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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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5 HELD:

6

7 Thursday, April 12, 2006

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9 LOCATION:

10 Council Chambers

11 Scranton City Hall

12 340 North Washington Avenue

13 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI- COURT REPORTER  
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2 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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MS. JUDY GATELLI, PRESIDENT  
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6 MS. JANET E. EVANS

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MS. SHERRY FANUCCI  
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9 MR. ROBERT MCGOFF

10  
MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT  
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12 MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

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MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK  
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15 MR. AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and moment of  
2 prayer observed.)

3 MS. GATELLI: Roll call, Neil.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

13 MS. GATELLI: Here. Dispense with

14 the reading of the minutes.

15 MS. GARVEY: THIRD ORDER, 3-A,

16 MINUTE OF THE FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION

17 MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2007.

18 MS. GATELLI: Are there any

19 comments? If not, received and filed.

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

21 POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON

22 FEBRUARY 28, 2007.

23 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

24 If not, received and filed.

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

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4

1 the third order.

2 MS. GATELLI: Before we start with

3 the speakers on agenda items I just have a

4 few announcements. First of all, I'd like

5 everyone to wish the chairman of the junior

6 city council a happy birthday. It's

7 Douglas' birthday today. Happy birthday,

8 Douglas.

9 If anyone saw the paper this week

10 there was a nice article on Katrina Organ,

11 one of other junior council members and she

12 is in the play at her school Footloose

13 tomorrow and Saturday night at 7:00 and also

14 tonight and they did a nice article on her  
15 on the students page and we'd like to  
16 congratulate her for a job well done.  
17 The Tour D'Scranton gave me this  
18 poster, I'm going to ask Kay if see would  
19 hang it in city hall, and it's a bike race  
20 and this year they are also going to have a  
21 walking around the Memorial Stadium so if  
22 you don't ride a bike you can walk in it.  
23 Two very special friends of mine, Tom and  
24 Betty Morgan's daughter, had died several  
25 years ago from a drug overdose and they  
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5

1 wanted to do something positive about that  
2 so they started a fund in her memory to help  
3 kids that have addictions. So, this is the  
4 fourth year for the race. It's on April 22  
5 and it starts at Memorial Stadium and goes  
6 through Dunmore and I believe all of the  
7 information is at city council's office if  
8 anyone is interested.  
9 Tomorrow evening at Lackawanna  
10 Junior College the Scranton School District

11 Special Olympic cocktail party will be held.

12 It benefits the special ed students at the

13 Scranton School District. It starts at 7:00

14 and it's \$35.

15 On May 20, 2007, at St. Peter and

16 Paul Church in west side there will be a

17 benefit for a student who happens to be a

18 student at West Scranton High School who was

19 hurt in a bicycle accident that left him

20 paralyzed. His name is Jonathan Clauss and

21 they are accepting donations for baskets.

22 Monetary donations can be made to Citizens

23 Save's Association, 156 South Main Avenue in

24 care of Jonathan Clauss Benefit Fund and

25 anyone who has any donations can contact

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6

1 Mary Ann at 343-8872, and I think that's all

2 I have. Anyone else?

3 MS. EVANS: Yes. The first annual

4 Joe Duffy Hearing Awareness Golf Tournament

5 will be held on Monday, July 23, 2007, so

6 book the date now. Registration opens at

7 12:00 p.m. and the tournament begins at 1:00

8 at Woodlock Pine's Resort, Hawley, PA.  
9 Fifty percent of the proceeds will go  
10 directly to the Starkey Hearing Foundation  
11 and the remaining 50 percent will be used to  
12 fit college students and recent graduates  
13 with the best hearing aid technology  
14 available today.

15 And the event is named for Mr. Duffy  
16 who has worked tirelessly on this event. As  
17 a child he suffered from cancer and that  
18 illness robbed him of 80 percent of his  
19 hearing and that is why he has taken up this  
20 cause which is so close to his heart and I'm  
21 hoping that all of you golfers will please  
22 consider this in July.

23 MS. GATELLI: Is that all, Mrs.  
24 Evans?

25 MS. EVANS: Yes.

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mrs. Gatelli, if I  
2 may?

3 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't normally

5 mention when somebody passes away and the  
6 reason I don't is because I'm fearful that  
7 somewhere down the road I would be miss  
8 somebody and offend somebody and so that's  
9 why I don't do it, but a gentleman, I think  
10 that anybody that's run for office in the  
11 City of Scranton knows, his name is Frank  
12 Giombrone, helpful to many of us up here and  
13 I'm sure many before us, his wife passed  
14 away this past week so I'd just like to send  
15 my condolences to Mr. Giombrone's family and  
16 that's all I have.

17 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else? We'll  
18 get to the -- Douglas.

19 MR. MILLER: Doug Miller. Mrs.  
20 Gatelli, if you don't mind. We do have a  
21 problem this evening regarding the junior  
22 council. This evening around 5:30 junior  
23 council made it's way here to city hall to  
24 get ready for it's weekly 5:30 caucus and as  
25 we made our way to the door and were just

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1 about to walk into the door a police officer

2 told us to step outside and get in the back  
3 of the line. I explained to the officer  
4 that we are the junior council and we are  
5 here weekly to conduct our 5:30 caucus and  
6 it was never an issue before. Supposedly  
7 Mr. Courtright told the officer to tell us  
8 to go back outside. Like I said, there was  
9 never an issue with this before so,  
10 Mrs. Gatelli, I'd ask what is the protocol  
11 for the council?

12 MS. GATELLI: We are going to be  
13 addressing that. Council is aware of some  
14 problems and we are going to have Attorney  
15 Minora look at it.

16 MR. MILLER: Last meeting we were  
17 able to get in, there was no problem. All  
18 of a sudden tonight now, you know, I don't  
19 know if it's, you know, if you don't want us  
20 here anymore or what, but I just --

21 MS. GATELLI: No, that's not the  
22 issue.

23 MR. MILLER: It's sort of an insult.

24 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Thank you.

25 MR. MILLER: So I think something

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1 needs to be done. Thank you.

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

3 Agenda items, Andy Sbaraglia.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,

5 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians,

6 Agenda Item 5-I authorizing a loan for

7 250,000. Tell me, why is that loan being

8 forgiven after three years with four

9 employees? Is this common for the City to

10 give \$250,000 away and then forget about it

11 because the good old boys? I wish you would

12 vote that down or strike that provision out

13 of it. Forgiveness loans should not be

14 anywhere in one of those agreements.

15 Now, let's go to the 6-A. This is

16 the proof and penalty and interest fee

17 schedule. Let me read some of the numbers:

18 A: \$25. B: \$160. C: \$35. D:\$175. F:

19 \$175. G: \$30. H: \$275. J: \$800. We get

20 down through "I" \$175. M: \$30. O: \$50.

21 P: \$25. Q: \$400. R: \$30. S: \$100. T:

22 \$50. U: \$225. People who go delinquent on

23 their taxes I guess a year and three months

24 and then they could be sold out from

25 underneath them. This I'm telling to all of

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1 the elderly in Scranton, people who can't

2 really think they might not be able to make

3 their taxes, go and get a reverse mortgage

4 on your house and then they can't do it.

5 Other than that, you are going to lose your

6 house too fast and you are not going to know

7 what happened.

8 This is a grab all because he needs

9 \$2,800,000. He would sell his soul and the

10 people's soul in the city for that type of

11 money. This is wrong. Never in my life

12 have I seen a worse set of agreements. You

13 can't do this to people of Scranton. We

14 have an elderly crowd in this city. They

15 have more trouble paying their bills, never

16 mind adding all of these costs on the

17 mortgages and then to lose your house

18 because you can't pay it for being one year

19 and 3 months late. That's criminal and if

20 you vote for this thing you are just as  
21 criminal as the people who drew it up.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Spindler.

24 MR. SPINDLER: Les Spindler, city

25 resident, and I also want to talk about F-I,

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1 \$250,000 loan to Alexander's Day Spa that if

2 they hire four people in three years they

3 don't have to pay the loan back? That's

4 ridiculous. They could hire three family

5 members and not have to pay the city back

6 and the city losses more than \$1 million. I

7 mean, it's the most ridiculous thing I ever

8 heard of so I hope you vote this down

9 tonight. Thank you.

10 MS. GATELLI: Sam Patilla.

11 MR. PATILLA: Sam Patilla, city

12 resident, homeowner, taxpayer. I, too, want

13 to comment on 5-I. You know, this is why

14 for the last two or three weeks I have been

15 so vehement about allowing Mayor Doherty to

16 have anything to do with a loan, be it make

17 loans, be it receive loans, all right? This  
18 is just as crooked as crooked can be. How  
19 can you loan out a quarter of a million  
20 dollars when the city is basically broke.  
21 You know, it goes right along with 6-A,  
22 you know. In the beginning I was for this,  
23 but after looking at all of the fees, all  
24 right, you are opening the door to take  
25 people's homes, you know, people that have  
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1 lived in these houses for 25, 35, 50, 60,  
2 years, you know, it's just not right and  
3 that ties in with why I say that he  
4 shouldn't be allowed to appoint anybody to  
5 an office because sooner or later, you know,  
6 the taxpayers, the people will have control  
7 of city council. We will have control of  
8 the city clerk. We will have control of the  
9 treasurer, you know, and you just cannot  
10 allow this man to do this to the people of  
11 Scranton any longer, you know, that \$250,000  
12 is criminal, the \$150 for the coffee shop is  
13 criminal, these hidden feels on the

14 delinquent taxes is criminal.  
15 This just it has to stop. Please.  
16 Just put an end to it. You tell that man,  
17 no. Tell him use his own money. Tell him  
18 to go in his own pocket, oh, I forgot, he  
19 doesn't have any money because he just  
20 borrowed \$560,000 from somebody else  
21 hisself. All right? He can't use our money  
22 anymore. Let him go to one of his friends,  
23 Louie, or whoever owns the bank, let him get  
24 the money from them. You are just driving  
25 deeper and further into this hole and it  
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1 really has to stop.  
2 You know, come back. Come back.  
3 You were one of us. Come back on over here,  
4 we forgive you, we open our arms, come home.  
5 It's okay. Don't let this man do this to us  
6 anymore.  
7 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.  
8 MR. HUBBARD: Good evening, Council.  
9 Two points on the agenda, first I'd like to  
10 address 5-I. I'm sorry, yeah, 5-I. I can't

11 see how Alexander's can't afford to expand  
12 the business themselves. It's probably one  
13 of the most successful small businesses in  
14 downtown Scranton. It's definitely the most  
15 expensive spa in the county, they shouldn't  
16 need a loan from Scranton. Not to mention  
17 the fact that if we go by what the newspaper  
18 said that the footprint for the \$9 million  
19 parking garage that we can't afford either  
20 is going to be right where Alexander's is  
21 because they said that's going to take up  
22 the corner of North Washington and  
23 Lackawanna, so the Woolworth building will  
24 go and we'll lose the companies that are in  
25 there and Alexander's will go because if  
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1 they give up that space for the parking  
2 garage they will move out of the city,  
3 probably have to go to Clarks Summit. So we  
4 should give them a quarter of a million  
5 dollars now and then in two years they can  
6 hire four people so they don't have to pay  
7 it back and then when the mayor gets all of

8 the parking authority appointees that he  
9 needs in there to guarantee that he can get  
10 is 5 million to get his new garage,  
11 Alexander's will get \$250,000 to walk and  
12 they'll get the money for the building as  
13 well, so I guess they all make out and we  
14 lose. I don't think we can afford to give  
15 anybody any money period right now.  
16 Garages, spas, nobody.  
17 I'd like to address also 5-G. Would  
18 somebody please explain to me why Director  
19 Hayes would act as an agent for the city for  
20 emergency disaster relief pursuant to the  
21 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
22 Emergency Assistance Act, explanation on  
23 that? What would his job be? Anybody have  
24 an answer?

25 MS. EVANS: No, but perhaps Mr.

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15

1 Courtright would have information.

2 MR. HUBBARD: Because I'd like to

3 know what the Stafford Disaster Relief and

4 Emergency Assistance Act is and then I'd

5 like to know what Mr. Hayes' role would be  
6 as an agent for the city during obviously  
7 emergency disaster relief since I previously  
8 have been the only emergency disaster  
9 neighborhood in Scranton I'd like to know  
10 what he is going to do when we get flooded.

11 MS. GATELLI: I think, if I'm  
12 correct, I think that the city has to have  
13 one.

14 MR. HUBBARD: We don't have one now?

15 MS. GATELLI: To file all of the  
16 paperwork with PEMA.

17 MR HUBBARD: Who does it now?

18 MS. GATELLI: I'm not sure.

19 MR. HUBBARD: Who did it before we  
20 had the Department of Public Safety?

21 MS. GATELLI: I don't know.

22 MR. HUBBARD: Somebody did? I mean,  
23 it's not the first -- I mean, there was  
24 years we didn't have the Department of  
25 Public Safety when the Plot got flooded and

16

1 lower Greenridge got flooded when somebody

2 filed that paperwork. So, I mean, we  
3 created a new department and now we have to  
4 appoint somebody in that department to do  
5 the job that somebody else was already  
6 doing. It's kind of redundant.

7 Mr. Courtright?

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, I'm sorry.

9 MR. HUBBARD: That's okay.

10 Everybody seems to think you might have an  
11 answer for me in regards to -- -

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: What was the  
13 question, I apologize?

14 MR. HUBBARD: 5-G.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right, I was  
16 asking Mr. Minora a question.

17 MR. HUBBARD: That's okay. I'd just  
18 like to know what the Stafford Disaster  
19 Relief Emergency Assistance Act is and what  
20 Mr. Hayes role as an agent for the City of  
21 Scranton would be involving that Act?

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: I couldn't explain  
23 the Act to you, but I know when we have a  
24 disaster he is the point person for the City  
25 of Scranton.

17

1 MR. HUBBARD: I know, and somebody  
2 said that and I said, well, what did we do  
3 before we had the Department of Public  
4 Safety, who was the point man?

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: I believe it was  
6 either the police chief or the fire chief to  
7 control.

8 MR. HUBBARD: So they handled it well  
9 previously to the Greenridge --

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: We had one, then we  
11 didn't have one, now we have one again, so  
12 in the interim I believe it was Chief Klee  
13 that handled everything, if I'm not  
14 mistaken.

