

1

1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

2

3

4

5 Held:

6 Thursday, March 29, 2007

7

8

9 Time:

10 6:30 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 MCGOFF

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: Okay. Please stand

2 for the Pledge Of Allegiance. Please remain

3 standing for a moment of reflection. Roll

4 call.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: Here.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

14 MS. GATELLI: Here. Dispense with

15 the reading of the minutes.

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

17 APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE  
18 ZONING HEARING BOARD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14,  
19 2007.

20 MS. GATELLI: Are there any  
21 comments? If not, received and filed.

22 MS. GARVEY: 3-B, CONTROLLER'S  
23 REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 28,  
24 2007.

25 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comment?  
.

4

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. GARVEY: 3-C, MINUTES FOR THE  
3 VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING  
4 HELD ON JANUARY 16, 2007.

5 MS. GATELLI: Are there any  
6 comments? If not, received and filed.

7 MS. GARVEY: 3-D, MINUTES OF THE  
8 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON  
9 FEBRUARY 28, 2007.

10 MS. GATELLI: Are there any  
11 comments? If not, received and filed.

12 MS. GARVEY: 3-E, AGENDA FOR THE  
13 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON

14 APRIL 11, 2007.

15 MS. GATELLI: Are there any

16 comments? If not, received and filed.

17 MS. GARVEY: 3-F, MINUTES FROM THE

18 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING

19 HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2007.

20 MS. GATELLI: Any comments if not,

21 received anticipate filed.

22 MS. GARVEY: 3-G, AGENDA FOR THE

23 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING

24 HELD ON MARCH 28, 2007.

25 MS. GATELLI: Are there any

.

5

1 comments? If not, received and filed.

2 MS. GARVEY: That's all I have for

3 third order.

4 MS. GATELLI: Fourth order.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mrs. Gatelli, could

6 I ask you something?

7 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'd like to make a

9 motion I hereby move in the interest of

10 having good open government in the City of

11 Scranton, that this Scranton City Council  
12 hereby direct that all future Scranton City  
13 Council meetings be broadcast live on  
14 Channel 61.

15 MS. EVANS: Second.

16 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

17 MS. EVANS: I commend your motion,  
18 Mr. Courtright, and I am in agreement 1,000  
19 percent.

20 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the  
21 question? All in favor.

22 MS. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? No.

.

6

1 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: No.

2 MS. GATELLI: The ayes have it and  
3 so moved. Anyone else like to make a  
4 comment before we start? The first speaker  
5 is Lee Morgan. Andy Sbaraglia.

6 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Gatelli, if I

7 could just interrupt for one minute, the

8 reason probably some of the names are on the  
9 sign-in sheet because the sign-in sheet is  
10 prepared on Thursdays in the afternoon by  
11 noon, so people who had come in did sign in  
12 on the sign-in sheet, even though we didn't  
13 know how they would be coming in the doors.

14 So, that may happen a few times. You may  
15 see some names on there that maybe they  
16 didn't get in before. I don't know.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay.

18 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Sbaraglia.

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andrew Sbaraglia,  
20 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I  
21 want to say a few words on 6-B. That's an  
22 ordinance as amended to allow for the  
23 purchase of used police vehicles.

24 Now, I read that legislation, I read  
25 the new one, I read the old one, and I read

.

7

1 the new one. Nowhere in that legislation is  
2 anything mentioned about mileage or year of  
3 vehicle.

4 This legislation -- you can go to

5 DeNaples' Junkyard and buy a car and bring  
6 it in and it would be perfectly legal.

7 Somewhere along the line you should  
8 amend this and put in a stipulation for what  
9 you think a year should be and what mileage  
10 should be. And you can get that from any  
11 used car dealership within the city.

12 This looks like just a pay back. I  
13 don't understand it. If you read the  
14 legislation, you can see this is a pay back.

15 The mayor can go to anyone he wants to.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Sbaraglia,  
17 could I comment on that?

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: Go ahead.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's not the mayor,  
20 it's myself and the rest of Council and the  
21 Scranton Police Department. I've been  
22 discussing with them -- this with them over  
23 a year.

24 They've actually gone out on their  
25 own, certain police officers, they've sought

.

8

1 out used car dealers. What they're going to

2 do is go to an auction and try to buy the  
3 cars at auction through a dealer.  
4 What happens is when you go to an  
5 auction, you don't know when you get there  
6 what vehicles will be available, what the  
7 mileage, what options they will have.  
8 It's not they're buying a brand new  
9 vehicle. And they're in such dire need,  
10 especially the detective bureau, I really  
11 think they're going to do the right thing,  
12 or I wouldn't have had any part in this.  
13 MR. SBARAGLIA: But there's no thing  
14 in it that really protects the people. I  
15 mean, you can have whatever you want there,  
16 but there's nothing specific. Why can't you  
17 put something specific? No car less than  
18 '95, say, that's already quite a few years  
19 old, or 2000, that's already seven years  
20 old. The mileage on it, no more than, say,  
21 70,000.  
22 That would make a lot more sense  
23 than the way this is written. They may be  
24 in dire need, but let them use their own  
25 car. You can actually do what the police

.

9

1 did, if you went that far, if you wanted to  
2 go that far, to ask any detective if he  
3 wanted to use his personal car, you would do  
4 whatever is necessary to do it. You can go  
5 to the state and buy vehicles. The state  
6 sells them, too.

7 But somewhere along the line you  
8 must protect the taxpayer, at least in  
9 mileage and year, because mechanical  
10 condition, you know, you're going to be  
11 stuck with whatever you can get, because  
12 there's no guarantee on your mechanical  
13 condition either.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. We are in  
15 sixth order, all right, and I will bring  
16 your suggestions to the police  
17 department and --

18 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: -- ask them if  
20 they're interested. You're looking for a  
21 year. Mileage, I think, is going to be  
22 difficult.

23 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. I will bring

25 your suggestion up.

.

10

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: That's all you can

2 do.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. I think

4 it's Jean.

5 MS. SUETTA: Jean Suetta, Scranton,

6 Pennsylvania. I was cold when I come in.

7 Sherry, about that \$250,000 that we're

8 supposed to loan The Radisson, are they

9 going to give our locals the job or are they

10 going to hire people from out of town? I

11 asked you that question three weeks ago, two

12 weeks ago, and you were supposed to find

13 out.

14 MS. GATELLI: She'll let you know.

15 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Would you like

16 me to answer now or during motions?

17 MS. SUETTA: Answer.

18 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Okay. What I

19 found out was that there is no qualification

20 for them to hire anybody here for the HUD  
21 Act or any of our state laws, but they did  
22 say that they were going to bid out so that  
23 everyone would have the opportunity to get  
24 the job.

25 MS. SUETTA: I mean, you're giving

.

11

1 somebody a quarter of a million dollars.  
2 They should give back money back to the  
3 economy here.

4 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I agree. I  
5 completely agree we should be using local  
6 people, especially for such --

7 MS. SUETTA: Do you know when the  
8 bids are going to go out?

9 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I don't know.  
10 I seriously don't know. Probably not until  
11 the loan approval goes through, I would  
12 imagine. Okay?

13 MS. SUETTA: Okay. Thank you.

14 MS. GATELLI: Sam Patilla.

15 MR. PATILLA: Sam Patilla, city  
16 resident, homeowner and taxpayer. I would

17 like to first address section five, the  
18 appointment to have Robert Rossi and Company  
19 perform the City of Scranton's annual  
20 independent audit.

21 . I requested Council hold off on  
22 that until it can be validated whether or  
23 not Mr. Rossi or anybody connected with  
24 their firm is a contributor to Mayor  
25 Doherty's campaign, okay?

.

12

1 The last thing we need is somebody  
2 connected to that mayor doing our audit.  
3 It's bad enough that you're insisting on  
4 loaning out money to The Radisson, to the  
5 coffee shop, the roasting firm.  
6 We don't have any money to loan  
7 anybody. We can't pay our bills, okay, so  
8 we don't have any money to loan, okay?  
9 So, until we can get our house in  
10 order, okay, it's requested by me on my own  
11 that anything having to do with Mayor  
12 Doherty that contains the word loan,  
13 appointment, borrowing, be put aside until

14 it can be validated that it's actually in  
15 the best interest of the citizens, the  
16 taxpaying citizens, of the City of Scranton.  
17 We don't have it, okay? We got  
18 another tax rate -- another rate facing  
19 around the corner. After that a few months  
20 later there's going to be another increase,  
21 and another increase, and another increase.  
22 And it has to stop. It has to come  
23 to an end. Somebody has to stand up and  
24 say, Okay, we can't spend any more. We have  
25 to start cutting back.

.

13

1 Fire Parker, fire Burke, fire  
2 Hailstone, fire some of the attorneys, fire  
3 some of the lobbyists, fire some of the  
4 consultants. Get our money back so we can -  
5 it can be used toward us. We can't keep  
6 sending it out. There's nothing coming in  
7 it. Okay? There's nothing coming in.  
8 I have nothing against the proposal  
9 for the fire department or the police  
10 department. God knows, the people have been

11 without a contract for five years. They  
12 need anything we can give to them for not  
13 walking out when they had the opportunity,  
14 okay?  
15 It's time for City Council to stand  
16 up and be recognized. No more pay to play.  
17 The city is almost \$500,000 in debt. That  
18 is a lot of money, a lot of money, you know.  
19 That's money that our great, great, great  
20 grandchildren will still be paying on.  
21 That's why you can't let Doherty borrow any  
22 more. That's why you can't allow him to  
23 loan out any money. It has to stop, people.  
24 It really has to.

25 MS. GATELLI: Is there anyone else

.

14

1 on the agenda items?

2 MS. KRAKE: My name is Nancy Krake.

3 I'd like to talk about 5-B and 5-C on the

4 agenda. There's an 18-page contract with

5 this company, and I'm hoping everyone on

6 Council reads it and compares it to what we

7 do now.

8 I'm the person here at this point,  
9 previous to me it was Kitsy Hart, who does  
10 this 18-page contract, one person.  
11 All the fees in here are minimum  
12 quadrupled to what we charge now. And on  
13 top of this company, they can also hire  
14 consultants.  
15 And, I believe, it's a little shy of  
16 what was plugged into the budget. If I were  
17 Council, I would read it diligently and  
18 compare what we do, what we've done in the  
19 past, how much monies we can take in on our  
20 own. This is not a good fit for the  
21 citizens, and it's truly outrageous.  
22 I'm sure if the mayor still feels it  
23 necessary to hire a company, that any or all  
24 of these items can be negotiated. It would  
25 really truly be an injustice if it was not

.

15

1 researched. Thank you.

2 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Krake, I just  
3 have one question, because there's time,  
4 some of these things in here, your office is

5 doing already?

6 MS. KRAKE: We've been stopped from  
7 doing it because NCC has never returned any  
8 information to us correctly.

9 Now, if they did, we would be doing  
10 it. We have been for the past year and a  
11 half working with another tax agency that  
12 has been trying to pry the information from  
13 NCC so the treasurer's office could have tax  
14 sales again, however, they were having a lot  
15 of difficulty getting information from NCC,  
16 and at this point in time, I think they have  
17 garnered quite a bit of it.

18 And it looked to me like we were in  
19 it the process of starting sales. I truly  
20 don't know how that would fit in with this  
21 company or exactly what's going on, and I  
22 really would like to know, since it is my  
23 job.

24 MS. GATELLI: I know we did have tax  
25 sales years ago.

.

16

1 MS. KRAKE: Yes, we did, and they

2 always worked out fine and the system worked  
3 beautifully, and it worked that way for  
4 probably 75 or 80 years until NCC.

5 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone  
6 else want to speak on agenda items?

7 MS. GARVEY: 5-A, motions.

8 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Evans.

9 MS. EVANS: Good evening. Following  
10 the complaints expressed by Mr. Litwinsky,  
11 who is present once again this evening, at  
12 our last Council meeting, I visited the  
13 exterior portion of The Scranton Rescue  
14 Mission on Olive Street and was very  
15 concerned about what I saw.  
16 I contacted Mr. Fiorini to send an  
17 inspector, Mr. Liptai, to examine the  
18 structure.

19 Consequently, I learned that the  
20 rescue mission had been first inspected on  
21 August 10, 2005 and displayed the very same  
22 code violations it exhibited during the  
23 recent inspection on March 20, 2007.

24 Thus, Mr. Fiorini has sent a letter  
25 to the owner of the property advising him to

.

17

1 repair these violations or the building will  
2 be condemned.

3 I thank both Mr. Fiorini and Mr.

4 Liptai for their prompt action, as well as

5 other city inspectors who have always

6 responded and were accessible at all times.

7 The owner of the rescue mission also

8 appeared before the zoning board in November

9 2005, where his request was denied, and no

10 appeals to the zoning board were filed.

11 Kay, please send a letter to Mr.

12 Seitzinger regarding a house at 2931 Birney

13 Avenue. In August 2006, Mr. Seitzinger told

14 the neighbors that the house would be

15 demolished within 30 days by the owner,

16 however, not only does it still stand,

17 neighbors continue to report that strangers

18 exit and enter the structure. Please

19 provide an update.

20 Also for Mr. Seitzinger, a report on

21 the vacant building on Gordon Avenue. I

22 believe it might at one time have been a

23 machine Shop. It was condemned in 2005, and  
24 appears to be an accident waiting to happen.

25 A letter to Chief Davis, who was

.

18

1 responsible for toxic hazardous materials to

2 remain stored for four to five months in the

3 Flexible Foam warehouse in Minooka

4 approximately two years ago? Who gave

5 permission to the owner or management to

6 allow such a safety hazard?

7 These questions were posed in

8 writing shortly after the material was

9 removed, but Chief Davis failed to identify

10 the responsible individual to this day.

11 Also, this response is for John, who

12 wrote to me about an alley between 123 and

13 129 West Parker Street. All addresses in

14 that alley, John, are listed as rear North

15 Main Avenue, and I thank Hila for that

16 information.

17 And although I already have sent

18 letters to Mr. Doherty and Mr. Brazil

19 regarding the location of a replacement

20 field for the South Side Complex, I would  
21 like to make this request again by motion of  
22 Council, therefore, I move that Council send  
23 letters to Mr. Doherty and Mr. Brazil  
24 requesting the locations of the lighted  
25 replacement field for the South Side Complex  
.

19

1 as required by the memorandum of  
2 understanding and Senate Bill 850.  
3 Will the University of Scranton  
4 contribute the \$100,000 to the construction  
5 of such field, and when will the field  
6 officially open?

7 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I'll second  
8 that.

9 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Are  
10 you putting a time frame, because I think we  
11 should have a time frame.

12 MS. EVANS: I would be happy to  
13 include that.

14 MS. GATELLI: Because I've been  
15 getting some calls from the softball  
16 players, also.

17 MS. EVANS: I would think that a  
18 four-week deadline would be more than  
19 sufficient time in which to provide a  
20 response.

