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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Monday, March 16, 2009

LOCATION:

Council Chambers  
Scranton City Hall  
340 North Washington Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

- MR. ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT
- MS. JUDY GATELLI, VICE-PRESIDENT
- MS. JANET E. EVANS
- MS. SHERRY FANUCCI
- MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT (Not present.)
- MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK
- MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- MR. AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

7 MS. GATELLI: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

11 (Mr. Courtright not present.)

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Let the record  
14 reflect that Mr. Courtright was unavailable  
15 this evening when we moved the meeting to  
16 Monday night. He indicated that due to a  
17 prior work commitment he would not be able  
18 to make it. Dispense with the reading of  
19 the minutes.

20 MS. GARVEY: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX  
21 COLLECTION COMPARISON REPORTS RECEIVED FROM  
22 THE SINGLE TAX OFFICE ON MARCH 10, 2009.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
24 If not, received and filed.

25 MS. GARVEY: That's it for Third

1 Order.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Announcements, Council?

3 MS. GATELLI: Yes. This Thursday  
4 evening the Scranton School District has a  
5 community movies for children and they will  
6 having Madagascar II at 6:30 in Scranton  
7 High School auditorium, that's this  
8 Thursday.

9 This Saturday, March 21, at St.  
10 Joseph's Church in Minooka the Mountainview  
11 Care Center Auxiliary is having their  
12 macaroni dinner. It is from 4 to 7 and it's  
13 \$7.00.

14 We attended a conference from  
15 Governor Rendell last week at Scranton High  
16 School, and the crux of the discussion was  
17 the stimulus money that is coming to the  
18 State of Pennsylvania. I have a brochure  
19 here that maybe Jeremy might want to look at  
20 to put in the paper, but for anyone out  
21 there who has lost their job or their health  
22 care looking for any type of heating  
23 assistance or rent rebates, etcetera, they  
24 have been extended in Pennsylvania for a  
25 longer period of time. They are going to be

1           having a very important community meeting  
2           for dislocated workers at Boscov's  
3           auditorium on Tuesday, March 31, from 10 to  
4           2, and everyone will be there. This will  
5           help you with heating, weatherization, food  
6           assistance, avoiding foreclosure, utility  
7           assistance, food assistance and job and  
8           health care searches. So it's really  
9           important that anyone who is having a  
10          problem can attend this session.

11                         The audit report is going to be  
12          given to the stakeholders on Friday morning  
13          at 10:00 in Mr. John McGovern's Office.  
14          Someone from council will be represented at  
15          that meeting, I believe it will be McGoff,  
16          because Mrs. Evans and I would and so does  
17          Mrs. Fanucci, so I think Bob will go for us,  
18          but it will be 10:00 this Friday, and we'll  
19          have our audit report.

20                         St. Patrick's Dy parade had a race,  
21          a two-mile foot race, and I'd like to  
22          congratulate the winner, it was a Scranton  
23          resident, 19-year-old Jeremy Evans, son of  
24          Wayne Evans, South Side Resident's  
25          Association president, and I'd like to

1                   congregate Jeremy great late germ me. He is  
2                   a fresh man at the University and he is on  
3                   the cross country team.

4                   MR. MCGOFF: I didn't win?

5                   MS. GATELLI: You didn't win, Bob,  
6                   but congratulations for being in it. And  
7                   the last thing, I would just like to say  
8                   anyone interested in attending the Ethanol  
9                   plant meeting it will be Wednesday, this  
10                  Wednesday, March 18th at 5:30, at Smith's  
11                  Restaurant. We will be getting a  
12                  presentation from Mr. Scheller, who is the  
13                  president of Northeast Ethanol, so anyone  
14                  especially that lives in that particular  
15                  area, South Scranton or West Scranton abuts  
16                  the property. You certainly are welcome to  
17                  attend and I also have petitions with me if  
18                  anyone with like to sign the petition that  
19                  we are going to be presenting, and that's  
20                  all I have. Thank you.