15 MS. GATELLI: I think it was.

16 MR. HUBBARD: I'd just like to know.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. GATELLI: Liz Hubbard?

19 MRS. HUBBARD: Good evening, Council,  
20 Liz Hubbard, Scranton resident. I also have  
21 a question on 5-I on the agenda, it says  
22 that the loan is to assist an eligible

23 project. Could anybody tell me what the  
24 project is?

25 MS. FANUCCI: I actually have the  
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18

1 whole entire explanation, but I was going to  
2 wit until motions, but I will give it to  
3 you, it's pretty long and what they're going  
4 to do and what's going to happen.

5 MRS. HUBBARD: Well, if you were  
6 going to do it in motions you don't need to  
7 do it now.

8 MS. FANUCCI: That's what I'm  
9 saying.

10 MRS. HUBBARD: I can wait. Thanks.  
11 That was all.

12 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Nancy  
13 Krake.

14 MS. KRAKE: I listened to the  
15 presentation from municipal claims and  
16 municipal revenue services that is that  
17 interested in giving us money up front for  
18 something that we already do and we do it in  
19 a way that was meant to save people's homes.

20 It's called the Pittsburg Plan. I would  
21 hope that each and every councilperson would  
22 familiarize themselves with it before they  
23 inflict these fees which just a quick  
24 calculation right now, an average tax of  
25 \$650 would turn into a minimum of \$3,150

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19

1 after all of these fees were applied.  
2 This is simply another scheme, money  
3 scheme. The mayor has already had two that  
4 crashed and burned. To recall Mayor  
5 Ganakan, "We are about to pay through the  
6 nose for that."  
7 Pension managers that were brought  
8 in gave us money upfront, we will be paying  
9 for that for a long time and now municipal  
10 revenue services. There is no way that  
11 anyone in this community can afford this.  
12 If the mayor wants to impose this on someone  
13 and truly wants to redevelop something why  
14 doesn't he turn it back on his businessman  
15 friends? Why don't you take a good look at  
16 their contract and a good hard look at these

17 fees and do something about the downtown  
18 that he is always screaming about. You want  
19 to do something for the homeowners? Offer  
20 them amnesty. The city will still be taking  
21 in the same amount of money. I think anyone  
22 that votes for this should truly be ashamed  
23 of themselves. Thank you.

24 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Jacowitz?

25 MR. JACOWITZ: Bill Jacowitz, South

20

1 Scranton resident, speaking on agenda items  
2 for 12 April '07 from the citizens' hall of  
3 Scranton, Pennsylvania, this is the  
4 citizens' hall.

5 First of all I'd like to make  
6 mention that City Council table all of the  
7 agenda items this evening until they can  
8 answer the questions that are being asked by  
9 the citizens because I'm not sure if you are  
10 aware of everything that's on the agenda  
11 tonight because so far no questions have  
12 been answered.

13 Okay, the Electric City Roasting

14 Company, \$150,000, I still do not see where  
15 this loan will Benefit the taxpaying  
16 citizens of the Scranton. What I see is a  
17 great benefit to the owners of the company.  
18 According to Councilperson Fanucci, they  
19 already have a very large client list in the  
20 city and outside of the City of Scranton.  
21 Five employees in my opinion is not  
22 justification for a \$150,000. A commercial  
23 loan or a business loan would be more  
24 beneficial to the taxpayers, that's what  
25 most companies do when they need money, they  
.  
21

1 go and get a commercial or business loan.  
2 They don't borrow the money from the  
3 taxpayers in the city they work at. The  
4 Scranton Today Plan has failed. I speak  
5 about that every week. It has failed,  
6 failed, failed. The Alexander's Beauty  
7 Salon is hot. Where in Scranton is this  
8 business currently located? It's located in  
9 the same area where you are going to build a  
10 new parking garage, so why are we going to

11 give these people \$250,000 and all they have  
12 to do is higher four employees in two years  
13 or three years and then the loan is  
14 terminated. They don't have to pay it back.  
15 Why? Can you loan me \$250,000 and tell me  
16 that I can sell five Legion of Doom shirts  
17 and I don't have to pay it back? Can you do  
18 that for me, city council, please because  
19 you are doing it for everybody else in the  
20 city.

21 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Shumaker.

22 MS. SHUMAKER: Marie Shumaker. I'd  
23 like to ask questions on two items, the  
24 first again is 5-I. There have been a lot  
25 of loans made recently from this commercial  
.  
22

1 industrial revolving loan program, can  
2 anybody tell me what the balance will be  
3 left in this account for other eligible  
4 projects after this is -- if this loan is  
5 approved? I take the silence as a, no.  
6 And also 6-A, I was just made away  
7 of it when I came in tonight and I agree, I

8 think it's totally immoral and I'm  
9 wondering, because I didn't have a chance to  
10 read through the entire ordinance, is there  
11 any provision in there for credit counseling  
12 for the affected homeowners? Does anybody  
13 know or have an answer for that? I would  
14 like answers to those questions. That's all  
15 I have.

16 MS. GATELLI: I answered that last  
17 one. I said, I don't believe so.

18 MS. SHUMAKER: Oh, I'm sorry. I  
19 didn't hear you.

20 MS. GATELLI: I don't think there is.

21 MS. SHUMAKER: Well, I certainly  
22 think that there should be some -- first of  
23 all, I don't think you should go along with  
24 it at all, but if there is ever anything of  
25 this nature I think the homeowners are going

23

1 to pay taxes for a long time and have a  
2 problem there should certainly be a  
3 provision for credit counseling in there.

4 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

5 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
6 I only want to speak on the one issue here  
7 that's probably vital to most residents in  
8 this city and council probably knows that  
9 that happens to be 6-A, and I think it's  
10 important for all of the residents in the  
11 city to realize that this council has an  
12 obligation to protect homeowners, not sell  
13 their properties out from underneath them.  
14 When you start looking at this you got a 10  
15 percent fee per annum, you've got massive  
16 fees everywhere for consultants, for filing,  
17 for review, I think that the residents of  
18 this city have to do themselves a favor and  
19 realize that, you know, council has no  
20 answers and this mayor is just leading a  
21 agenda of complete destruction of the city.  
22 I mean, Nancy Krake spoke about a couple of  
23 things about the pension plan, about the  
24 sewer authority deal, about, you know, all  
25 of this stuff that's going on and, you know,  
·  
24  
  
1 it's a shame that we borrow money through

2 the sewer authority and now we are going to  
3 borrow \$8 million more and I just find that  
4 the residents and the property owners get  
5 exactly what they deserve, okay? They have  
6 all stayed home, they have all allowed you  
7 politicians to play your games and now it's  
8 come home to roost so there is nobody else  
9 to go after for money because it's all gone.  
10 You have borrowed all of can borrow, you  
11 sold everything you can sell including a  
12 city park and now the plan is, well, we are  
13 going to condemn as many houses as we can  
14 and we are going to rip them down and bring  
15 the population base in line with the housing  
16 stock and now we are going to go and we're  
17 going to put fees on everybody houses that  
18 can't pay their taxes and why? Because this  
19 city's government has been mismanaged for  
20 about 50 hours years, no employers want to  
21 come here. You know, Mr. Popil who spoke at  
22 the taxpayers group recently and he made a  
23 statement where, well, we know people  
24 haven't moved very far, they have moved to  
25 Dunmore and they've moved to Moosic and they

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25

1 have moved to Dickson City, of course they  
2 have, and now what we got left here is all  
3 of the people who couldn't sell their homes  
4 who are stakeholders in this community and  
5 bought homes and invested here and they  
6 can't sell them and get their money out so  
7 now they are stuck here. They are either at  
8 low wage jobs or social security or  
9 disability and now what we are going to do  
10 is we're going to leverage their property  
11 with fees and we're going to either sell it  
12 or whatever. I mean, I don't know what the  
13 plan is concerning that we have so many  
14 vacant units in this city, but, you know, we  
15 had no problem with closing council chambers  
16 for that, we had no problems with removing  
17 the cameras, we had no problems with a lot  
18 of things and I just think this, anybody who  
19 votes on this council for this, two are up  
20 of this year, they should be voted out no  
21 matter what happens, okay, because you don't  
22 keep penalizing the people that are

23 investors here that are living here and  
24 doing the right thing and the next election  
25 remove anyone of the other three that vote  
.  
26

1 for this, that's what I think needs to be  
2 done.

3 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else here to  
4 speak on agenda items? Mr. Ancherani?

5 MR. ANCHERANI: Nelson Ancherani. I  
6 wasn't really going to speak on anything  
7 here about the agenda, but seeing 6-A I just  
8 want to remind everybody that we have  
9 25 percent tax increase this year, we are  
10 going to get two more in the next two years,  
11 we have a 56.5 percent rate increase from  
12 the Sewer Authority, and more coming, and we  
13 are going to have -- we have a \$300 million  
14 debt. People aren't going to be able to  
15 keep their homes, they are going to end up  
16 losing them to taxes. People are going to  
17 be eating dog food or cat food. I think you  
18 should think about this before you vote on  
19 it. Thank you.

20 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else?

21 MS. FRANAS: Fay Franas. I'd simply

22 just like to say the same thing Nelson is

23 saying and Nancy and everybody that the 6-AA

24 thing, if people are having trouble paying

25 their taxes I wouldn't think you would want

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1 to punish them by giving them all of these

2 fees that they wouldn't be able to -- if

3 they can't pay their taxes how could they

4 possibly pay these fees? If anything you

5 should be trying to help them with their

6 taxes not make it worse so that they

7 definitely would lose their homes, so I

8 would just hope that you would not even

9 consider it because -- I can't even

10 comprehend how come it's even on here. How

11 would any rationale person say that they

12 want to fine all of people that don't pay

13 their taxes. You think you would want to be

14 giving them a hand to help them not say you

15 have to pay this, this and this and make it

16 worse for them. I mean, any senior citizen

17 or even a young person with a family, when  
18 they say they can't pay their taxes they are  
19 upset as it is and then burden them with  
20 this. Please don't do this.

21 See my hat, "Dogs Rule."

22 I think that's better than what Mayor  
23 Doherty is doing. Please think about this  
24 and don't vote for it, okay. Thank you.

25 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else?

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1 MS. GARVEY: 5-A, motions.

2 MS. EVANS: Good evening. The last  
3 several days have seen the passing of three  
4 wonderful people and I, too, ask your  
5 prayers for them and for their dear  
6 families. Mrs. Rose Giombroni, Mrs.  
7 Katherine Dickerson and Mr. Paul Turrey.  
8 Over the last two weeks I have  
9 received countless e-mails and numerous at  
10 my home much who are extremely upset by the  
11 Draconian measures instituted for public  
12 attendance at city council. Ladies and  
13 gentlemen, each and everyday hundreds of

14 people enter city hall through the front  
15 doors, they are not screened by metal  
16 detectors or supervised by police officers.  
17 I firmly believe that making citizens,  
18 especially senior citizens and the disabled,  
19 stand in line for hours in an alley and  
20 screening them with metal detectors is an  
21 attempt to discourage them from attending  
22 council meetings. In effect, it's a form of  
23 intimidation. This situation has become so  
24 petty that the taxpayers' organization was  
25 not allowed to conduct their meetings in  
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1 council chambers. Consequently, I move that  
2 metal detectors and outdoor lines for  
3 admission to city council meetings be  
4 eliminate effective Monday, April 16, 2007.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second that.

6 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question,

8 I'm not -- it's not that I'm not in favor of

9 security in this building I certainly am,

10 but I think until the time that we could put

11 a security system in the front of the  
12 building where everybody comes in and out or  
13 at the very least, the very least that every  
14 meeting, planning commission or planning,  
15 zoning, that those people also lose their  
16 security because I just think it looks like  
17 we are selectively scanning people and I  
18 don't think that's right. Am I in favor of  
19 putting a security system in this building,  
20 I absolutely am. I mean, every building has  
21 it anymore, but I think we shot from the hip  
22 on this one. I think we've got to take a  
23 step back and take a look at what kind of  
24 security measures we are going to do and if  
25 we are going to impose security not just on  
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1 this meeting, whatever other meetings there  
2 are, and I had asked, it goes hand-in-hand  
3 with this, I had asked our solicitor to look  
4 and see if could find in writing for me who  
5 actually controls this room here, the  
6 council chambers. I'm pretty sure that the  
7 mayor controls the building, but I'm not

8 sure who controls the council chambers and  
9 he's going to try to get that in writing for  
10 me. So, again, I'm certainly in favor of  
11 some type of security here, but not  
12 selective security.

13 MS. EVANS: If I might add to what  
14 Mr. Courtright said, I, too, agree with  
15 security in public buildings, and it is my  
16 understanding that at some point in the  
17 future metal detectors will be purchased by  
18 the city for placement in city hall and it's  
19 my hope that those detectors are placed  
20 inside of the front doors of this building  
21 and are in operation from the moment the  
22 building opens in the morning until it  
23 closes in the afternoon. But I also wanted  
24 to add that the mayor has gone on record  
25 stating that he abides by the will of

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1 council, so this council has only to pass  
2 this motion in order to once again  
3 accommodate the people of Scranton,  
4 particularly the elderly and the disabled.

5 I also feel that the motion will help  
6 to restore order and mollify bad feelings in  
7 council.

8 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else?

9 MR. MCGOFF: The mayor has also said  
10 that -- he's said the opposite as well, and  
11 to vote on a motion over which we have no  
12 authority if it is, in fact, the mayor's  
13 building to allow people in and out and what  
14 security measures are taken, then no matter  
15 what measures we take are moot. They, you  
16 know, they have no effect, so voting on the  
17 motion really if we do not have authority --  
18 the authority to allow people in and out of  
19 the building then we have no reason to vote  
20 on the motion. It has no -- it's going to  
21 have no effect.

22 I would prefer to find out from  
23 Attorney Minora or whoever, you know, where  
24 the authority lies and, in fact, we do have  
25 authority to do that then we will change it.

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1 If we don't, then perhaps we need to find

2 some other venue through the mayor's office  
3 through the administration to make that  
4 changes.

