

12 she did it. And I was wondering. I know you can't

13 accuse somebody.

14 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Thanks, Ray.

15 MR. LYMAN: Okay. Thank you.

16 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Jackowitz.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good afternoon, City

18 Council. Bill Jackowitz, city resident and taxpayer,

19 retired United States Air Force.

20 I'd like to start off this evening by

21 -- or this afternoon, I would like to thank Mr.

22 Courtright on finding the location of the pothole

23 machine. Now where is the asphalt machine? Has the

24 city used the machine yet?

25 Also, I would like to thank Mr. Minora

.

35

1 for answering my questions two weeks ago. Although I

2 did not agree, but I do appreciate your answers, Mr.

3 Minora.

4 We have experienced a natural disaster.

5 My prayers and best wishes are for everyone who

6 suffered a loss. I would like to thank all citizens.

7 We had no looting, no shootings, no whining, no

8 complaining, shelters were not destroyed. Civilization

9 is alive in the northeast.

10 It was nice to read that Mr. Parker

11 investigated himself and cleared himself of all

12 wrongdoings on the Hollow Avenue project, and Attorney

13 Farrell agreed with him. Scranton justice at its

14 finest. I hope I get to investigate myself if I ever

15 have a problem.

16 Okay. The Rinaldi project. Two years,

17 what has been accomplished? When will the project

18 start?

19 Southern Union, when will the two

20 tenants move in? How many jobs? That's been, what,

21 four, five weeks ago we were getting two tenants? They

22 ain't here yet.

23 2006 financial report, late. When can

24 we expect a report? It should have been here in May or

25 June.

.

36

1 The mayor's invitation to attend a

2 Council meeting. Deadline 30 April 2006. Was the
3 invitation ever issued? Was there a reply? Still, I
4 haven't gotten an answer on that one.

5 Austin Burke's invitation to attend

6 Council meeting. Was the invitation ever issued? Has
7 he ever replied? What is the status? Waiting and
8 waiting and waiting.

9 Sara Hailstone invited to attend

10 Council meeting. Was the invitation ever extended? Is
11 she coming? Again, waiting, waiting, waiting.

12 Soldiers' pay, are they paid up to

13 date? What about the bonus that Council voted on?

14 What is the status on that? Waiting, waiting, waiting.

15 House numbers, do all homes in Scranton

16 now have house numbers? We had a 28-minute debate on
17 that right before the election. What's the status on
18 that one?

19 MS. EVANS: I can respond to that one.

20 MR. JACKOWITZ: Well, can you wait

21 until 5-A motions, please, because I don't want to lose
22 my time.

23 MS. EVANS: Absolutely.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: Tax exempt non-profits

25 committee status. Please update tonight. Is it DOA?

1 Tree house, bridge to nowhere, status.

2 How much taxpayer money has been spent so far? Rumor

3 has it work on the bridge to nowhere has stopped

4 because of problems. Can you clarify that for me,

5 please?

6 Free swimming, is it free? Nay Aug

7 Park, \$3 to swim. I have a picture. I'll show it to

8 you when I'm done. The sign states right there,

9 Swimming \$3 at Nay Aug Park, not \$1.

10 How much taxpayers' money was spent

11 tearing down tearing down the Granito's building on

12 Moosic Street? Why did we tear it down? Why couldn't

13 the developer tear his own property down? He's going

14 to reap the fortunes.

15 How much taxpayers' money has been paid

16 to PEL? When will the distressed city status be

17 removed? We had a quote a few weeks ago of \$1,700,000.

18 Is that accurate? Let's get an accurate number,

19 please.

20 DPW workers, other than Mr. Parker who

21 allegedly live outside city limits, is that factual or

22 not? Do we have someone who's violating the rule or

23 don't we? DPW worker living outside city limits, other
24 than Mr. Parker.

25 MS. GATELLI: I will get that answer,

.

38

1 too.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: Three months ago you
3 were going to investigate that. Did you investigate
4 it? Do we have an answer? Is it factual or not?

5 MS. GATELLI: Yes, I have.

6 MR. JACKOWITZ: The parking garage
7 report. Mr. Courtright asked for it in November 2005.
8 Do we have that report? Police cars, why was the order
9 for the new cars late? Who is responsible for that?
10 Will dash cameras be mounted in the new police cars as
11 part of the new city camera program? Dash cameras are
12 a valuable assets to police officers and citizens.

13 What is the status of Mr. Pocius'
14 retirement? How much does he receive for the year and
15 has he been receiving it and when will this be
16 resolved? City Council voted in favor of it, one
17 member of City Council did anyway.

18 How many paid vacation days a year for
19 City Council? Also, how many paid sick days? If you

20 only attend half the meeting, are you paid for the
21 entire meeting?

22 And, also, I have asked on several
23 occasions, this is my third time asking this question
24 in the year 2006, are taxpayers entitled to honest and
25 accurate answers to their questions and concerns? So

39

1 far today it's just been nothing but spin and argument
2 back and forth.

3 You five are elected officials. You
4 make \$12,500 a year. When citizens have questions and
5 concerns, they go to their elected officials.

6 Elected officials are required and part
7 of their oath is to assist the citizens who elected
8 them. We don't need arguments, we don't need
9 complaints. What we need is answers. We don't need
10 people keep saying, I don't know this. We ask a
11 question, the five of you look at each other. We don't
12 know nothing about this. Remember Sergeant Schultz? I
13 know nothing, nothing, nothing.

14 MS. GATELLI: Would you like your
15 answers now or under motions? Stan Narsavage.

16 MR. NARSAVAGE: Good afternoon,

17 Council. I have a couple of articles out of the paper,
18 also, Council Mulls Pitt Bull Ordinance. I'd like to
19 start out with A FRAUD BEING PROBED AT SHA.
20 This seems like the normal way that you
21 would handle a problem like this, the grand jury or the
22 Feds came in and picked up all the information from the
23 SHA and decided that there was something wrong, a fraud
24 complaint was charged. Going through the proper
25 motions, whatever comes out of the grand jury and then
40

1 they'll move forward.

2 Now let's move to the city. No Hint of
3 Wrongdoing in Tree Dispute. Well, it's amazing how the
4 alleged perpetrator and the solicitor sit down behind
5 closed doors and decide that nothing was wrong here,
6 nothing was done wrong.

7 Do we know what was -- how they decided
8 that decision? I mean, there's all kinds of pictures
9 and all kinds of pictures about Hollow Avenue, which
10 many people up there know about.

11 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Narsavage, I don't
12 want to interrupt on your time, but we have just gotten
13 a report, and I don't believe any of us have read it

14 yet.

15 So, when we read it and we have our
16 solicitor review it, we will tell you what we have
17 received.

18 MR. NARSAVAGE: That won't be today.

19 MS. GATELLI: I don't imagine, because
20 we just got it.

21 MR. NARSAVAGE: All right. Well, the
22 point I guess I was trying to make is the difference
23 between this probe at SHA and the way the city handles
24 their problems. There's quite a bit of room there for
25 improvement.

41

1 I stopped at the Novembrino Pool last
2 Wednesday. They were charging a dollar to swim. I
3 stopped there today on my way here. It was twelve
4 o'clock, and I guess they don't open until -- is it one
5 o'clock they open, the pools?

6 MS. GATELLI: I think twelve.

7 MR. NARSAVAGE: No one was there at
8 twelve. I wanted to find out if the pool prices have
9 changed. I assume they did not. And you have
10 something on the agenda today?

11 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

12 MR. NARSAVAGE: Is it feasible that

13 Council can write legislation to change that pool fee?

14 MS. EVANS: For the neighborhood pools?

15 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

16 MS. EVANS: Yes. It's been done. It's

17 on the agenda today.

18 MR. NARSAVAGE: Okay. Oh, is this what

19 you're going to talk about today?

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. NARSAVAGE: Mrs. Fanucci, I have to

22 bring up the HUD report again. I mean, this is about

23 seven or eight weeks. I think the original request

24 that I made you said, yes, it's available and you could

25 have it next week. That's about seven weeks ago.

.

42

1 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: It was definitely

2 seven weeks ago. I think it was almost eight actually

3 now.

4 MR. NARSAVAGE: Okay.

5 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: But I still have

6 not received it. I will keep asking. They keep saying

7 that if citizens want to write letters and ask if it's

8 available, they will send it to them. So, maybe you

9 should try also to write a letter. That's all I can

10 tell you.

11 MR. NARSAVAGE: Okay. That's

12 redundant, because two different friends of mine have

13 written letters and got unfavorable answers like what

14 authority are you applying under. I'm a taxpayer.

15 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Narsavage, anyone is

16 entitled to OECD documents. It is the federal

17 government, and if they are being denied, tell them to

18 call us and we will call HUD in Philadelphia and make

19 sure you get that report.

20 MR. NARSAVAGE: Well, then how about if

21 I go beyond that? How about if I do it myself?

22 MS. GATELLI: That's fine. And if you

23 have a problem, just let us know. One question that I

24 think may be hindering you is people keep saying

25 audits. It's not really an audit. It's called a

.

43

1 monitoring review. And maybe that's where the

2 confusion is coming in.

3 MR. NARSAVAGE: Okay. But isn't it

4 also -- hasn't it also -- hasn't HUD also hired

5 independent people to do audits in cities?

6 MS. GATELLI: Yes. That's financial.

7 I think what you're looking for is to see if all the

8 projects are legitimate, if they're all spending the

9 money the right way, et cetera.

10 MR. NARSAVAGE: That's what I want to

11 know, if the money went to where it was supposed to go

12 --

13 MS. GATELLI: Right. That's called a

14 monitoring review.

15 MR. NARSAVAGE: Okay. I just didn't

16 want it to go to Nay Aug Park, okay? Thank you.

17 MS. GATELLI: You're welcome. Joe

18 Nardella.

19 MR. NARDELLA: Joe Nardella of

20 Scranton. Good afternoon, Council members. I'd like

21 to take this time to share my feelings I had this past

22 Tuesday.

23 I woke up to a rainy day, and shortly

24 after I heard the flood siren in my neighborhood, The

25 Plot Section of Scranton.

.

44

1 The siren filled me with a sense of an

2 inevitable fear knowing, that as in the past, my
3 family, friends, neighbors and myself would be facing
4 muddy waters followed by weeks, if not months, of
5 stress, worry, cleanup and repair.
6 I know there was much planning and
7 consideration in making the decision to build a levee
8 system, but with the project that was not expected to
9 be completed until 2008, I felt as if all Plot dwellers
10 were going to face a major flood disaster; however,
11 this time was different.
12 Several Scranton DPW and Scranton Sewer
13 Authority employees worked tirelessly through the night
14 in order to build a temporary levee system so that our
15 homes may be spared.
16 Their efforts allowed us to dodge a
17 bullet as their temporary solution worked. Scranton
18 police officers also patrolled the night tirelessly in
19 order to insure our safety.
20 I would like to thank all who were
21 involved in coordinating this event, especially those
22 who worked through the night to help.
23 We're often quick to criticize when
24 things go wrong, but I would like to praise members of
25 the Scranton DPW, Sewer Authority and police department

45

1 and all others involved for a job well done. You are
2 all to be commended. As one neighbor said, you are our
3 heroes. Thank you for your time and this opportunity
4 to share my feelings.

5 MS. GATELLI: Thank you very much. Ron
6 Elman.

7 MR. ELMAN: Ms. Gatelli, you're not the
8 only one got a fan letter. I got one telling me I need
9 to move. I was talking about the one in the paper last
10 week.

11 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I've gotten a few
12 of those myself.

13 MR. ELMAN: Mine was signed Joe. The
14 only Joe I could think of was Snedeker. Maybe I got
15 him on the run or something. He's afraid I'm going to
16 run for weatherman. I don't know.

17 I had a bunch of notes here that aren't
18 important. We had a meeting last week at The
19 Taxpayers. One of you get a pencil and paper out, just
20 a scratch paper.

21 At that meeting it said the city owed
22 \$241 million, the county \$290 and the school \$200. How

23 are you all going to pay for that in 30 years? Really.