21 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else? All in  
22 favor.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye.

24 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

.

20

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

2 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The  
3 ayes have it and so ordered.

4 MS. EVANS: If you'll bear with me  
5 for a moment. I also wish to thank the many  
6 people who have supported me over the past  
7 two weeks. I am most grateful to you for  
8 helping to sustain me during such troubled  
9 times.

10 Although I have been attacked  
11 consistently over the last year, this latest  
12 barrage was the most outlandish and  
13 offensive.

14 I apologize if some of your phone  
15 calls, cards and E-mails might have gone  
16 unanswered, but I received them, and they  
17 reinvigorated me to continue my schedule of  
18 attending meetings, working on citizens  
19 problems, doing interviews and preparing for  
20 tonight's Council meeting.

21 More importantly, they inspire me to  
22 continue fighting the good fight for  
23 financial accountability and open  
24 government, both of which have been  
25 challenged in the last seven days.

.

21

1 Who has the power to remove cameras  
2 from government meetings, and who benefits  
3 from their removal?

4 It appears that Mr. Doherty, at the  
5 request of Mrs. Gatelli, has removed the  
6 cameras, and it also appears that we must go  
7 through him to have them reinstalled.

8 Mr. Doherty benefits from their  
9 removal. Now citizens would no longer be  
10 able to witness his refusal to answer

11 questions or to explain his financial  
12 practices and decisions that have resulted  
13 in this enormous debt.  
14 It is shameful that the few can  
15 remove cameras that once provided access to  
16 local government for the disabled, the  
17 elderly and the second and third shift  
18 worker.  
19 This action purposely operates  
20 against the best interests of the people.  
21 Consequently, I believe that an amendment to  
22 the Home Rule Charter providing for recall  
23 of elected officials is in order, and that  
24 the question should be placed on the  
25 November municipal ballot.  
.  
22

1 The removal of cameras may well be  
2 enough to merit a recall for those involved.  
3 The ostensible reason for the removal of  
4 television cameras appears to be the  
5 threatening hostile environment created by  
6 speakers.  
7 Not all speakers grandstand or

8 behave inappropriately. Most present their  
9 facts, problems and suggestions in an  
10 organized, respectful manner.  
11 In a perfect world, all speakers  
12 would deliver polite, complementary  
13 presentations because they would have no  
14 taxes, no flooding, no potholes, however,  
15 most of us know that Scranton is not a  
16 perfect place, despite the dizzying spin on  
17 economic development, parks and public  
18 safety spun by the mayor and The Scranton  
19 Times.

20 When citizens receive no answers, no  
21 truth, no help and no respect, they do grow  
22 increasingly frustrated and dissatisfied, as  
23 is demonstrated by their comments.

24 I do not support any disrespectful  
25 or threatening behavior in these noble

23

1 chambers. That is why I do not disrespect  
2 speakers or threaten Council members.

3 I hope speakers will continue to  
4 attend our meetings, and I will continue to

5 respect speakers. I don't control people,  
6 and it is not my job to control speakers,  
7 rather, it is the president's job.  
8 I never encourage people to dislike  
9 or intimidate Council members, but neither  
10 can I make people like you.  
11 I also hope that respect and decorum  
12 improve on the dais and that all Council  
13 members respect speakers.  
14 There have been times when I have  
15 been ridiculed and aspersions have been  
16 casted on my character and family at Council  
17 meetings, on a website, and in the  
18 newspaper, but I do not disrespect or  
19 silence speakers, cancel or prematurely  
20 adjourn Council meetings or pull the plug on  
21 televised government meetings.  
22 There have been times, however, when  
23 I had been disrespected and disappointed by  
24 Council members who did not attend budget  
25 work sessions or heed my advice as Council  
·  
24  
1 finance chairperson, particularly when our

2 president asked me to resume this post. But  
3 I never threatened or harassed any Council  
4 member.

5 Political differences sadly have  
6 degenerated into personal vendettas. I have  
7 been falsely accused of criminal conspiracy  
8 by two members of Council. This is  
9 absolutely outrageous, and I am hurt by  
10 these comments.

11 Similarly unbelievable, I read that  
12 Austin Burke and Christopher Doherty claim  
13 that Channel 61 and City Council meetings  
14 give this city a bad image and prevent  
15 businesses from investing in our community.

16 First of all, Channel 61, I believe,  
17 has only been in operation for seven years  
18 and City Council meetings are televised over  
19 a small geographical distance.

20 I don't think New York,  
21 Philadelphia, Pittsburgh or Chicago  
22 businessmen and entrepreneurs are watching  
23 Scranton City Council meetings.

24 Furthermore, City Council cannot be  
25 attributed blame for the fact that since

.

25

1 1994, our area has lost 60,000 civilian  
2 laborers ages 18 to 65, that nine percent of  
3 area workers earn the minimum wage, and our  
4 area is last in average weekly wages earned  
5 of all 14 Pennsylvania metropolitan  
6 statistical areas, and our region's  
7 unemployment rate is higher than the  
8 national average. Perhaps the chamber of  
9 commerce should attempt to pull the plug on  
10 those trends.

11 Our wage tax is the second highest  
12 in Pennsylvania, our property taxes continue  
13 to rise, and our mercantile tax is onerous.  
14 The Doherty Administration is  
15 exercising eminent domain on a 40-year-old  
16 taxpaying pizzeria. Doesn't this give the  
17 city a bad image, and not Council meetings?  
18 On the other hand, I agree with a  
19 portion of PEL's analysis of distressed  
20 cities last week. New tax sources are  
21 needed for municipalities to balance  
22 budgets. This is why my proposed budget

23 contained an amusement and hotel taxes.

24 The amusement tax is coming soon,

25 and I'm further investigating a hotel tax by

.

26

1 talking to other municipalities about their

2 successful implementations.

3 I also learned that the mayor lost

4 another arbitration appeal against the

5 police union, because he cannot abide by

6 union contracts. Cost to the taxpayers,

7 \$200,000.

8 Since this case sets a statewide

9 precedent, we reasonably can expect that the

10 mayor will lose his appeals on similar union

11 contract violations.

12 Most residents were shocked to learn

13 about the over \$5 million owed to American

14 Water Services.

15 I have been discussing this court

16 award for over a year and asking the mayor

17 about his plans for payment. That was one

18 of the many questions which I submitted to

19 the mayor and that has gone unanswered.

20 I have copies to substantiate my  
21 statements. I wasn't poor-mouthing the  
22 city, I was depicting financial reality.  
23 Furthermore, according to documents  
24 received from the Scranton Sewer Authority,  
25 there will be a sewer rate increase of 56  
26 .  
27

1 and a half percent. And so, tonight, I ask  
2 that City Council call a public caucus to  
3 discuss rate hikes and the repayment of  
4 monies owed to American Water Services.  
5 I would ask that the Sewer Authority  
6 board attend that meeting and that  
7 ratepayers are also able to attend that  
8 meeting.

9 This is, after all, a distressed  
10 city, and 56 percent is quite a slap in the  
11 face to people who are enduring an EMS Tax,  
12 a high wage tax, increased property taxes,  
13 and a lack of family-sustaining jobs.  
14 And it's my hope that the Sewer  
15 Authority can see its way clear to cutting  
16 their costs down and to perhaps providing

17 rate increases which are necessary over  
18 incremental periods, rather than in huge  
19 attacks on the ratepayers.

20 At the Keyser Valley flood project  
21 meeting conducted on Tuesday evening, I  
22 learned that the state and the federal  
23 government have not yet granted final  
24 approval for projects in that area, and that  
25 Mr. Parker does not believe that curbing,

28

1 leveling and heightening of roads and  
2 heightening of riverbanks should be  
3 instituted to alleviate flooding problems,  
4 repeated flooding problems for city  
5 residents.

6 Yesterday the newspaper final  
7 reported that the city is on the brink of  
8 financial crisis, which I have predicted for  
9 three years.

10 Please note the \$108 million debt  
11 cited in the newspaper does not include the  
12 interest or the debt of city authorities.  
13 The city guarantees those debts. The city

14 pledges its full faith and credit, and that,  
15 my friends, is you, the taxpayer.  
16 As finance chair, I created two  
17 budgets that cut consultants and unnecessary  
18 political jobs, eliminated borrowing,  
19 included new revenue sources, et cetera.  
20 I've continuously called for halts in  
21 spending.

22 The mayor responded, once again,  
23 that I was poor-mouthing the city. I was  
24 depicting reality for the many poor and  
25 elderly citizens in Scranton who cannot  
29

1 afford the Doherty debt.  
2 In light of these current  
3 disclosures, I will present a few motions  
4 this evening for several financial questions  
5 to be answered by Mr. Doherty and Mr.  
6 Kresefski.

7 I move that the response to the  
8 following question is provided, what is the  
9 dollar amount in the reserve fund?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

11 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

12 in favor.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

17 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

18 ayes have it and so moved.

19 MS. EVANS: Show the number -- I

20 move that administration show the numbers

21 for Worker's Compensation payments.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

23 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

24 MR. MCGOFF: At what point in time?

25 MS. EVANS: From 2002 through the

.

30

1 present.

2 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the

3 question? All in favor.

4 MS. EVANS: Aye.

5 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

8 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

9 ayes have it and so moved.

10 MS. EVANS: I move that

11 administration show the number for Worker's

12 Compensation reimbursements, provide a

13 detailed analysis of where this money has

14 gone.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

16 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

17 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Wouldn't that

18 go to the pension board?

19 MS. EVANS: No. Actually it was a

20 line item in the annual operating budget.

21 It had reached a high point of \$400,000, and

22 has since annually decreased, until finally

23 in the 2007 operating budget, there is a

24 zero dollar amount listed. I do not

25 understand how we can in one year receive

.

31

1 \$400,000 in reimbursements, and in 2007,

2 receive zero dollars.

3 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I'll second

4 that. I have no problem with that.

5 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the

6 question? All in favor.

7 MS. EVANS: Aye.

8 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

11 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

12 ayes have it and so moved.

13 MS. EVANS: I move that the

14 administration provide the total number of

15 buyouts that have occurred from 2002 through

16 2006.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

18 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

19 in favor.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye.

21 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

24 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

25 ayes have it and so moved.

.

32

1 MS. EVANS: And finally, I move that

2 the following questions receive responses,  
3 When will the city receive the realty  
4 transfer tax payment for the sale of Montage  
5 Ski Resort? Is this payment included in the  
6 realty transfer tax line item of the 2007  
7 proposed budget?  
8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.  
9 MS. GATELLI: On the question. All  
10 in favor.  
11 MS. EVANS: Aye.  
12 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.  
13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.  
14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.  
15 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The  
16 ayes have it and so moved.  
17 MS. EVANS: I thank my honorable  
18 colleagues, and that's it.  
19 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Fanucci.  
20 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I am happy to  
21 see the full house tonight, and I want to  
22 talk about something that's been in the  
23 paper a lot this week, obviously the water  
24 and the problems that we have in our  
25 distressed city.

1 This week we were hit with another  
2 setback, and the amount that came up, it's  
3 just ludicrous how much money we are  
4 spending, and our deficit is increasing  
5 daily.

6 But it is easily explained. Our  
7 revenue increase is roughly 1.2 percent  
8 yearly, so that's how much we actually  
9 increase and bring in. Hopefully with some  
10 of our new taxes, we can increase that.

11 But our health care costs increased  
12 eight to 12 percent every year. Last year  
13 it was 15 percent. The pension increase  
14 last year was four to six percent, and  
15 obviously inflation was three percent.

16 A new report came out on Sunday, as  
17 a matter of fact, Committing to Prosperity  
18 by the Brookings Institute. This -- it's  
19 like an independent study group, they go out  
20 and they check out all of Pennsylvania,  
21 decide what they should do. It's not like  
22 PEL, because they do not work for anyone.

23 This is their own report.  
24 Scranton is not alone in the fact  
25 that we are distressed and cannot pay our  
.  
34

1 bills.

2 In 1970, 54 out of the 56 cities  
3 were below the state fiscal average. By  
4 2003, all cities fell below. And not only  
5 does it show how distressed we are, but it  
6 shows us how to get out of it, and this is  
7 an idea -- in fact, I was talking to one of  
8 the leaders tonight from the unions, and  
9 this, to me, is the best way for us to get  
10 out of distressed city.

11 It states that all you need to do is  
12 put together a health care fund like the  
13 state. All the cities get together, and  
14 instead of purchasing individual health  
15 care, they go together in one lump sum,  
16 purchase health care. This way we get lots  
17 of breaks on the health care system, that  
18 people say, okay, instead of, what, 800  
19 employees, you're going to have thousands

20 and thousands and thousands of employees  
21 under the same umbrella, just like the state  
22 does.

23 Everybody says, Oh, gosh, I wish I  
24 had the state health care. This is the way  
25 for you to get the state health care, not at  
.  
35

1 the same prices.

2 This is where I need everyone's  
3 help. This is not something that we can do  
4 from this level. We wish we could, but it's  
5 not.

6 So, I'm erasing all the lines in the  
7 sand, I'm asking you to do the same. This  
8 issue is something we can all come together  
9 on. Why? Because we don't want to be  
10 distressed anymore.

11 Our health care is a problem. Does  
12 that mean that you blame anyone? No.  
13 Health care has gone up. We need our  
14 employees to have wonderful health care, we  
15 want them to be provide health care.

16 But as everybody knows at home, you

17 are paying lots of money trying to keep this  
18 health care going. We need to find a way,  
19 and this is the best way to do it.

20 Here's what they said. It's not  
21 only the health care, they also said that if  
22 we do this for pension and tax collections,  
23 also, that this is the way.

24 But the only way we can do this is  
25 by talking to every one of your legislators  
.  
36

1 and saying that you want to do this, then we  
2 have to go to other cities in Pennsylvania  
3 and say, this is something we want to do  
4 collectively as one state. We want the  
5 state to do this for us, we want them to  
6 help us purchase the health care, we want  
7 the cost reductions.

8 PEL did do a study on this, and they  
9 said that we can save up to \$500 million if  
10 this was done in the right way. That is a  
11 huge savings our city. That is our way out  
12 of being distressed. Right now if you do  
13 this and we can get this done together, this

14 is our way out.

15 I'm going to tell you the mission of  
16 this book, because I know a lot of people,  
17 and I want everybody to read it, too,  
18 because it is amazing, and what -- some of  
19 the leaders were telling me, Oh, we said  
20 this for a long time, but the study was not  
21 out. I didn't read it. I just read it on  
22 Sunday, so -- the Brooking Institution's  
23 policy is that they go into cities, they see  
24 the challenges that they have, they want to  
25 promote America with solutions to help  
.

37

1 communities grow with competitive and  
2 sustainable ways. The health care cost in  
3 our deficit is not anyone's fault. It's a  
4 fact.