5 MS. EVANS: Well, I can certainly  
6 understand and respect what my colleague is  
7 saying, however, I am taking the mayor at  
8 his word, after all, it appears that on his  
9 word cameras were removed, on his word  
10 cameras were returned, and all in order to  
11 comply with the will of city council. After  
12 all, a motion was passed at the last meeting  
13 concerning the cameras and the mayor did,  
14 indeed, acquiesce and just as my colleague  
15 was very anxious to pursue a motion to  
16 provide a much needed siren for Lower  
17 Greenridge without knowing how the funding  
18 could be obtained, if indeed there were any  
19 funding available at the time, I do believe  
20 the wisest, most prudent course of action  
21 right now is for us to take the steps and  
22 let the mayor know this is the feeling of  
23 city council and then we shall see, indeed,  
24 if he will keep his word.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: I've got to jump in

1 again, I'm sorry. If I'm incorrect in  
2 saying this I would ask Mrs. Fanucci and  
3 Mrs. Gatelli to correct me, I believe that  
4 maybe Mrs. Gatelli and possibly Mrs. Fanucci  
5 don't feel safe, and if that's the case I  
6 don't want anybody not to feel safe, but I  
7 would say this, until what time that we can  
8 do this across the board fair for all  
9 concerned is that we have been having two  
10 and three police officers here, maybe and I  
11 would ask the public not to chastise you for  
12 this, maybe you could be escorted in and  
13 escorted out to make you feel safe until  
14 what time we were to get an apparatus in the  
15 front of the building and everybody would go  
16 through and get scanned. I just -- I don't  
17 even want to say that I'm profiling, but I  
18 think we are selectively scrutinizing people  
19 and it just seems to be at this meeting and  
20 I think it's created for bad blood, all  
21 right? And now you've got people I think  
22 coming to this meeting just because they are

23 mad about what's happening. I'm just trying  
24 to come up with a solution that I think will  
25 be fair to all and will stop some of the  
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1 controversy that we have having here at this  
2 meeting. I don't know if that's a viable  
3 solution or not just a suggestion.

4 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else?

5 MR. MCGOFF: I'll jump back in. I  
6 would like -- I personally would like to see  
7 the security measures stay in place. What I  
8 would like to see is a uniform policy  
9 established so that everyone knows what that  
10 policy is going to be, you know, when the  
11 doors will be open, at what point in time  
12 people can enter the building, what exactly  
13 will be -- what security will be taken at  
14 that point in time and I think if that's  
15 done, if there is a uniform policy for the  
16 meeting, you know for entry for meetings I  
17 think that that should be, you know, that  
18 that should be established.

19 MS. EVANS: If I might just add

20 though or perhaps ask, Mr. McGoff, do you  
21 believe we can set that or are we asking the  
22 mayor to set that policy?

23 MR. MCGOFF: Again, I don't know. I

24 think until we -- until there is some

25 determination as to when who has the

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1 authority to act, or let's put it this way,

2 we need to find out who has the authority to

3 act before action is taken and I think that

4 should be done prior to the next meeting.

5 It should be done in time to alert people as

6 to what actions will be taken, whether if we

7 will go back to the former policy or whether

8 we are going to continue with the current

9 policy or whether there is going to be an

10 alteration in the policy, but I think we

11 need to do that prior to the next meeting.

12 MS. EVANS: I would agree with you,

13 but if I might add, I don't believe there is

14 a policy at this point. I don't believe

15 there exists any policy that covers what's

16 being done to the citizens of Scranton and I

17 know just from my own point of view I was  
18 very disturbed coming in this evening and  
19 seeing all of these individuals standing in  
20 line in the cold outside and I'm given  
21 privilege to pass by each and every one of  
22 you and enter the building.

23 I asked, as the officer can attest,

24 I volunteered to be examined by a metal  
25 detector because I don't feel what's being

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1 done to you shouldn't be done to me, too.

2 This really is most improper and if nothing  
3 else I think, you know, from a humanistic or  
4 a moral standpoint I think council should  
5 show it's respect to the people it serves  
6 and pass this motion.

7 MS. GATELLI: All in favor?

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

10 MS. GATELLI: Opposed?

11 MR. MCGOFF: No.

12 MS. FANUCCI: No.

13 MS. GATELLI: No?

14 MS. EVANS: I'm not finished. Thank  
15 you. I further move that Scranton City  
16 Council allow the Taxpayers' Association to  
17 continue to conduct its meetings in council  
18 chambers.

19 MR. COUTRIGTH: I'll second it.

20 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question,  
22 I'll second it, but I have to go back to  
23 what Mr. McGoff said on the other issue, do  
24 we have the authority. I think that's what  
25 we got to find out. What authority do we  
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1 have or do we not have over this room.

2 MS. EVANS: I think we do we have  
3 the authority though to express our opinion  
4 to the mayor that this is where we stand on  
5 this, this is our will and is he going to  
6 abide by his statements and respect that.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: I absolutely agree  
8 that we have the right to express our  
9 opinion. I hope very expeditiously we find  
10 out where we stand as far as this room goes

11 so we can put this aside and find out do we  
12 or do we not have say what goes on in this  
13 room and I say "we", I mean, city council,  
14 or does the mayor, and take it from there.

15 MS. FANUCCI: I did inquire today and  
16 the response I received was that it is the  
17 mayor's call and that the mayor said that  
18 they will not be in this room. That  
19 was what I received today.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: And if that's the  
21 case, again, I asked our solicitor to do  
22 that before, to get that for me in writing  
23 and if that's the rule then I abide by the  
24 rules, and I'd like to see it in writing.

25 MS. FANUCCI: Bill, I did ask one  
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1 step further and I said, "Why? What is the  
2 reasoning," and he said everyone else who  
3 meets in this room are appointed or elected.  
4 They are not appointed nor elected. Either  
5 we have agreed to appoint someone or they  
6 are elected to office and that's who can use  
7 the meetings in this room. That was the

8 answer I received today.

9 MS. EVANS: That's a good answer, but

10 the problem is not all of the these

11 authorities and boards and commissions

12 indeed hold their meetings in this room and

13 that needs correction because it was my

14 understanding that that was to be the case

15 and yet many do not. I know zoning does, I

16 know planning does, pension, but recreation

17 authority does not, for example. The

18 redevelopment authority I don't believe.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Well, I didn't ask him

20 who was supposed to be here, so I don't know

21 who is supposed to be here --

22 MS. EVANS: Well, I can understand

23 why --

24 MS. FANUCCI: But he said that they

25 were not an elected body or appointed so

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1 that was the only answer I received. That's

2 all I know.

3 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else? All in

4 favor.

5 MS. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: No.

8 MS. FANUCCI: No.

9 MS. GATELLI: No.

10 MS. EVANS: Council is currently in  
11 the process of developing new revenue  
12 sources some of which were originally  
13 contained in My 2007 budget. One item is an  
14 amusement tax and I believe it is crucial  
15 that council jointly and meticulously  
16 examine the language of such an ordinance in  
17 order to be specific about what is being  
18 taxed and who will oversee it's collections  
19 and delinquencies, therefore, Scranton City  
20 Council will conduct a public caucus on  
21 Thursday, April 19 at 5:45 to develop an  
22 appropriate legislation for an amusement  
23 tax.

24 I'm also currently researching the  
25 feasibility of a hotel tax in Scranton. The

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1 purpose of generating several new sources of

2 revenue is to prevent future property tax  
3 increases and to try to stop the financial  
4 bleeding caused by fiscal mismanagement and  
5 the Doherty debt.

6 On April 10 I received responses to  
7 two financial questions moved by council and  
8 I will report the responses received. In  
9 response to question one, there is  
10 \$19,8550,287.59 in the reserve account trust  
11 as of March 30, 2007.

12 In response to Question five, the  
13 realty transfer tax for the sale of Montage  
14 sky resort to Sno Mountain was received in  
15 November 2006. The city's share was  
16 \$112,200.

17 We have received the responses to  
18 two more questions today and I await the  
19 remainder by our next meeting. At this time  
20 I move that the administration respond to  
21 the following questions on or about May 2,  
22 2007: Is the reserve fund overfunded or  
23 underfunded, what is the dollar amount of  
24 the overfunding or underfunding.

25 MS. FANUCCI: I'll second that.

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1 MS. GATELLI: All in favor?

2 MS. EVANS: Aye.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

7 ayes have it and so moved.

8 MS. EVANS: I further move that the

9 administration provide revenues and

10 reimbursement on company letterheads for all

11 sources of other revenue listed in the 2006

12 and 2007 operating budgets on or about May

13 2, 2007.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

15 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

16 in favor? Aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MS. GATELLI: The ayes have it and so

22 moved.

23 MS. EVANS: I further move that the  
24 administration provide the following  
25 information on or before May 2, 2007: The  
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1 names, costs and duties and responsibilities  
2 of all consultants currently employed by the  
3 City of Scranton, provide expenses and  
4 revenues on company letter heads for each  
5 consultant hired and currently employed by  
6 the City of Scranton.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

8 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

9 MR. MCGOFF: Are you asking -- I  
10 just -- maybe I misunderstood, are you  
11 asking the consultants to provide that or  
12 the City to provide that?

13 MS. EVANS: The city can provide it,  
14 but I would like the figures on company  
15 letterhead each firm that the consultant is  
16 employed by and representing.

17 MS. GATELLI: I just have one  
18 question, can we get any of that from  
19 Roseanne's office, any of that information?

20 MS. EVANS: I don't believe all of it

21 is possible.

22 MS. FANUCCI: She has to pay them.

23 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, she has to pay

24 them all.

25 MS. EVANS: Well, actually, no she

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1 wouldn't be paying OECD.

2 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, she approves

3 those vouchers, too.

4 MS. EVANS: We were told she

5 doesn't.

6 MS. GATELLI: She did when I was

7 here. She approved all of them. Amil, do

8 you know?

9 MR. MINORA: Beg your pardon?

10 MS. GATELLI: Do you know that, if

11 Roseanne approves OECD's bills?

12 MR. MINORA: I believe she approves

13 all bills and signs all of the checks.

14 MS. EVANS: Well, I would -- I'm not

15 withdrawing the motion.

16 MS. GATELLI: All in favor?

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Ayes.

18 MS. EVANS: Aye.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

22 ayes have it and so moved.

23 MS. EVANS: Finally, I move that the

24 administration show the numbers for all

25 insurance premiums on or before May 2, 2007.

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

2 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

3 MS. EVANS: Yes. The responses to

4 these questions will certainly shed light on

5 the numbers inserted into the

6 administration's record \$77 million

7 operating budget.

8 The location of the much anticipated

9 medical school has been raised once again.

10 This school would provide a significant

11 economic boom for our city particularly in

12 light of Scranton's bleak financial state.

13 The mayor is fighting the good fight in this

14 front and even critics of the mayor need to  
15 support his efforts. The hardworking people  
16 of Scranton don't need to be teased.

17 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Evans, I don't  
18 mean to interrupt you, but we didn't vote on  
19 the motion.

20 MS. EVANS: Oh, I'm sorry.

21 MS. GATELLI: I thought this was  
22 going to be like part of your --

23 MS. EVANS: I'm so sorry.

24 MS. GATELLI: I think we moved it and  
25 we seconded it and we were on the question  
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1 and anyone else on the question? All in  
2 favor?

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The  
8 ayes have it and so moved. I'm sorry for  
9 interrupting you.

10 MS. EVANS: No, thank you. I'll just

11 pick up where I left off. The hardworking  
12 people of Scranton don't need to be teased,  
13 they need to be helped by our state  
14 officials, therefore, I encourage everyone  
15 to call Senator Mellow's office at 346-5721  
16 and let him know that you want this medical  
17 school in Scranton and that by virtue of our  
18 three hospitals, one preeminent in the  
19 treatment of heart disease, another who  
20 offers a trauma center, three colleges and a  
21 central location between New York and  
22 Philadelphia, Scranton is the best, the most  
23 logical location for this great institution.  
24 I wish to applaud Mr. Howard Ufberg for  
25 his letter to council and to the editor of  
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1 the Times Tribune. I agree with his  
2 statements and support his solutions for  
3 downtown development particularly as we face  
4 the development of the Shoppes at Montage  
5 and the expansion at the Viewmont Mall and  
6 the Crossings.  
7 I also wish to thank Ms. Krechfer

8 for notifying me about a problem in Morth  
9 Scranton and I'm very pleased that the house  
10 has been demolished for the benefit of all  
11 of it's neighbors.

12 I have also received several calls  
13 from struggling senior citizens who have  
14 been unfairly hit by the EMS tax. In  
15 addition, I am aware that Mr. Munchak has  
16 received similar calls for help.

17 Mr. Munchak has forwarded letters to all of  
18 our state representatives and Senator Mellow  
19 requesting that the language of this state  
20 law be amended to state: "W-2 income only."

21 In response to the seniors who have  
22 contacted me I vigorously support a change  
23 in the law and this council in the past had  
24 already sent letters to the state requesting  
25 such changes. The governor and the state

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1 legislature has pledged to make changes in  
2 2007 that will take effect in January 2008.  
3 I know that doesn't nothing for you at this  
4 time, but I believe if we continue to hold

5 the state's feet to the fire we will see a  
6 change for next year.  
7 Although I have not received a  
8 response from Comcast, I have learned that  
9 Comcast pays Scranton a franchise fee of  
10 approximately \$600,000. I'm asking council  
11 to consider dedicating \$25,000 annually to  
12 Channel 61 Scranton Today. Council has the  
13 power to amend the operating budget to  
14 include a line item expenditure for this  
15 purpose in order to guarantee uncensored  
16 public broadcasting of all the local  
17 government meetings and election services  
18 provided by the League of Women Voters, I  
19 ask my honorable colleagues to consider  
20 supporting this idea. I also hope that my  
21 colleagues will respect and reward Scranton  
22 Today for their dedicated and generous  
23 service to our community by supporting their  
24 continued management of Channel 61. That's  
25 it.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

2 Mrs. Fanucci?

3 MS. FANUCCI: I talked to Lori Reed

4 in OECD about Alexander's Salon and Day Spa.

5 They currently staff 50 employees and they

6 offer a full spa and salon service to both

7 men and women. Their loan is to purchase

8 new machinery and equipment. It's a

9 commercial industrial loan for \$250,000 for

10 20 years. The required number of employees

11 is not set by the city, it is eight

12 full-time equivalent positions created and

13 that's set through HUD. These will include

14 customer service reps, stylists, nail techs,

15 fitness trainers, aestheticians and massage

16 therapists. But they claim, and here's

17 what's happening, they are actually

18 expanding to two floors, the first and

19 second floor and the third floor. They

20 believe a more realistic number of positions

21 that will be created will be 15 and that

22 would be in the first year. These positions

23 will result in additional professionals,

24 staff meetings -- I'm sorry, needed for a

25 medical spa. What they are going to do the

1 first floor will be the salon, second floor  
2 will be a new fitness center, third floor is  
3 going to be a medical spa. They are going  
4 to have doctors, nurses, and also they are  
5 putting in an outdoor seating cafe on the  
6 first floor.