24 Nobody writing -- the last year

25 nobody's come up with any kind of idea. Our mayor

.

46

1 hides behind his secretaries' skirts or something. He

2 won't address the fact.

3 Now, if any of you are foolish enough

4 to be here in 30 years, that's what you're going to be

5 paying for. It's just terrible. I feel sorry for

6 you.

7 And I think the biggest blame is the

8 KOZ program. I'm out there. I don't know. Nobody

9 ever sees you people at grocery stores or the mall or

10 anything. That's -- every time I go someplace,

11 somebody seems to think that I'm under commission.

12 They tell me problems and tell me things they want

13 changed and done, you know?

14 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Elman, there will be

15 two seats in two years. There's always a possibility

16 you could be sitting up here.

17 MR. ELMAN: I'm not interested in that.

18 In two years, I probably -- that letter will probably

19 be right and I won't be here.

20 But I think -- you don't realize how
21 enormously disappointed the people are about the KOZ
22 program. And you talk about the \$250,000. The paper
23 said they were going to invest some \$40,000 a year
24 jobs. That money will be gone just like The Globe
25 Store and, what was it, Walker's School. You know, we
.
47

1 lost a million in these two motels. It just doesn't
2 stop.
3 And now these -- all the money going
4 into this white elephant over here -- down that way,
5 that electric building. You people just don't hear
6 what the public is saying.
7 I think there's going to be five
8 vacancies up there if something's not done. People
9 aren't happy in this city like the newspaper. I think
10 you pay too much attention to what a third rate paper
11 that's full of distortion prints.
12 Everybody's just -- couldn't make heads
13 or tails out of this article, I guess it was a month
14 ago, how great the KOZ program is. It's a failure. It
15 is a complete failure.
16 It's cost all these people out here and

17 everybody else tens of millions of dollars in tax money

18 that we need right now.

19 And if Mr. Spindler would move up to

20 Tripp Park, all his problems would probably be taken

21 care of immediately, because all I hear about is fixing

22 this, that and the other thing in Tripp Park, building

23 them a school.

24 You know, the hell with Tripp Park.

25 Why don't you worry about this city right here?

.

48

1 Everybody in the city is complaining about things and

2 -- I'm sorry.

3 You know, the property taxes can't be

4 paid. They can't go up no more. You said at the

5 beginning of the meeting to Mr. Spindler, you don't

6 want to see taxes going up no more. What do you think

7 another KOZ program has done? They sure didn't help

8 the tax base any.

9 The tax base is just stretched -- it's

10 just nowhere else to go -- to get any more money from

11 people. There's 80-year -- I pulled out of the parking

12 lot yesterday up here, and the lady told me her mother

13 is 80-years-old moved out of the house and couldn't

14 afford the taxes no more.

15 Everywhere you go people are

16 complaining about the tax base, and this inapt school

17 board is wanting to build another school instead of

18 fixing anything. I don't know.

19 I didn't hear anything. How are you

20 going to pay for that? You got 25, 26 years by the

21 time you start paying taxes, and these people in Tripp

22 Park still won't be paying taxes when you are. Think

23 of it. That's what your KOZ program has done to this

24 city.

25 MS. GATELLI: Thanks, Mr. Elman. And

.

49

1 just for the record, I don't think anyone sitting up

2 here voted for the KOZ, I might be wrong, in Tripps

3 Park.

4 So, you know, nobody sitting up here

5 voted for any of those KOZs, so -- Frank Tyson.

6 MR. TYSON: Good afternoon, Madam

7 President and Council members. My name is Francis

8 Tyson. I'm a resident of Scranton.

9 I appear here before you this afternoon

10 and all in attendance and your viewing audience to ask

11 you to join with us on the Fourth of July up at Nay Aug
12 Park on Tuesday to celebrate Independence Day.
13 There will be presentations from 30
14 Veterans groups, many of which are World War II
15 Veterans, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, and of
16 course we have a few that's involved in the current
17 event we have over in the Middle East. There will be
18 boy scouts, religious leaders and community leaders in
19 attendance.
20 The public is cordially invited, and we
21 encourage everyone to attend and bring your children
22 and your grandchildren. This is a good way to
23 demonstrate to them personally good citizenship and
24 also a little bit of history of what happened to our
25 country.

.

50

1 The band concert is going to start at
2 10:30 by The Ring Gold Band, and our ceremony will
3 start at eleven o'clock sharp.
4 Our keynote speaker is Lieutenant Carl
5 Weinshank, United States Army retired, and currently
6 he's the head of the Veterans Center down here in
7 Scranton, the Merli Veterans Center.

8 Of course there's free parking for
9 everyone. There's ample parking. We ask you to bring
10 a comfortable folding chair. Come early. And please
11 support your community. Thank you. And I hope to see
12 you on the 4th of July.

13 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mike Dudek.

14 MR. TYSON: Incidentally, that's at the
15 swim complex. I forgot to mention it.

16 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

17 MR. DUDEK: Mike Dudek, 608 Depot
18 Street, Scranton, PA. I live in The Plot, and I owe an
19 awful lot of people a multitude of thanks.

20 One of the speakers I said -- made it
21 very plain. If you are going to be stuck in a
22 disaster, have it in Scranton, because we know how to
23 show the rest of the world how to handle it.

24 No looting, because everybody is too
25 busy helping everybody else. And I think that's the

.

51

1 whole bottom line there. I want to alert the people of
2 the City of Scranton to a scam. I was almost the
3 victim of it.

4 There is a company called North

5 American Telephone Company from Atlanta, Georgia.
6 They're sending bills to people in Scranton,
7 Pennsylvania on your telephone bill.
8 My bill was for \$39.12. Now, the
9 reason why I don't have it here is because I was
10 evacuated out and I forgot to take it with me.
11 North American Telephone will play a
12 tape for you telling you why you have to pay that bill.
13 But what they don't realize is that when you run into
14 somebody like me who has been around the block a few
15 times with various issues, this company is subject to a
16 \$10,000 fine if you pay that bill.
17 Now, all you have to do is call the
18 company and tell them that you are a customer of dah,
19 dah, dah, in my case Verizon, and that I'm going to
20 take my last three months Verizon telephone bills and
21 the North American Telephone bill to the Attorney
22 General of the State of Pennsylvania. And all of a
23 sudden, your bill will be forgiven.
24 I would imagine there will be anywhere
25 from 50 to 100 people in the City of Scranton alone,
.

52

1 probably in other parts of Lackawanna County, who may

2 be the recipients of one of these letters or one of
3 these bills. I am one of them.

4 So, I thought with the reach of Channel
5 61 going up and out, I think maybe we should alert
6 people to something called North American telephone
7 from Atlanta George.

8 Okay. Second item I want to talk
9 about, Mayor Barletta got himself on CNN and all over
10 the news, all over the country with his idea of making
11 the English language the official language of Hazleton.

12 Well, that's wonderful, except that
13 he's leaving himself and the City of Hazleton open to a
14 massive civil rights lawsuit, not to mention a
15 violation of the First Amendment right of Freedom of
16 Speech.

17 May I please make a suggestion to City
18 Council that may work? The best that I have read from
19 any mayor of the United States on this issue, believe
20 it or not, is the stance taken by Mayor Chris Doherty
21 of the City of Scranton.

22 He is 100 percent on the mark.

23 Immigration is a federal issue. We cannot make illegal
24 immigrants subject to any kind of penalties, because we
25 are only a municipal government. The mayor is right on

1 the mark.

2 What we can do is this, we can open up

3 the Home Rule Charter to make the English language the

4 official language of city government, that all laws,

5 resolutions passed in the City of Scranton must be in

6 the English language, okay? That's one thing we could

7 do.

8 Let me give you an example, if you are

9 a traveler, if you are in St. Petersburg, Russia and

10 you get on that airplane that's going to take you to

11 Moscow or Russia, what's the language in the cockpit

12 and the air traffic control?

13 MS. EVANS: Russian.

14 MR. DUDEK: It's English. If you are

15 in Shanghai, China and you get on a plane and you go to

16 Beijing, it is English. In China there are a thousand

17 languages spoken by more than a million people each.

18 How can you have a cacophony of

19 languages running your airplanes? Russian alone has

20 different dialects.

21 If you get on a little paper cub in Li

22 sotto and you fly 40 miles to Johannesburg, your air

23 traffic control is English.

24 English is the language of worldwide

25 travel. It has been done, believe it or not, at the

.

54

1 request of the Soviet government when Krushchev was Prime

2 Minister, because in terms of investigating airplane

3 crashes, the Russians found out that if you have just

4 one dominant language, it makes things easier. That's

5 why we need English as the language of our government.

6 And make it very plain that if, for

7 instance, we want to negotiate with a company like

8 Aventis Pasteur, put language in there that says,

9 Nothing shall forbid the City of Scranton from using a

10 foreign language if it is necessary, you know, in its

11 daily operations.

12 But we must make it understood that

13 English be the language of government. If you go up to

14 McDade Park, you take the mine tour, did you ever see

15 the safety instructions that were on those cars in

16 Lithuanian, Slovak, Polish, German?

17 When it was needed as a cultural thing,

18 as a work thing, all the languages were used in this

19 valley, but the language of government has always been

20 English.

21 I think we need to mandate that. That

22 way it protects everybody's culture and everybody's

23 still free to be welcomed here knowing that the

24 government will be run intelligently here. Thank you.

25 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr. Bobzerik.

.

55

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (UNTRANSCRIBABLE.)

2 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Thank you. Erik

3 Johnson.

4 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, City

5 Council. I mean, good afternoon, City Council and

6 staff.

7 As you all know, I had no choice in

8 selling my house and had to move out almost immediately

9 and find a suitable priced apartment to my income and

10 find people as best as I can to help move me from my

11 sold house to my apartment.

12 After the painful huge move, only a

13 month later I received an eviction notice in the mail

14 of my new property. I have to move all my belongings

15 out of the property that was sold immediately to the

16 University of Scranton.

17 If it is not moved out, all of my
18 belongings by August 1, the property and my belongings
19 will be demolished. I already paid two months' rent
20 upfront and now threatened to lose all of my
21 belongings.

22 I almost -- I also want you all to know
23 that I had to pay \$500 from my escrow sale of my house
24 for the removal of my moving garbage on the front
25 pickup curb of my sold house.

56

1 The garbage belonged to both the new
2 owner and myself, but I had to foot the whole bill, the
3 whole cost.

4 Now after all past hardships, a new
5 hardship springs up due to no fault of my own, but the
6 owner of the property in which I'm being evicted of.

7 In the mail it says, I regret to inform
8 you I have sold my property here in Scranton on Webster
9 Avenue. You have until August the 1st to remove
10 everything from the property -- the garage property.

11 It will be scheduled to be demolished. And it has
12 Tim Porter, chinchilla, PA, Box 69.

13 The landlord knew his property was

14 condemned and a sale was in the process to the
15 University of Scranton. I moved in May the 20th last
16 month. He gave me no knowledge of any kind in
17 advertising or as he was renting to me.

18 I moved all of my belongings to this
19 property, now I'm losing almost everything. It was a
20 huge and expensive move, and I'm giving you each a
21 copy.

22 If I -- I'm not going to go to another
23 church to be a refuge like I did last time. And this
24 time if -- I think I'll have to try to find a relative,
25 Tom Larson, he was head of PennDOT. He lives out in

57

1 Clearfield, and I will have to get a hold of him to see
2 what he can do for me, you know.

3 I've exhausted almost everything here
4 for help here in Scranton. I can't get low income
5 housing immediately, because they said that they had
6 others to take care of, you know, I mean, before me.

7 So, you know, I have no other choice.

8 I have to do the best I can on my own. Thank you for
9 allowing me to speak. And I'm not making all this up.

10 I don't want pity. I'm just going to see what I can

11 do.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Erik, did you go to

13 the Housing Authority? Did you ask the Housing

14 Authority?

15 MR. JOHNSON: I did that, and they

16 said, Hey, we can't help you. They said, an emergency

17 case like yours, we can't help you. They said, we've

18 got an overload of people coming in. So, I --

19 MS. GATELLI: Can you wait around until

20 after the meeting? Do you have time to stay here for a

21 little while?