5 We need to provide good coverage,  
6 and this is the best way to do it. So, I  
7 need you to contact all of your legislators  
8 and say this is something we want to do  
9 together. We need to work at this and say  
10 it's time to get out of distressed status

11 and save ourselves as much money as we can.

12 I'm going to give you the task to

13 try to do this and help us to work this

14 legislation out in the right way.

15 So, call everyone you know and call

16 them and let's try to work together to get

17 this done.

18 I know that I am going to sit down

19 and try to speak to some of the union

20 leaders and see if there's something that

21 they have suggested years ago on this, and

22 if there's some other way that we can

23 implement this in a quicker, more efficient

24 way for all of us.

25 But that is really all I have. I

.

38

1 think that this is what our problem is. We

2 need to work towards something that we can

3 get out of distressed city. This will stop

4 most of our problems. This will help us

5 move forward, and that is all I have. Thank

6 you.

7 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr.

8 McGoff.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. I would

10 like to perhaps explain my vote on Mr.

11 Courtright's motion. It was my belief that

12 in removing the live feed of Channel 61,

13 that we really didn't change anything.

14 Do I believe that there's something

15 wrong or has been something wrong with the

16 meetings, yes, but I don't believe that

17 simply by taking away the live feed and

18 changing it to a one-hour tape delay was

19 really going to accomplish anything.

20 Whether we have live broadcasts or a

21 one-hour delay really wasn't worth the

22 contention that it had generated, and

23 therefore, I voted in accordance with Mr.

24 Courtright's motion.

25 It has also been stated that at the

.

39

1 last meeting I asked the cameras be stopped.

2 That is correct, I did.

3 It was my belief that by stopping

4 the cameras, that the spectacle that was

5 taking place might be resolved. I had no  
6 intention of violating anyone's right to  
7 speak, I simply thought that if we stopped  
8 the cameras at that point, resolve the  
9 issue, that the meeting could continue.  
10 The best analogy that I could give  
11 would be at sporting events where they  
12 refuse to televise or show people running on  
13 the field or engaged in some other type of  
14 behavior that detracts from the actual  
15 event.  
16 My apologies if my action was  
17 interpreted as an attempt to silence anyone.  
18 It simply was not.  
19 In an attempt to move forward on  
20 some of the issues that have been discussed  
21 in the past, I, too, would like to make a  
22 motion to have the amusement tax as drafted  
23 by Attorney Minora placed on the next agenda  
24 for Council consideration.

25 MS. EVANS: Second.

.

40

1 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

2 in favor.

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

8 ayes have it and so moved.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Second, I would like to

10 make a motion to have a sign and billboard

11 tax as drafted by Attorney Minora placed on

12 our next agenda for Council consideration.

13 MS. EVANS: Second.

14 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

15 those in favor.

16 MS. EVANS: Aye.

17 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

20 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

21 ayes have it and so moved.

22 MR. MCGOFF: And last, I would also

23 like to make a motion to authorize Attorney

24 Minora to investigate the possibility of a

25 public safety fee imposed on local schools,

41

1 university -- universities, for protection

2 afforded to out-of-city students.

3 MS. EVANS: Second.

4 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

5 in favor.

6 MS. EVANS: Aye.

7 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

10 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

11 ayes have it and so moved.

12 MR. MCGOFF: With that, I hope that

13 our first agendas can take a look at doing

14 things to look at the progress of the City

15 of Scranton and look into the future, rather

16 than continue to delve on the past. Thank

17 you.

18 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Courtright.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. Mr.

20 Jackowitz, I believe, he E-mailed me, it's

21 been a couple of weeks, I forgot, but anyway

22 I sent your request, if you're out there, I

23 don't know if you're out there, okay, to

24 Dave Elliott, the police chief, and I'll

25 read his response to you.

.

42

1 On March 15, 2007, I received in my

2 mail a request for information relating to

3 stabbings in the City of Scranton from

4 June 2006 to March 2007.

5 After consulting our records

6 division, I was informed that we cannot

7 search by the title stabbings. All stabbing

8 incidents will be listed by aggravated

9 assaults with a weapon.

10 You can have the resident refer to

11 the Pennsylvania State Police website and

12 look at the UCR section. They can look at

13 the aggravated assault section and compare

14 the results. I apologize for the delay,

15 however, I just received your request. So,

16 that's the answer I got from your question.

17 I would imagine somebody is going to

18 speak about this evening, so maybe I can

19 shed some light on this. The \$281,000 that

20 was on the agenda last time we met for flood  
21 money, I called down, I spoke to Stu Renda,  
22 Leo DeAngelo and Lori Reed about it, and  
23 what they're telling me is under the Doherty  
24 Administration and the Connors  
25 Administration, no money was given to The  
.  
43

1 Radisson from OECD. It was taken over as a  
2 hotel during the McNulty administration, and  
3 as far as they know, there was no money  
4 there either. They're not positive on that.  
5 The \$281,000 was money the city  
6 anticipated on paying for matching funds  
7 when we had the flood a while back when  
8 Pittston Avenue caved in, so the city was  
9 anticipating having to match \$281,000, and  
10 that's why that money was put aside.  
11 Why it couldn't go to lower Green  
12 Ridge, and -- it's because of the fact that  
13 lower Green Ridge is not considered a low to  
14 moderate income area, so they can't use  
15 federal money for what will be considered a  
16 quick fix.

17 I understand that is certainly not  
18 what you want to hear. I'm just telling you  
19 the answer that I got.  
20 And I don't know how to phrase it,  
21 but they put it more or less to me, OECD is  
22 not allowed to do maintenance or quick  
23 fixes. The money, where the \$281,000 is  
24 going, to the Elm Street and East Mountain  
25 project.

44

1 So, I believe I had Kay ask Stu  
2 this, it didn't dawn on me when I was the  
3 phone, did I ask you, Kay, about how the  
4 money was going to East Mountain and it  
5 could not go to lower Green Ridge, and the  
6 answer was this, did you get this answer for  
7 me, it's been a couple of weeks --

8 MS. GARVEY: Yeah, I think I did.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: And the answer is  
10 this, East Mountain area is not low to  
11 moderate either, but it was eligible under  
12 the spot slum and blight, so they blighted  
13 an area and that's how they got the money.

14 MS. SUETTA: Yeah, the woods. Come

15 on.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right, Jean.

17 Again, I understand these aren't answers

18 that you want, but I did my very best to try

19 to get you some kind of answer.

20 Under the guidelines, an area has to

21 be 51 percent or more low to moderate income

22 for this area. To determine -- the latest

23 census was in 2000, and at that time, that

24 part of Green Ridge wasn't low to moderate.

25 I'm trying to see if there's

.

45

1 anything else you might be interested in.

2 They also said, I don't think this matters a

3 whole lot to anybody, that when they were

4 allocating this money, what they were doing

5 was advertising it in The Times, as per

6 HUD's requirements.

7 So, they're the answers I got. I

8 didn't anticipate you being very happy with

9 them, but they were the answers I got. It's

10 the best I can do for now.

11 Maybe we can see if we can get that  
12 area, it will probably take forever, you  
13 know, spot blighted. I didn't know there  
14 was such a thing, to be honest with you, so  
15 I learned something.  
16 When we had the last meeting and  
17 Mrs. Gatelli made a motion to adjourn and I  
18 seconded it, I got several calls and several  
19 people were, you know, saying, you know, Why  
20 did we do that. You know, I second guess  
21 myself. I think maybe what we should have  
22 done was recessed, but during what was going  
23 on, I don't think I was really thinking all  
24 that straight. It was a little chaotic  
25 here, so I seconded the motion, so I hope  
·  
46

1 nothing like that happens in the future, but  
2 if it does, maybe we can recess and then  
3 come back out, because there were speakers  
4 that, you know, needed to talk and we didn't  
5 afford them that opportunity, so I  
6 apologize. It was during the heat of the  
7 moment.

8 Kay, the DPW, thanks to Officer Tom  
9 Lee, was up on Forrest Glen Drive, where I  
10 had said that the road is really  
11 deteriorating.

12 Now it's almost half, if not more,  
13 of the road that's deteriorated, and I  
14 couldn't get any results from Mr. -- but  
15 Officer Lee did. Now there's a cave-in up  
16 there, and there's a horse over it.

17 But if we can tell the DPW now the  
18 horse isn't covering the cave-in, it's going  
19 to be bigger than what the horse is  
20 covering, so whether they need to go up  
21 there and do a quick fix or what, they got  
22 to do something there fast. It's a similar  
23 problem we had up the road, it's just going  
24 to happen again.

25 And one last thing I noticed, I know

.

47

1 a lot of you want to speak this evening, I'm  
2 not quite sure why the balcony wasn't  
3 opened. It's been opened ever since I've  
4 been here.

5 When I first got here, there were a  
6 whole lot of people outside waiting to get  
7 in. When I went back down to tell them, if  
8 one speaker left, you would be allowed to  
9 come in, if you're willing to wait, there  
10 wasn't as many out there at the time, some  
11 have left.

12 And I really think that the balcony  
13 could have accommodated those that were  
14 remaining. So, Kay, unless someone up here  
15 knows the exact answer, maybe we can ask Mr.  
16 Doherty why we're not allowed to use the  
17 balcony.

18 I understand they don't want people  
19 roaming around. Jeez, I've been here for  
20 over three years, and I don't really think  
21 anything has happened, maybe a little bit of  
22 people leaving a soda can or whatever up  
23 there. But if somebody can give me an  
24 answer to why we can't use the balcony, I'd  
25 appreciate that.

.

48

1 And, again, did I send -- I sent so

2 many letters on this. Did I send another

3 letter out asking what's going on on the

4 Main Avenue project or did I not?

5 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: You did.

6 MS. GARVEY: You did send one

7 letter, but the last mention from you was

8 just a request on the air to the mayor,

9 rather than sending a letter.

10 MS. GATELLI: Why don't you do a

11 motion?

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: We did a motion.

13 We did a motion. I can't get a response,

14 the five of us can't. I'm going to have to

15 camp outside his door, I guess.

16 I just simply want an answer. Is he

17 still in favor? He was in favor of doing

18 the project on Main Avenue in West Scranton.

19 And if not -- now people are getting mad.

20 And I'm happy South Scranton is

21 getting all that they're getting, they

22 deserve it, but now people in West Scranton

23 are saying, We're not getting nothing over

24 here. And I can't even get an answer.

25 So, all I want is an answer. If he

1 says no, I won't bug him.

2 MS. GATELLI: We got the money, but

3 nothing was done yet.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, at least you

5 got something. I didn't get an answer. So,

6 I'm not going to ask you to send another

7 letter. I am going to wait until I see his

8 car out the back and I'm going to knock on

9 his door.

10 MS. GATELLI: I think that we can

11 probably invite him to meet with Council.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: That would be

13 great.

14 MS. GARVEY: Invite the mayor to

15 meet with Council in caucus?

16 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'd be thrilled.

18 MS. GARVEY: Any date or any special

19 date that you want?

20 MS. GATELLI: I would ask for

21 possibly the week after next, since next

22 week is Holy Thursday.

23 MS. GARVEY: So, the 12th of April.

24 MS. GATELLI: And see if he can come

25 at 5:30 or even five o'clock.

.

50

1 MS. GARVEY: Okay.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. That's

3 all I have.

4 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Gatelli, could we

5 schedule the caucus with the Sewer Authority

6 as soon as possible?

7 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I already talked

8 to them, that we certainly need to meet, so

9 I will get a date for that, too.

10 MS. EVANS: Very good. The only

11 thing, Mr. Courtright, I wanted to add, you

12 jogged my memory as you spoke, I had heard

13 from individuals who were attending the

14 trial concerning the Hazleton illegal

15 immigration issue, that it was stated during

16 that trial that the mayor of the City of

17 Scranton has set aside \$20 million for a

18 shopping center, I believe, that would

19 accommodate primarily our immigrant

20 population, and I am wondering if indeed  
21 that is accurate, and if so, where that  
22 money is coming from.  
23 I'm guessing that it would include  
24 federal funding, state funding, but I've  
25 never heard mention of that since I've been  
. .  
51

1 seated on Council.  
2 Nevertheless, the statement was made  
3 by, I believe, individuals who were  
4 defending the case of the illegal immigrants  
5 in Hazleton, and so I think it is an issue  
6 that we should be investigating within the  
7 city, particularly since we're facing  
8 financial devastation.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: I agree. We've got  
10 a financial meltdown here. We got \$20  
11 million going anywhere, I'd like to know.  
12 It's the first I heard about it. That's  
13 all. Thank you.

14 MS. GATELLI: Okay. I have a few  
15 announcements. This weekend at West  
16 Scranton High School, the students are

17 presenting The Wizard of Oz. It will be  
18 tomorrow night at seven and Saturday at two.  
19 The Minooka Lions Club is offering a  
20 \$2700 reward for information leading to the  
21 whereabouts of Matthew Grendell, a  
22 20-year-old who has been missing since  
23 March 10. They have received \$700 in  
24 donations, in addition to the \$2,000.  
25 Mr. Grendell's father is a member of  
.  
52

1 the Minooka Lions Club. Send your check  
2 payable to The Minooka Lions Club to Jack  
3 Donlan, 3028 Colliery Avenue, 18505, and  
4 anyone with information about his  
5 disappearance is asked to call the police at  
6 348-4141.

7 Also, this is an early invitation  
8 that Kay got today for the Memorial Day  
9 service from the Veteran of Foreign Wars  
10 Post 25 on Rockwell Avenue. It's at Nay Aug  
11 Park at twelve noon on Monday, May 28.  
12 And I just have a few comments I'd  
13 like to make. Two weeks ago due to a

14 speaker's outburst and refusal to leave the  
15 podium unless arrested, and with the fear  
16 that things would escalate out of control  
17 where everyone's security might be violated,  
18 I moved to adjourn the meeting, which was  
19 seconded by Mr. Courtright and passed 5-0.  
20 It was not my wish to see the person  
21 arrested. In retrospect, I agree with Mr.  
22 Courtright, that we could have adjourned for  
23 ten or fifteen minutes until things settled  
24 down, but in the heat of it, that is what  
25 resulted.

53

1 Last week due to what I believed to  
2 be serious threats, there were photos of  
3 guns and people's heads exploding and the  
4 threat, please, please, that might lead to  
5 violence and compromise the security of all  
6 those that would be attending the meeting,  
7 especially the children that would be here  
8 getting proclamations from Scranton High  
9 School, I met with Solicitor Minora, they  
10 were reviewed by several law enforcement

11 agencies, and it was decided that cancelling  
12 the meeting would be the best path to  
13 guarantee everyone's safety.

14 It seemed like the safest course to  
15 follow until proper procedures could be put  
16 in place to assure a safe and secure meeting  
17 environment.