21                  MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans?

22                  MS. EVANS: Please remember in your  
23                  prayers all of those who have died,  
24                  particularly Keith Dearoff, a retired  
25                  lieutenant in the Scranton Fire Department

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1                   who served our city for 29 years with

2 dedication and compassion. Eileen McGinty  
3 Mulrine, mother of firefighter Larry  
4 Mulrine, and my great colleague Gary at  
5 Scranton High School and all their dear  
6 families and friends they leave behind.

7 Brian Schoener, a Scranton High  
8 School senior has been selected as a  
9 scholarship winner by the prestigious Jack  
10 Cook Foundation. Brian is one of only 89  
11 students chosen nationwide as a recipient of  
12 this great honor. He almost receive a full  
13 scholarship to the college or university of  
14 his choice. He has applied to Cornell, MIT,  
15 Carnegie Mellon, Bucknell and Lehigh and he  
16 notified me today that he received his first  
17 acceptance letter and that was from MIT.

18 Brian was the two-year member and  
19 captain of my Scranton High School  
20 scholastic team and this deserving young man  
21 is a credit not only to his family, but to  
22 the Scranton High School community as well.  
23 So often we honor the athletes of our  
24 community, but all too rarely do we honor  
25 the academic and humanitarian achievements

1 of our young people. With my colleagues'

2 agreement, I would like to honor Brian  
3 Schoener with a council proclamation.

4 In addition, I would like to forward  
5 letters of congratulations to TJ  
6 Campobianco, Sr., Bass one; and Frank Jones,  
7 Jr., Tenor one, one who will proudly  
8 represent Scranton High School in the  
9 All-State chorus at the PMEA conference in  
10 Valley Forge next month.

11 Also, I would like congratulatory  
12 letters sent to Dillon York, Scranton High  
13 School senior, who designed the logo of the  
14 official St. Patrick's parade shirt, and  
15 Joshua Wesalowski who collected close to 100  
16 food items for bread basket of Northeastern,  
17 Pennsylvania, a South Side food pantry as  
18 part of their requirements for attaining the  
19 rank of Eagle Scout, and I will forward all  
20 of this contact information to Kay Garvey,  
21 if that's agreeable to everyone.

22 MS. GATELLI: Um-hum.

23 MR. MCGOFF: No objection.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Also, I'd  
25 like to add my congratulations to the

9

1 Scranton High School cast and crew of the  
2 musical "Honk" and a special shout out to TJ



3 Cappobianco, Alyssa Ecker, and Kylie Lotz,  
4 my understanding students in our classroom  
5 of champions.

6 And Upper Hill Ecumenical Committee  
7 invites you to the Friendly's family fun  
8 night on Wednesday, March 18, that is this  
9 Wednesday. A percentage of the food  
10 receipts of those who dine at Friendly's in  
11 Dunmore between 5 and 8 p.m. will be donated  
12 to St. Francis of Assisi food kitchen. Your  
13 support is greatly appreciated.

14 And finally, I'd just like to wish  
15 everyone a very happy St. Patrick's Day  
16 tomorrow.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Fanucci, anything?

18 MS. FANUCCI: Nothing.

19 MR. MCGOFF: At this point I'm going  
20 to make a motion that we move to Fifth Order  
21 at the request of council. If there is  
22 anyone that wishes to speak specifically to  
23 items 5-B or 7-A they may do so and then we  
24 will have the Fourth Order Citizens'  
25 participation after the two pieces of

10

1 legislation. So, at this time I'd like to  
2 makes a motion to suspend the rules and move

3 to Fifth Order.

4 MS. GATELLI: Second.

5 MR. MCGOFF: All in favor.

6 MS. EVANS: Aye.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

8 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
10 ayes have it and so moved.

11 MS. GATELLI: I would just like to  
12 add that if you are wondering were we are  
13 doing that, Mrs. Evans is still not feeling  
14 well, as you can hear, and in case she is  
15 not feeling well and needs to go home we are  
16 moving it that she will be able to go home  
17 because she is still not feeling well, so  
18 please bear with us.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Garvey?