7 All of their collateral will be the  
8 new equipment. The new equipment costs an  
9 absolute fortune, I guess the list when they  
10 read it to me was a lot of money and that  
11 would be the collateral for the city, so  
12 they are going to be employing a lot more  
13 people. They, again, are going to put in a  
14 wellness center and a medical spa and also  
15 have physicians on staff. There is a  
16 physician moving back to the area to run the  
17 third floor.

18 They wanted everyone to know that  
19 there is going to be steam rooms, pools,  
20 relaxation rooms and things of that nature  
21 to make them a full service spa and they  
22 also want everyone to know that during this

23 time they are going to maintain still  
24 working and still having their regular salon  
25 running during the renovation period, and  
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1 that is all I have on that.  
2 I'm going to speak for about four  
3 seconds on the reason that I voted no for  
4 the fact that I -- about people being waived  
5 and the wands being given outside to help  
6 with the safety. I don't believe that  
7 safety is a bad issue under any  
8 circumstances, it doesn't matter. I mean,  
9 to me why would that hurt anyone. You are  
10 as safe as everyone else is safe in here.  
11 It shouldn't matter what the problem is as  
12 long as we know that once people come in  
13 here they are in a safe environment. The  
14 first day when we made the decision, when  
15 the decision was made to have security, we  
16 were supposed to have I believe 15 seniors  
17 from the high school here. At that time  
18 there was a lot of strange accusations going  
19 on and we have had a number of kids going to

20 be in this room. Whether or not you like it  
21 or don't like it, there is no way to argue  
22 with more safety. You can't. You can be  
23 upset about it, maybe it's a little bit  
24 inconvenient, but in the long run it can  
25 only help.

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1 I'm sorry that people feel offended,  
2 but I don't understand how safety should  
3 make anyone offended. I do agree with the  
4 waiting outside that that's a problem. I  
5 don't like the fact that people have to  
6 stand out there to wait to get in the  
7 meeting, so I definitely agree that that is  
8 something we need to look into. I do  
9 believe until we have the right equipment  
10 here for everyone I believe this whole  
11 entire building should be safe and I do  
12 agree with that, also. I do believe that  
13 the other meetings maybe they should be  
14 worried about safety also, I don't know, but  
15 at this rate and this time of our lives I  
16 don't believe this is something that we can

17 fool around with. And the good thing is  
18 that you don't have to feel threatened when  
19 you walk in here. You don't have to feel  
20 like it bothers you or upset or offended and  
21 neither do we. We are just here to conduct  
22 a meeting and if a little bit more safety  
23 has to be given then so be it. It's not  
24 going to stop us from conducting business  
25 and it's certainly not going to stop us from  
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1 listening to the citizens and it's not going  
2 to stop us from doing our jobs so,  
3 therefore, I don't see how it can inhibit  
4 anyone from wanting to come here. In fact,  
5 I believe that it might make people want to  
6 come here more so now you don't have to  
7 worry.

8 I also want to speak on the medical  
9 school. Obviously, I mean, nobody disagrees  
10 with Mrs. Evans on the medical school. It  
11 is something that we had actually sent a  
12 letter months ago claiming that this is  
13 something we need to do. This is something

14 as a city we need to pull together and make  
15 sure that we are where this medical school  
16 lands. A thousand medical jobs, hundreds of  
17 new opportunities, this is what we need.  
18 This is how we can actually get ourselves  
19 back where we need to be, so it is something  
20 that everyone needs to work together on and  
21 I just want to say I lend my support on  
22 everything that Mrs. Evans had said tonight  
23 and do go out and make sure your voice is  
24 heard on this matter because this is  
25 probably the most important thing that we  
.  
53

1 have going on at this moment, and that is  
2 all.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr. McGoff?

4 MR. MCGOFF: I'd just like to comment  
5 on what Mrs. Fanucci just said about the  
6 security measures. While I do advocate  
7 security measures I really do think that  
8 they have been implemented poorly. There  
9 has been no direction, no unified direction  
10 for how they are going to be implemented,

11 how it's going to be done, what procedures  
12 are going to be used. If, in fact, the  
13 mayor does have authority over this building  
14 then I think it's incumbent upon the mayor  
15 or someone in public safety or whoever is in  
16 charge of implementing the security measures  
17 to delineate what that process is going to  
18 be, make it public so that people do know  
19 what they need to do in order to gain access  
20 to the building.

21 The waiting outside is really an  
22 unnecessary inconvenience. If there were  
23 some plan in place that people knew about  
24 then that would not occur because people  
25 would not need to, you know, come before a  
.

54

1 time that the doors would be open, so I  
2 think that what we really need to do is  
3 request from the mayor what his procedures  
4 are going to be for the entrance to the  
5 building and make those public prior to the  
6 next meeting.

7 Also, the question of use of council

8 chambers, I'm not opposed to any group using  
9 council chambers, but if it's not within our  
10 authority to grant the privilege to use it  
11 then I think it's, again, the groups that  
12 request to use it need to go to the mayor  
13 and petition the mayor and the  
14 administration for it's use and find out why  
15 perhaps they are not being allowed to use  
16 it, perhaps find out what measures could be  
17 taken to allow groups to use council  
18 chambers if there are things that they need  
19 to do in order to use the building.  
20 If it is within our purview then I  
21 would be more than happy to entertain a  
22 request of any group to use it if proper  
23 measures are followed to, you know, for the  
24 utilization of the building, and that's all.  
25 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

55

1 Mr. Courtright?

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes. I'd just like  
3 to say that the residents over in West  
4 Scranton are very pleased that Joe Foley is

5 back on our beat over there and pretty soon  
6 Melissa is going to be back, they were  
7 missed and their presence, when we are  
8 talking about safety, really makes the  
9 residents over there feel safe so we are  
10 happy to see Joe back and we are waiting to  
11 see Melissa.

12 I need to thank Officer Tom Lee  
13 again. We got the major depression we had  
14 in the road repaired on Forest Glen and in  
15 the way there is a huge, huge pothole if  
16 that's what you want to call it on that  
17 road, he said they are supposedly going to  
18 fix sooner.

19 Just one last item, when I came into  
20 the building this evening I was alerted that  
21 the gentlemen that were supposed to come to  
22 the caucuses weren't being allowed into the  
23 building, so when I walked inside the police  
24 officers let me in and when I walked inside  
25 I had asked the sergeant there if you could

.

56

1 let the two people in because we needed them

2 to come in for the caucus, he did not not  
3 want to let the junior council in, that's  
4 total incorrect. He thought Mr. Miller was  
5 one of the guys that were coming into our  
6 caucus, I said, "No, he is not one of those  
7 gentlemen."

8 The reason I was told they weren't  
9 allowing them in is because we needed to  
10 have someone from the fire department here,  
11 they were doing the headcount, so that's  
12 what happened there and Mr. Miller had a  
13 suit on and I said the two guys with the  
14 suits, the officer thought Mr. Miller was  
15 one of the guys that were coming into our  
16 caucus, so a misunderstanding due to and do  
17 tore as Mr. McGoff said, and that's all I  
18 have. Thank you.

19 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mrs.  
20 Garvey?

21 MS. GARVEY: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
22 AN ORDINANCE - ACCEPTING OWNERSHIP AND  
23 MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A TRAFFIC  
24 SIGNAL DEVICE AT STATE ROUTE 3011 (KEYSER  
25 AVENUE) AS REQUIRED BY THE COMMONWEALTH,

1 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE HIGHWAY

2 OCCUPANCY PERMIT OF THE KEYSER TERRACE

3 SUBDIVISION.

4 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

5 entertain a motion that 5-B be introduced.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

8 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

9 those in favor? Aye.

10 MS. EVANS: Aye.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

14 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes have

15 it and so moved.

16 MS. GARVEY: 5-C - FOR INTRODUCTION

17 - AN ORDINANCE - RESTRICTING PARKING ON THE

18 WESTERN SIDE OF THE 1100 BLOCK OF LUZERNE

19 STREET AND THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE 400

20 BLOCK OF SOUTH MAIN AVENUE TO COMPLY WITH

21 THE HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT RESTRICTIONS OF

22 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT

23 OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A  
24 BANK BRANCH AT THAT INTERSECTION.

25 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

.

58

1 entertain a motion that 5-C be introduced.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

4 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

5 those in favor? Aye.

6 MS. EVANS: Aye.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

10 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes have

11 it and so moved.

12 MR. MINORA: Before Mrs. Garvey reads

13 5-D and E I'd like to suggest that you

14 consider tabling that. I received a phone

15 call from Attorney Mike Savitsky, counsel

16 for the pension board, and he called me

17 after our agenda was prepared to tell me

18 that both police and firemen, both

19 firehouses, I'm sorry, there needs to be a

20 consideration by the firefighters themselves  
21 for appointments, that didn't happen yet and  
22 so we ought to table this until that's done  
23 and then he'll inform us when we have it  
24 headed back. He had no problem with the  
25 individuals themselves, but the procedure  
. . .  
59

1 hadn't be followed properly.

2 MS. EVANS: I move to table Items 5-D  
3 and 5-E.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All  
6 those in favor? Aye.

7 MS. EVANS: Aye.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

11 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes have  
12 it and so moved.

13 MS. GARVEY: 5-F - FOR INTRODUCTION -  
14 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF DOUGLAS HEIN,  
15 1204 MOLTKE AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,  
16 18505, TO THE POSITION OF CITY TREASURER FOR

17 THE CITY OF SCRANTON. MR. HEIN WILL BE  
18 REPLACING KATHY RUANE WHO RESIGNED.

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

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

23 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All  
24 those in favor? Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

60

1 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

4 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes have  
5 it and so moved.

6 MS. GARVEY: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
7 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF  
8 PUBLIC SAFETY TO ACT AS AGENT FOR THE CITY  
9 OF SCRANTON FOR EMERGENCY AND DISASTER  
10 RELIEF PURSUANT TO THE ROBERT T. STAFFORD  
11 DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE  
12 ACT.

13 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

14 entertain a motion that 5-G be introduced.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

17 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

18 MS. EVANS: Would passage of this

19 automatically tie this title to the position

20 of public safety director? In other words,

21 if at some future point the city wished to

22 eliminate that particular position would

23 this cause a problem?

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I would think if

25 they eliminated the position we would have

.

61

1 to reappoint someone else.

2 MS. EVANS: Well, obviously, yes,

3 but what I'm saying is would that be in any

4 way grounds for retaining a public safety

5 director?

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't know, we'd

7 have to ask Mr. Minora that one.

8 MS. EVANS: Can we perhaps get an

9 answer to that? We are not tabling it, just

10 to get an answer.

11 MR. MINORA: I'm not -- this is on

12 5-F?

13 MS. EVANS: "G."

14 MR. MINORA: I'm sorry, I was

15 writing something else when you were asking

16 that question.

17 MS. EVANS: I'll tell you after the

18 meeting.

19 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the

20 question? All in favor? Aye.

21 MS. EVANS: Aye.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes have

.

62

1 it and so moved.

2 MS. GARVEY: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -

3 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

4 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO

5 DESIGNATE GREENMAN-PEDERSEN, INC. TO

6 CONTINUE AS CITY BRIDGE ENGINEER FOR THE

7 BRIDGE INSPECTION CYCLE OF 207 THROUGH 2009.

8 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

9 entertain a motion that 5-H be introduced.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

12 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

13 those in favor? Aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

18 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes have

19 it and so moved.

20 MS. GARVEY: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -

21 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

22 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE

23 CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN

24 AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN FROM THE

25 COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

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63

1 PROJECT NO. 150.9 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED

2 \$250,000 TO ALEXANDER'S SALON & SPA, INC. TO

3 ASSIST IN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

4 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

5 entertain a motion that 5-I be introduced.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question,

9 I'm going to be voting, no, on this and one

10 of the reasons that I am is because it

11 appears, and I asked, earlier on I asked

12 Mr. Minora if he would look into it further,

13 it appears that the loan is forgiven after

14 three years if they meet the requirements

15 and --

16 MR. MINORA: I'd like to read that

17 more carefully, but it does seem to say that

18 on it's face.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right, and I don't

20 agree with that, so I'll be voting, no, on

21 this for that reason.

22 MR. MINORA: And I think I'd like to

23 find out if that was a misprint. On it's

24 face, it does say that.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's what I was

.

64

1 asking when Mr. Hubbard was --

2 MS. EVANS: Might we table this until

3 we get your opinion?

4 MR. MINORA: That wouldn't be a bad

5 idea.

6 MS. GARVEY: There's already a

7 motion.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: I make a motion that

9 we --

10 MS. GATELLI: Withdraw that motion

11 and second it.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Withdrawn.

13 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: I make a motion that

15 we table 5-I.

16 MS. EVANS: Second.

17 MS. GARVEY: On the question? All

18 in favor. Aye.

19 MS. EVANS: Aye.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

23 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes have

24 it and so moved.

25 MS. GARVEY: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION -

1 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
2 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
3 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL  
4 SERVICES WITH EXCALIBUR INSURANCE MANAGEMENT  
5 SERVICES, INC. FOR THE THIRD PARTY  
6 ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY'S WORKERS'  
7 COMPENSATION CLAIMS.

8 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
9 entertain a motion that 5-J be introduced.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

12 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

13 those in favor? Aye.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

17 MS. GATELLI: Opposed?

18 MS. EVANS: No.

19 MS. GATELLI: The ayes have it and so

20 moved with one negative.

21 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

22 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 82,

23 2007 - AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING PENALTY,  
24 INTEREST AND FEE SCHEDULE FOR COLLECTION OF  
25 DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES.

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66

1 MS. GATELLI: For reading of Item 6-A

2 what is your pleasure?

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6-A

4 pass reading by title.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

7 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

8 MS. EVANS: I am very concerned about

9 the cost and the fees and the penalties that

10 will be attached to the dollar amount owed

11 by the delinquent taxpayer to particularly

12 NCC. I certainly do want the city to

13 collect it's delinquencies, but I don't

14 believe that we need to so harshly punish

15 those individuals who were financially

16 unable to meet their commitments and in so

17 doing prevent them from meeting their

18 commitments. If, indeed, you were unable to

19 make a \$600 payment how then are you able to

20 make a \$3,000 payment?