18 Our building is one of few that does  
19 not have a security system in this post 9/11  
20 world that we live in.

21 In the past I relaxed the rules of  
22 Council to accommodate speakers and members  
23 of Council. It was my hope in doing so with  
24 less formality would foster a more  
25 productive dialogue.

.

54

1 I will from now on strictly enforce  
2 the rules. The rules of Council will be  
3 posted, and also the statute regarding the  
4 conduct of persons attending public  
5 meetings.

6 It is my wish to hear public comment  
7 in an orderly fashion, less than that will

8 not be tolerated, as it might jeopardize the  
9 safety of everyone attending the meeting.

10 As president of Council, it is my  
11 duty to maintain order, provide a safe and  
12 secure environment and see that the business  
13 of Council gets done.

14 It is my hope that spirited and open  
15 discussion of the issues, minus personal  
16 vendettas, return to the chambers.

17 People can disagree about the issues  
18 and still be civil to one another.

19 Tolerance of other person's opinions,  
20 different from our own, can lead to more  
21 fruitful discussion and solutions to  
22 problems that everyone might be able to live  
23 with.

24 If Scranton and this Council are to  
25 move forward, we must be willing to set

.

55

1 aside our personal differences that only  
2 divided us and not unite us and find a  
3 common ground and make the necessary  
4 compromise for the benefit of our great city

5 and the people who we serve.

6 If I have offended anyone, and Mr.

7 Lyman, I did call you names, and I hope that

8 you can accept my apology. I must set an

9 example, and I haven't always done that.

10 It is very difficult to sit here and

11 be abused and talked about your family, so

12 until that happens to you, I am a human

13 being, and I do err. I'm not perfect, and I

14 never claimed to be perfect.

15 But I apologize if I have insulted

16 anyone, and I will try my best not to do it

17 in the future, and I hope that you can

18 accept my apology. Thank you. That's all I

19 have. Mrs. Garvey.

20 MS. GARVEY: 5-B, FOR INTRODUCTION -

21 AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING PENALTY, INTEREST

22 AND FEE SCHEDULE FOR COLLECTION OF

23 DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES.

24 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

25 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be

.

56

1 introduced.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

3 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

4 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

5 MS. EVANS: There appear to be a

6 duplication of services on the first page,

7 specifically between items 3-A and 3-B. I

8 have quite a concern with a number of the

9 provisions, not because I oppose the

10 collection of delinquent taxes, but keeping

11 in mind what the citizens of the city are

12 facing in their financial future, this piece

13 of legislation severely penalizes those who

14 are unable to pay their taxes.

15 And as a result, I would have to

16 question if indeed those payments will ever

17 be made with such fines and fees attached.

18 I thought that the 25 percent

19 collected by NCC beyond the actual amount of

20 delinquency was a very sharp measure, but it

21 certainly pales in comparison to what is

22 contained in this legislation.

23 And as I said, it appears to be

24 pregnant with items that are quite

25 unnecessary, so I will be voting no.

57

1 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the  
2 question? All those in favor.

3 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

6 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed?

7 MS. EVANS: No.

8 MS. GATELLI: The ayes have it and  
9 so moved.

10 MS. GARVEY: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION -  
11 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF TAX  
12 CLAIMS TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE  
13 CITY OF SCRANTON, AND AUTHORIZING THE  
14 EXECUTION OF A PURCHASE AND SALES AGREEMENT  
15 RELATING THERETO; AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF  
16 MUNICIPAL REVENUE SERVICES, INC AND THE LAW  
17 FIRM OF ELLIOTT GREENLEAF SIEDZIKOWSKI AND  
18 BALABAN RELATING TO THE TRANSACTION.

19 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
20 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be  
21 introduced.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

23 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

24 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

25 MS. EVANS: Municipal Revenue

.

58

1 Services has been selected by the mayor in

2 2006. This particular contract was never

3 put out to bid.

4 Further, the backup for this

5 resolution contains no dollar figures, and

6 this is a copy of the agreement. It

7 contains only blank lines.

8 And Exhibit 3.01A, the service agent

9 agreement to which we are referred for the

10 costs involved, as you can all see, is

11 blank. I will not be voting for this piece

12 of legislation.

13 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the

14 question?

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mrs. Gatelli, I am

16 going to vote yes to introduce it. I did

17 speak with an individual that's in this

18 field, and from what he could see, he

19 thought it was a good idea, but I'll find

20 out what particular questions Mrs. Evans has

21 either after the meeting or this week.

22 Just because I'm not an expert on

23 this, I'm going to seek some counseling from

24 this individual, and then I'll render my

25 final decision. Next week will be seventh

.

59

1 order, I believe.

2 MS. EVANS: If I could just respond

3 briefly to this, an overview. It appears

4 that the delinquencies will be in effect

5 sold to the Scranton Redevelopment

6 Authority, and the Redevelopment Authority

7 will obtain either a letter of credit or a

8 loan from Pennstar Bank, and should the

9 delinquencies collected not meet the payment

10 schedule, then I believe, once again, the

11 City of Scranton is going to be on the hook.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: And I'll certainly

13 look into that. I believe I have it in my

14 car, but I took it with me to try to get

15 some guidance on this from this gentleman,

16 and I think, as you all know, I give my

17 agenda to Mr. Sbaraglia after each meeting,  
18 so I have to take this part out, Andy, this  
19 week. Thank you.

20 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Gatelli, I asked  
21 Amil before I interrupted here if that was  
22 okay. I did get some information, because I  
23 was asked to by a Council member regarding  
24 this piece of legislation, so I just wanted  
25 to give each of you the answer that I got  
.  
60

1 from Attorney Hickey.  
2 I was asked to find out who the  
3 owners were of this company, he said the  
4 owner is Pamela Herron, H-e-r-r-o-n. Her  
5 husband is Chuck, he works for the firm, as  
6 does a man by the name of Jeff Spaulding.  
7 They were located in Keon, Pennsylvania. It  
8 was the same firm that did the same program  
9 for the Scranton School District, and  
10 Attorney Hickey also talked to Chuck Herron,  
11 and he said they would be happy to come in  
12 to see Council, if you so chose to do that.  
13 MR. COURTRIGHT: I would like to see

14 that, maybe they could explain it. And,  
15 Kay, I would assume the finance chair for  
16 the school district, I'm sorry, scrutinized  
17 this when they had it done. Maybe we can  
18 send, I believe it's Mr. Garvey, isn't it,  
19 maybe you can ask him if he could send over  
20 to us, you know, how they feel about the job  
21 they did for them, seeing if they did work  
22 for them.

23 MS. EVANS: And I think the caucus  
24 would be very helpful if they would provide  
25 exhibits and dollar amounts for us.

61

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Absolutely, because  
2 I mean, this is a lot of money, and I'm not  
3 a financial wizard. I'm probably going to  
4 need some things explained to me.

5 MS. EVANS: May we consider tabling  
6 this until such a caucus is held?

7 MS. GATELLI: I think that's a  
8 better idea.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: I would be in favor  
10 of that.

11 MS. GATELLI: Will someone make a

12 motion to table?

13 MS. EVANS: I move to table Item

14 5-C.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

16 MS. GATELLI: All in favor.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

21 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

22 ayes have it and so moved.

23 MS. GARVEY: 5-D, FOR INTRODUCTION -

24 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF FRANK J.

25 TUNIS, JR., 101 KELLY WAY, SCRANTON,

.

62

1 PENNSYLVANIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON

2 PARKING AUTHORITY EFFECTIVE MARCH 19, 2007.

3 MR. TUNIS WILL BE REPLACING JAMES MORELL WHO

4 RESIGNED ON FEBRUARY 28, 2007. MR. TUNIS'

5 TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 1, 2007.

6 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

7 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be

8 introduced.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

10 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

11 MS. GATELLI: On the question? I

12 would just like to make a comment here that

13 Mr. Morell is a very dear friend of mine, he

14 has been ill, and that is why he has to

15 leave the board, and I would ask that you

16 all keep him in your prayers. He's doing

17 very well, but he's ill, and that's why he

18 has to leave the board, and he did a fine

19 job. That's my only comment. Anyone else?

20 All those in favor.

21 MS. EVANS: Aye.

22 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

.

63

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. GARVEY: 5-E, FOR INTRODUCTION -

3 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL C.

4 SALERNO, JR., 1200 BRYN MAWR STREET,

5 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS A MEMBER OF  
6 THE SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY. MR. SALERNO  
7 WILL BE REPLACING JOSEPH MATYJEVICH WHO  
8 RESIGNED ON MARCH 2, 2007. MR. SALERNO'S  
9 TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 1, 2009.

10 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
11 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be  
12 introduced.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

14 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

15 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All  
16 in favor.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

21 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The  
22 ayes have it and so moved.

23 MS. GARVEY: 5-F, FOR INTRODUCTION -

24 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
25 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
.

64

1 A CONTRACT WITH ROBERT ROSSI & COMPANY TO

2 PERFORM THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S ANNUAL  
3 INDEPENDENT POST AUDIT FOR THE YEARS ENDING  
4 DECEMBER 31, 2006; DECEMBER 31, 2007;  
5 DECEMBER 31, 2008; AND DECEMBER 31, 2009.

6 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
7 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be  
8 introduced.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

10 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

11 MS. GATELLI: On the question? The  
12 only comment I'd like to make is I know  
13 someone brought this up when they commented  
14 under the agenda items, and Robert Rossi did  
15 the last audit for the City of Scranton, and  
16 when we put it out to bid, we got bids that  
17 were \$100,000 more, so -- and I believe we  
18 bid it twice. We put out requests for  
19 proposals.

20 So, we waived our rules and asked  
21 Mr. Rossi if he would do it for the same  
22 price again. He agreed, so we are waiving  
23 the rules, because you're not supposed to do  
24 the audit two times in a row, and that is  
25 why we came to that.

65

1 I believe it was you, Mr. Patilla,  
2 that asked that particular question, but  
3 that is Council's -- Council does that  
4 hiring, and we have saved the city \$100,000  
5 by going with Robert Rossi again, so I just  
6 wanted to explain that. Anyone else on the  
7 question? All those in favor.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

13 ayes have it and so moved.

14 MS. GARVEY: 5-G, FOR INTRODUCTION -  
15 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
16 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
17 ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN  
18 FROM THE COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING  
19 LOAN PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.8 IN AN AMOUNT  
20 NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00 TO ELECTRIC CITY  
21 ROASTING COMPANY TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE  
22 PROJECT.

23 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
24 entertain a motion that Item 5-G be  
25 introduced.

66

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

3 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

4 MS. EVANS: I had requested in  
5 writing the guarantee from the owner of the  
6 Electric City Roasting Company that any  
7 monies received in the form of loans from  
8 any authority, department, et cetera, of the  
9 City of Scranton not be used for a property  
10 these same individuals have purchased in the  
11 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue.

12 I received almost immediately a  
13 response from the owner indicating,  
14 guaranteeing that none of the monies will be  
15 applied to their property in the 500 block  
16 of Lackawanna Avenue.

17 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the  
18 question? All those in favor.

19 MS. EVANS: Aye.

20 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

23 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

24 ayes have it and so moved.

25 MS. GARVEY: Sixth order. 6-A,

67

1 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 80,

2 2007 - AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND

3 ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.

4 02.229584 ENTITLED SCRANTON POLICE MOTOR

5 CARRIER ENFORCEMENT DETAIL ACCOUNT TO

6 RECEIVE AND DISBURSE FUNDS FROM AND FOR THE

7 MOTOR CARRIER ENFORCEMENT DETAILS OF THE

8 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.

9 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading

10 by title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item

12 6-A pass reading by title.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

14 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

15 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

16 MS. EVANS: Aye.

17 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

20 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

21 ayes have it and so moved.

22 MS. GARVEY: 6-B, READING BY TITLE -

23 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 81, 2007 - AN ORDINANCE

24 - AS AMENDED - AMENDING SECTION 6-14 OF THE

25 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON

.

68

1 TO ALLOW FOR THE PURCHASE OF USED POLICE

2 VEHICLES, CRUISERS AND/OR DETECTIVE CARS AND

3 ACCESSORIES THERETO VIA DIRECT NEGOTIATION

4 WITH THE VENDOR IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$10,000

5 AS A UNIT PRICE PER VEHICLE.

6 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading

7 by title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item

9 6-B pass reading by title.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

11 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question,

13 and, Kay, if you could just make a little

14 note for me, I will ask the police

15 department those questions that Mr.

16 Sbaraglia wanted answered.

17 MS. GATELLI: All those in a favor.

18 MS. EVANS: Aye.

19 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

22 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

23 ayes have it and so moved.

24 MS. GARVEY: We have to have a

25 public hearing on this. Does someone want

.

69

1 to make a motion to that effect?

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I'd like to

3 move that we make a motion -- we need to

4 make a motion that we have a public hearing

5 on Item 6-B.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

7 MS. GATELLI: All in favor.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed?

13 MS. GARVEY: We need a date and a  
14 time.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: April 12th.

16 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: April 12th  
17 meeting before the meeting, six o'clock,  
18 6:15.

19 MS. GARVEY: Seventh order. 7-A,

20 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
21 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION -  
22 RESOLUTION NO. 131, 2007 - AUTHORIZING THE  
23 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
24 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A  
25 LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN FROM THE  
.  
70

1 URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT REPAYMENT  
2 LOAN PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 400.30 IN AN  
3 AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000.00 TO AKSHAR  
4 LACKAWANNA STATION HOSPITALITY, L.P. D/B/A  
5 RADISSON LACKAWANNA STATION TO ASSIST AN  
6 ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

7 MS. GATELLI: What's the

8 recommendation of the chair on community

9 development?

10 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: As chairperson

11 for the committee on community development,

12 I recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

14 MS. GATELLI: All in favor. On the

15 question? Roll call.

16 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

17 MS. EVANS: No.

18 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

19 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

20 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

22 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

24 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

25 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

.

71

1 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. GARVEY: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION

3 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -

4 RESOLUTION NO. 132, 2007 - RE-APPOINTMENT OF

5 THOMAS J. STONE, 1416 FIG STREET, SCRANTON,  
6 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, TO THE BOARD OF THE  
7 SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY EFFECTIVE JANUARY  
8 1, 2007. MR. STONE'S TERM EXPIRED ON  
9 DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL  
10 EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2011.

11 MS. GATELLI: As chair for the  
12 committee on rules, I recommend final  
13 passage of Item 7-B.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

15 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll  
16 call.

17 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

20 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

.