22 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I do.

23 MS. GATELLI: Stay, and then we will

24 meet with you in Council.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: To see if we can help

.

58

1 you out.

2 MS. GATELLI: Okay?

3 MR. JOHNSON: I appreciate it very

4 much.

5 MS. GATELLI: Yes. Stay for a little

6 while.

7 MR. JOHNSON: I don't know how much

8 more of this hardship I can take. I'm ready to go

9 loco. I'm going to the nut house or something.

10 MS. GATELLI: Is there anyone else that

11 cares to address Council at this time?

12 MR. DAVIS: Assalaam Alaikum. Peace

13 and blessings of Allah be with you. I'm here today

14 because of two things. Number one, we have a town full

15 of kids or young adults who are currently unsupervised

16 in the evening, and there's no plan in this city that I

17 have found to exist that cares about it.

18 I said this to you some four weeks ago

19 when you spoke about there's not going to be a fee on

20 any of the satellite pools, and now I find that to be

21 untrue also.

22 And I was told by someone who works --

23 who is on the board of the recreation department or

24 recreation that the fee at Nay Aug Park is going to be

25 \$3.

.

59

1 Whether you use the sliding pool or

2 just swim, it's \$3 across the board one flat fee. And

3 that was going to be a dollar at all the satellite

4 pools.

5 I said, But that's impossible. I heard
6 it when they passed it right here at City Council that
7 there would be no fee. And that was four weeks ago,
8 and now it's on the thing again under fifth order.
9 I can't understand. What are we going
10 backwards? Okay. Not a problem. I'm quite sure you
11 are going to remedy this before the summer is over
12 with.
13 But many of the people that I've talked
14 to, many of the people who've talked to me said they
15 can't afford Nay Aug, not for a whole summer.
16 And even the satellite pool at a
17 dollar, when you fill -- when your children in one
18 household or four or five kids, you can't do that more
19 than once a week or once a month, and that's when the
20 check comes. But that's all right, too.
21 You really don't know what we're
22 talking about. You have no idea. I mean, I think
23 everybody here is so rich and so affluent that really
24 what we're saying --

25 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Davis.

.

60

1 MR. DAVIS: Oh, Mrs. Gatelli, don't --

2 MS. GATELLI: Please. Don't insult us.

3 MR. DAVIS: Don't insult me.

4 MS. GATELLI: My parents worked in a

5 factory. Come on.

6 MR. DAVIS: You're wonderful. My

7 father worked in a coal mine and my mother worked as a

8 domestic. That doesn't mean anything to you. I'm

9 telling you like this.

10 MS. GATELLI: We have it on the agenda.

11 MR. DAVIS: I'm telling you like this.

12 MS. GATELLI: No child is denied from

13 going in the pool, because I've seen it.

14 MR. DAVIS: There are people who are

15 being denied every single day from going in these pools

16 that don't have a dollar.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Davis, I said here

18 a few weeks back that if anyone is denied, if they

19 contacted me, I would see to it that they got in.

20 I spoke to Mr. Brazil from -- he's in

21 charge of Parks and Recreation now. He said that no

22 one will be denied. I said here on the air, if anybody

23 was trying to get in the pool and was being denied,

24 contact me and I would see to it that they got in.

25 I haven't been contacted by anybody

61

1 yet. If you know individuals that can't get in, give
2 me their names. I will call Mr. Brazil, they will get
3 in.

4 MR. DAVIS: You know what, seriously,
5 nobody is going to beg, not in Scranton.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, I'm not asking
7 them to beg.

8 MR. DAVIS: And really -- but you
9 already said that you were going to eliminate it. You
10 said it here --

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's on the agenda
12 tonight.

13 MR. DAVIS: But now. That's four weeks
14 later.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm not going to argue
16 with you. You just want to argue.

17 MR. DAVIS: Okay. Never mind. You're
18 right. This is not a place of confrontation. The big
19 thing is, I've got a community here, the Tech/Central
20 community. I call it my community because I love it,
21 because I was born there, I was raised there, et
22 cetera.

23 I had a family that suffered and died
24 there, and et cetera. We have put more people from our
25 family from the Davis family in the Fairlawn Cemetery,
.
62

1 I mean, over the generations, over the years, and yet
2 the land that we gave for that school to elongate
3 itself under -- under eminent domain is now a parking
4 lot for the Mercy Hospital or when the teachers decide
5 to come to school there.

6 We cannot even use it from dusk to
7 dawn. There's signs up on the buildings that say so.
8 You know what, it's kind of hard to keep the kids in
9 check when all you've done so far for these kids in
10 Central City is insult them and their intelligence and
11 their ability to be kids.

12 Take a walk. Go up there and see it
13 for yourself. Don't sit here and look at me like I
14 have two heads. This is real. These are things that
15 actually occur in this community today.

16 MS. GATELLI: And what would you --

17 MR. DAVIS: You don't believe it.

18 MS. GATELLI: They're not being allowed
19 to go where? I don't understand.

20 MR. DAVIS: Who am I talking to? Do

21 you know where Tech High School is?

22 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

23 MR. DAVIS: Have you ever been there?

24 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

25 MR. DAVIS: You know how there's

63

1 grounds all the way around it?

2 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

3 MR. DAVIS: You know where there's a

4 great big field there --

5 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

6 MR. DAVIS: -- that hasn't been taken

7 care of in four years by the school board?

8 MS. GATELLI: But, Mr. Davis, we are

9 not the Scranton School Board.

10 MR. DAVIS: You are the city. You are

11 the city representatives for us.

12 MS. GATELLI: Yes, but you've got to go

13 to the school board if you want to use that property.

14 MR. DAVIS: You don't do anything about

15 that. You don't go to the school board. I've asked

16 you four weeks ago, because I haven't been here for the

17 last three weeks.

18 I asked you four weeks ago to go to the
19 school board, send your ambassador or your so-called
20 you have a group meeting between the county and the
21 city and all the tax --

22 MS. GATELLI: Okay. We will ask Mrs.
23 Evans. She's our intergovernmental chairperson, and we
24 will ask her.

25 MR. DAVIS: I know. I've asked her

64

1 already.

2 MS. GATELLI: We'll ask her to call up
3 there and see about using that property for the kids.

4 MR. DAVIS: That was four weeks ago.
5 I've got a summer in front of me. We're in the middle
6 of a summer right now. The kids are out of school.
7 What have you done?

8 What have you done as a person of this
9 city, as a person in the City Council that's supposed
10 to be looking over the families?

11 MS. GATELLI: What have I done? I made
12 a motion to give \$10,000 to United Neighborhood Centers
13 so the kids could go to camp. That's what I did, and

14 that's what everyone up here did.

15 MR. DAVIS: The camp is over two

16 o'clock in the afternoon. Did you know that?

17 MS. GATELLI: Well, what do we want,

18 24-hour service?

19 MR. DAVIS: What do you have in your

20 community?

21 MS. GATELLI: Well, in my community my

22 kids go to the playground and I take them.

23 MR. DAVIS: And do you have any kids --

24 MS. GATELLI: I walk over to Connell

25 Park with my grandchildren.

.

65

1 MR. DAVIS: Okay. All right. Now,

2 what we would like to do, what we would like in our

3 community, is to have a beautifully open area, which we

4 have, which has been supplied because you took our

5 homes to have it, not only our homes, but everybody in

6 the community.

7 You destroyed our community literally.

8 You took it and destroyed it and put everybody that you

9 could imagine back in there. Every foreign government,

10 every foreign representative, indigenous or otherwise

11 were allowed to come and live there, rather than to
12 have the local natives that were there. This is a
13 reality. This is a fact that I can prove to you every
14 single day of your life.

15 Now, we have come to a situation now
16 where all of these kids from all of these different
17 countries are here and they're playing together and
18 they played last night, we had tennis classes last
19 night, we had basketball games going on last night all
20 in the same place.

21 But I'm saying to you, you've done
22 nothing to insure that the ground would be safe for
23 those who wanted to play softball. You have destroyed
24 it. You've allowed the school board to destroy it, and
25 you've done nothing about it. I may be wrong, but I
.

66

1 brought it up to you enough times --

2 MS. GATELLI: Well, I don't know that

3 -- Attorney Minora, would you check if we can have any
4 control over the school authority?

5 MR. DAVIS: You have no control --

6 MR. MINORA: You have no control.

7 They're an autonomous body. They're autonomous from

8 us.

9 MR. DAVIS: They're --

10 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Davis, let him speak,

11 please.

12 MR. MINORA: We have no control over

13 them. They have no control over us. They are an

14 autonomous municipal body, as are we.

15 MR. DAVIS: Are we taxpayers?

16 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr. Davis,

17 sit down. Your time is up. Anyone else care to speak

18 before Council? Mr. Morgan.

19 MS. SUETA: Jean Sueta, 1549 Gardner

20 Avenue. And I don't live in The Plot. I live in the

21 forgotten city, part of town rather.

22 Well, went to bed Tuesday night, there

23 was no water on our street. Woke up Wednesday morning

24 with no warning, no sirens, no nothing, ba-boom. I got

25 five foot of water in my cellar for the first time

.

67

1 since 1809. Why weren't we warned?

2 I called the dispatcher to ask why we

3 weren't warned. He said, Well, it was on the news. I

4 said, Well, why didn't the sirens go off? I almost got

5 gaveled then.

6 So, he put me to the police dispatcher.

7 So, I asked him the same question, why we weren't

8 warned. He said to me, I'm not the God dam person

9 you're supposed to talk to, and hung the phone up on

10 me. Is that nice? You can listen to the recording,

11 because they're recorded.

12 Now, Judy, I'm glad you took care of

13 The Plot. What about us peons? When they were done

14 over The Plot, why didn't they come over and help us

15 out? Nobody, not one bull dozer, nothing. You got --

16 well, you seen it.

17 MS. GATELLI: Yeah.

18 MS. SUETA: No. You were more

19 concerned about the puppies, you and Janet. I got

20 Shiatzu puppies 500 bucks. Beautiful, boy. You want

21 to buy one?

22 Why didn't they help us over there?

23 Thank God they built up by the M & I, or we would

24 really be devastated. But I had to bitch about that,

25 too. When are they going to help us peons? Anybody?

.

68

1 MS. GATELLI: No. I don't know, but

2 Mr. Hayes is going to call FEMA and the Army Corps of
3 engineers and we're going to have a meeting over there.

4 MS. SUETA: Could I come to the
5 meeting?

6 MS. GATELLI: Absolutely.

7 MS. SUETA: Yeah. Because they put
8 that son of a bitch -- oh, I'm sorry. Sorry.

9 MS. GATELLI: No cursing. No cursing.

10 MS. SUETA: All right. They put that
11 bridge in. If you remember the old bridge on Albright
12 Avenue, it went up and over and there was no divider.
13 Now this one, it's lower. They got a divider and it
14 holds everything back. That's part of our problem.
15 Get that thing out of there, you know? I never got it
16 before, not one drop. You seen what I had.

17 MS. EVANS: Yes.

18 MS. GATELLI: You told me.

19 MS. SUETA: You know. You seen the
20 puppies. You didn't see down the cellar.

21 And as far as Mr. Davis, where did he
22 go? Where was his kids? They could have made money
23 yesterday helping us clean out. We would have paid
24 them. They would have had money to go swimming.

25 When we were kids, we went picking

1 beans to get money, swam in a creek. There's money to
2 be made. Where are the kids? Now we had three come
3 down, they were going to loot. We had to get rid of
4 them, you know. And I --

5 MS. GATELLI: Now today I told you but
6 the brooms and the bleach.

7 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, I got that this
8 morning. Red Cross came this morning, gave us
9 breakfast.

10 MS. SUETA: Did you have a hot shower?

11 MS. GATELLI: Pardon?

12 MS. SUETA: Did you have a nice hot
13 shower today?

14 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, I did. And if you
15 want to take one, you can come up.