21 And senior citizens are on fixed

22 income, more and more companies in this

23 region are closing and another today laid

24 off how many workers, the unemployment rate

25 in the region is most high, so I don't think

.

67

1 that this is the appropriate step to take

2 after all we are looking at fees and costs

3 that include letters "A" through "V".

4 That's quite a hefty penalty and that's in

5 addition to the 25 percent penalty that's

6 already charged by NCC, so I think one of

7 the audience members earlier tonight

8 mentioned something that I am quite

9 interested in, amnesty. The city just needs

10 the money owed. I don't think the city

11 needs to make any collection agencies

12 wealthy on the back of our taxpayers, so I

13 will be voting, no.

14 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the

15 question?

16 MR. MCGOFF: I think that the

17 legislation just has so many questions that  
18 need to be answered, obviously we need to  
19 collect taxes and delinquent taxes, but what  
20 I would like to find out is what are the  
21 current penalties and what changes that "A"  
22 through, I forget what letter it was --

23 MS. EVANS: "V."

24 MR. MCGOFF: How those are different  
25 from what the current penalties are before I

68

1 can evaluate whether it's going to, you  
2 know, how it's going to be different I would  
3 like to find out what the current, you know,  
4 situation is. With that and with other  
5 questions involved, I would make a motion  
6 that we table this as well until the  
7 questions can be answered.

8 MS. GATELLI: Will the person  
9 withdraw the motion, the original motion?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll withdraw it.

11 MS. GATELLI: Okay.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: And I'll second

13 Mr. McGoff's.

14 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

15 in favor? Aye.

16 MS. EVANS: Aye.

17 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

20 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes

21 have it and so moved.

22 MS. FANUCCI: I do want to say one

23 thing, I hope we can also get some

24 comparisons, I know the school board did

25 this, you know, because they had already

.

69

1 implemented this program for the people in

2 the city. You have already been through

3 this program as far as taxpayers are

4 concerned in the City of Scranton you have

5 just done it on the school board end and I

6 would like to see exactly how this compares

7 to what the school board did to see if it's

8 the exact same contract, if there is

9 different fees and those things.

10 MS. EVANS: I think what you will

11 need to do to make a better comparison would  
12 be to examine the paperwork for municipality  
13 rather than a school district, and the  
14 school district, in fact, cannot take quiet  
15 title to properties whereas a municipality  
16 can, so I think the more appropriate  
17 comparison contrast has to come from one of  
18 the cities they are representing.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Then there was five  
20 other cities that they have done this in,  
21 but my comparison and what I would like to  
22 see is the school board collects a lot more  
23 money than we do, what is that they were  
24 using as collateral if they were not getting  
25 their fees from theses people then what?

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70

1 Then what were they done, maybe it's another  
2 option for us instead of taking someone's  
3 property maybe this is another option that  
4 we can look into, so I'd like to see what  
5 they are doing.

6 MS. GATELLI: And I will have Mrs.  
7 Garvey or Sue contact some of those cities

8 and get some information for us within the  
9 next two weeks so we can peruse that and see  
10 what the other municipalities are doing.

11 Mrs. Garvey?

12 MS. GARVEY: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.

13 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
14 FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
15 80, 2007 - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL  
16 CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229584 ENTITLED  
17 "SCRANTON POLICE M OTOR CARRIER ENFORCEMENT  
18 DETAIL ACCOUNT" TO RECEIVE AND DISBURSE  
19 FUNDS FROM AND FOR THE MOTOR CARRIER  
20 ENFORCEMENT DETAILS OF THE SCRANTON POLICE  
21 DEPARTMENT.

22 MS. GATELLI: What is the  
23 recommendation of the Chair on Finances?

24 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the  
25 Committee on Finances I recommend final

71

1 passage of Item 7-A.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

3 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

4 MS. EVANS: Yes. Kay, could we send

5 a letter, please, to Chief Elliott  
6 requesting specifically what equipment he  
7 hopes to purchase for the police department?

8 MS. GARVEY: Okay.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

10 MS. GATELLI: Roll call?

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

17 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

19 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

20 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby,  
21 declare 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

22 MS. GARVEY: 7-B FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
23 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - FILE  
24 OF COUNCIL NO. 81, 2007 - AS AMENDED -  
25 AMENDING SECTION 6-14 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE  
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72

1 CODE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ALLOW FOR

2 THE PURCHASE OF USED POLICE VEHICLES,  
3 CRUISERS AND/OR DETECTIVE CARS AND  
4 ACCESSORIES THERETO VIA DIRECT NEGOTIATION  
5 WITH THE VENDOR IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$10,000  
6 AS A UNIT PRICE PER VEHICLE.

7 MS. GATELLI: As Chair for the  
8 Committee on Rules I recommend final passage  
9 of 7-B.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

11 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll  
12 call.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

17 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

19 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

22 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby,  
23 declare 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

24 MS. GARVEY: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION

25 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -

1 RESOLUTION NO. 135, 2007 - APPOINTMENT OF  
2 FRANK J. TUNIS, JR., 101 KELLY WAY,  
3 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE  
4 SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY EFFECTIVE MARCH  
5 19, 2007. MR. TUNIS WILL BE REPLACING JAMES  
6 MORELL WHO RESIGNED ON FEBRUARY 28, 2007.  
7 MR. TUNIS' TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 1, 2007.

8 MS. GATELLI: As Chair or the  
9 Committee on Rules I recommend final passage  
10 of 7-C.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

12 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Just  
13 on the question, I happen to know Mr. Morell  
14 quite well and he did serve the Parking  
15 Authority well and he recently had surgery  
16 and he is well on the road to recovery and  
17 as a council we would like to wish him the  
18 best of good health and thank him for his  
19 service to the parking authorities. Roll  
20 call?

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

24 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

74

1 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

5 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby,

6 declare 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

7 MS. GARVEY: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION

8 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -

9 RESOLUTION NO. 136-2007 - APPOINTMENT OF

10 MICHAEL C. SALERNO, JR., 12-- BRYN MAWR

11 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS A

12 MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY.

13 MR. SALERNO WILL BE REPLACING JOSEPH

14 MATYJEVICH WHO RESIGNED ON MARCH 2, 2007.

15 MR. SALERNO'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 1,

16 2009.

17 MS. GATELLI: As Chair for the

18 Committee on Rules I recommend final passage

19 of 7-D.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

21 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

22 call.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

75

1 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

7 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

8 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

9 MS. GARVEY: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION

10 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -

11 RESOLUTION NO. 137, 2007 - AUTHORIZING THE

12 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS

13 TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH ROBERT ROSSI &

14 COMPANY TO PERFORM THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S

15 ANNUAL INDEPENDENT POST AUDIT FOR THE YEARS

16 ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2006; DECEMBER 31, 2007;

17 DECEMBER 31, 2008; AND DECEMBER 31, 2009.

18 MS. GATELLI: As Chair for the

19 Committee on Rules I recommend final passage

20 of 7-E.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

22 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

23 call?

24 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

25 MS. EVANS: Yes.

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76

1 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

8 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby,

9 declare 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

10 MS. GARVEY: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION

11 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -

12 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 138, 2007 -

13 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

14 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
15 ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN  
16 FROM THE COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING  
17 LOAN PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.8 IN AN AMOUNT  
18 NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000 TO ELECTRIC CITY  
19 ROASTING COMPANY TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE  
20 PROJECT.

21 MS. GATELLI: What is the  
22 recommendation of the Chair for Community  
23 Development?

24 MS. FANUCCI: As Chairperson for the  
25 Committee on Community Development, I

77

1 recommend final passage of Item 7-F.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

3 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I --

5 MS. EVANS: I --

6 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry. I would, I'm

7 not sure who it was before, maybe

8 Mr. Sbaraglia asked the question what the

9 balance was in that loan program, I think

10 that's a legitimate question and maybe in

11 the future will help us to evaluate and  
12 prioritize loans that we are making through  
13 than program knowing what the balance is and  
14 what funds are available.

15 MS. EVANS: Ditto, but, Mrs. Fanucci,  
16 yes, please. Thank you.

17 MS. GATELLI: Roll call.

18 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

19 MS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

21 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

22 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

24 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

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78

1 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

2 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby,

3 declare 7-F legally and lawfully adopted.

4 MS. GARVEY: EIGHTH ORDER - CITIZEN

5 PARTICIPATION II - GENERAL CITY ISSUES.

6 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

7 Doug Miller, president of Scranton Junior

8 City Council, and I'd just like to start off  
9 by again letting everyone know that junior  
10 council is still working on our handicap  
11 swingset project, as I have stated before,  
12 and we are raising funds to purchase a  
13 children's handicap accessible swingset in  
14 Nay Aug Park and we are all asking citizens,  
15 businesses of Scranton to support this  
16 project by making a contribution and we ask  
17 that you send your donations here to city  
18 hall, 340 North Washington Avenue, Scranton,  
19 PA, 18503. With your support we will help  
20 make this project a huge success.

21 Just regarding some issues that were  
22 raised earlier about who has control of this  
23 room and the building, my understanding this  
24 is council's room and this is not the  
25 mayor's building, it's the hardworking

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79

1 residents of Scranton's building.  
2 Regarding the balcony, I'm pleased  
3 to see that the balcony has opened up again.  
4 In my opinion I don't believe it ever should

5 have been closed. I feel every resident in  
6 the city has the right to come here and  
7 participate in government and I don't feel  
8 they should be stifled.

9 Regarding the security measures that  
10 have been taking place, Mrs. Fanucci, you  
11 gave the reasons that a high school football  
12 team was going to be given a proclamation  
13 and you feared that kids could be  
14 threatened, we have a junior council here  
15 every week, we are students.

16 I'd like to also lastly tonight  
17 encourage young adults who have just turned  
18 18 or older, those who are old enough to  
19 vote if you haven't already please register  
20 to vote for the May 15 primary. You know,  
21 you can make a difference and I would  
22 strongly encourage you to vote. We need  
23 more people to become involved in our city  
24 government and now is the time to step up  
25 and do so.

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80

1 And I apologize, I do have one last

2 thing, Mrs. Gatelli, earlier in the meeting  
3 you congratulated Katrina Organ on her play,  
4 we, too, on behalf of council would like to  
5 wish her the best of luck. Thank you very  
6 much.

7 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Franas.

8 MS. FRANAS: Fay Franas, Scranton.

9 Mrs. Fanucci, you said earlier that you  
10 wanted security in this building, well, I  
11 agree with that, but I say if we do it for  
12 one you do it for all. The zoning meeting  
13 met here last night and nobody was scanned  
14 and it is not like profiling, Mr.  
15 Courtright, it is profiling. I'm not a  
16 terrorist and nobody in this room is a  
17 terrorist. Nobody in this room has ever  
18 threatened anybody on this council and I say  
19 to you, Mrs. Gatelli, if you feel that we  
20 are being outside and have to be scanned,  
21 only us, only the people on council, I could  
22 have come to this meeting last night and so  
23 could have everybody else going to the  
24 zoning meeting, the same exact people, but  
25 we wouldn't have gotten scanned last night,

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81

1 but tonight we had to.

2 So, I say to you, Mrs. Gatelli, I

3 asked you last week all along if this was

4 going to continue, I asked Ray Hayes, and he

5 didn't know, he said it was up to council.

6 Ray Hayes also told me the reason that the

7 people on zoning weren't scanned is because

8 they weren't threatened, you were, so,

9 therefore, I say to you either you prove the

10 threats, you've had it long enough, if you

11 have threats, Mrs. Fanucci or yourself,

12 prove it or stop the scanning because you

13 either scan everybody or you scan no one.

14 Now, this is just ridiculous. It's

15 blatant discrimination. You're like the

16 queen of the hop up there, Mrs. Gatelli, and

17 the mayor is the King and, Mr. McGoff, you

18 are like daddy's little boy. You danced

19 around that thing with Mrs. Evans when she

20 wanted to vote to have the scanning stopped.

21 You said you had to find out what the mayor

22 wanted. You could have taken the stand on

23 getting another person and stood up for the  
24 people when you had a chance. Your election  
25 just went down the tubes. You had to stick  
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82

1 up for the mayor again as usual, not for the  
2 people that elected you -- appointed, we  
3 didn't do anything with you. You are just  
4 here because we don't even want you here,  
5 but, anyway.

6 I say to you, Mrs. Gatelli, this  
7 lawsuit with Mr. Pilchesky against you now,  
8 can I ask you this, how do you we find out  
9 if the taxpayers are going to have pay for  
10 this? You know, I'm going to ask for a  
11 refund on my taxes, Mrs. Gatelli, because I  
12 pay your salary and this is just blatant.  
13 You don't represent the people in the City  
14 of Scranton unless you don't think I'm a  
15 person in the City of Scranton.

16 And, Mrs. Fanucci, you mentioned  
17 about threats, you feel threatened, you walk  
18 through the front door, how about you come  
19 in and get scanned, too, maybe I feel

20 threatened by you. And, Mrs. Gatelli, and  
21 Mr. McGoff, my driveway was plowed in the  
22 last snowstorm right up to my car about  
23 seven feet in my driveway, huge. Took me  
24 five hours to shovel it out. At 3:00 in the  
25 morning someone came and did this and I get

83

1 rotten letters in the mail and somebody else  
2 got a letter in the mail saying they were  
3 going to get their house burned down. Mary  
4 Ann Wardell was told she'd lose her job if  
5 she came back. You talk about you're  
6 threatened, we are threatened by you. So,  
7 possibly maybe you should be getting  
8 scanned, too, to protect us. What gives you  
9 the right not to be scanned but we have to  
10 be. This has to stop and it has to stop  
11 now. Scan everybody or scan no one, and  
12 until you start scanning everyone at this  
13 city hall no one should be scanned. This is  
14 your council and take a stand. Mrs.  
15 Gatelli, you are supposed to be the  
16 president. Stand up for what you think is

17 right. Don't you have any rules here.

18 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

19 MS. FRANAS: Thank you.

20 MS. GATELLI: Andy Sbaraglia.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,

22 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians.