72

1 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

2 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

3 MS. GARVEY: 7-C, FOR CONSIDERATION

4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -

5 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 133, 2007 -

6 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

7 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT TO

8 ADMINISTER THE HOMEBUYER PROGRAM FOR THE

9 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

10 WITH UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF

11 LACKAWANNA COUNTY, INC. TO ADMINISTER THE

12 HOMEBUYER PROGRAM TO INCLUDE SOLICITING

13 PARTICIPANTS, REVIEW APPLICATIONS, DETERMINE

14 INCOME ELIGIBILITY, PERFORM HOUSING

15 INSPECTIONS, PREPARE AND EXECUTE CLOSING

16 DOCUMENTS, ATTEND CLOSINGS, MAINTAIN

17 REQUIRED RECORDS AND MONITOR.

18 MS. GATELLI: What's the

19 recommendation of the chair on community

20 development?

21 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: As chairperson

22 for committee on community development, I

23 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

25 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

73

1 call.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

3 MS. EVANS: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

5 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

11 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

12 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

13 MS. GARVEY: 7-D, FOR CONSIDERATION

14 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR

15 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 134, 2007 -

16 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

17 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

18 SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT NO.

19 041222-B WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF

20 PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING

21 THE FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR DESIGN OF THE

22 ROCKWELL AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT AND UPDATING

23 VARIOUS EXHIBITS RELATING TO SAME.

24 MS. GATELLI: What's the

25 recommendation of the chair on public works?

.

74

1 MR. MCGOFF: As chair for the

2 committee on public works, I recommend final

3 passage of Item 7-D.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

6 call.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

10 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

16 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

17 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

18 MS. GARVEY: Eighth order, citizens

19 participation II, general city issues.

20 MS. GARVEY: Douglas Miller.

21 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

22 Doug Miller, President of Scranton Junior

23 City Council.

24 A while ago I raised the issue of a

25 junior Council member being assigned to work

.

75

1 with a City Council member, to in a way --

2 in a way we would sort of shadow you and

3 gain a better understanding of our

4 government.

5 I suggested that we'd be assigned to

6 a City Councilperson and work with you on

7 your committee, such as Mrs. Evans finances,

8 and maybe for a month or so one of us work

9 with you and learn a little bit more on city

10 finances, or maybe Mr. McGoff and learn a

11 little bit more about DPW operations and so

12 on.

13 And tonight I'm asking Council to

14 please consider this and perhaps make a

15 motion and we can move forward with this.

16 Now, we've been here for a year now

17 and we observe these meetings, and  
18 unfortunately we're not learning city  
19 government the way we should, and I feel  
20 this would be a wonderful opportunity to  
21 begin a working relationship with you, and  
22 most importantly gain a better understanding  
23 of our government, because that is why we  
24 are here.

25 So, again, please consider this. I

.

76

1 think it would be very important, and I  
2 would ask somebody to consider making a  
3 motion. Thank you.

4 MS. GATELLI: Ray Lyman.

5 MR. LYMAN: Raymond Lyman. I'm here  
6 tonight to apologize to the citizens of  
7 Scranton. Two weeks ago I refused to step  
8 down from the stand. For that, I am sorry.  
9 I feel partially responsible for the cameras  
10 being removed from City Council. I hope the  
11 citizens of Scranton can forgive me. Thank  
12 you.

13 But I have two things to say. Two

14 weeks ago I found out about a website that  
15 have terrorists threats that are on this  
16 website and slanderous stuff that are on it.  
17 I called the Scranton Police, and I  
18 filed a police report. I talked to the  
19 detective. They said that they're  
20 contacting the District Attorney's Office.  
21 I don't know who's doing it, but they're  
22 profiting from it. Now, I'm asking, can I  
23 ask your city solicitor, Mrs. Gatelli?

24 MS. GATELLI: Yes, but the city  
25 solicitor is aware, Mr. Lyman.

77

1 MR. LYMAN: Mr. Minora, since you  
2 work for the district attorney, can you look  
3 into it, since I could not contact Mr.  
4 Jarbola?

5 MR. MINORA: Well, I mean, in my  
6 capacity as Council solicitor, I have no  
7 investigation --

8 MR. LYMAN: I mean as Assistant  
9 District Attorney.

10 MR. MINORA: Let me finish. As a

11 person that's got a job here as solicitor  
12 and an Assistant District Attorney, that  
13 presents me with a conflict of interest, so  
14 that I would not investigate something like  
15 that, no.

16 MR. LYMAN: No. I mean, you could  
17 actually you look into that case and maybe  
18 report back to City Council next week for  
19 me, right?

20 MR. MINORA: What I'm trying to  
21 explain to you is, no, I can't, it's a  
22 conflict of interest. I would be  
23 representing two sides of a -- whether it's  
24 a dispute or an investigation.

25 So, when you have two sides, you  
.

78

1 can't be on both sides of the fence. As a  
2 lawyer, you're on one side or the other.

3 MR. LYMAN: Well, I don't  
4 understand.

5 MR. MINORA: I will be happy to  
6 explain it to you after the meeting why I  
7 can't, but what can be done.

8 MR. LYMAN: Well, because -- okay.

9 I'll ask --

10 MR. MINORA: After the meeting I'll

11 talk to you.

12 MR. LYMAN: Okay. Thank you. Mrs.

13 Gatelli, thank you for the apology.

14 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

15 MR. LYMAN: Thank you.

16 MS. GATELLI: I'm sorry, Ray.

17 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

18 MS. GATELLI: Excuse me just one

19 minute. Lee didn't get in yet? Well,

20 didn't anybody leave?

21 MR. BROWN: Yeah, but there's a

22 line.

23 MS. GATELLI: Officer, do you want

24 to go down and see if they can let some more

25 people in? There seems to be a little more

.

79

1 room. Go ahead, Mrs. Franus. I'm sorry.

2 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton,

3 Pennsylvania. Mr. McGoff, I never thought

4 I'd be saying this, but thank you very much.

5 I appreciate it. I'm sure the people of

6 Scranton do.

7 Mrs. Gatelli, you have established a

8 legacy. Mrs. Gatelli, again, we go through

9 this, could you please look at me when I'm

10 speaking?

11 You have established, I guess not, I

12 guess you established a legacy for yourself

13 of being the worse City Council President in

14 the City of Scranton. All the ills that you

15 feel are brought on yourself.

16 You said that you apologize for the

17 abuse you give people. I could understand

18 that, but I didn't hear you once apologize

19 to Mrs. Evans for what you cost her and her

20 family in the last two weeks. There's where

21 your biggest apology should go, to Mrs.

22 Evans and her family. I didn't hear that.

23 I also wish I had a better singing

24 voice, because I would be singing Back in

25 the USSR right now.

.

80

1 And as far as your threat from the

2 avatar from Joe Pilchesky's website, there's  
3 no threats on that website. I see it every  
4 day, and maybe you're afraid of Bopeep with  
5 the little staff in the field.  
6 That one you're referring to with  
7 the head, that was from a movie scene. No  
8 threat whatsoever.  
9 Are you going to continue, Mrs.  
10 Gatelli, to have the people stand outside  
11 every meeting? That was a question again.  
12 I guess your apologies didn't matter  
13 to the people, because she's still caring on  
14 with her arrogant ways and not responding.  
15 She told me a couple of weeks ago that she  
16 does not represent me. I guess that means  
17 she still doesn't.  
18 Why I said she's the worst City  
19 Council President is because she totally  
20 ignored Mrs. Evans' request for a subpoena,  
21 she voted for it and then she changed her  
22 mind.  
23 Mrs. Evans is the finance chair, she  
24 should have wanted her -- she should go redo  
25 the budget now and consider Mrs. Evans'

.

81

1 budget considering there would be no tax

2 increase.

3 Mrs. Evans has a budget with no tax

4 increase whatsoever, and she didn't even get

5 it considered.

6 Now, she Mrs. Gatelli you could redo

7 the budget, but you chose not to, and we're

8 in such dire straits.

9 Mrs. Gatelli, I don't know where to

10 go here. I mean, we come here, we try to

11 ask questions of Council people and we --

12 they don't even look at you when you're

13 talking to them, they don't answer your

14 questions, so I think this is just totally

15 ridiculous.

16 I was going to ask you if you were

17 going to vote with the other fellow

18 councilmen, Mrs. Evans and Mr. McGoff and

19 Mr. Courtright on the decision to get the

20 cameras back here for Channel 61. And since

21 there's a 3-2 vote, will you honor their

22 decision?

23 Who makes the decision? Is it your  
24 decision now or the mayor's that these  
25 cameras come back here? You're trying to

.

82

1 stifle the people. I had to take a vacation  
2 day today because of you. I mean, I had to  
3 wait in line to take a vacation day because  
4 you had us out on the street. I'm sitting  
5 in a chair --

6 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

7 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

8 MS. FRANUS: Thank you for nothing.

9 Brett McCloe.

10 MR. MCCLOE: Good evening. My name  
11 is Brett McCloe father of five, husband of  
12 18 years, a waiter for 20 years, a taxpaying  
13 homeowner of South Scranton, and definitely  
14 not a model citizen.

15 The events of the past few weeks and  
16 months has caused tempers to flare and many  
17 a dinner roll to be thrown at the television  
18 screen as we watch the public -- as the  
19 public watches the politicians forget that

20 they once were our neighbors, events causing  
21 those who wish to do business with us to  
22 reevaluate or second guess themselves and  
23 our cities, not because of the lack of  
24 respect the media and the politicians say  
25 that we show our elected officials, not  
.  
83

1 because of the screams of the discontented  
2 public that can be seen nationwide on U  
3 Tube, but because they have put their ears  
4 to the door of this city and only hear a  
5 violation of spirit.

6 Quotes, The Council meetings have  
7 become a forum for every malcontent. We are  
8 a laughing stock, less than desirable, we  
9 are losing business contacts because of  
10 them. This sounds an awful lot like you  
11 ungrateful blank, blank, blank. You're  
12 making us look bad. Shut up. Wear this  
13 dress, put on some makeup, go upstairs and  
14 do what you're told. The men with money are  
15 at the door, and they're going to leave  
16 unless you behave.

17 It seems those in ivory media  
18 towers, disconnected boroughs and the new  
19 classes of wannabees have blurred the  
20 distinction between pimp and politician.  
21 If those businesses would just  
22 listen more carefully, they would hear hope,  
23 not despair and discontent, they would  
24 witness an evolution of a people, not  
25 stagnation and atrophy, they would see the  
.

84

1 hard blue collar work ethics of and basic  
2 kitchen table logic and street smarts, not  
3 ivy league board room morals or Wall Street  
4 economic pyramid schemes.  
5 We are not a borough of New York  
6 City or Philadelphia, nor do we wish to be a  
7 copy of a high-end Connecticut enclave.  
8 This is Scranton, and we welcome new  
9 businesses, so please excuse the dust and  
10 noise while the people prepare to clean  
11 house. Thank you.  
12 MS. GATELLI: Andy Sbaraglia.  
13 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,

14 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I  
15 read articles in the paper where Mrs. Evans  
16 and Mr. Pilchesky, I hope I'm pronouncing  
17 the name right, caused a lot of these  
18 problems, but the truth is, they didn't  
19 cause the problems, the blame lies with the  
20 mayor mostly and people who wanted to come  
21 before you, and all they asked was for  
22 honest, open, fair government.

23 That's all these people want. They  
24 don't expect the sky. All they want is the  
25 simple things. They want to be able to live

85

1 without having their blood soaked out of  
2 their veins, and that's what's happening.  
3 I've been coming to you many times  
4 and told you this. You've got to watch the  
5 dollars cents and pennies if you want to  
6 save the city, but no one ever did it.  
7 For six years I've been saying the  
8 same thing over and over and over again.  
9 Dollars and cents did not make sense to any  
10 of the councils. I don't blame you. A lot

11 happened before you got there, and many of  
12 these bills that were run up was there.  
13 I told you before, there's a lot of  
14 money available still in Dunmore. If that  
15 man that's our business administrator went  
16 out in the open market and see if we can buy  
17 back some of them bonds, we can save  
18 millions and millions of dollars in  
19 interest, but there it sits. The money  
20 we're getting in interest, never get that  
21 for what we're paying back.

22 So, somewhere along the line you  
23 have to go back to the past or you're doomed  
24 to repeat the same things in the future.

25 And that's been told many, many times. The  
.

86

1 sins of the past, if you don't know them,  
2 you'll repeat them in the future.  
3 Somewhere along the line you have to  
4 get back to a real dollar and cents form of  
5 government. That's your job. Your job is  
6 to vote on these legislations that the mayor  
7 wants.

8 The mayor want the sky,  
9 unfortunately we can't give him the sky. I  
10 wish we could. I wish we could do  
11 everything in the city that he wants to do,  
12 but we can't, we can't afford it. The  
13 burden has become too heavy on the  
14 taxpayers.

15 You saw our increase in the 52, our  
16 increase in taxes, now the increase in the  
17 water bill, the KOZs, and the reduction in  
18 the taxes that a lot of people in the city  
19 got. All these things add up.

20 Somewhere along the line they have  
21 to be paid for. And who do you ask to pay  
22 for them? The little people. The little  
23 people of the city are being squeezed and  
24 oppressed. I told you this a long time ago.

25 We'll be coming to --

.

87

1 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: Thank you.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

4 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I have

5 is, I'd like to ask this Council to grant me  
6 the three minutes I didn't receive at the  
7 last meeting, because the last meeting was  
8 adjourned before I had an opportunity to  
9 speak.

10 So, I'm asking you, President  
11 Gatelli, to grant me that three-minute time  
12 from the last meeting because I didn't get  
13 an opportunity to speak, and I would like to  
14 address some issues that were presented  
15 there, if you want to talk to your  
16 solicitor.

17 MS. GATELLI: Amil, if I allow that,  
18 would I have to allow everyone else to  
19 speak?

20 MR. MINORA: Sure, of course.

21 MR. MORGAN: Well, the law says that  
22 if a meeting is adjourned before people who  
23 have come to attend that meeting got an  
24 opportunity to speak, then they would be  
25 afforded an opportunity to speak at the next

.

88

1 regular meeting of the Council.

2 MR. MINORA: It doesn't say they

3 have double time and a half.

4 MR. MORGAN: I'm not asking for

5 double time and a half, I'm asking for

6 permission to speak on the issues that were

7 presented at the last meeting, which I

8 didn't get an opportunity to address because

9 the meeting was adjourned by yourself, and I

10 don't know who seconded that motion, okay,

11 but I wasn't granted an opportunity to speak

12 on those subpoenas, and think that I have a

13 right to speak on them, and that's why I'm

14 saying to you, I'm not asking for double

15 time anything.