16 MS. SUETA: I had a nice cold one.

17 MS. GATELLI: Come on up. You can take
18 one.

19 MS. SUETA: No. I'm strong. When are
20 they going to help us? Not only me --

21 MS. GATELLI: I note the levee is going
22 to be built up there, but unfortunately it's phase

23 three, and they didn't finish phase two yet, so --

24 MS. SUETA: Yeah. I mean over by the

25 West Market Street bridge --

.

70

1 MS. GATELLI: It went over there, too.

2 MS. SUETA: Oh, big time.

3 MS. GATELLI: Cottones was up into the

4 first floor and CK and --

5 MS. SUETA: Yeah. They closed the

6 flood gates and it went over three parts of the -- they

7 took care of the other side. Us poor peons again --

8 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: From what I was

9 told, they said that the reason they could not build up

10 over by you is because the groundwork was not done.

11 So, if they kept putting dirt on, it would have just

12 washed away.

13 The only reason they could have pulled

14 that off on the other side was because the ground work

15 was done and it was panked enough. So, that's why they

16 didn't.

17 MS. SUETA: While they were over the

18 plot, they had that secured, why didn't the hell didn't

19 they come over and help us a little bit? All we needed

20 was a couple dirt up there.

21 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: They said it would
22 have washed away because the groundwork was not in
23 place.

24 MS. SUETA: They don't know that until
25 they try it. What they say and what they do is two

71

1 different things. We're the ones that are suffering.

2 MS. GATELLI: I'm sure they didn't
3 know, Jean.

4 MS. SUETA: We didn't know the flood
5 was coming. How come we weren't warned? How come we
6 weren't warned?

7 MS. GATELLI: Whoever knew had no clue
8 that it was going to happen by you.

9 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yeah, Jean,
10 there's no --

11 MS. GATELLI: Our hearts go out to you.

12 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: -- you could not
13 hear any of the sirens or anything where you are,
14 correct?

15 MS. SUETA: Yes, ma'am, we can hear the
16 sirens, and there was no sirens going off, not one

17 siren went off. So, don't tell me. We weren't even

18 warned.

19 MS. GATELLI: I believe it went off in

20 the morning.

21 MS. SUETA: No.

22 MS. EVANS: It went off in The Plot, I

23 believe, three different times.

24 MS. GATELLI: Albright Avenue, too, it

25 went off.

.

72

1 MS. SUETA: That was Tuesday.

2 MS. EVANS: And --

3 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: It was Tuesday.

4 MS. SUETA: There was not nothing on

5 Wednesday. The problem --

6 MS. EVANS: I believe the problem with

7 the sirens, one of the issues at hand is, at least from

8 having spoken with some of the residents of The Plot,

9 for example, they do not know what each siren

10 indicates. That was never explained to them by the

11 Office of Public Safety, however, I agree with you,

12 this is twice I've seen your area, and twice --

13 MS. SUETA: The first time --

14 MS. EVANS: Actually this time I know
15 that your damages are far more severe than they were
16 during the Ivan flood.

17 MS. SUETA: Ivan, I didn't get a drop
18 of water. They started building this God dam thing,
19 nothing.

20 MS. EVANS: Well, we have to make sure
21 --

22 MS. SUETA: Oh, I'm cursing.

23 MS. GATELLI: We are going to have to
24 put a little beeper on there for you. They always
25 thought the beeper was for me.

.

73

1 MS. SUETA: Well, I control it a little
2 bit.

3 MS. EVANS: We have to make sure that
4 this doesn't happen yet a third time. We should have
5 learned from the Ivan flood, and indeed we learned
6 quite a bit, because thank God The Plot was very well
7 addressed, however, I do understand --

8 MS. SUETA: I don't want to hear The
9 Plot.

10 MS. EVANS: -- you've been completely

11 neglected again.

12 MS. SUETA: And again.

13 MS. EVANS: I don't know all the

14 reasons behind this, so I'm really not going to comment

15 on that at this point, but I do want answers on it, but

16 more than answers for the neglect. I'm looking for

17 solutions that are going to work to protect lower Green

18 Ridge until such time that that flood project on

19 Albright is 100 percent complete, because it isn't fair

20 that nothing's been done for you.

21 MS. SUETA: Well, you know when it's

22 going to get fixed? Lackawanna Junior College is going

23 to move into the Laceworks. Low and behold, we will

24 have everything, everything.

25 MS. EVANS: Well, actually, you know,

.

74

1 Ms. Sueta, I was wondering that myself yesterday.

2 MS. SUETA: I mean, we will have paved

3 roads, we'll have the sweeper, we'll have everything.

4 MS. EVANS: I had to wonder why

5 Lackawanna would want to move into that location, since

6 the building was in mid lake yesterday. How would they

7 possibly survive or construct athletic facilities?

8 MS. SUETA: It's a very secure
9 building, very strong. They knew how to build them in
10 them days. Just get us a little protection, will you
11 please?

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. SUETA: Not only me, everybody on
14 Gardner Avenue and Marion. They didn't even put no
15 dirt up there yet.

16 MS. GATELLI: We'll announce when the
17 meeting is and make sure you know and the neighbors
18 know when there's a meeting with FEMA.

19 MS. SUETA: Do I have to watch my mouth
20 there, too? Do I have to watch my language there, too?

21 MS. GATELLI: Oh, I think so.

22 MS. SUETA: Oh, all right. Bill, find
23 out about that dispatcher that hung up on me. It's on
24 tape.

25 MS. GATELLI: Was that 911 you called?
.

75

1 MS. SUETA: Yeah, police dispatcher.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Police dispatcher?

3 MS. SUETA: Police dispatcher. He put
4 me to the police dispatcher.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: You've got to give me

6 the time and the date.

7 MS. SUETA: It was yesterday morning

8 between nine and 9:30.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: 911, right?

10 MS. SUETA: 911.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. I'll call

12 over and ask.

13 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

14 MS. SUETA: All right. Thank you.

15 MS. GATELLI: And call if you need

16 anything, Jeanie.

17 MS. SUETA: Yeah, I need a couple of --

18 never mind. You had to ask that question.

19 MR. MORGAN: Good afternoon, Council.

20 The first thing I have is Junior Council, the Scranton

21 Lackawanna Taxpayers Group, we'd like them to send a

22 representative to be seated on our board. We haven't

23 decided whether we're going to waive the \$15 or not,

24 but if there's a \$15 fee, I will pay that myself. I

25 think it's important the Junior Council has a

.

76

1 representative on that board.

2 And Mr. McTiernan spoke about the
3 garbage fees briefly. The \$171 garbage fee was to help
4 cover the tipping fees, but the city collects more than
5 its tipping fees in the garbage fee, which is a
6 problem. And that money shouldn't be going into the
7 general revenue of the city.

8 The city, to be honest, you know,
9 Council, when you take your break, I think it's
10 important for you to take a good hard look at where
11 this city is fiscally.

12 We have to move away from the PEL. The
13 PEL has nothing to offer this city. We don't need the
14 state to pay a bunch of bureaucrats money to hold our
15 feet to a debt we can't pay. And in my opinion, that's
16 all the PEL is.

17 This city has to file bankruptcy. We
18 need to stop talking about how we're going to solve our
19 problems, because to be honest with you, we're not
20 going to solve them.

21 I think this Council and previous
22 Councils haven't faced the reality of the problem that
23 this city confronts. And I think that nothing shines a
24 light on it better than what's going on at the Scranton
25 Sewer Authority with Mr. Barrett and Mr. Scopelliti.

1 Do we really need to employ both of
2 those gentlemen? Wasn't American Anglican brought in
3 here because they couldn't run the authority? And now
4 we're going to make Mr. Barrett the head of it? And
5 we're going to higher Mr. Scopelliti to be his partner?
6 I mean, for how much, 150 Gs? Between
7 the two of them, do we really need that? And when you
8 take a look at what's going on at the Scranton School
9 District, did they vote Saturday to borrow money
10 because the law is going to change on Monday?
11 And when Council sits here and they say
12 that there's separation of powers, there is a
13 separation of powers and it's a very pathetic thing.
14 I think that to do the -- all the
15 voters and all the residents of this city and the state
16 a major favor, I think we should start removing the
17 lawyers from the legislature, because I think the
18 problem we have is that we're legislating the people
19 into utter poverty.
20 We're creating laws to insulate one
21 commission from another commission. You know, with all
22 these authorities we have and with all the debt they

23 have, they should have been abolished a long time ago.

24 Since all the debt is going to come

25 back to the City of Scranton anyhow, why doesn't the

.

78

1 city do that, abolish all the authorities, figure out

2 all the money we owe and let's start over. And when we

3 do that, let's take the city right down in through

4 bankruptcy. Let's not wait two years.

5 You know, when Mr. Elman was here

6 speaking, the guy looks like Ozzy Osborne sort of, you

7 know, Council is, basically from what I heard, said,

8 Well, in two more years some seats will be vacant.

9 We don't need to wait two more years.

10 We've been waiting four years, two years, four years,

11 two years, and there's been no solutions to any of the

12 problems this city faces.

13 So, what I think is, when this Council

14 goes on its recess, all five members of this Council

15 have you seat themselves somewhere and begin to start

16 discussing breaking away from the PEL, filing

17 bankruptcy, okay?

18 There has been discussions here about

19 KOZs. Mark Walsh was the President of Council at the

20 time they were passed through. I stood right there and
21 told him it was going to bankrupt the city.

22 Well, you know, it wasn't a very
23 important thing at that time. And to be honest with
24 you, it's not very important now, because you look at
25 the city, the city is just a mess. It can't carry all

79

1 this debt.

2 You know, and we seat five councilmen
3 here, we seat a school board, and all we see is more
4 and more borrowing, more and more passing the buck. We
5 don't have any say over this. That has nothing to do
6 with us. That's separate.

7 It's not separate. It's all one city,
8 one group of debt that needs one solution. And that
9 that solution is abolish all the authorities, take all
10 the debt the authorities owe and bring it to the city.

11 Let's start over. Let's file bankruptcy.

12 As far as the Sewer Authority, I think
13 that the Scranton City Council should go down to the
14 mayor and together you should decide that Mr. Barrett
15 really doesn't need that job, and Mr. Scopelliti, he
16 doesn't need it either.

17 Because if we're going to spend \$100
18 million to bring the Sewer Authority, all right, we
19 need to spend that money wisely.
20 And, you know, Mrs. Gallagher comes
21 here, well, she did, she's an elderly lady and I think
22 she was a school teacher, you know, she came here at
23 Council one time and talked about how her father and
24 her uncle helped to create that authority.

25 You know what, that's when Scrantonians

.

80

1 were really involved in their government, and you've
2 got to really, really thank the people who built this
3 city. But you know, we've got to look to this Council
4 to make some smart choices.

5 And you know, for that month that
6 you're not going to sit, I think you need to find some
7 of these solutions, and the 2.4 wage tax should be
8 repealed.

9 Those are the answers to the rebirth of
10 this city. Overtaxation has destroyed it. And we've
11 got to peel everything back, and that comes to you. We
12 shouldn't have to wait two years. Thank you.

13 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

14 MS. SUETA: I forgot one thing. I have
15 to thank our firefighters for the job that they did.
16 They're fabulous. That mayor should have no qualms
17 against these guys. They're good, they're polite, and
18 very good, very good response, once Mr. Hayes told them
19 they could come up.

20 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

21 MS. SUETA: Because he didn't allow
22 them to come out on Tuesday, but Wednesday they were
23 Johnny On the Spot and they worked all day, and they're
24 very good. Give them what they want. They're worth
25 their weight in gold. Thank you.

81

1 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone else?

2 MS. HUBBARD: Hi. My name is Elizabeth
3 Hubbard. I live at 1507 Gardner Avenue in the city.
4 On Tuesday my basement was flooded for the second time,
5 first time being in 2004 with Ivan.
6 When the contractor left, the bank
7 opened to the street for the water to rush up. Well,
8 apparently they have done a little bit to alleviate
9 that part, not enough, because Tuesday my basement was
10 filled again to the rafters.