23 The SRA is taking bids to fix Center Court,

24 Center Street we'll call, but it's a little

25 court, but the priority of this mayor is

84

1 that Center Court is more important than a

2 flood control project down there in lower

3 Greenridge and it behooves me why one of you

4 council members couldn't have contacted our

5 Congressional representatives and ask them

6 to ask HUD to do a reevaluation of lower

7 Greenridge. No way does lower Greenridge

8 compare with upper Greenridge. You got to

9 be mad to think that there are the same or

10 even in the same league, but yet they need

11 help. Since we don't want to help them

12 maybe our Congressman can. I informed the

13 gentleman that's probably a better approach

14 because this mayor is not interested in  
15 lower Greenridge. In fact, he is not  
16 interested in any part of the city except  
17 central city or he wouldn't be so hip on  
18 doing Center Street. I guess you are  
19 familiar with Center Street, it's a little  
20 alley behind the garage. It was an alley,  
21 it wasn't much, the only person that ever  
22 used it was Bell Telephone mainly and when  
23 Ufburg was there we used to come that way  
24 into work on his elevator, but all it is is  
25 a court and we are going to spend thousands

85

1 and thousands of dollars to fix that up and  
2 yet other citizens are in peril of damage to  
3 their homes, maybe even their lives, if that  
4 flood should come down that way, so I wish  
5 somebody on that council would take the  
6 initiative to contact our Congressman and  
7 ask them to reevaluate, ask them to  
8 reevaluate lower Greenridge from upper  
9 Greenridge and maybe then they can get some  
10 help. I thank you.

11 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

12 Mr. Talimini.

13 MR. TALIMINI: My name is a Joe

14 Talimini. I originally came here tonight to

15 speak on behalf of Mr. Quinn who was ill and

16 couldn't make it with regards to the

17 Taxpayers' Association be booted out of the

18 building on Tuesday at the last minute. I

19 think it's paradoxical, Mr. McGoff was

20 there, Mr. Courtright begged off because he

21 had to work, six council candidates were

22 there at the meeting which was held in

23 Keyser Avenue Community Center because we

24 are ousted from this these chambers at the

25 last minute by our mayor. I question

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86

1 whether he is the mayor of Scranton or the

2 Mayor of Dublin, Ireland, but I'd wish the

3 hell he would go there and leave Scranton

4 alone because he can't make up his mind what

5 he is doing and apparently council can't

6 either.

7 Now, we've got well over \$150,000 in

8 taxpayers' money sitting in west Greenrdige  
9 and nobody seems to be able to make a  
10 decision on anything. These chambers and  
11 this building belongs to the taxpayers of  
12 the city, not to you as individuals, not to  
13 this guy whose Friendly Sons of Ireland is  
14 much more important to him than the city is  
15 and, quite frankly, I'm up to here with it  
16 and a lot of other people are, too. Now, we  
17 want to know who runs this building. Either  
18 the council does or the mayor does and if  
19 the council doesn't then the council is  
20 absolutely useless and we could save a lot  
21 of money by getting rid of this council and  
22 letting Chris Doherty run this town, period,  
23 because you people can't seem to do  
24 anything.

25 You talk about security and

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87

1 intimidation, you know, I look at two of  
2 you, you work at schools, Mr. Courtright you  
3 have your own business, Mr. McGoff you go to  
4 Pocono, Mrs. Fanucci you are down on

5 Lackawanna Avenue and downtown everyday, I  
6 don't think you are intimidated by any of  
7 this in the city. Our mayor says there is  
8 no crime in this city so why the hell do we  
9 have to go through this procedure down here.  
10 It's absolutely ridiculous.

11 And another thing, and it really  
12 galls me, you people have the nerve to put  
13 us through these motions down here are you  
14 aware of the fire code? We only have one  
15 exit and one entrance here. Now, if you  
16 really want to do something, close the damn  
17 building, you've only got one door and you  
18 got a solicitor who should have known that.  
19 Thank you.

20 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Jackowitz.

21 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,  
22 South Scranton resident. I want to thank  
23 city council for tabling some of those  
24 agenda items today, that showed real good  
25 courage and common sense on your part since

88

1 you weren't aware of what was really going

2 on with some of those agenda items. So this  
3 week I hope you spend the extra time to  
4 research it, found out what it's about  
5 because we are coming with the questions  
6 next week so I hope you all have the  
7 answers.

8 Mr. McGoff, I beg to differ with  
9 you, this is not Mayor Doherty's building, I  
10 repeat, not Mayor Doherty's building. This  
11 is the citizens of Scranton's building. We  
12 pay all the utility bills, we pay the  
13 salaries for everyone who works in this  
14 building, and you are wrong, this belongs to  
15 us, we should be the ones making the  
16 decisions. All he is is a caretaker, city  
17 council is nothing more than the caretakers  
18 to this building so let's get out our act  
19 together. I spent 20 years in the military  
20 and I thank God that I had none of you  
21 people on city council or the mayor ever  
22 have to serve with me because you know  
23 something, I might be here to be taking  
24 right now because you would not have covered  
25 my back.

1 I spoke six weeks about our  
2 leadership and it's shown over and over and  
3 over and by city council and by the mayor,  
4 and, Mrs. Gatelli, I don't think what you  
5 have been writing all night but I hope it's  
6 a novel because you haven't paid attention  
7 all night, you have been writing all night  
8 long.

9 Okay, Austin Burke and Southern  
10 Union, where are they, Mrs. Fanucci? Austin  
11 Burke is going to be here in September, in  
12 May you told us two taxpaying businesses in  
13 two weeks, May of '06, where are they? I'm  
14 still waiting for them. When are they going  
15 to come? When is Austin going to come here  
16 and tell us why this area has lost 60,000  
17 people since the Year 2000.

18 There's an Associated Press Article  
19 that was just written, Scranton is ranked  
20 fifth in the midwest, in the northeast in  
21 loss of population. Loss of population. We  
22 are behind Cleveland, Buffalo, Youngstown

23 and Pittsburg. Where is Mr. Austin Burke?

24 Why isn't he here to tell us why the

25 Southern Union building is still vacant.

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90

1 Mrs. Fanucci, where are the two businesses

2 you promised the citizens in May of '06?

3 I'm waiting for them. Who is it, Casper the

4 Ghost, International and misfits or

5 somebody, where are they? The building is

6 still vacant. No one is there. Empty,

7 empty, \$16 million. Empty. It's time to be

8 honest and straight forward with the

9 citizens of the Scranton. That's all I ask

10 for, honesty and straight forwardness, not

11 dreams and visions and so on and so forth.

12 The city can no longer tolerate it. We are

13 losing population. McKinney Corporation is

14 leaving, more jobs, maybe Alexander's Spa

15 could hire all of this people, and since we

16 are going to pay for Alexander's Spa's

17 equipment and remodeling, maybe every

18 citizen in the City of Scranton should be

19 able to use the equipment for free since we

20 are paying for it. All we have to do is

21 show our driver's license that we are

22 citizens of Scranton --

23 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: -- and we should be

25 able to use that equipment for free because

91

1 we paid for it, Mrs. Fanucci.

2 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Spindler.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,

4 Council, Les Spindler, city resident.

5 Mrs. Gatelli who adjourned one meeting,

6 cancelled the next one and you said you did

7 it for the safety of everyone, please don't

8 insult the people's intelligence by saying

9 you did it for everyone's safety. If you

10 actually cared about everyone you wouldn't

11 have locked out dozens of people, including

12 myself, at the last meeting and denied us

13 our right -- our First Amendment Right of

14 freedom of speech. You care about one

15 person and one person only and that's Judy

16 Gatelli.

17 It's a shame that people have to be  
18 inconvenienced by showing up hours before  
19 the meeting starts to make sure they can get  
20 in because you and Mrs. Fanucci are paranoid  
21 about a few amateurs on the website. I feel  
22 safe in saying that these so-called threats  
23 will be proven to be nothing and just  
24 another attempt by you, Mrs. Gatelli, and  
25 this administration from preventing the  
.  
92

1 public from hearing the truth. I thought  
2 communism ended when the Berlin wall came  
3 down, but I guess not. Being made to come  
4 in the back door and being wanded while  
5 during the day everyone comes and goes  
6 freely in the front entrance is  
7 discrimination. Mayor Doherty said the  
8 courthouse and other county buildings have  
9 metal detectors, that's true, but in those  
10 buildings everyone passes through the metal  
11 detectors, not like the discriminatory act  
12 Mrs. Gatelli and Mr. Doherty are using.  
13 Okay, next thing, Mrs. Gatelli, you

14 said on the Sue Henry show Mr. Doherty  
15 pulled the cameras out, well, two days later  
16 in the paper Mayor Doherty said, "It was at  
17 the request of council president that I  
18 ordered them out."

19 Who is telling the truth, you or the  
20 mayor?

21 MS. GATELLI: I wasn't on the Sue  
22 Henry show.

23 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Yes, you  
24 were.

25 MR. SPINDLER: She interviewed you  
.

93

1 here --

2 MS. GATELLI: No, I wasn't.

3 MR. SPINDLER: --and played it on the  
4 radio.

5 MS. GATELLI: Oh, but I never went on  
6 the show.

7 MR. SPINDLER: Well, who is telling  
8 the truth. You said the mayor took them  
9 out --

10 MS. GATELLI: I'm not going to get

11 into this debate again.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I guess --

13 MS. GATELLI: I did not --

14 MR. SPINDLER: By not answering

15 you're --

16 MS. GATELLI: I do not run the

17 chambers, that has been obvious.

18 MR. SPINDLER: That's wrong. The

19 mayor was on WILK two Mondays ago and when

20 you voted 3 to 2 to put the cameras back he

21 said, "That's council's chambers, they run

22 them and I'll do what council wants to do."

23 So, I said you people up there don't

24 even know who runs these chambers, it's you

25 that runs it and the mayor said it.

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94

1 Okay, next thing. When Mr. DiBileo

2 was president of council we never had a

3 policeman here, the meetings were orderly.

4 Now, first we had one policeman, then we had

5 two, now tonight we have three. What's

6 next, calling in the National Guard?

7 Lastly, Mrs. Fanucci, Mrs. Gatelli and

8 Mr. McGoff, besides a huge tax hike and  
9 doing whatever else Mayor Doherty wants you  
10 to do, what have you done for the people of  
11 this city? Just what I thought. Nothing.

12 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

13 MS. GATELLI: Mr. McClough.

14 MR. MCCLOUGH: Good evening. Excuse  
15 my voice. Two weeks ago I made a statement  
16 that I was definitely not a model citizen in  
17 order to segway to the most important word  
18 in American history. The word is not  
19 freedom, the word is not liberty, the word  
20 is not justice, the word is not justice, the  
21 word is more.

22 MR. MINORA: Excuse me, would you  
23 state your name for the record?

24 MR. MCCLOUGH: Oh, Brad McClough.

25 Thank you. We the people in order to form a  
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95

1 more perfect union, I emphasize the word  
2 more to highlight the wisdom of our  
3 forefathers. It doesn't say, "We the people  
4 in order to form a perfect union," for a

5 reason. They knew that to form a perfect  
6 union would mean that there was a beginning  
7 and an end to the formation process. They  
8 knew that there was no such thing as perfect  
9 people, therefore, there is no way there  
10 could ever be a perfect union.

11 Back in 17th and 18th century  
12 England, Americans were considered to be the  
13 undesirables, the misfits, the thugs, drug  
14 addicts, and political malcontents. Dare I  
15 say if those forefathers were alive today we  
16 would probably find them down at the  
17 Lackawanna County Jail, federal penitentiary  
18 or the seventh floor for the enslavement of  
19 people genocide of the native population  
20 right down to a public drunkenness or drug  
21 possession charge because we all know what  
22 was inside of those little snuff boxes.

23 So, I would encourage everyone to be  
24 careful of who we deem to be undesirable  
25 because the founders knew that generations

2 born everyday for decades, for centuries and  
3 far into this Millineum in order to evolve  
4 more union between the people and it's  
5 government, more justice, more provisions  
6 for the common defense, defense of not just  
7 the body but of a flooding property. More  
8 promotion of the general welfare of it's  
9 citizens, more security for the blessings of  
10 liberty, and if we continue to ask for more  
11 this will ensure domestic tranquility. We  
12 the people are engaged by a higher power,  
13 higher than this city council or even the  
14 president of the United States. We the  
15 people are ordained to ask for more. Thank  
16 you.

17 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr.

18 Patilla.

19 MR. PATILLA: Three weeks ago as I  
20 was leaving a gentleman stopped me and he  
21 said, you know, you make a lot of good  
22 points, but could you table the passion and,  
23 you know, it's kind of hard because three of  
24 guys up here really make it hard, you really  
25 truly make it hard.

1 You know, when I joined the Marine  
2 Corp I took an oath to guard America against  
3 all of her enemies, domestic and foreign,  
4 all right? I see three enemies, at least  
5 three, in front of me now, all right? These  
6 are good people, hard working people, honest  
7 people, okay. The only threat I see in this  
8 place are three people in front of me, at  
9 least three, okay? I have filed notices,  
10 civil rights notices upon the state, on the  
11 federal and in the private sector because I  
12 feel threatened as a black man by you  
13 removing those cameras. Those are my  
14 protection. That allows me the opportunity  
15 to come in here to voice my opinion, to be  
16 heard, to guarantee my right of free speech  
17 without persecution, all right?  
18 You guys intimidate people from  
19 coming in here and speaking their mind  
20 indirectly and directly, okay, because like  
21 I told you when I first came in here, the  
22 only thing Doherty owns in this city is you,

23 you, you, all right? That's the only thing  
24 he owns in this building. Taxpayers own  
25 this building and this city, all right, and  
.  
98

1 I'm serious. I will file civil rights  
2 charges because having a guy search me, and  
3 I feel he is just doing this because this is  
4 one of the few forums that people of color  
5 actually speak, you do it because people of  
6 color are coming in here.  
7 I have read an article in your rags  
8 about how you want to chase people of color  
9 out of this city, your undesirables. I own  
10 my home. I don't do drugs. I don't drink  
11 alcohol, all right? I'm an honest man and I  
12 want to be treated as such. Now, either you  
13 show cause, and I'm go to argue, either you  
14 two show cause for having that man search me  
15 every Thursday or you are going to stop that  
16 BS right now. I'm not playing games with  
17 you, all right? I don't come from the  
18 ghetto, all right? You want to play in the  
19 big boy world we will play in the big boy

20 world. Roll your sleeves up, unbutton your  
21 buttons and we get down and we get dirty,  
22 all right? Doherty is on his way out. You  
23 are gone. That vote today, you are out of  
24 here, buddy. You are out of here, no and's,  
25 if's or but's about it. I told you before,  
.  
99

1 you have to represent the citizens of  
2 Scranton, not Doherty, not your personal  
3 interests. It's us that you have to  
4 represent, it's us that put your butt in  
5 that seat, I don't want a reply from you --

6 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

7 MR. PATILLA: I'm not here for a  
8 debate.

9 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Hubbard.