16 What I'm is saying to you is is that

17 I came here to speak at a public meeting. I

18 wanted to speak in public participation part

19 of the meeting, and before I could speak,

20 you adjourned the meeting, and what I'm

21 saying here is, I want to have the

22 opportunity to speak on the agenda items in

23 the meeting in which you adjourned, that's

24 what I want to do first, and what I want is

25 I want you to either say yes or no.

1 And if it's no, then I'll speak on  
2 the agenda today, but I think that I have a  
3 right to speak on those issues here, and  
4 that's what I'm asking you and that's why  
5 I've asked you to ask your solicitor what  
6 you should do. I think that --

7 MS. GATELLI: Attorney Minora.

8 MR. MINORA: Nobody's preventing him  
9 from speaking on issues. He has three  
10 minutes, like everybody else.

11 MR. MORGAN: No, that's not what I'm  
12 saying here, and I think that we're losing  
13 what I'm asking this Council for. I'm  
14 asking to speak on agenda items from a  
15 previous meeting that was adjourned before I  
16 had an opportunity to speak. I'm not  
17 badgering this Council, I'm asking a  
18 question that's in this book.

19 MS. GATELLI: Excuse me just for one  
20 minute, but we did speak on agenda items at  
21 the last meeting.

22 MR. MORGAN: But I didn't get a

23 chance to address Council on those issues  
24 before the meeting was adjourned, okay? The  
25 meeting was adjourned after --  
.  
90

1 MS. GATELLI: The agenda items --

2 MR. MORGAN: -- Ray Lyman and  
3 yourself had --

4 MS. GATELLI: Go ahead and address  
5 them now.

6 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Thank you. I  
7 think to go back to the last meeting --

8 MS. GATELLI: Give him his three  
9 minutes. That was just dialogue.

10 MR. MORGAN: I think that what  
11 happened in the last meeting was absolutely  
12 wrong, because we were debating subpoenas  
13 which had already been decided in the last  
14 meeting, and then what we did was we went  
15 and we decided that we were going to break  
16 them into pieces.

17 And the Home Rule Charter doesn't  
18 say that there has to be wrongdoing to issue  
19 subpoenas, it just says, In order for City

20 Council to do its business, it has the  
21 opportunity to issue subpoenas.  
22 Nobody was talking about corruption,  
23 nobody was talking about anything, other  
24 than looking at the city's finances, and I  
25 think it was a very pertinent thing to do  
.

91

1 considering the fiscal condition of this  
2 city.  
3 And I think that what happened here  
4 was really wrong, because what the Council  
5 is trying to do is stifle the free flow of  
6 information to your finance chair and to all  
7 the residents of this city.

8 And I think that when you look at  
9 what's happened in this city, even from last  
10 week, there's a problem here with the Sewer  
11 Authority. There's a problem here with  
12 everything.

13 And I'm not badgering this Council,  
14 and I'm not singling one person out, but  
15 don't you think the residents of this city  
16 have a right to have that information and

17 not to allow the mayor to decide what  
18 information he's going to give?  
19 Don't you think that these residents  
20 have a reason to know why their sewer rates  
21 are going to go up, why their property taxes  
22 are going up, what's happened to all the  
23 money that's come into government, all the  
24 money that's been borrowed?  
25 Nobody is talking about corruption.

.

92

1 We're not -- but, you know, if that's the  
2 way this Council feels, I mean -- Mrs.  
3 Gatelli, you did say that maybe we should go  
4 to the attorney general, and you know what,  
5 maybe we should issue these subpoenas and  
6 give a copy to Council and give a copy to  
7 the attorney general, if that's the way you  
8 feel.

9 And I'm not badgering you in any way  
10 whatsoever, but don't you think that the  
11 residents of this city have a right to that  
12 information?

13 I didn't hear Mrs. Evans, and I

14 don't back any single one person on this  
15 Council, but don't you think that as the  
16 finance chair she at least should have that  
17 information?

18 And don't you think that that  
19 information should be cataloged with an  
20 index and a binder so that when somebody  
21 picks it up and they want to see what's  
22 going on in whatever department, that they  
23 can go right to it, instead of like I stated  
24 the last week in the Council vault, go  
25 through that box and look at that stuff.

93

1 Mrs. Fanucci, you were there, and  
2 I'm not badgering you either, but if you  
3 were to open those boxes and look, you will  
4 see people's time cards in there, you'll see  
5 all kinds of stuff.

6 And how can you decipher what's in  
7 that box if you're going to put 90 percent  
8 of garbage in there that has no -- it's not  
9 even related to the information you're  
10 trying to get? It's just not productive.

11 It's like you're trying to hide something.

12 And where this city is financially

13 at this point, we need smart decisions and

14 we need a Council that's going to work

15 together. And when somebody decides --

16 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

17 MR. MORGAN: -- that they don't need

18 that information, it's wrong.

19 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.

20 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Now, could I

21 speak on my three minutes today?

22 MR. MINORA: You're at six.

23 MS. GATELLI: Jim Stucker.

24 MR. STUCKER: Jim Stucker,

25 Providence Square. I'm from Providence

.

94

1 Square. My name is Jim Stucker. I had some

2 guy told me today at Nay Aug Park, the guy's

3 name is Milo, Sammy Diana's son, he was up

4 there the other day and he said there's BM

5 all over the property, they're not cleaning

6 it up.

7 MS. GATELLI: Where is this?

8 MR. STUCKER: Up Nay Aug Park, all  
9 over. And I'm glad the city cleaned our  
10 snow for us, they plowed everything for us.  
11 I'm happy they did.  
12 They still didn't fix the holes on  
13 Parrot Avenue. They didn't still fix them.  
14 My buddy Pat, he took a ride up the back way  
15 to go to his house.  
16 And they were telling me, the cops,  
17 and every time I go to Murphy's Bar, they  
18 were telling me about Mrs. Evans and  
19 Courtright's got my scooter. They seen them  
20 riding around with it. They seen Mrs. Evans  
21 riding around.  
22 MR. COURTRIGHT: She's riding your  
23 scooter, Jim?  
24 MR. STUCKER: Yeah, that's what they  
25 told me.

95

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Shame on you. Jim,  
2 the scooter's gone, buddy, a long time.  
3 MR. STUCKER: I know. I talked to a  
4 guy in the city. He said he's going to give

5 me another we one, he said.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Good.

7 MS. GATELLI: We'll take care of it.

8 MR. STUCKER: I'm glad I came in.

9 MS. GATELLI: Thanks, Jim.

10 MR. STUCKER: And on Lackawanna

11 Avenue, the road over there by Greyhound,

12 it's S real bad on Lackawanna Avenue. The

13 road is real rough. So they are picking up

14 our garbage up. I'm glad they are.

15 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

16 MR. STUCKER: Okay. Thank you.

17 Jean.

18 MS. SUETTA: Jean Suetta. That's a

19 tough act to follow. All right. Last

20 meeting when I was here, you told me to call

21 George Parker to set up a meeting, blah,

22 blah, blah.

23 Sherry, don't you like me? You set

24 up a meeting between you and the two

25 Hubbards with Mr. Parker and I wasn't

.

96

1 invited. Why?

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I invited the  
3 neighborhood leader.

4 MS. SUETTA: Well, I don't have  
5 president on my first name, I have Jean or  
6 Miss. I don't have president. Why wasn't I  
7 invited to the meeting? Don't smirk.

8 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I'm going to  
9 smirk. You just asked me if I liked you or  
10 not. I think you're a very nice woman. It  
11 had nothing to do with why you were not  
12 invited to the meeting.

13 MS. SUETTA: Well, then why --

14 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: What I did was  
15 I took the person who was in charge of the  
16 neighborhood who was elected to be president  
17 of the neighborhood with me to help try to  
18 find a solution to your flooding problem.  
19 It was not -- I didn't individually  
20 call everyone who's been affected, but I did  
21 take someone who I believed was the  
22 spokesperson.

23 MS. SUETTA: Was I or was I not  
24 supposed to go to that meeting?

25 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Not that I was

1 aware of.

2 MS. SUETTA: Judy, did you tell me

3 call Parker, set up a meeting?

4 MS. HUBBARD: Well, did you call

5 him? Yes, I did call him. Did I talk --

6 MS. GATELLI: Please, please, let's

7 maintain order.

8 MS. SUETTA: I did call him to ask

9 him what time the meeting was. I got no

10 call back.

11 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I wasn't aware

12 that you were even planning on attending the

13 meeting.

14 MS. SUETTA: Well, why was I

15 standing up here two weeks ago, for my

16 health?

17 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Well, I know --

18 I know you come in here with complaints, but

19 it was my idea to try to figure out a way to

20 try to solve the problems. I didn't realize

21 that everybody wanted to attend the meeting.

22 What I did was I took the

23 neighborhood leader with me to sit down, it

24 was almost a two and a half hour meeting.

25 We did not meet --

.

98

1 MS. SUETTA: And you took his

2 mother, too.

3 MR. HUBBARD: No. I took my mother

4 with me. She's on --

5 MS. SUETTA: I'd like --

6 MS. GATELLI: Please, please, no

7 comments.

8 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Jean, I really

9 didn't take -- I only invited Daniel to the

10 meeting, and him and I and George Parker did

11 sit down. Now, isn't that something that

12 you would be happy with?

13 MS. SUETTA: No.

14 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Why?

15 MS. SUETTA: Because I wanted to go

16 to the meeting.

17 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Well, don't you

18 care about --

19 MS. SUETTA: No, because I still

20 don't know what went on at the meeting, and

21 it was two weeks ago.

22 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Well, I believe

23 that your president will probably address

24 all the issues.

25 MS. SUETTA: How long does it take?

.

99

1 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Probably your

2 next neighborhood meeting, I would imagine.

3 MS. SUETTA: Do you know is there a

4 meeting next week? If not, I want to wish

5 you all a Happy Easter.

6 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Thank you,

7 Jean.

8 MS. GATELLI: Happy Easter. Mike

9 Dudek.

10 MR. DUDEK: Mike Dudek, 608 Depot

11 Street, Scranton, PA. I live in The Plot.

12 Every Council meeting eight people normally

13 show up, five Council members, the Council

14 solicitor, and the two employees of the City

15 Council.

16 Now, it's apparent that none of you

17 eight individuals are a parliamentarian,  
18 okay? That's not an insult, it's just the  
19 way it is.  
20 When Ms. Fanucci asked for a  
21 re-explanation of a vote, that's very  
22 normal. It's called a point of order.  
23 Last week's cancelling of the City  
24 Council meeting happened to be a violation  
25 of the Home Rule Charter. We're running  
100

1 across some very unusual things that  
2 shouldn't be happening.  
3 Now, since 1993, I have been  
4 offering labor unions on a regional basis,  
5 the surrounding states of Pennsylvania and  
6 Pennsylvania, my seminar on Roberts Rules of  
7 Order. I do this for labor unions. Some  
8 unions really need the help.  
9 Laborers, carpenters, these are  
10 unions where you may not even have a college  
11 graduate in an elected position, maybe not  
12 even a high school graduate who is the  
13 president. These are people who need my

14 help, and I instruct them on Roberts Rules  
15 of Order.

16 I honestly think that you need this  
17 instruction with City Council, because last  
18 -- the last meeting in which the speaker  
19 here was out of control, that situation was  
20 mishandled, totally mishandled.

21 The proper handling of it would have  
22 been to declare that person out of order and  
23 to have a sergeant at arms, in this case the  
24 policeman, remove him. That's what had to  
25 be done.

.

101

1 MS. GATELLI: Well, that was asked  
2 to be done.

3 MS. DUDEK: It should have been  
4 done. Now, one thing, too, just to give you  
5 an example about what -- the terms that get  
6 confused, I've heard it confused here  
7 tonight, to adjourn a meeting means bye-bye,  
8 see you next week, to recess the meeting  
9 means we'll be back in ten minutes. There's  
10 a difference in these terms.

11 Here's what I want to do. I charge  
12 a union \$400 to put this seminar on for a  
13 labor union. Mrs. Gatelli, I am offering to  
14 give you the training that I give to a union  
15 person free of charge, no charge whatsoever.  
16 I will take you through the very basics of  
17 Roberts Rules of Order that apply to you as  
18 a president of a municipal body, okay?  
19 The only thing I ask of you is one  
20 of two things, either you make me a nice  
21 breakfast at your home, or you take me out  
22 for a nice breakfast, and over breakfast, in  
23 a very relaxed calm atmosphere, I will go  
24 over these rules with you. And I will do  
25 that for any other Councilperson.

.

102

1 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

2 MR. DUDEK: Now, because of the  
3 Sunshine Law, I can't take you as a group.

4 Mrs. Gatelli, deal or no deal?

5 MS. GATELLI: Well, I'm not very  
6 good at breakfast, but I'm good at spaghetti  
7 and meatballs.

8 MR. DUDEK: Very good.

9 MS. GATELLI: So, it would have to  
10 be dinner.

11 MR. DUDEK: Very good. I'll make  
12 the arrangements with you outside of  
13 Council.

14 MS. GATELLI: And thank you for  
15 offering. My husband will be mad, I  
16 haven't even cooked for him in a while.  
17 He'll get a good meal for a change. Pat  
18 Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Pat Rogan, West Scranton  
20 resident. Thomas Jefferson once said,  
21 information is the currency of democracy.  
22 Our democracy is strongest when the voting  
23 public is informed.

24 Thanks to Channel 61, we're able to  
25 watch our government at work. I believe

103

1 that the people of Scranton are best served  
2 by open and responsible government.  
3 Channel 61 helps us achieve this  
4 goal by broadcasting City Council meetings,

5 school board meetings, county commissioner  
6 meetings, other local authorities, other  
7 civic organizations.

8 I was planning on coming here today  
9 to ask Council to return the live broadcast,  
10 but thanks to Mr. Courtright, Mrs. Evans,  
11 and Mr. McGoff, that's not needed. So, I  
12 would just like to thank you three. Thank  
13 you.

14 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.

15 Sam Patilla.

16 MR. PATILLA: You know, for the last  
17 two weeks, I've been really trying to figure  
18 out what I was going to say once I got up  
19 here, you know.

20 I wanted to address the potential  
21 candidates, you know, and to pulling  
22 together so we can assure that the Council  
23 is for the people and not for Doherty.

24 I was going to request that people  
25 come, go register to vote so that we can get

.

104

1 some type of representation on Council and

2 on the school board, but thanks to Mrs.

3 Fanucci and Mrs. Gatelli, I finally had my

4 answer.

5 Mrs. Fanucci, you stated in your

6 address that your proposal is a way out. As

7 I'm sure those two gentlemen back there in

8 Scranton blue can attest, a way out is a

9 term used by a petty thief or somebody lost.

10 Which are you, okay? We need honest

11 government. We need somebody --

12 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Mrs. Patilla --

13 MS. GATELLI: I can't hear what he's

14 saying.

15 MR. PATILLA: -- that can make the

16 hard decisions. We need someone who can

17 stand up to Doherty and say, No, enough is

18 enough. Okay?

19 Ms. Gatelli, I spent five years in

20 the Marine Corps, three and a half which I

21 guarded nuclear weapons, I find it repulsive

22 that you used 9/11 in your earlier comments,

23 okay, to coincide with your removal of the

24 cameras.