11 The water went down Tuesday night. My
12 son pumped the basement. He had it almost pumped out.
13 Wednesday morning at ten to seven, he was yelling for
14 me to get out of bed because the cellar was full again
15 and now it was going to go on the first floor. By the
16 time I got downstairs, the water was in my first floor.
17 Now, my family's lived in that house
18 for almost 100 years, and I've never had water. The
19 city, if these contractors, they should never have put
20 that flood gate in and screwed around with the bank
21 that was there, because they didn't put it back to what
22 it should be. We never had a problem before they
23 started to put that flood gate in.
24 We don't need a flood gate, when we
25 don't have a levee. We have no levee there, except

82

1 what was there for the last, whatever, 100 years. But
2 the city has got to do something.
3 I turned the TV on Tuesday night and
4 all I heard about was DPW and the Sewer Authority over
5 there helping out in The Plot.
6 Well, I feel sorry for the people in
7 The Plot, but I feel sorrier for myself, because it

8 never happened before.

9 Why didn't the city come over and try

10 to build that bank up where they know there was a

11 problem in '04?

12 Now, I haven't been down there. My son

13 and daughter-in-law, they've been kayaking all over the

14 place Tuesday and Wednesday, and he said there's more

15 than one breach in the levee.

16 Now, I'm hoping that the city will come

17 over and repair that so every time it rains, I don't

18 have to worry about flooding.

19 I had to buy two water heaters, a

20 furnace, two electric panels in '04. Now I have to do

21 it all over again, plus send oriental rugs out to be

22 cleaned, duct work cleaned. I'm tired of it.

23 And, I mean, they're going to work like

24 dogs to make sure The Plot is safe? Let them do a

25 little something on our side of the river. I'd

.

83

1 appreciate any help you guys could give me.

2 I wanted to thank Janet for coming down

3 there yesterday, and, you, too, Judy. I missed you. I

4 didn't see you last evening. So, anything you guys can

5 do to help would be great.

6 Another thing, these pictures don't

7 belong in here. Why are they here? This is City

8 Council chambers. They should be down in the front

9 hall where they always were. I mean, the mayor doesn't

10 show up at meetings, but at least you have all these

11 mayors here.

12 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Hubbard, I think most

13 of us would agree with that, however, it was, I think

14 -- the portraits were removed when City Hall's first

15 floor was being remodeled, and from that point forward,

16 they were left in a room and no longer displayed.

17 And the former Council had requested

18 that they be once again hung downstairs for all the

19 public to enjoy and to learn from, but the

20 administration was adverse to that idea, and as a

21 result, City Council took it upon itself to display the

22 photos in our chambers with the thought that this

23 certainly was preferable to all of these precious

24 pieces of history being hidden in a closet.

25 MS. HUBBARD: Exactly. Oh, another

.

84

1 thing about the flood, I think that the public safety,

2 who's ever in charge of the police, they need to buy a
3 couple of boats, because Wednesday when the Special
4 Operations Unit came down our way, they had to borrow
5 canoes from a couple of our neighbors, because we were,
6 of course, under water, to see if anybody needed
7 rescuing.

8 They came over to my porch, three of
9 them in a canoe. And he said, Well, do you want to go
10 out? I said, No, but if I did, where would I sit?

11 But, I mean, it wouldn't hurt you guys

12 to buy a couple of 16-foot row boat that they --

13 because he said they don't have boats. They borrow the
14 canoes from the neighbors.

15 And I have to thank the firemen, too.

16 Because as soon as they could get there, they were
17 there, except one of them said -- somebody said that
18 they weren't allowed to come on Tuesday, that they
19 couldn't come on Tuesday night to pump.

20 MS. EVANS: We're going to look into

21 all of that.

22 MS. HUBBARD: Okay. Thank you very

23 much.

24 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone else?

25 Douglas.

1 MR. MILLER: Good afternoon, Council
2 just a few announcements and reminders. On Friday July
3 28 from six to nine at the South Scranton Renaissance
4 Center there will be a comedy show, fundraising event
5 that will go towards the proposed skate park. Tickets
6 are on sale now, and you can purchase them from any
7 Council member.
8 Also, September 9 on a Saturday from
9 five to nine at The Icebox in Scranton there will be a
10 fundraising event for the proposed skate park.
11 I would also like to remind everyone
12 that on Saturday, July 8, the Scranton Junior City
13 Council will be having their park cleanup at the
14 Dorothy Street playground. We hope to see everyone
15 there and get involved with that.
16 Lastly, I would like to take this time
17 to commend DPW and the residents of this city for their
18 hard work during the flooding that we experienced over
19 this week. It just shows you that when Scrantonians
20 come together, we can accomplish so many things and we
21 get the job done. Thank you.
22 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Douglas.

23 Anyone else? Mrs. Garvey.

24 MS. GARVEY: 5-A, motions.

25 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Evans.

.

86

1 MS. EVANS: All of our attention and

2 concern this week has been focused on flooding

3 problems. And as I walked the streets of lower Green

4 Ridge, I saw firsthand the damage to basements and

5 first floors of homes to landscaping furniture,

6 appliances, but most importantly I also felt the

7 emotional damage to hardworking people who suffered

8 more in the flood this time than they had during the

9 Ivan flood.

10 The Sachetti family, for example, was

11 frantic to rebuild a handicap ramp and clear damage to

12 their handicapped accessible home so that Mr.

13 Sachetti's needs would continue to be met without

14 incurring loss to their insurance claims.

15 And Mr. Hubbard described taking

16 neighbors from homes in kayaks and inflatable boats.

17 The anguish of losing hot water and electricity in the

18 midst of such turmoil was relentless.

19 In the midst of such heartbreak, I

20 offer a piece of good news. I spoke with Mr. Barrett,
21 executive director of the Sewer Authority yesterday
22 about sewer bill relief once again for citizens of
23 Scranton affected by flooding.

24 Following the Ivan flood, I had asked
25 Mr. Barrett to provide such relief to our citizens, and

87

1 it was generously given.

2 Once again, the Sewer Authority will
3 help our people with an adjustment to their bills to
4 assist them with their cleanup costs. I thank Mr.
5 Barrett, not only for this financial assistance, but
6 also for the monumental work performed in The Plot
7 Section that prevented the reoccurrence of flooding
8 seen during the Ivan flood.

9 I wish to send a letter to the Sewer
10 Authority officially requesting financial adjustments
11 to sewer bills.

12 And I realize that we had a discussion
13 in caucus today concerning motions, but considering
14 that I would expect that begins next week and the Sewer
15 Authority would like this A.S.A.P., I move that
16 Scranton City Council send a letter to the executive

17 director and to the board of the Scranton Sewer
18 Authority requesting special consideration for flood
19 victims. Such consideration will include rate
20 adjustments for costs incurred by cleanup.

21 MS. GATELLI: Second. On the question?

22 All in favor.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye.

24 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

25 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

88

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

2 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
3 have it and so moved. That was unanimous, Kay. We
4 have to tell her. Unanimous vote, and it is to go to
5 Gene Barrett. Thank you, Mrs. Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Pardon? We
7 actually had a discussion concerning the other
8 utilities, water and gas, for example, and Mr. Barrett
9 did indicate that it's not nearly as simple where those
10 utilities are concerned, because as Mrs. Gatelli
11 stated, you would have to receive the approval of PUC
12 to make such adjustments, since it would be affecting,
13 you know, quite a number of ratepayers, and that could

14 be a very long drawn out process. So, I'm looking for
15 immediate help for you. That will be all of Scranton,
16 the flood victims affected throughout the City of
17 Scranton. It's not for every Scranton resident.

18 MS. GATELLI: Excuse me. You can't ask
19 questions, please.

20 MS. EVANS: I also wish to recognize
21 the extraordinary work performed by the DPW, the fire
22 department, police department citywide over the last
23 few days, and I also wish to thank Mr. Fiorini for
24 extending a 24-hour electrical shutoff deadline to
25 lower Green Ridge and for his tireless work yesterday.

.

89

1 I am very pleased that legislation for
2 free swimming is included in today's agenda, but I also
3 request that a special meeting of Scranton City Council
4 be conducted as soon as possible to pass this
5 legislation from sixth to seventh order.

6 And I believe, you know, the point
7 being that the children of our city should be able to
8 enjoy free swimming throughout months of July and
9 August, and this has been an issue since June 5.

10 I'd also like to address a few issues

11 raised earlier by some speakers. With regard to the
12 Moosic Street project and the loans that were
13 discussed, I had requested information concerning the
14 demolition of those buildings.

15 I understand that OECD did not incur
16 the costs for that demolition. The city, rather did,
17 and I have requested to know if that money is being
18 taken from the city's operating budget, if so, which
19 department, and even more specifically, which line item
20 within that department.

21 I understand that Mr. Fiorini will
22 provide those responses to me for next week's meeting.
23 I'm sure I would have had them today, however, due to
24 the crisis situation within the city, it's certainly
25 understandable that he could not prepare that for this

90

1 particular meeting.
2 With regard to the house addresses
3 throughout the city, it's my understanding haven spoken
4 with some city inspectors that letters citing
5 homeowners for lack of address numbers are no longer
6 being sent, and those individuals who had received the
7 letters were not cited.

8 And the inspectors have been directed
9 to address the situation as they are traveling on their
10 job-related duties daily by notifying the homeowners
11 that they lack the address numbers and providing them
12 with an ample timeline in which to get the numbers up
13 on their homes.

14 Also, the OECD loan to Paperless
15 Practice leaves me very concerned. Was a credit
16 history checked for delinquencies and liens by OECD, or
17 did the company withhold this vital information from
18 OECD, or was OECD aware and awarded the loan
19 regardless?

20 Anyone of the three options is really
21 unacceptable. So, it's my hope that OECD will screen
22 the credit history of each loan applicant with a fine
23 tooth comb, and in the future decline loans to any
24 individual or company with tax delinquencies, whether
25 local, state or federal. Loans should not be used to

91

1 pay tax liens.

2 I noticed that, in fact, the very day
3 that The Scranton Times published their article under
4 the heading Wink Owes \$36,000 In Back Taxes, when I

5 perused The Court notes, which indeed I must do
6 regularly now because, as Mr. Sbaraglia pointed out, if
7 we are not to do so, obviously we are not going to be
8 aware that any of these companies to whom the city is
9 lending money even have delinquencies.

10 It just so happened that very day there
11 was yet another listing for Paperless Practice, and
12 this is for \$6,621.69, and it is an Internal Revenue
13 Service lien. And I would suppose that's in addition
14 to the \$36,000 lien already filed by the IRS.

15 And, of course, the owner does not
16 respond to the question if these funds, if the city
17 loans provided will be used to pay these liens. I
18 think that response gives us our answer.

19 Also, Mrs. Gatelli, were you able to
20 speak to the mayor about putting the cameras out to bid
21 rather than RFPs?

22 MS. GATELLI: Yes, and he said he would
23 do that.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I also have a
25 letter I was asked to read. In fact, I received it

.

92

1 June 8, but it was far too late at that point to read

2 the letter, and of course we were not in session last
3 week, so I do apologize for the tardiness.

4 Dear Mrs. Evans, Thank you from the
5 people of Pine Brook for your help with our recent tree
6 trimming project.

7 You quietly came into our neighborhood,
8 advised us and provided direction to people and
9 services who made a long-awaited project a reality.

10 Through your efforts, the experience of
11 a fine gentleman, Mr. Tony Santolli, and a very
12 cooperative Mr. Al Senofonti of Titan Tree Company, we
13 had great success, despite our very limited funds.

14 Thank you also to the Scranton Police
15 Department, Lieutenant Namiotka, Officers Gaeta and
16 O'Brien and Lieutenant Marty Crofton for posting and
17 clearing our streets of vehicles on specified days.

18 We're shy \$1,500 for one remaining
19 block of trees. We in Pine Brook are resourceful and
20 hope to complete this project by the end of 2006.

21 You set in motion a project that makes
22 our neighborhood streets brighter and safer. This
23 project is an example of citizens, police, business and
24 government working together in our community.