10 MR. HUBBARD: Daniel Hubbard, lower  
11 Greenridge. Wow, how do you follow that?  
12 He is right. I feel a little insulted, I  
13 really do. There is no security or metal  
14 detector at my house, crap, I get hate mail  
15 every week. You don't hear my crying about  
16 it, do you? I got an eight year old who is

17 excited when the mail comes. Is it going to  
18 be good or is it going to be bad this week.  
19 Do you hear me bitching about it? Come on.  
20 Show the threats and we'll be okay with the  
21 security. I have no problem with security,  
22 I'm fine. Show the reason and we'll accept  
23 the cause. It's just that easy.  
24 I'm really not go to talk about the  
25 flood tonight because it's pretty much  
.  
100

1 useless, it's like knocking my head off the  
2 wall and starting to get a headache. Same  
3 blank stares, same empty answers every week.  
4 I'd like to know, are these chambers  
5 searched every Thursday previous to your  
6 meeting? No? So then who is to say that  
7 your so-called threat didn't come in last  
8 night and plant a device of threatening use  
9 and is going to pull it out during the  
10 meeting now.  
11 Well, those measures at the door  
12 downstairs tonight would be kind of  
13 redundant, wouldn't they, useless,

14 considering anybody can come into these  
15 chambers at any given time, at any given day  
16 except for Thursday and not be scanned and  
17 do whatever they want in here and nobody  
18 would know any different. The chambers  
19 aren't searched. This is not security. I  
20 lived in Israel, I can tell you what  
21 security is. Security is not searching the  
22 people when they come in the back doors,  
23 security is locking the building down and  
24 searching everybody that comes inside of the  
25 building. Period. You can't even enter a

101

1 shopping mall in Israel without getting your  
2 bag searched and wanded with metal  
3 detectors. That's security, not letting  
4 into the building at all, period, without  
5 searching them is security. Because anybody  
6 can come into these chambers at any given  
7 time other than Thursday night, they could  
8 have come in here at 3:30 this afternoon and  
9 did whatever they wanted in these chambers  
10 and you would never know the difference.

11 You feel safe because they wanted us at the  
12 door? Do you really think your threat is in  
13 this audience? It's the same audience. I  
14 have been coming here eight months there has  
15 not been one member of this audience that I  
16 would perceive as a threat once, not once in  
17 eight months. Yet now it's suddenly you  
18 feel threatened.

19 Now, you voted to put the cameras  
20 back, the mayor followed the will of city  
21 council. He's been quoted in the paper  
22 saying that a million and one times. That's  
23 his way out that's, that's his back door. "I  
24 follow the will of council."

25 Well, you could have just, you know,

.

102

1 been respectful to the citizens, been  
2 respectful to the residents and done away  
3 with this until there are correct and proper  
4 security measures can be put in place for  
5 all city employees and all people that work  
6 in this building so that everybody is  
7 equally protected and equally as safe as you

8 are. I feel threatened every time it rains.  
9 Have you done a damn thing for me? Every  
10 single time it clouds over I feel  
11 threatened. My eight year old feels  
12 threatened, my neighbors feel threatened.  
13 My home, I feel threatened every time it  
14 rains, what have you done for me? You see a  
15 little thing on the Internet, a perceived  
16 threat and you lock us down and search us  
17 and wand us. I don't have a perceived  
18 threat, my threat is real. It's what's  
19 called a real threat.

20 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

21 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Daniel, are you  
23 meeting with Detective Hayes and everyone  
24 tomorrow, aren't they coming to meet?

25 MR. HUBBARD: No.

.

103

1 MS. FANUCCI: Well, they called me  
2 and they said that you were supposed to --

3 MR. HUBBARD: No, Mr. Parker called  
4 me today and asked me to give him a time and

5 a place --

6 MS. FANUCCI: To meet on the bank?

7 MR. HUBBARD: I already met with

8 Mr. Parker on the bank, that was last week.

9 The meeting with Mr. Parker and emergency

10 management is, like I said, I didn't want to

11 talk to about the flood because they --

12 MS. FANUCCI: I know, but I wanted

13 to know --

14 MR. HUBBARD: The meeting with them

15 is they are going to do a test of the sirens

16 on Middle Street and Shawnee Avenue to see

17 if the residents of lower Greenridge can

18 hear them so that when we are all standing

19 on the street with Mr. Hayes and Mr. Parker

20 and they sound those signs we'll be able to

21 say, "Yes, we can hear them," but when we

22 are sound asleep in our beds at 1:00 in the

23 morning and the river is coming over the

24 bank, we won't be able to hear them.

25 MS. FANUCCI: I believe it was for

.

104

1 placement of the new -- of the other siren,

2 correct, wasn't it?

3 MR. HUBBARD: No. No, this meeting  
4 with Mr. Parker coming up, and I can give  
5 you a date next week, is so that we will be  
6 able to -- they can assess whether or not we  
7 can hear the sirens in the adjoining  
8 neighborhoods.

9 MS. FANUCCI: All right.

10 MR. HUBBARD: So obviously our siren  
11 is where?

12 MS. FANUCCI: I'll look into it  
13 because they called today and that's why I  
14 wanted to ask you.

15 MR. HUBBARD: Oh, I talked to  
16 Mr. Parker today and it's in regard to  
17 whether or not we'd be able to hear the  
18 sirens when they test them and I'm sure  
19 they're going to do that as a reason to say  
20 "Well, you know what, we heard it, so why do  
21 you need one?"

22 Again, an empty promise, an empty  
23 answer.

24 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Hubbard?

25 MRS. HUBBARD: He's a hard act to

1 follow. Liz Hubbard, Scranton resident. I  
2 guess I just want to offer my comments on  
3 the security and I, again, will say,  
4 somebody could come in here and last night  
5 and put a bomb under somebody's chair and  
6 set it to go off at 8:00 and you wouldn't  
7 know that because you don't searching the  
8 room yet we all get searched and people that  
9 come in for the zoning meetings or any other  
10 meeting they don't get searched. I feel  
11 like I'm being discriminated against like  
12 I'm a terrorist, a second class citizen or  
13 something, profiled would be a good word. I  
14 just think it's appalling.  
15 Anyway, Mr. McGoff, I think Daniel  
16 at the end of the last meeting asked you  
17 what the status was on our flood siren, do  
18 you have anything to add?  
19 MR. MCGOFF: What I did was I called  
20 and the answer I received was that they were  
21 going to contact your son and setup a  
22 meeting, that was what was told to me.

23 MRS. HUBBARD: Who would that be,

24 Mr. Parker?

25 MR. MCGOFF: Actually, I talked to

.

106

1 Mr. Hayes.

2 MRS. HUBBARD: Okay. Well, Mr. Hayes

3 didn't contact Daniel, Mr. Parker did, but

4 and another thing, he said he would be bring

5 it to the association and get their

6 consensus on when and where the test should

7 be -- or not when and where, but when, so I

8 guess we'll take it from there. Sherry, I'd

9 like to talk to you a later or whatever.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Okay.

11 MS. GATELLI: Nancy Krake.

12 MS. KRAKE: I was glad to hear

13 council table the selling of our taxes and I

14 truly hope that everyone does their

15 homework. I can give you a little

16 background right now. Right now we charge

17 \$54 maximum in fines, that's an ordinance,

18 it maybe a little higher now because it's

19 been a couple of years since we had a sale,

20 so some of these fees may have gone up, the  
21 filing fees, but they are nowhere near the  
22 thousands that we just heard from that  
23 company. We charge 10 percent penalty once  
24 property becomes delinquent and then half a  
25 percentage point is added onto that every

107

1 month until it reaches 100 percent, so you  
2 are never going to pay more than double the  
3 amount of the face value of your taxes.

4 I think the way Mrs. Evans described  
5 that company or actually I think you were  
6 describing the security measures, but it  
7 fits the company, Draconian. It also fits  
8 the mayor's recovery plan, so I think that's  
9 pretty much the adjective for this entire  
10 administration is policies.

11 As far as if anyone is concerned  
12 about replacing that money in the budget,  
13 first of all, it falls far short of what  
14 they claim we are going to get for the  
15 budget. They said here tonight I believe  
16 \$2.3 million and the budget says three, so

17 if you take a look at the letter  
18 Mr. Krushefski sent saying that 2.25 from  
19 that two million dollars is just hanging  
20 around in an account somewhere which is  
21 probably extremely illegal, but I don't know  
22 that anyone has checked into that, since I  
23 don't know how we have money floating around  
24 where it's not in an assigned account. And  
25 it says, "Look at use in 2008 or future

108

1 budges."

2 Well, it looks like we could use it  
3 in the 2007 budget or we can increase  
4 revenue as some of the proposals in  
5 Mr. Evans' budget suggested or you could use  
6 the other half of the golf course money and  
7 the list goes on and on. There is no way  
8 that the mayor should railroad anyone on  
9 this council to accept the fact that he  
10 feels the need to further rape the taxpayers  
11 of this city and provide no more services.  
12 In fact, he is really bent on reducing them.  
13 He has promised to reduce their fire

14 protection. He is not saying anything about  
15 the police but I'm sure he would do that  
16 next.

17 The other thing I would like to say  
18 is that I was really glad council passed  
19 some of the motions --

20 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

21 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

22 MS. KRAKE: Thank you.

23 MS. GATELLI: Mike Dudek.

24 MR. DUDEK: My name is Mike Dudek,  
25 608 Depot Street, Scranton, PA. I live here  
.

109

1 in the Plot. This coming Tuesday, April 17,  
2 there is going to be a summit meeting at the  
3 Hilton Hotel and I'm sure that council, I  
4 hope you are aware of it, it has to do with  
5 the new medical center. A symposium is  
6 going to be held, the mayor is going to be  
7 there, our state representatives are going  
8 to be there, that's Mr. Smith, Mr. Shimkus,  
9 experts from Marywood College are going to  
10 be there. The medical profession is going

11 to be represented. Different aspects of  
12 state government are going to be there. One  
13 group that declined to participate is the  
14 Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, they  
15 will not be there, and the surprising person  
16 that will not be there will be Senator  
17 Mellow, he will not be there.

18 Now, I'm kind of surprised that we  
19 haven't mentioned the hospital first here  
20 tonight because that's the next big issue  
21 for this city. This city needs this medical  
22 center, this teaching facility here in the  
23 City of Scranton. How many here have ever  
24 gone to John's Hopkins Medical Center,  
25 anybody in this room just put your hand up?

.

110

1 Okay. University of Southern California  
2 Medical Center or UCLA Medical Center,  
3 Stafford Medical Center, Mayo Clinic, what  
4 they all have in common is that the medical  
5 hospital teaching facility works hand in  
6 hand with the hospital itself. They are in  
7 together. If you go down just to Milton

8 Hershey it is a combination teaching  
9 hospital and a hospital. You don't put the  
10 hospital across from Valley View High  
11 School-- or the medical school. That's  
12 ridiculous. That medical school belongs as  
13 close as we could get it physically to the  
14 hospitals it is going to serve. It has to  
15 be done that way because otherwise then it's  
16 a joke. It's an absolute positive joke and  
17 if ever you want to make Northeastern  
18 Pennsylvania look like a joke put that  
19 medical teaching school across from Valley  
20 View High School and say, well, there are  
21 schools. Come on now, let's work together.  
22 We have to work with the mayor to do what  
23 the mayor wants on this project. I know  
24 that there are people here who hate Mayor  
25 Doherty, but Mayor Doherty is our best hope

.

111

1 to get this school built in this city. I  
2 know some of you are more green and you  
3 might not like it --  
4 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

5 MR. DUDEK: I have stood here and I

6 have blasted Mayor Doherty --

7 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

8 MR. DUDEK: -- on many of an

9 occasion, but we must work with this man to

10 get to this done right.

11 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Pat Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Pat Rogan, West Scranton

13 resident. Last week in Virginia Beach

14 17 year old Allison Cookheart and 16 year

15 old Tessa Tranchill were killed by an

16 illegal alien drunk driver. The man, a

17 22 year old Alfredo Ramos from Mexico had

18 three previous alcohol-related convictions

19 and an identity theft conviction. This

20 criminal was never sentenced to prison,

21 never sent back to Mexico.

22 Scranton, too, has a problem with

23 illegal immigrants. I hope that it doesn't

24 take the loss of innocent life before

25 something is done about it. It's

.

112

1 unfortunate that the federal government is

2 doing very little to stop these criminals  
3 from entering the country in the first  
4 place, that being said, if falls upon local  
5 government to keep these criminals out of  
6 our neighborhoods. Once again, I would ask  
7 council to consider passing a protection  
8 from illegal immigrants act before something  
9 tragic happens in Scranton.

10 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Marie  
11 Shumaker.

12 MS. SHUMAKER: Marie Shumaker. I  
13 barely know where to start, but maybe in the  
14 words of our solicitor it's because I'm not  
15 wrapped too tight. I guess I'll start off  
16 with a tax lien issue and gifts to certain  
17 private individuals. Last year I brought  
18 this up before a WYOU Law and You segment  
19 stated it was incumbent upon municipalities  
20 to place a lien on properties if the  
21 structure was demolished at taxpayers'  
22 expense on private property. I was told  
23 where to go to find out whether a lien had  
24 been put on a property. I went to the  
25 judicial records and it revealed there has

1 been no lien placed on a Moosic Street  
2 property, the former Granito's property,  
3 where the city demolished a building and  
4 cleared away trees. How many other  
5 properties have been demolished by the City  
6 without a lien being placed on that  
7 property? Would council please obtain a  
8 list by address. I don't know think we are  
9 in a position financial where we can gift  
10 such services to some individuals and not  
11 make it to all.

12 Next, I would like to thank you for  
13 tabling some of those issues until more  
14 information is available, and then I would  
15 like to talk on the medical school because I  
16 am the eternal skeptic. I'd like to know  
17 what the expected city contribution might be  
18 on this property. I'd like to see that you  
19 see you folks have a hearing on the cost  
20 benefit analysis and let citizens question  
21 the underlying assumptions of those costs  
22 and benefits to the city. I'm not totally

23 convinced yet, I would like to be, that it  
24 really is a good deal, and then I guess  
25 finally for tonight because I'm sure my time

.