25 Channel 61 is an outlet to a lot of

1 the senior citizens, a lot of the  
2 handicapped, a lot of the people who just  
3 can't get away from their children for one  
4 reason or the other.  
5 You stomped on more rights than  
6 those cowards did in the sixties, the  
7 fifties, the forties and the thirties and  
8 the twenties. Enough is enough, all right?  
9 I don't want political office. I  
10 believe both the Democrat and Republican  
11 parties have overstayed their welcome in  
12 this country, but I will have everybody from  
13 Ferrakhan to Al Sharpton down here if you  
14 two don't get your act together, okay?  
15 Because enough is enough. I'm tired  
16 of this. I already told you, you cannot  
17 allow that man to continue to borrow. You  
18 cannot allow him to continue to appoint  
19 people that he has some type of ties with.  
20 You didn't save this city, the  
21 taxpayers, \$100,000 by agreeing -- with  
22 Rossi. He's a potential political

23 contributor to Doherty. It's kickbacks.

24 That's paybacks, under the table,

25 underhandedness. That's not honest

.

106

1 government.

2 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Patilla --

3 MR. PATILLA: Mr. Minora -- no, no,

4 no, no. This is my three minutes.

5 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Patilla --

6 MR. PATILLA: Mr. Minora, I need for

7 you to check it out, that when I come here

8 and sign on that sign-in sheet, if I have my

9 other half sign in underneath me, if I could

10 proxy her three minutes, because these

11 people are evidently not getting the

12 message. Enough is enough. You're spending

13 too much. I'm through. Bye.

14 MS. GATELLI: Mary Ann Wardell.

15 MS. WARDELL: Good evening, Council.

16 My name is Mary Ann Wardell, otherwise known

17 as a low-life, an undesirable, a malcontent,

18 someone that is not wrapped too tight,

19 someone that plays to the cameras, that's

20 according to my Council people, that's

21 according to my representatives.

22 I don't have to play to the cameras.

23 I have been here before the cameras were

24 here. I don't need to play to the cameras.

25 I have disputed, discussed, argued,

.

107

1 and disagreed with all Council people for

2 many, many years, with solicitors for many,

3 many years.

4 This is the first Council that I

5 have ever heard ridicule the speakers that

6 come to these meetings because we want to

7 express our right to speak, that our

8 government was formed for, and you people

9 have the nerve to call us names because we

10 come here and we want to say what we have a

11 right to say?

12 You have no business doing this.

13 You people -- I had high hopes for this

14 Council when you were elected. And, Mrs.

15 Gatelli, I'll tell you what, you disappoint

16 me more than anybody because I -- I was

17 convinced that you would be the best fighter  
18 for the people in this city, and I have  
19 seen, for whatever reason, you buckle under  
20 to the mayor.

21 I have heard you say that you would  
22 not vote for tax increases, and you voted  
23 for tax increases, I have heard you say, and  
24 not just her, but Mrs. Fanucci, I have heard  
25 you say that you would not vote for any

.

108

1 loans.

2 I understand that Mr. McGoff was  
3 appointed because Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs.  
4 Fanucci said they chose him, he was not  
5 political, he did not have an agenda, he was  
6 not going to run for City Council, and, hey,  
7 guess what? Now he's running for City  
8 Council.

9 Now, my question and my challenge to  
10 this Council is, what are you going to do  
11 about the \$5 million that we owe American  
12 Anglican that Mrs. Evans has been speaking  
13 about for quite a few years and asking where

14 is that money coming from, and what are you  
15 going to do about the \$200,000 or more that  
16 we now are going to have to pay for the  
17 arbitration because our mayor does not  
18 realize when you sign a union contract, you  
19 are obligated, you are obligated, to stick  
20 to that contract?

21 You cannot say, I'm the mayor, so I  
22 don't have to. I want to know what you  
23 people are going to do to get us out of this  
24 debt.

25 Because I'll tell you what, the only

109

1 thing I see coming for us is bankruptcy. We  
2 cannot afford any more tax increases. We  
3 have sewer increases, we have county tax  
4 increases, we have \$52 taxes, we just had a  
5 city increase, we had a school district  
6 increase.

7 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

8 MS. WARDELL: Where do you think  
9 people are going to get the money to pay to  
10 live in this city?

11 Do you know what, I'm looking for a  
12 home outside the city. I'm sure you people  
13 will be very happy to hear when I move out  
14 of the city, but it won't be because of you,  
15 it will be because this mayor has ruined  
16 this city as far as taxes go. Thank you.

17 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Elizabeth  
18 Hubbard.

19 MS. HUBBARD: Good evening, City  
20 Council. Elizabeth Hubbard, Scranton  
21 resident. To start off, Mr. McGoff, I asked  
22 you at the last meeting about who pays for  
23 the cleanup for the St. Patrick's Day  
24 Parade, did you find that out?

25 MR. MCGOFF: I contacted Mr. Parker

.

110

1 and I asked him who was responsible -- or  
2 would did the cleanup, and he said it was  
3 done by DPW, as it is done for every special  
4 event that's held in the city.

5 MS. HUBBARD: Okay. Do you have any  
6 idea how much it cost?

7 MR. MCGOFF: At the time, he did not

8 have a difference in the cost from any  
9 other, let's say, Saturday, so I don't have  
10 a dollar amount for you.

11 MS. HUBBARD: Okay. I have to speak  
12 on what Jean Suetta said. I was invited as  
13 a member of the executive committee to that  
14 meeting that Daniel -- or that Mrs. Fanucci  
15 had arranged with Mr. Parker.

16 Maybe, Sherry, you could arrange for  
17 Jean to have a meeting with Mr. Parker, if  
18 that's what she is so inclined to do.

19 I was aware that the neighborhood --  
20 that it was just a neighborhood leader,  
21 which is basically Daniel. But -- and he'll  
22 be discussing what went on at that meeting  
23 at our next meeting. But maybe you can set  
24 something up for her to meet with Mr.

25 Parker.

.

111

1 Also, I, as I'm sure a lot of other  
2 people do, I take offense to being referred  
3 to as the lowest of the low and an  
4 undesirable, and especially by The Scranton

5 Times referring to me as a feeble-minded  
6 thug because I speak at Council.  
7 I have come to this Council with an  
8 issue for the last two years of the flooding  
9 in lower Green Ridge, and I don't see where  
10 that makes me the lowest of the low or an  
11 undesirable or any of the other labels that  
12 were put on people that speak at Council,  
13 and I think I'm entitled to an apology, as  
14 are the rest of the people that do chose to  
15 speak at Council. Thank you.

16 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I do want to  
17 comment on the comment about me saying about  
18 the undesirables. It was me, I'm sure you  
19 all are aware.

20 I was not referring to people who  
21 attend the City Council meetings. When I  
22 made that statement, I was referring to  
23 people who were here with an intent to harm  
24 us. That's what I was referring to.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Where are they?

.

112

1 MS. GATELLI: Please, please.

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: When we were  
3 conducting the interview, that's what we  
4 were speaking of. Thank you for your  
5 attention.

6 MS. GATELLI: Dan Hubbard.

7 MR. HUBBARD: Good evening, Council.

8 Daniel Hubbard, lower Green Ridge  
9 Neighborhood Association. I don't even know  
10 where to begin tonight. I guess we make too  
11 much money to qualify for help in lower  
12 Green Ridge? We're not a low -- we're a  
13 moderate income -- so, moderate income  
14 neighborhoods don't qualify?  
15 What I'd like from somebody on  
16 Council, if not all of you, I would like to  
17 know where they come up with the  
18 generalization of low to moderate or  
19 moderate. Where is the dividing line?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: I --

21 MR. HUBBARD: And, just one second,  
22 Mr. Courtright, and the fact that you're  
23 going to tell us that we make -- we're not  
24 poor enough to qualify for help in lower  
25 Green Ridge, yet Elm Street on East Mountain

113

1 qualifies for help, we're not poor enough,  
2 but somehow Elm Street on East Mountain  
3 where the property values are worth a far  
4 greater number than lower Green Ridge  
5 qualify for some kind of flood help, but we  
6 don't because we make too much money?

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: There's a  
8 paragraph. Could I read it to you?

9 MR. HUBBARD: Sure.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm just the  
11 messenger here.

12 MR. HUBBARD: I understand.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Under the  
14 guidelines, an area has to be 51 percent or  
15 more of low to moderate income. For this  
16 determination of low to moderate, the latest  
17 census was from the year 2000. Maybe when  
18 this was done, it took all or part of Green  
19 Ridge that made it not fall under the  
20 criteria for low to mod. So, maybe they  
21 took in --

22 MR. HUBBARD: Right there they take

23 in Green Ridge.

24 MS. GATELLI: They a census track.

25 MR. HUBBARD: But we're not Green

.

114

1 Ridge. So, obviously if you're going to

2 take a census track for Green Ridge, the

3 income levels are going to be significantly

4 higher than the neighborhood that resides

5 down by the river that's considered lower

6 Green Ridge.

7 So, to use that information as a

8 reason to not help us? How many more

9 excuses? This is one more. We will put it

10 on top of the pile, file it away under B.S.

11 How many more excuses is this

12 administration going to throw at the

13 residents of lower Green Ridge to tell us we

14 don't qualify for help?

15 Mr. McGoff, do you have a status on

16 our flood siren? Could you get that?

17 MR. MCGOFF: I will inquire.

18 MR. HUBBARD: Appreciate that. I

19 mean, seriously, this is probably the most

20 ridiculous out of them all, that we are --

21 we make too much money to qualify for flood

22 help. That's pretty sad.

23 MS. GATELLI: May I comment?

24 MR. HUBBARD: Certainly.

25 MS. GATELLI: When I worked in OECD,

.

115

1 there were certain blocks of neighborhoods

2 that didn't qualify because the track -- the

3 census track was large, and it included

4 people that were wealthy.

5 MR. HUBBARD: Okay. So --

6 MS. GATELLI: And what can be done

7 is you can do your own census, and I will

8 call Sara Hailstone and find out, you have

9 to go door to door with certain forms in a

10 certain designated area, and you can prove

11 yourself low to mod.

12 MR. HUBBARD: Okay. Why should I

13 have to, Judy?

14 MS. GATELLI: Well, because that's

15 how HUD operates.

16 MR. HUBBARD: But don't you see what

17 I mean? Why should I have to prove that

18 we're poor?

19 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

20 MS. GATELLI: Because it's HUD.

21 It's not the City of Scranton.

22 MR. HUBBARD: Why can't the city do

23 something?

24 MS. GATELLI: Because it can't.

25 MR. HUBBARD: Why?

.

116

1 MS. GATELLI: It has to be the

2 neighbors that do it.

3 MR. HUBBARD: Why can't the city do

4 something to help us? Why does HUD have to

5 be involved? Why can't the city do

6 something to help us?

7 The city, my elected officials, the

8 place where we pay taxes, not the federal

9 government, not the Army Corps.

10 MS. GATELLI: I know. But you're

11 complaining that you're not low to moderate

12 income and you can't get that money, and I'm

13 telling you an avenue where you could be

14 eligible to get more money.

15 MR. HUBBARD: Take the \$281,000 out  
16 of the picture. Why can't the city, Council  
17 and administration, do something to help the  
18 residents that live within the borders of  
19 the City of Scranton? Why do you need to go  
20 to HUD or the Army Corps to do your job?  
21 It's the city's responsibility.

22 MS. GATELLI: Because the Army Corps  
23 does the flood --

24 MR. HUBBARD: No. This is not Army  
25 Corps responsibility until a contract for  
.

117

1 subsurface work is put out to bid, and that  
2 is a year away.  
3 This is the City of Scranton's  
4 responsibility, flood prevention. Flood  
5 protection is Scranton's responsibility for  
6 at least one more year in lower Green Ridge,  
7 and that is contrary to anything you've  
8 said. That is the truth, regardless of the  
9 Army Corps of Engineers. City's  
10 responsibility for one more year.

11 MS. GATELLI: We're going to take a  
12 five-minute recess because the stenographer  
13 is tired.

14 (RECESS WAS TAKEN.)

15 MS. GATELLI: The next speaker is  
16 John Litwinsky.

17 MR. LITWINSKY: Good evening,  
18 Council. John Litwinsky, city resident. I  
19 was here two weeks ago to bring some  
20 awareness and seek help with the drug and  
21 alcohol clinic that was going to be in there  
22 on Olive Street.

23 While I was here, I find it really a  
24 disgrace to, especially lower Green Ridge  
25 which has countless homes, Gordon Avenue,  
.

118

1 there's only about nine people affected,  
2 nine families, that is, with the flooding.  
3 If we didn't watch Channel 61, if I  
4 wasn't here to speak about it, because  
5 obviously there was nothing in the media  
6 about it, the next day, there was nothing in  
7 The Scranton Times articles about this.

8 Now, \$281,000 that the city had for  
9 three years and didn't use, I still don't  
10 understand. I mean, I've been suffering  
11 flooding on Gordon Avenue since 1985.  
12 That's 21 years.  
13 I mean, I know, Judy, you were down  
14 my house there in June, and there was many  
15 other officials there, and that was the  
16 seventh time that we were shoveling crap out  
17 of our first floors.  
18 And, again, it's not just the river  
19 water, it's the sanitary lids pop and our  
20 houses are filled with sewage.  
21 How do we get something done? I  
22 mean, what do we do at this point? I mean,  
23 we can get grants for, you know, a \$20  
24 million community or a shopping center here  
25 or there, but -- and there was a grant

.

119

1 available, nothing was used. How does lower  
2 Green Ridge get help with this grant, and  
3 Gordon Avenue, there's only nine families  
4 affected?

5 How many people work -- we have a  
6 flood control office, how many people are  
7 employed in that office? Does anybody know?

8 I know. See, that's another funny  
9 thing. It used to be on the City of  
10 Scranton website.

11 MS. EVANS: It's listed in the  
12 budget.

13 MR. LITWINSKY: I don't know. It  
14 used to be on City of Scranton website. Now  
15 it's no longer on there. There was a flood  
16 control engineer, an assistant engineer, a  
17 flood relocation specialist, an assistant,  
18 now there's no office listed. So, I'm just  
19 wondering, is that office gone?

20 MS. EVANS: No, no. That's included  
21 in the 2007 operating budget, and I know  
22 that there's still a flood project manager,  
23 an assistant flood project manager, two  
24 flood relocation specialist, and I do  
25 believe there are possibly two additional

.

120

1 people, if not one, but I don't have the

2 budget with me this evening where I can

3 actually enumerate each of them for you,

4 but, yes, indeed, it's still in existence.

5 MR. LITWINSKY: Okay. Can somebody

6 explain to me then why lower Green Ridge,

7 and I know us on Gordon Avenue, we still

8 don't receive -- well, at least they're

9 starting to do something in Green Ridge, but

10 they're dragging their feet a little with

11 that.