25 Sincerely, the Pine Brook Neighborhood Association.

1 And I do hope that they're able to
2 complete that wonderful project that was really
3 spearheaded by Mary Chilipko by the end of 2006.
4 And then finally a few citizens
5 requests. And ask you to bear with me. We haven't had
6 a meeting now in two weeks, and things have really
7 mounted up.
8 The 1200 of Blucher Avenue, a property
9 experiences flooding during every hard rainfall. This
10 is as a result of a deteriorated pipe which has been
11 cleaned in the past.
12 The problem is not a cleaning, rather
13 it is a replacement of the pipe. So, I respectfully
14 request a written response in this matter and a
15 solution beyond pipe cleaning.
16 I'm well aware of the numerous flooding
17 problems within East Mountain and the number of
18 problems fails to excuse the lack of solutions.
19 Residents in the area of Clover Field
20 would like to see year round use of the field and they
21 request the installation of swings and slides for
22 younger children who can't travel a distance to Sloan's

23 playground.

24 Many people in lower West Side voiced

25 to me that they are the forgotten area in terms of

.

94

1 children's activities.

2 South Webster and Palm Street, an

3 overgrown abandoned lot. Sherwood Court, DPW was

4 dumping trees and brush recently in Sherwood Court and

5 stated they would return to remove the debris and were

6 very happy that they're cleaning abandoned lots,

7 however, no one returned to do so last week.

8 And the dumping particularly occurred

9 after a neighbor had privately paid workers to clear

10 this lot on Sherwood Court. So, naturally she's quite

11 upset, and I'm sure the DPW, as soon as they're able,

12 will get back there and clear the debris.

13 An abandoned house on the corner of

14 Wheeler and Sherwood Court. A large dead tree lies in

15 the yard. I would like the status on that house. A

16 streetlight is needed on Henry Street in North

17 Scranton.

18 In October 2005, a petition was

19 submitted to Council for installation of a light, and a

20 representative of MEM approved that installation.

21 When will the light be installed? I

22 know it's a costly addition, but the residents do pay

23 taxes and they do deserve the services.

24 The 1700 block of Beaumont Avenue. A

25 water main had burst two months ago, and following the

95

1 repair of such, the street was patched, however, it is

2 not level with the remainder of the street causing

3 ponding in front of a particular driveway and garage,

4 which is not only a health hazard in the summer, but is

5 going to create hazardous safety conditions in winter

6 months.

7 The 528 of North Everett, a handicapped

8 woman would like to know if another streetlight can be

9 installed. And I request an update on the purchase of

10 an industrial pump to alleviate flooding on Parker

11 Street. Can we purchase this pump with money received

12 from a sale of the pothole machine?

13 I remember two weeks ago Mr. Courtright

14 suggested that because we do not use the pothole

15 machine and it has been idle for so long that perhaps

16 it could be sold. And I agree with him.

17 And I think those monies could be put
18 to use toward industrial-sized pumps that could help
19 these areas and help the fire department to alleviate
20 the flooding that's being experienced citywide. And
21 that's it. Thank you.

22 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mrs. Fanucci.

23 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I want to first
24 start by thanking everyone for all of their help. We
25 were very unfortunate to have such a tragedy this

96

1 weekend or this week.

2 I can't get over the amount of people
3 who have come out to help the residents all over the
4 city. I know we had also problems in South Side and
5 all over the city with basements and flooding.

6 It's just unbelievable. It really
7 bring you to realize what we are capable of as not only
8 people, but citizens.

9 The Army Corps of Engineers has done an
10 unbelievable job down in the Plot Section. We were
11 very, very lucky to be able to even have the amount of
12 people and the forces, let alone just to bring that
13 kind of dirt and then do what they were doing. It was

14 amazing. It was amazing to watch. They were staying
15 literally two inches ahead of the water at all times.
16 We were standing on that levee, and I
17 seriously could not believe the amount of work and
18 effort that it took to just be able to pull something
19 like that off.
20 We all know that this is just a work in
21 progress and it will never probably be as efficient as
22 we would like it to be, but I do want to say thank you
23 to all the people who helped out and came to the rescue
24 of the citizens down there. And that's exactly what it
25 was.

97

1 The DPW, PPL. I mean, we went through
2 these before, but it was something that is excessively
3 humbling when you get down and you see exactly what
4 these people do for a living, and probably are never
5 appreciated enough.
6 We need to thank the firemen who pumped
7 out 50 basements as of yesterday afternoon. Right
8 there alone just to help the citizens be able to
9 function and feel, you know, capable of functioning in
10 their houses.

11 But what they asked me to do was to
12 tell you the numbers that you need to call. There's
13 still a contact number for anyone who is having any
14 flooding, and it is 342-7821, and that's where any
15 resident needs to call if they're having any problems
16 with water.

17 Also, you're going to need after that
18 to be inspected. What happens is the electrical
19 problems that this can cause is not something we can
20 just say, Okay. Start your house up and get going.

21 You really need to make sure that your
22 house is inspected afterwards by the city so that we
23 can say it's safe and you can go on and live your life.

24 I have contacted -- well, the Red Cross
25 is here, as we know, but they have a wonderful manual,
.

98

1 it's online. For people who cannot get online, I'm
2 going to leave a copy of this with Kay.
3 This might be helpful to people who
4 have not been flooded before. It's Repairing Your
5 Flooded Home, and it tells you the steps to take to
6 actually go in and say and evaluate everything, find
7 out if you're going about it the right way, take your

8 photos, document, and tell you how to go about saving
9 your home and getting it back to the way it was.
10 So, this is going to be in the office.
11 And if not, it's also www.redcross.org will give you
12 all the information you need to get you on the way
13 hopefully to some type of recovery.
14 I know that we have not made all of the
15 contacts we need to make for the recovery yet, because
16 we need the water to go down before we can have people
17 come in and assess, like, assess exactly what our
18 damage is, but I know that they're on the way to doing
19 that.
20 What else did I want to say? Okay.
21 The dike. The dike, that was a problem on the one end
22 of the avenue where -- we had speakers come today
23 saying that they could not -- they did not have water
24 before and now they had it.
25 Well, this process unfortunately is
. . .
99

1 just in the midst of this project. I don't believe our
2 project is going to be completed until 2008. Hopefully
3 by then with the citizens' input, we will have some
4 type of ease for them.

5 FEMA has not been contacted yet. I do
6 know that. And they said they would be doing so in the
7 next few days.

8 Also, on a lighter note, I want to
9 discuss the fact that the Art in the Park program has
10 come to fruition.

11 July 10th is going to be the first Art
12 in the Park program. It's going to go from 10th to the
13 14th, and that's going to be at Nay Aug.

14 The second part of this program will
15 take place in Connell Park, and that will be from
16 July 17 to the 21st.

17 And from July 21 to the 28, it will be
18 at Weston Field. These projects are going to be from 9
19 a.m. until twelve. The project heading is called
20 Metamorphosis.

21 And what the children will do are come,
22 decorate these huge butterflies. Almost like --
23 remember the mules and the horses and all that, it's
24 going to be like that, but these are going to be for
25 the kids to actually have some type of voice in our

.

100

1 city.

2 They're going to hang the butterflies
3 up in the different areas of the park, and they can
4 express themselves in that. They're also going to
5 teach them art through this way of expressing
6 themselves.

7 They're going to have a nice, which
8 will be fun, they're going to teach them writing,
9 poetry. All different events and venues are going to
10 be scheduled.

11 And I believe somebody was talking
12 about music, but I'm not sure that's going to come into
13 fruition either.

14 We need a contact number for this.

15 This is going to go. Danielle Joyce is the director of
16 this program, and it is called Art in the Park. And
17 they have gathered together with the Heart to Art
18 program so that we have a contact number for sign-up
19 for this will be 961-2743.

20 This program is for children between
21 seven and twelve years old. Now, your parents can come
22 with you, if you'd like, which would be fun, too. It
23 is family friendly. And they ask that you only bring a
24 smile and your imagination.

25 This is a free, free project, and the

101

1 citizens and all ages are welcome to come and even

2 participate and watch.

3 This is something that we worked on.

4 This is pretty much the trial for the first year.

5 Hopefully will go very well and we can continue to do

6 projects like this.

7 The reason we did not do your normal

8 arts and crafts projects was because we feel that all

9 over the city they're sort of available. This is

10 something that's different and maybe can coincide with

11 those type of projects.

12 So, I'm going to see if maybe 61 could

13 put this on their screen. So, that's something I'm

14 very proud of.

15 Also, I was asked to talk to you about

16 Shiloh Baptist Church. They're having a block party on

17 August 19. What they are doing, their goal is to fill

18 300 backpacks, and they're distributing these to the

19 children so that they're ready for back to school.

20 They don't have to go get their pencils and their pens

21 and their notebooks. They want these filled.

22 All of this is going to take place at

23 this block party. They would like donations, if
24 possible. And you will be contacting Carol Mason,
25 963-2542.

.

102

1 Carol is unbelievable. She really will
2 make this work in a wonderful way. And you can go down
3 and have a good time, too. There's going to be food
4 and the bouncy castle and of that. It will be fun to
5 get into. So, that is something they asked me to do.

6 So, please go to Shiloh Baptist Church on the 19th.

7 And that is all I have at this moment.

8 And I just want to thank everybody again and hope that
9 we can continue to pull together and help the people
10 out that need the help. Thank you.

11 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr.

12 McTiernan.

13 MR. MCTIERNAN: Thank you, Mrs.

14 Gatelli. I would like to also thank the employees of
15 the DPW, the Scranton Sewer Authority, the police, the
16 fire department, all municipal employees, contact with
17 the mayor, Director Hayes, Director Parker towards
18 their efforts in staying off what could have been a
19 major catastrophe this past week.

20 Secondly, I would like to make a motion
21 to suspend the rules of Council, and specifically I
22 make a motion that we suspend the rules of Council
23 adopted in Resolution 1 of 2006 as amended in
24 Resolution 37 of 2006 to change the order of business
25 so that the order of business would be as follows:

.

103

1 Number one, roll call; number two, reading of the
2 minutes; number three, reports and communication from
3 the mayor, heads of departments and interested parties;
4 number four, introduction of ordinances, resolutions,
5 opportunity and/or appointments to board and
6 commissions, motions and reports of committees; number
7 five, consideration of ordinances, and reading by
8 title; number six, final reading of resolution and
9 ordinances, consideration for adoption; number seven,
10 citizens participation, and number eight, adjournment.

11 I so move.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

13 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question, Mrs.

15 Gatelli. My understanding is this motion is just for

16 the summertime so that members of Council that have to

17 work in the summertime could get -- could leave and go
18 back to their job. So, I'll support it. It's only for
19 four weeks and then we will go back to the regular
20 schedule.

21 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the
22 question?

23 MS. EVANS: Do we have a copy of that,
24 though, available? Yeah. Because I didn't know
25 anything.

104

1 MS. GATELLI: It's just to move the
2 citizens participation to the end.

3 MS. EVANS: To the end.

4 MS. GATELLI: Just for the summer.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 MS. GATELLI: And you know we don't
7 vote on anything, unless it's an emergency right away,
8 so you always have an opportunity to talk about
9 something that was introduced.

10 So, it really shouldn't hinder anyone's
11 public participation with any of our business, provided
12 it's not an emergency. And let's hope we don't any
13 more of them.

14 MS. EVANS: Could we just add language
15 to this to the effect that this motion applies only for
16 the --

17 MS. GATELLI: Summer months?

18 MS. EVANS: -- July -- or if you want
19 to say every summer or --

20 MS. GATELLI: Let's do every summer so
21 we'll have it in there. Can we do that, Mr. Minora?

22 MR. MINORA: You can. The only thing I
23 would suggest is that you determine when summer is
24 beginning as far as a motion is concerned.

25 MS. GATELLI: We usually do it after

105

1 school is out. You know, and we make a motion to do
2 that, so --

3 MR. MINORA: That would be fine. So
4 now you've got a date certain when public school ends,
5 whenever that would be, ordinarily somewhere in
6 mid-June, a date certain because of the school year.