114

1 is about to expire, I would like to jump on  
2 Nancy Krake's bandwagon and talk about  
3 budget transfers. Administrative Code 601  
4 (b) states in part, "The mayor must file  
5 with the controller and the city council a  
6 copy of each department bureau's allotment,"  
7 that is budget allotment, "and modifications  
8 thereof."

9 Last year there were 140 separate  
10 budget transfers. One in the amount of  
11 \$120,000; 25 over \$10,000 and some well over  
12 that. Now, I'm assuming that you all get  
13 these copies of these transfers for a reason  
14 and I would humbly ask you that bring those,  
15 say those over maybe \$1,000 or \$500 even,  
16 put them on the agenda and let us taxpayers  
17 know why these transfers are required and  
18 when they are being made so we have some  
19 visibility into all of these transfers that

20 are occurring to the budget. And since I

21 have a few more minutes, I --

22 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

23 MS. SHUMAKER: Next time. Thank

24 you.

25 MS. GATELLI: Lee Morgan.

.

115

1 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

2 I'd like to make a fast comment on something

3 Mr. Dudek said and I'd like to say that I

4 think it's vitally important that, and this

5 has nothing to do with the mayor, I think

6 it's vitally important that this medical

7 school be built inside of the city

8 parameters and the reason I'm saying that is

9 I have lost a daughter to medical

10 malpractice and I think it's important to

11 have a medical teaching hospital here

12 because they see so many different

13 situations that they would be so -- they

14 would be able to make prognosis so much

15 better because they see so many different

16 things and they follow leads that a lot of

17 doctors, I have to be honest and tell you,  
18 that some doctors shouldn't be practicing  
19 medicine here and they are killing a lot of  
20 people and I just think that a teaching  
21 hospital would definitely help the people in  
22 this community and I think that it's time  
23 for the mayor to stand up and actually fight  
24 for once before the people in this community  
25 and if necessary to take Mr. Mellow to task,  
.

116

1 because at times you would have to  
2 acknowledge when somebody is in the right  
3 and some people may disagree with me on this  
4 issue, but I have a personal stake in this  
5 and I just think that we have to be  
6 concerned of everybody's access to quality  
7 health care and a teaching hospital will  
8 broaden the medical care available here and  
9 I think it's vitally important that that  
10 move forward and I think it's vitally  
11 important for this council, all elected  
12 officials and small towns and communities  
13 that surround this city to get on the

14 bandwagon and that medical hospital does not  
15 belong in Peckville. And I'll tell you my  
16 personal opinion is that medical hospital  
17 belongs adjacent to Mercy Hospital and why  
18 because there is lot of land there where it  
19 could expand and be close to a state route,  
20 you can't take it up by Nay Aug park, we  
21 would lose the park. You can't take it by  
22 Moses Taylor, but we can take it by Mercy.  
23 Now, I'd like to change the subject and  
24 say this, the taxpayers' group has been  
25 removed from this area of council. The  
.  
117

1 mayor has no control over this chambers,  
2 only council does. We should be able to  
3 meet here as we always have. Now, the mayor  
4 may say that he is in control of this  
5 building, but I think that everyone who uses  
6 this chamber has an easement through this  
7 building. The mayor can't block people  
8 access to this building because they have  
9 authorization to use this chamber. The  
10 mayor has no control over this chamber

11 whatsoever, no one drop, council does.  
12 There has been some very serious errors made  
13 by this council. I was here long before  
14 these cameras and I know quite a  
15 considerable amount about this council and  
16 I'm going to tell you that this badgering  
17 back and forth about who did what and how it  
18 got done it goes to council. Channel 61 has  
19 access here. The taxgroup needs to meet  
20 here as it always has. Some people may not  
21 care for what we have to say, but the  
22 residents are fairly disgusted, we haven't  
23 spoken anything but the truth there.  
24 Mrs. Gatelli, at once you were a member  
25 there. We have never denied you access to  
.

118

1 our meetings. We have invited you. We have  
2 invited all of council.

3 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

4 MR. MORGAN: It needs to come back.

5 MS. GATELLI: David Dobson.

6 MR. DOBSON: Good evening, Council.

7 My name is David Dobson, resident of the

8 Scranton. I would like to -- you have it  
9 right on that, we really should be allowed  
10 to vote or meet at council chambers for the  
11 Taxpayers' Association and that's all I have  
12 to say on the matter.

13 On 6-A I'd like to compliment you on  
14 putting that on hold for tonight. In 2002,  
15 March of 2002, I purchased a house in  
16 Scranton and my attorney told me that  
17 everything would be taken care of as far as  
18 the closing and taxes and so forth. Well,  
19 as it turned out I found out in 2004 that  
20 the trash collection fee hadn't been paid  
21 and my name was -- or the fact was giving me  
22 bad credit, it had been reported to a credit  
23 agency. Well, I came downtown and found out  
24 that NCC was in charge and from what I  
25 understand of this it's somebody is being

.

119

1 piggybacked on top of NCC and when I  
2 contacted NCC to pay up the debt they  
3 increased to roughly 200 percent of what was  
4 originally owed, and on top of that I

5 received an excuse that they sent notice to  
6 my prior address that they had a listing,  
7 never thinking that if they had possibly  
8 sent it to the address that was concerned  
9 with the trash collection bill somebody  
10 might have turned it over to a landlord or  
11 opened up a letter and read it and,  
12 unfortunately, as a result I wound up paying  
13 double and certainly hope that we don't  
14 support that type of nuisance conduct in the  
15 future by okaying these people to collect  
16 taxes. There is no reason to beat some poor  
17 old lady half to death over a couple of  
18 dollars that are owed. It should be  
19 collected, everybody should pay their taxes,  
20 but, you know, which we all have to do or  
21 society would collapse, but we really don't  
22 need an irresponsible agency like NCC --

23 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

24 MR. DOBSON: Whoever else they get  
25 involved with to make a bill 300 or 400

.

120

1 percent or 500 percent higher than what it

2 should be. We are not going to get anymore  
3 money for it, so why should we do it. Thank  
4 you. Have a good night.

5 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else?

6 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Jude.

7 MS. GATELLI: Hey, Chrissy.

8 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Bill.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Hi, Chris.

10 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Up a little bit,  
11 Bill?

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, bring it up.

13 MS. GATELLI: You have your Yankee  
14 hat on?

15 MR. SLEDENZSKI: That's right, I do  
16 tonight. I'll tell you, they better win  
17 tonight up there, Jude.

18 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, you're right.

19 MR. SLEDENZSKI: That thing that for  
20 done there for me next to my house, that big  
21 pothole, thank you for that, Janet, and you,  
22 too, Billy, for that.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: You're welcome.

24 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Thanks, Bill.

25 MR. LITWINSKY: Good evening,

121

1 Council, John Litwinsky, city resident. I  
2 just have a question on 6-A, can somebody  
3 explain who made up all of these line items,  
4 was it "A" through "V" like all of these  
5 charges? Is that something that Northeast  
6 Credit did or --

7 MS. EVANS: No, but according to  
8 information we received this evening during  
9 a public caucus meeting with municipal  
10 revenue services many of those costs will be  
11 attached by NCC.

12 MR. LITWISNKY: Okay, I just -- you  
13 know, it just breaks my heart, I'm a real  
14 estate agent and a lot of people go to see  
15 and show their houses and when they are  
16 going to sell their house, "Why are you  
17 selling it?"

18 "Well, I had got hurt and work,  
19 fixed income, can't afford the taxes, can't  
20 afford anything," and it's just this is  
21 something we still have to vote on, right?  
22 Is that correct?

23 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

24 MS. EVANS: It was tabled.

25 MR. LITWINSKY: Thank you. The other

.

122

1 question I had was did anybody find out any

2 information pertaining to the rescue

3 mission, the drug and alcohol --

4 MS. EVANS: I have it all here for

5 you.

6 MR. LITWINSKY: Okay, so at this

7 point it's --

8 MS. EVANS: Well, I would say the

9 last measure that was taken was a letter

10 drafted by Mr. Fiorini to the owner of the

11 rescue mission indicating that the owner had

12 30 days in which to apply for permits from

13 the city to make repairs in order to bring

14 the building up to code and, you know, to

15 make those adjustments that were indicated

16 in the last inspection, and I have in here

17 for you the date of that letter so that you,

18 too, can keep track of the 30-day period.

19 MR. LITWINSKY: Okay. Thank you

20 much. And is there any chance, what are the  
21 possibilities I can get somebody here to get  
22 me a copy, I'd like to see the language used  
23 in that grant, that \$281,000 grant that was  
24 now given to East Mountain?

25 MS. EVANS: For flood control?

.

123

1 MR. LITWINSKY: Yeah, as far as --

2 MS. EVANS: Flood relief?

3 MR. LITWINSKY: Yeah.

4 MS. EVANS: From the CDBG.

5 MR. LITWINSKY: I here it was--

6 MS. GATELLI: That wasn't given to

7 East Mountain.

8 MR. LITWINSKY: Okay, and the status

9 of that grant now is?

10 MS. EVANS: The money has been given

11 to -- well, we haven't voted on it actually.

12 MS. GATELLI: It's still there.

13 MS. EVANS: It's been tabled, so it

14 sits there, but the money has been allocated

15 to other projects selected I would say by

16 the mayor and the Office of Economic and

17 Community Development.

18 MR. LITWINSKY: So, for the residents  
19 of Gordan Avenue to be qualified to be able  
20 to get involved with that or possibly get a  
21 piece of the action of that how do we go  
22 about that?

23 MS. GATELLI: You have to apply for  
24 the --

25 MS. EVANS: For the grant, and the  
.

124

1 applications will be forthcoming this  
2 summer, there is a deadline attached, and I  
3 believe you will meet with greater success  
4 if the application comes from an  
5 organization, for example, a neighborhood  
6 association than from yourself as an  
7 individual.

8 MR. LITWINSKY: So that's \$281,000 is  
9 back but there is more available then, also?

10 MS. EVANS: Oh, yes, each year.

11 MR. LITWINSKY: Thank you.

12 MR. BARRETT: Good evening, Council.

13 My name is Tom Barrett and I'm a lifetime

14 resident and a businessowner in the City of  
15 Scranton and I'm only here this evening  
16 because I just want to say thank you. Last  
17 Saturday evening we had almost a very  
18 serious situation at our business, we had a  
19 malfunction on equipment in our business and  
20 the quick response of the dispatchers at 911  
21 and their professionalism and the response  
22 of the Scranton Fire Department and the  
23 Scranton Police Department the situation was  
24 under control very quickly and I just want  
25 to say thank you and on behalf of my wife,  
.

125

1 Terri, and I and how safe we feel in the  
2 City of Scranton with the fire department  
3 and police department that we have.  
4 And also I'd like to thank Ed  
5 Gallagher, who is my brother-in-law and Al  
6 Lucas who is a neighbor of ours who were  
7 off-duty firemen and who were at the scene  
8 very quick, and I just want to say that  
9 sometimes we do take them for granted, a lot  
10 of people do, but when you do need them they

11 are the ones that are going into the  
12 building and they are the people that are  
13 there and I just wanted to thank you for the  
14 opportunity and I did listen to you earlier  
15 and you did ask about vouchers for the  
16 controller, Mrs. Novembrino signs off on all  
17 of the vouchers, OECD and general city  
18 vouchers.

19 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

20 MR. BARRETT: Thank you.

21 MS. GATELLI: Are you sure,

22 Mr. Ancherani?

23 MR. ANCHERANI: My kids call me the  
24 finisher, so I guess so. Good evening.

25 Nelson Ancherani, resident and taxpayer,  
.

126

1 city employee and financial secretary of the  
2 FOP. I'm exercising my right to free  
3 speech. Mrs. Evans, Mr. Courtright, thank  
4 you for attempting to get equal treatment  
5 for council meeting attendees. For council  
6 attendees to be treated differently than  
7 other meeting attendees, attendees for

8 visitors to city hall is despicable and  
9 unacceptable. This is discrimination at  
10 it's finest. Equal treatment for all, but  
11 that's equality that this city is totally  
12 lacking. If you treat council attendees  
13 like fourth class citizens it's a disgrace.  
14 The animals at the zoo get treated better.  
15 I don't expect equal treatment as is  
16 evidenced by the mayor's treatment of three  
17 city unions.  
18 Since 2002, when this mayor took  
19 over, he immediately began treating these  
20 unions differently and with disrespect with  
21 the ultimate goal of breaking the unions and  
22 putting them on their knees. From the  
23 beginning, this mayor wanted a six-year wage  
24 increase for the freeze of these unions, we  
25 are now in the sixth year. Equal

.

127

1 treatment. This has escaped this mayor when  
2 he violated the recovery plan that he wrote  
3 and he doesn't call for raises for any city  
4 employees. This was 2002 and since then he

5 has given out raises and funded new hires to  
6 the tune of well over \$11 million and now  
7 while they are saying they can't afford the  
8 record union arbitration wins coming down  
9 the pike.

10 Equal treatment if he didn't give  
11 out one raise and hire new hires to the 11  
12 million plus there would be no need for this  
13 equal treatment now. There would be no  
14 union or city fighting. We would have had  
15 negotiations and we would have had contracts  
16 and no fighting.

17 I got off track a bit and I had  
18 something else to say, but I since I had a  
19 stray I'll have to condense what I have to  
20 say now. Just remember, everyone, we have a  
21 300 million dollar debt, we are facing a  
22 75 percent real estate tax with the first  
23 already voted on by Ms. Gatelli, Ms. Fanucci  
24 and Mr. McGoff. Don't forget we are also  
25 facing a 66.5 to Scranton Sewer Authority

128

1 rate increase because the mayor violated the

2 American Anglican contract as he violated  
3 union contracts. We also have two union  
4 arbitrations totalling well over \$2 million.  
5 The mayor said it best, the money has to  
6 come from somebody, that's us taxpayers so  
7 we might as well get ready. Thank you.

8 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Motion to  
9 adjourn?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

11 MS. GATELLI: Second. All in favor?

12 Aye.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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129

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2 C E R T I F I C A T E

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4 I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
5 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the  
6 notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the  
7 above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true  
8 and correct transcript of the same to the best of my  
9 ability.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI  
15 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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