12 But Gordon Avenue, too, there's

13 absolutely nothing. This is 21 years. And

14 we have a flood control office in town with

15 all these people?

16 MS. EVANS: Yes.

17 MR. LITWINSKY: Does anybody have

18 the phone number for that, because it's not

19 on the website anymore.

20 MS. GATELLI: I do at home. Do you

21 want to call me tomorrow.

22 MR. LITWINSKY: Yeah.

23 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

24 MS. GATELLI: I thought I had it

25 with me, but I don't. I do have the number.

121

1 MR. LITWINSKY: It's very  
2 disturbing to me that, like I said, I've  
3 been coming here for years with real  
4 legitimate issues, and most of them have  
5 been pertaining to the flooding, and still  
6 nothing.

7 MR. MINORA: Time is up.

8 MS. EVANS: And I do have copies of  
9 those documents.

10 MR. LITWINSKY: Thank you.

11 MS. GATELLI: We'll find out about  
12 the money, too, the \$280,000.

13 MR. LITWINSKY: Can I come next week  
14 and I will find out?

15 MS. GATELLI: Yeah. Mr. Jackowitz.

16 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,  
17 South Scranton resident, retired United  
18 States Air Force.

19 For 18 years, I held a top secret  
20 security crypto expanded background security  
21 investigation or clearance. Currently I  
22 hold a secret clearance. Also, I provided

23 security for Air Force One and Air Force Two

24 during the seventies during the seventies,

25 during the Nixon administration.

.

122

1 I am not a low-life, I am not a

2 deviate, and I'm not a pervert.

3 Words are nothing more than

4 thoughts. They mean nothing until they are

5 put into action. Many words have been

6 spoken at Scranton City Council meetings.

7 Most have been good thoughts, but very few

8 have been bad thoughts.

9 The problem has been no action from

10 the majority of Scranton City Council

11 members.

12 My belief is that the Scranton

13 residents have been shut out from Scranton

14 city government. The only voices that I

15 have been hearing were the real people and

16 the my people voices. The problem being

17 that these people have never been

18 identified. What a shame.

19 I have used 92 hours of my vacation

20 time to address Scranton City Council. I  
21 have been told by the power that I am only  
22 here for the cameras. You know what, turn  
23 the lights off and I will still be here.

24 Economic development, Mr. Austin  
25 Burke stated on Tuesday in 27 March '07's  
.

123

1 newspaper headline, Council Rancor Kills  
2 City Image. He went on to say that these  
3 meetings were so out of control every week,  
4 the image of the city takes a beating every  
5 time those meetings are broadcasted.

6 How would Mr. Austin Burke know  
7 this? To my knowledge, he's never attended  
8 a Scranton City Council meeting, but Ms.  
9 Fanucci told us he would be here in  
10 September of 2006.

11 If Mr. Burke has been paying  
12 attention to the meetings, then he knows  
13 that I speak on the failure of The Scranton  
14 Plan on a regular basis. I use accurate and  
15 correct figures, statistics and reports from  
16 the Pennsylvania Department of Labor. I

17 never use visions or dreams, I only use  
18 facts.  
19 Also, Mr. Burke and Mrs. Fanucci  
20 should realize that loft apartments,  
21 townhouses, restaurants and bars will not  
22 build the Scranton economy.  
23 Family-sustaining wages and low taxes will  
24 do a much better job.

25 MS. GATELLI: James, and I can't

124

1 make out the last name. Butch, Birch. No?  
2 James? Anyone else?  
3 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.  
4 My name is Nancy Krake. I was very happy to  
5 see that Council voted to keep the cameras  
6 here live. Hopefully the mayor will respond  
7 to that request, since apparently it's his  
8 fault one day, and then it's not his fault  
9 the next day. So, depending on his mood,  
10 I'm sure we will know the answer to that  
11 shortly.  
12 As far as being threatened or people  
13 feeling threatened, I've been coming here

14 since 2001, because of threats from the  
15 mayor and because The Scranton Times would  
16 not present any side of the story, except  
17 Mayor Doherty's. You should not be afraid  
18 of anyone speaking their mind.

19 All this comes with the jobs, and I  
20 certainly hope you're willing to accept  
21 those responsibilities. I know I've  
22 accepted them in my job.

23 In fact, other union leaders have,  
24 also. Mrs. Stulgis was going to be  
25 arrested. They were accusing her of

125

1 breaking and entering into the room  
2 allegedly where personnel records were kept.

3 In fact, they were kept this a dumpster and  
4 strewn about the court.

5 But despite that, she continues to  
6 come here every week, as does Mr. Gervasi  
7 and myself and many other union members and  
8 many other city residents who have also been  
9 threatened.

10 See, we aren't the people with the

11 power, you are, so it is much scarier for  
12 us, and it's also an extremely hollow  
13 victory if the mayor chooses to remove  
14 Scranton Today from running these cameras.  
15 Their fair, unbiased, and most  
16 excellent presentation of Scranton City  
17 Council meetings, school board meetings, and  
18 all other government meetings will be sorely  
19 missed. You will not get that from any  
20 other entity that comes here.  
21 I sure hope you consider all of this  
22 when making your new decisions as they come  
23 forth. Thank you.

24 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

25 MS. WALSH: Good evening. I waited

.

126

1 two and a half hours to get in here. I  
2 can't do that again. I was outside, and  
3 when people came out, they let us in.  
4 Thank you, Mrs. Evans, for sending a  
5 zoning officer to Scranton Rescue Mission.  
6 If anyone doesn't know by now, The Scranton  
7 Rescue Mission is attempting to get around

8 the zoning by calling itself a church.  
9 They have been ruled not a church by  
10 the zoning hearing board and by Judge Minora  
11 of the Common Pleas Court. They have  
12 appealed to the Commonwealth Court.  
13 If they win there, then The Scranton  
14 Rescue Mission could be located in any  
15 neighborhood in the city, and it doesn't  
16 belong there.  
17 The worst case scenario is 15 to 20  
18 men who are violent offenders with drug and  
19 alcohol problems and who are also homeless.  
20 I understand they need some kind of  
21 services, but it doesn't belong in a  
22 neighborhood where so many kids from the  
23 hill walk down and when many children and  
24 grandchildren are playing there.  
25 Thank you all for your public

.

127

1 service. I know it's difficult, and I  
2 couldn't do it. I don't want to be here,  
3 and I hope I don't have to come again. I  
4 need to be at home watching.

5 I'm very unhappy about the recent  
6 threat to stop the live broadcast. I  
7 understand you voted to reinstate it. I  
8 thank you for that.  
9 I don't think Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs.  
10 Fanucci should be subject to threats or  
11 being personally accosted by citizens who  
12 disagree with them. It's wrong. There's a  
13 time and a place to disagree, and that's  
14 here, or by notes, E-mails or telephone  
15 calls.  
16 However, I think if any Council  
17 member cannot address speakers civilly and  
18 professionally, you should restrict  
19 yourselves to sitting quietly.  
20 You need to let people speak their  
21 truth to power. If citizens are losing  
22 their tempers here, they should make an  
23 effort to control themselves, but I think  
24 sometimes emotions speak louder than words  
25 and not everyone can convey the depth of  
.

128

1 their concern quietly.

2 I do hope that citizens do not think  
3 that because Mrs. Gatelli and Ms. Fanucci  
4 are women, they can lash out at them.  
5 If the Scranton Police need to offer  
6 protection to Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs. Fanucci  
7 to assure their safety, I'm all for it.  
8 This was -- the Scranton -- this is  
9 great that you put back the live coverage.  
10 We all -- that's what we all need. I think  
11 we need representation of all legitimate  
12 points of view, and sometimes that might be  
13 the political websites.  
14 I think what's written on those  
15 websites is protected by the First  
16 Amendment, and I don't think we have city  
17 funds to litigate that matter.  
18 The Chamber of Commerce president  
19 recently said the Council meetings are a  
20 joke and hindrance to businesses that are  
21 considering locating here.  
22 I don't believe this to be true of a  
23 legitimate business. If some business wants  
24 to come here because they think the voters  
25 are passive and ignorant and they want

1 sweetheart deals and tax forgiveness, let

2 them stay away.

3 I also have to wonder what was up in

4 the paper today when the mayor said he's

5 looking to replace Channel 61 with someone

6 that will cover other things. Are we at the

7 point where we have government controlled

8 media?

9 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

10 MS. WALSH: I voted for Mayor

11 Doherty, but that won't happen again. Thank

12 you.

13 MS. STULGIS: My name is Ann Marie

14 Welby Stulgis, and I live in the City of

15 Scranton.

16 I just want to clarify something

17 regarding Mike Dudek's statement that the

18 police officer would be the sergeant of

19 arms. No, he's not.

20 If a police officer impedes anyone's

21 movement, that's automatically an arrest,

22 and you certainly don't want the sergeant at

23 arms to make an arrest.

24 Also, Mrs. Fanucci, regarding the  
25 health care costs, I've been on the city's

.

130

1 health care committee almost since its  
2 inception, and if our health care costs are  
3 spiralling out of control, perhaps you can  
4 find out why the mayor fired the health care  
5 consultant who saved the city \$7 million.

6 That's number one.

7 Number two, another health care  
8 consultant was hired after two and a half  
9 years of litigation with the current mayor,  
10 and that health care consultant has yet to  
11 receive cooperation from the human resources  
12 department to get a handle on health care  
13 costs.

14 It is the unions who took the city  
15 to court to cut health care costs, not the  
16 other way around.

17 Second, as far as the relationship  
18 between the Brookings Institute and PEL,  
19 they are the right hand and the left hand of

20 one body.

21 To put it clearer, they are partners

22 in crime and they do work together, and the

23 Brookings Institute, that was simply an

24 opinion, and everybody has one of those, and

25 we know how much good that is.

.

131

1 Also, Mr. Courtright, regarding

2 looking up a stabbing, you're right, a

3 stabbing would be listed as an aggravated

4 assault, unless it's domestic related, and

5 then it would be listed as a domestic in the

6 UCR and you won't know it's a stabbing, just

7 to clarify that. That's a new way of

8 keeping track in Scranton, because we don't

9 have any crime.

10 Also as far as inflation affecting

11 the pension costs in the city, the city

12 employees don't have a COLA, so inflation

13 has absolutely no bearing on the city's

14 pension funds.

15 The only thing that has caused an

16 increase in the pensions of late is these

17 sweetheart deal that the mayor gave the  
18 clerical workers to encourage them to  
19 retire. He doubled up the pension for those  
20 who would leave then, and that was an  
21 unfunded move, and, therefore, has to be  
22 paid for by the city. So, that's just to  
23 clarify that.

24 And lastly regarding the recent  
25 Supreme Court decision concerning the police

132

1 arbitration, just so you know, what that  
2 Supreme Court decision does is it does not  
3 anymore allow the City of Scranton to use  
4 Act 47 or going in -- I mean, we all know  
5 their testimony by heart, Oh, we're  
6 distressed, so we don't have to adhere to a  
7 contract, well, we've all learned different  
8 from that.

9 There are, I can't even begin to  
10 tell you, how many grievances out there  
11 that, because financially we can only do one  
12 or two at a time, we don't have people we  
13 can tax to pay to fight the city as they can

14 do to us.

15 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

16 MS. STULGIS: Real quickly, I think

17 you people need to know that this \$200,000

18 is the minimum cost of the lawyers fees for

19 that arbitration. The total of the

20 arbitration will be closer to \$2 million

21 than \$200,000.

22 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

23 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Mrs. Stulgis, I

24 just want to clarify. I was not saying that

25 the inflation was on the pension, I was

.

133

1 saying inflation and pension. They are two

2 different issues, so I just want to clarify

3 that, also.

4 MR. ANCHERANI: Okay. Good evening.

5 Nelson Ancherani, resident, taxpayer, city

6 employee, financial secretary of the FOP

7 exercising my First Amendment rights.

8 I want to say there were people out

9 there that spent up to two hours in the

10 cold, I did, so I want to thank the ones

11 that were responsible for it. I know nobody  
12 cares.

13 Anyway, Legion of Doom, a name given  
14 to Council speakers by the local tabloid  
15 editorialists. Just to be funny in a  
16 mocking way, some of the speakers wear  
17 T-shirts with The Legion of Doom on it.

18 Nothing wrong with that. In fact, Stacy  
19 Brown, The Times reporter, has one.

20 Lowest of low, less than desirable,  
21 not wrapped too tight, felons, mentally  
22 challenged, freaks, liars, pathetic,  
23 low-lives, ankle biters, clowns, crazies,  
24 Halloweeners, inane, malcontents, hijackers  
25 small-mindedness, feeble-minded thugs,  
.

134

1 intimidators, ludicrous, legion of dumb.  
2 High city elected officials, a  
3 lawyer, newspaper editorialists and  
4 cartoonists have called Council speakers  
5 these names. In my opinion, to discourage  
6 the speakers from coming to Council to speak  
7 on issues concerning them. Professional

8 people. Really priceless.

9 The excuses that are being used to

10 take the cameras out of Council chambers

11 appear to be smoke screens to get us to

12 divert from the issues at hand. Won't work.

13 Ann Marie talked about the police

14 arbitration.

15 Issues like the city's arbitration

16 with American Anglican, \$5.5 million, \$767 a

17 day interest adding up. That's

18 professional.

19 All of us taxpayers are going to

20 feel a pinch on all these. Add that to the

21 25 percent real estate tax that the mayor,

22 Mrs. Gatelli, Ms. Fanucci, and Mr. McGoff

23 enacted.

24 In three years, we will be paying

25 almost 100 percent property taxes, after a

.

135

1 minimum of two more 25 percent tax increases

2 sanctioned by the mayor and PEL.

3 Don't forget the more than \$10

4 million Recovery Plan violations by the

5 mayor with raises to select persons and

6 newly created positions since 2002.

7 That does not include the

8 consultants and all these attorneys that

9 they've hired, extra attorneys.

10 Don't forget the \$300 million

11 long-term debt. Don't forget the \$10

12 million loan and the two tax anticipation

13 notes, \$14,500,000 that the city took out.

14 And I'm still asking why the tax

15 anticipation notes are in the budget, when

16 the budget clearly says, excluding tax

17 anticipation notes. The record budget of

18 \$77 million.

19 I only hope that the pet food

20 problem is resolved soon. Dog and cat food

21 may be the only food some of us may be able

22 to afford.

23 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

24 MR. ANCHERANI: Don't forget the

25 subpoena issues. There are many more

.

136

1 issues, but three minutes isn't enough time

2 to tell about it.

3 Six years ago, when I started coming

4 to Council, we started talking about tax

5 increases and saying that it's either going

6 to be pay me now or pay me later. Later is

7 now here. Thank you.

8 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else? Motion

9 to adjourn.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

11 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

12 MS. GATELLI: All in favor.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

17 MS. GATELLI: Aye. We're adjourned.

18

19 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

20

21

22

23

24

25

137

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