7 MR. MCTIERNAN: Attorney Minora, would
8 it be advisable to say -- if we say just for our
9 afternoon meetings or twelve o'clock meetings, since
10 that date fluctuates from year to year? We can usually

11 meet at noon, and we can say for all noon meetings.

12 MS. EVANS: That's very good.

13 MR. MCTIERNAN: Because there might be

14 an event in the school year when we have to have the

15 meeting during the workday, and then that would cover

16 us for all the afternoon meetings.

17 MR. MINORA: That would make it even

18 easier.

19 MR. MCTIERNAN: Shall I amend that

20 motion or do we have to vote it down or --

21 MR. MINORA: No, you can amend it.

22 MR. MCTIERNAN: I would like to amend

23 my motion to stipulate that that would -- the previous

24 motion would include all workday meetings.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

.

106

1 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the

2 question? All in favor.

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

8 have it and so moved. That was unanimous, Mrs. Garvey.

9 MR. MCTIERNAN: Thank you, Mrs.

10 Gatelli. Number three, I would ask Kay, and this

11 doesn't have to be a letter, possibly just a phone call

12 or Neil or someone who can manage a few minutes free

13 during the day, can we contact Mr. Santolli?

14 A Mr. Bill Lesh who lives on Frink

15 Street made a complaint that there are some trees that

16 appear to be dangerous that are overhanging the

17 roadway, if possible we would could look at those or

18 ask Mr. Santolli to review those. It's on Frink Street

19 in West Scranton. And I don't have the exact address.

20 MS. GARVEY: The 2600 block of Frink?

21 I believe I might have already talked to him or he

22 called.

23 MR. MCTIERNAN: Okay. I didn't have an

24 opportunity to follow up with the resident. Okay.

25 Thank you.

.

107

1 And another question, a citizen stopped

2 me this past week and asked that he had heard there was

3 going to be an agreement, and maybe this is something I

4 missed, as well from a previous meeting, about

5 reciprocal contractor licensing between here and

6 Wilkes-Barre. Did we go over that?

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes. Kay took care of

8 that, also. We didn't go over it on the air, but he

9 contacted me.

10 MR. MCTIERNAN: Okay. What was the

11 result?

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: There is a reciprocal

13 contract between Wilkes-Barre and Scranton and other

14 municipalities for contractor license, correct?

15 MS. GARVEY: Right. Allentown,

16 Wilkes-Barre and Scranton.

17 MR. MCTIERNAN: That does exist, okay.

18 Thank you. And that is all I have.

19 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr.

20 Courtright.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. If I may, I'd

22 like to read a letter that I got from the prison,

23 Lackawanna County Prison, the warden over there

24 commending our fire department, and it was sent to the

25 fire chief.

.

108

1 It says, On behalf of the

2 administration and the staff of the Lackawanna County
3 Prison, I would like to thank you and your staff for
4 taking time to tour our facility.
5 It was an honor and a pleasure to meet
6 those who put their lives on the line every day to save
7 others and their property in the City of Scranton.
8 This administration recognizes the fact
9 that it was imperative that we open up the lines of
10 communication between our departments and open up our
11 doors to you and your staff.
12 We're in the process of revising our
13 emergency management plans in conjunction with
14 emergency management department.
15 The drafting of these plans could not
16 be complete without the fire department having an
17 internal knowledge of the prison's design.
18 Again, we thank you for your time in
19 walking through our facility and your assistance to us.
20 We sincerely hope that we do not have to call you in
21 the future. But if we do, we know, as so many people
22 do, that you will be there. And that's from the warden
23 of Lackawanna County Prison. So, we would like to
24 thank the fire department for their cooperation.
25 I got a letter from an individual, and

1 I've got to be honest, I believe they watch the
2 meetings, but I can't really read your writing, a lot
3 of it anyway, but it's front and back of two pages.
4 So, there's a lot of stuff in here.
5 It makes references to just about all
6 of us here on Council and it makes reference to some
7 legal questions, so I'm just going to turn it over to
8 Mr. Minora and let him take a look at it.
9 But I would ask if you would like me to
10 respond in some way, if you would either call me or
11 send me another letter. There's no return address on
12 this, there's no signature on this.
13 And if you don't want to be identified,
14 I understand it, and I will certainly keep that
15 confidential. I get calls all the time and letters and
16 they ask me to keep it confidential. But it didn't
17 even go to my right address. I don't know how they got
18 it to me.
19 But anyway, I'm sure you're watching.
20 If you can give me a call and ask me what it is you'd
21 like me to do with this letter, I will certainly do
22 that, but in the meantime, I will turn it over to Mr.

23 Minora because there's some legal questions in there.

24 I too, just because everybody has

25 thanked everyone that's worked down in the flood area,

.

110

1 and we're all grateful, and the residents really asked

2 if I would most definitely the DPW and the Sewer

3 Authority, they really on Race Street and Brown Avenue,

4 and all the other departments, but also the neighbors

5 and the people that did come down to help.

6 Some people had to move their

7 furniture, some people had to take it actually out of

8 their house, so we thank everyone that came down there

9 and helped.

10 Kay, one letter possibly if you can

11 send to Mr. Parker. 33 Forest Glen Drive, there's a

12 depression that runs the whole width of the road.

13 Actually there's two depressions there, and I was

14 hoping they could take a look at that, being that the

15 weather is good now and possibly we can get something

16 down with it. It runs the entire width of the road,

17 and that's 33 Forrest Glen Drive.

18 I believe Mr. Jackowitz or somebody

19 asked about the police cars, whose fault it was. I

20 don't exactly know whose fault it was. I know whose
21 fault it wasn't. It was not the purchasing
22 department's fault and it was not Mrs. Novembrino's
23 department that the purchase order did not get out
24 there in time, so we don't want anybody pointing the
25 finger at those individuals. It was not their problem.

111

1 The company that we're buying the
2 police cars from asked me to call back at the end of
3 this month, so I will do so tomorrow and find out just
4 when the police cars are going to get here. And I
5 believe that's all I have, Mrs. Gatelli. Thank you.

6 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, one more. I'm
8 sorry. I'm sorry.

9 MS. GATELLI: Go ahead.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Kay, I got this
11 message and we didn't have a meeting last week, so I
12 couldn't bring it up. 700 of West Elm Street, it's a
13 lot that the city has been to before, but now it needs
14 to be cut again that the city's been to before, but now
15 it needs to be cut again. If somebody could go out
16 there from the DPW and take care of that lot, we'd

17 appreciate that.

18 When the picnics go around, we come

19 across a lot of people and they ask questions, and,

20 again, these were things that I was supposed to do last

21 week, but we weren't here.

22 A long time ago, back in April of 2004

23 and June of 2004, April again in 2004, I have three

24 letters here, and it's from City Council, actually from

25 when Jay Saunders was still here, asking Mr. Scopelliti

.

112

1 if he could take a look at the William T. Schmidt

2 plaque that the family members have been asking about

3 at the South Side Sports Complex, and, again, this goes

4 all the way back to 2004.

5 And I know Mr. Brazil probably has no

6 knowledge about this at all, but I'm going to give you

7 these letters, Kay, and maybe we can forward them to

8 him, because when the family members asked me this two

9 weeks ago, and then maybe when he gets an opportunity,

10 I understand he's extremely busy now with the flooding

11 situation, maybe he can look into this, because, again,

12 I got April 20, June 29, April 15, all of 2004.

13 So, I will turn those over to you and

14 if you can give those to Mr. Brazil, I'd appreciate it.

15 And now that's all I have.

16 MS. EVANS: Mr. Courtright, is that

17 about the Schmidt plaque from the South Side Complex?

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes. They still

19 haven't gotten any kind of answer there, and so I was

20 confronted at a North Scranton picnic.

21 MS. EVANS: Someone, though, it might

22 have been a DPW worker or perhaps a member of that

23 family who told me they were told the plaque is --

24 well, maybe at the time we have a new DPW, but it was

25 down at the DPW.

.

113

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: I guess someone was

2 supposed to be doing this, and this was back June 29 of

3 2004.

4 MS. EVANS: Yeah. It goes back to when

5 we first sat on Council.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: And it would have been

7 done in two weeks they said, so nothing has happened.

8 MS. EVANS: Right.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: And, again, Mr.

10 Brazil's new, so I'm not trying to drop this on his

11 lap, but if he gets an opportunity, if he can take a
12 look at it. Now that's it. Thank you.
13 MS. GATELLI: Okay. I'm just going to
14 reiterate what everyone else said to thank everyone
15 that's helping down at the flood.
16 If you haven't been down there, I know
17 they don't need visitors, but it's just heartbreaking
18 to see what all these people had to go through.
19 And I'm happy The Plot didn't have to
20 be subjected to that, but some parts, did the East
21 Market Street and the Gardner Street, and even on
22 Gordon Avenue, six or seven houses there are were
23 flooded.
24 So, we hope they'll all work out well
25 in the end. And we are going to have a meeting. I've
.
114

1 been asking Mr. Hayes to contact FEMA and the Army
2 Corps to set up a meeting for all those neighbors so
3 they can see what's going to happen.
4 As far as the non-profits, the meeting
5 will be next week at 11:15. And also at that meeting I
6 would encourage Council to be there, because I think we
7 need to discuss some revenue producing items that we

8 may bring up for the budget for next year.

9 I know there are some things like a

10 dollar on a ticket at a concert up on Montage and hotel

11 taxes. I mean, there's a lot of things we can look at.

12 So, I think we need to start doing that. Someone

13 mentioned that, and I think they're correct.

14 We need to do that, and I'm interested

15 in that. And I would hope that Council -- some of the

16 Council members could make it. And anyone else is

17 welcome to come. If you have any ideas about ways that

18 we can raise revenue, I think would be an excellent

19 idea.

20 I listen to all of these people saying

21 get rid of this and get rid of that and get rid of the

22 garbage fee, and, you know, frankly, I'd like to do all

23 that, and we all would. You know, who wouldn't want to

24 have low taxes? You'd have to be crazy not to.

25 But if we get rid of one thing, then

.

115

1 we're not going to have something to pay something

2 else.

3 So, I think the focus should be on

4 revenue producing items, and, of course, not

5 squandering in other ways with exorbitant salaries, et
6 cetera. But I don't think that's going to get us out
7 of the \$200 million. I think we need to do some
8 revenue producing things, and I'm willing to do that.
9 So, we'll try to do that next week at 11:15 for anyone
10 that's interested in coming. And we will also do the
11 non-profits right after that meeting.
12 Single Tax Office, I'm going to talk to
13 Mrs. Krake first before I send a letter over to Mr.
14 McDowell so I'm sure of what she's interested in. So,
15 I'll call her first.
16 Someone else brought up about a
17 non-resident person working for the city. And when I
18 did call to try to find out, it is the controller's
19 office that does those type of investigations.
20 And when I called, they said that, yes,
21 the person I was asking about, they were investigating,
22 but they can't just do one person, because it's
23 discriminatory.
24 So, they were going to do an update on
25 all city employees, and they would have to bring in
.

116

1 various items of identification and utility bills, et

2 cetera.

3 So, they told me that it would take a
4 while for that to be done, but they're going to keep me
5 and this Council informed of what the results.

6 So, yes, it's being investigated, and
7 we should have an answer. I don't know when, because
8 it will be lengthy with all the employees being asked.

9 Someone else brought up about being
10 paid for the meeting and you're not here for the whole
11 meeting. Now, I know they were referring to one of my
12 colleagues, but I did get an E-mail from a gentleman in
13 Dickson City questioning why meetings are cancelled and
14 that we're off the whole month of August, and he had it
15 calculated down to the penny of every time we miss a
16 meeting, what we owe the city.

17 And I E-mailed him back and I said that
18 I put at least 20 to 25 hours a week into my Council
19 position, and that's on a slow week. I mean, just this
20 week alone I was out eight hours yesterday and about
21 six the day before, and so has everyone else here.

22 So, I don't want you to think that we
23 don't do anything but come to a Council meeting for our
24 salary. We do other things. We investigate, we make
25 phone calls, we go visit neighbors. So, it's not just

1 coming to a meet that we're getting paid for. So, I
2 just wanted that clear with anyone that it's way beyond
3 that. It's what you put into it and what you give in
4 your position.

5 As you all know, I went on the
6 Pennsylvania League of Cities Convention out in
7 Pittsburgh. Didn't see too much of Pittsburgh, because
8 it was overburdened with conferences.

9 And I was disappointed, because they
10 did not have a trip where you would go around and see
11 their revitalization and/or their neighborhoods. I was
12 interested in seeing their neighborhoods.

13 And when it comes here next year, the
14 convention will be in Scranton, and I recommended that
15 we do have time to take people around to see our
16 different neighborhoods and see our different
17 facilities, because I think that's important to get to
18 know a city and see what other cities are doing.

19 I received a lot of information,
20 historic preservation, downtowns, Elm Street Programs,
21 health care issues, and I brought a lot of the
22 information into Mrs. Garvey.

23 So, if anyone, including Council, is
24 interested in perusing any of the material, please have
25 Mrs. Garvey make a copy of it. It's very interesting.

.

118

1 And one of the things that was in there
2 and the company that was there was the new asphalt
3 machine, that of course we haven't seen yet, but the
4 gentleman said, Oh, I sold one to Scranton and it was
5 being used by three different municipalities.

6 So, I'm going to call George Parker
7 this week and ask him when we can -- maybe we can all
8 be there when it's first used to see it, but it was
9 interesting that one of the vendors that was at the
10 conference was one of the pieces of equipment that we
11 have.

12 So, it was very worthwhile, and I hope
13 that next year when it's here, all of the Council
14 members will attend.

15 I met Council people from all over the
16 state. And there were quite a few women Council
17 Presidents. As a matter of fact, I was telling Stacy
18 that one of them from State College was a neighborhood
19 president, and she's now the president of State College

20 City Council. So, it was interesting to network with
21 all of these people. And I have their numbers, and we
22 can get ideas on maybe how to raise revenue or lower
23 taxes or whatever. So, it was very, very interesting
24 and I'm glad that I went. And I think that's all I
25 have. Thank you.

119

1 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Gatelli, just one
2 quick thing before we go on. I think on behalf of all
3 of us, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and
4 safe Fourth of July weekend, and we hope you will get
5 out to the swim complex on Tuesday, July 4 to celebrate
6 with our community one of our most important holidays.
7 That's it.

8 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone else?

9 Okay. Mrs. Garvey.

10 MS. GARVEY: 5-B - FOR INTRODUCTION -
11 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 252, 2003
12 THEREBY AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NOS. 188 OF 1994
13 AND 103 OF 1995 AS SET FORTH IN THE SCRANTON CODIFIED
14 CODE AT SECTION 332-20 PERTAINING TO FEES FOR USE OF
15 FACILITIES TO AMEND THE FEES FOR THE USE OF OUTDOOR
16 CITY POOLS OTHER THAN NAY AUG PARK.

17 MS. GATELLI: At this I'll entertain a

18 motion that 5-B be introduced.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

20 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

21 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

22 MS. EVANS: Yes. Can we schedule a

23 special meeting?

24 MS. GATELLI: Is that necessary or can

25 we move it up, Attorney Minora?

120

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Can't we just suspend

2 the rules right now?

3 MS. EVANS: To move from fifth to

4 seventh? We've never done that. We've gone six to

5 seven, but not five to seven.

6 MR. MINORA: I'm not sure. I'm not

7 sure if you can go from fifth to seventh. I'd have to

8 look at the rules of Council, which I don't have here

9 at the desk with me. But next week you can move it

10 from sixth to seventh.

11 MS. EVANS: But then again we've

12 delayed it another week, and it's been ongoing since

13 June 5.

14 So, if we were able to have -- I know
15 we can't have a meeting tomorrow, because it would
16 require 24 hours advanced notice in the newspaper, but
17 maybe we could have a meeting on Monday, if three
18 Council people were available just to consider this one
19 item only and the public would be allowed to speak on
20 this one item solely and get this passed so that the
21 kids are able to enjoy some of our recreational
22 facilities before half the summer is gone.

23 MS. GATELLI: Well, could anyone make
24 it? I can't make it Monday.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: I can make it Monday.

121

1 What time? It depends what time. If it's in the
2 daytime, I can make it.

3 MS. EVANS: Whatever time you want.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: I can make it in the
5 daytime anybody else? No?

6 MS. EVANS: No one else is able to do
7 it?

8 MS. GATELLI: It's Fourth of July
9 weekend. It's hard.

10 MS. EVANS: Yeah, I know. It's the

11 Fourth of July weekend and the kids should be swimming

12 for free over the Fourth of July weekend. It just

13 seems, you know --

14 MS. GATELLI: Well, we'll the first

15 Council that brought it up, so we're on the plus side

16 there.

17 MS. EVANS: Well, actually it was

18 brought up before, but --

19 MS. GATELLI: Well, I know. You didn't

20 have the --

21 MS. EVANS: We didn't have the votes to

22 do it, but now that we do, you know, I'd like the ample

23 time provided for the kids to enjoy it.

24 And, you know, we did not meet last

25 week because three members couldn't attend, so there's

.

122

1 nothing anyone can do.

2 MS. GATELLI: Can't next week we move

3 it up to seventh?

4 MS. EVANS: Well, yes, we can do it

5 then, suspend the rules to move from six to seven, but

6 I do extend my apologies to all the families and

7 children in Scranton that, you know, this has been a

8 very, very lengthy process. I wish it were not so.

9 MR. MCTIERNAN: Still on the question,

10 Mrs. Gatelli. I have a few concerns. When I

11 campaigned for this seat, I did campaign in favor of

12 swimming pool fees.

13 Looking at other municipalities, there

14 are many other municipalities many our size that either

15 do not have pools or do impose fees. I recognize that

16 there are some that do not.

17 I also want to recognize the fact that

18 the folks running the pools have made efforts to make

19 sure that the pools remain accessible to moderate and

20 income families.

21 And as I did some research on this, I

22 talked with the department that's in charge of the

23 pools, and it costs in excess of \$200,000 per year

24 between salaries and chemicals, and that is excluding

25 utilities.

.

123

1 And so, I am not in favor of this at

2 this time. I was in favor of introducing it so that we

3 did have time to discuss it.

4 And finally, last time this did come up

5 with the previous Council, I was in favor of some
6 modifying of the amendment, modifying of the language
7 to encourage family usage, and I would still be in
8 favor of that, if that would be entertained. And
9 that's all I have, Mrs. Gatelli.

10 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else? Did we have
11 a second?

12 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

13 MS. GATELLI: All those in favor,

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

17 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed?

18 MR. MCTIERNAN: No.

19 MS. GATELLI: The ayes have it and so
20 moved.

21 MS. GARVEY: 5-C - FOR INTRODUCTION - A
22 RESOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA
23 MUNICIPALITIES PLANNING CODE, ARTICLE 9, SECTION 903,
24 ACT 247 OF 1968 AS AMENDED BY ACT 93 OF 1972 AND ACT
25 NO. 249 OF 1978 AND ACT 170 OF 1998, IT IS THE DESIRE

.

124

1 OF THE SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL TO APPOINT NANCY REEDY,

2 2026 PROSPECT AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AS A
3 MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS. MRS. REEDY'S
4 TERM WILL BEGIN JULY 1, 2006 AND EXPIRE ON
5 JUNE 30, 2011. MRS. REEDY WILL BE REPLACING
6 MR. JOSEPH A. WECHSLER, WHOSE TERM EXPIRES ON
7 JUNE 30, 2006.

8 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll
9 entertain a motion that 5-C be introduced.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

11 MS. EVANS: Second.

12 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

13 those in favor.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

16 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

18 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

19 have it and so moved.

20 MS. GARVEY: 5-D - FOR INTRODUCTION - A

21 RESOLUTION - REAPPOINTMENT OF SAM CHERRA, JR., 1410

22 DOROTHY STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18504 TO THE

23 BOARD OF SCRANTON RECREATION AUTHORITY. MR. CHERRA'S

24 CURRENT TERM EXPIRES ON JUNE 17, 2006 AND HIS NEW TERM

25 WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 17, 2011.

125

1 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

2 entertain a motion that 5-D be introduced.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

4 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

6 those in favor.

7 MS. EVANS: Aye.

8 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

9 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

11 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

12 have it and so moved.

13 MS. GARVEY: 5-E - FOR INTRODUCTION - A

14 RESOLUTION - RE-APPOINTMENT OF ALOYSIUS R. MUNLEY, 842

15 TAYLOR AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 TO THE

16 BOARD OF THE SCRANTON RECREATION AUTHORITY. MR.

17 MUNLEY'S CURRENT TERM EXPIRES ON JUNE 17, 2006 AND HIS

18 NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 17, 2011.

19 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

20 entertain a motion that 5-E be introduced.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

22 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

23 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

24 those in favor.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

.

126

1 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

2 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

4 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

5 have it and so moved.

6 MS. GARVEY: 5-F - FOR INTRODUCTION - A

7 RESOLUTION - RE-APPOINTMENT OF WAYNE HILLER, 303

8 SEYMOUR AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18505 TO THE

9 BOARD OF THE SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY. MR. HILLER'S

10 CURRENT TERM EXPIRED ON JUNE 1, 2006 AND HIS NEW TERM

11 WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 1, 2011.

12 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

13 entertain a motion 5-F be introduced.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

15 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

16 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

17 those in favor.

18 MS. EVANS: Aye.

19 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

20 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

22 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

23 have it and so moved.

24 MS. GARVEY: 5-G, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

25 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

.

127

1 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO

2 ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN FROM THE

3 COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM, PROJECT

4 NO. 03-150.2 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000 TO

5 EDMUND AND CHRIS PISANO PARTNERSHIP TO ASSIST AN

6 ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

7 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

8 entertain a motion that 5-G be introduced.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

10 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

11 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

12 those in favor.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

17 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

18 have it and so moved.

19 MS. GARVEY: 5-H - FOR INTRODUCTION - A

20 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

21 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO

22 ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT TO MAKE A LOAN FROM THE

23 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT LOAN PROGRAM, PROJECT

24 NO. 03-150.C IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000 TO

25 SCRANTON-DUNLOP, INCORPORATED TO ASSIST IN ELIGIBLE

.

128

1 PROJECT.

2 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

3 entertain a motion 5-F be introduced.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

5 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

6 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

7 those in favor.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

10 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

13 have it and so moved.

14 MS. GARVEY: Sixth order. 6-A, READING

15 BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 37, 2006 - AN ORDINANCE

16 - VACATING A PORTION OF FIELD COURT/STREET BEGINNING AT

17 THE RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE 400 BLOCK OF NORTH CAMERON

18 AVENUE AND EXTENDING 100 FEET IN A SOUTHEASTERLY

19 DIRECTION WITH A WIDTH OF 20 FEET.

20 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

21 entertain a motion.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6-A

23 pass reading by title.

24 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

25 MS. GATELLI: What is your pleasure?

.

129

1 Did someone second it? I'm sorry. I'm out of it. All

2 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: 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 RULES - FOR ADOPTION

11 - RESOLUTION NO. 62, 2006 - APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW
12 FLYNN, 1801 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE, SCRANTON,
13 PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 TO THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON SEWER
14 AUTHORITY. MR. FLYNN WILL BE FULFILLING THE TERM OF
15 EUGENE BARRETT, WHO RESIGNED. MR. FLYNN'S TERM WILL
16 EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2007.

17 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the
18 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of 7-A.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

20 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll
21 call.

22 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

23 MS. EVANS: Yes.

24 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

25 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

.

130

1 MR. COOLICAN: 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. Can I have a

8 motion to adjourn?

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

10 MS. GATELLI: Second?

11 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

12 MS. GATELLI: All in favor.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

17 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Meeting adjourned.

18

19 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

20

21

22

23

24

25

.

131

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

2

3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

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

6 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same

7 to the best of my ability.

8

9

10

LISA M. GRAFF, RMR

11 Official Court Reporter

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25