21 MS. GARVEY: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
22 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
23 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
24 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KNOWLES  
25 ASSOCIATES, L.L.C., FOR INSURANCE WITH

11

1 HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT INSURANCE  
2 EXCHANGE, (HARIE), INDIAN HARBOR INSURANCE  
3 EXCHANGE, PHILADELPHIA INDEMNITY INSURANCE

4 COMPANY AND ARCH INSURANCE COMPANY FOR CITY  
5 INSURANCE COVERAGES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY  
6 1, 2009 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2010, AND TO  
7 RATIFY ANY AND ALL ACTIONS AND SERVICES  
8 PERFORMED SINCE THE EXPIRATION OF THE PRIOR  
9 INSURANCE CONTRACT.

10 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll  
11 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be induced  
12 it's proper committee.

13 MS. FANUCCI: So moved.

14 MS. EVANS: Second.

15 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
16 in favor signify by saying aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

19 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
21 ayes have it and so moved.

22 MR. SBARAGALIA: You don't want us to  
23 speak on it before vote?

24 MR. MCGOFF: Oh, I'm sorry.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: I was going to

12

1 speak--

2 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry,

3 Mr. Sbaraglia. I did say that and --

4 MS. GATELLI: Well, because no one  
5 came up.

6 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry.

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: Why do you even have  
8 meetings? Why don't we just do everything  
9 by --

10 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Sbaraglia, it was a  
11 mistake. I'm sorry.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: But it's a big  
13 mistake.

14 MR. MCGOFF: No, it's not a big  
15 mistake.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: It a big mistake  
17 because you are denying people to speak on  
18 things before you vote on them. That is a  
19 big mistake.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Sbaraglia --

21 MS. FANUCCI: Nobody got up. We  
22 didn't know.

23 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry that we moved  
24 forward so quickly. I just apologize.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: It's done. It's

13

1 done. You can't bring it back. Okay.  
2 There is lot of questions about this. First  
3 of all, we all know what today's date is,  
4 why are we going all the way back to

5 January 1 to pick up this insurance? Who  
6 was carrying the insurance before?

7 MS. GATELLI: It's the same company.

8 MR. SBARAGLIA: It's the same  
9 company? Well, why don't we go back to the  
10 first to pick it up? Why are we doing it on  
11 March instead of January? You said you are  
12 going all the way back to January.

13 MS. GATELLI: It's just a renewal.  
14 It's a yearly renewal.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: I realize that, but  
16 why wasn't it renewed when it should have  
17 been renewed? Why is it renewed so late? I  
18 know you don't have the answer.

19 MS. EVANS: Well, let's find that  
20 out.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: But you could ask why  
22 we're not renewing the policy when it  
23 expires, and if, I guess we got a grace  
24 period, and I guess we are under the grace  
25 period, at least I hope.

14

1 MS. GATELLI: It's probably 90 days.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, I hope so.

3 MS. GATELLI: It might be more.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: But I didn't read the

5 contract, but it's nice to find out why we  
6 are doing things late. Thank you.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Sbaraglia.

9 MS. EVANS: Kay, could we --

10 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? I'm sorry,  
11 Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Could we find out exactly  
13 what the delay was on the insurance renewal  
14 for next week?

15 MS. GARVEY: Okay.

16 MS. EVANS: Thanks.

17 MR. QUINN: 7-A?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Please. Ozzie Quinn,  
19 President of Scranton Taxpayers'  
20 Association, Incorporated. 7-A there is a  
21 loan agreement to be made, a commercial  
22 industrial loan in the amount of \$25,000 to  
23 Danielle and Company to assist in an  
24 eligible project. I understand that's for  
25 equipment and for capital. I went on the

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1 website and what she is doing is aroma  
2 therapy, and Mrs. -- Miss -- the applicant,  
3 as I was saying, she has a degree, master's  
4 degree in cognitive behavior therapy, and  
5 she going for a doctorate in human

6 development. However, she is not trained in  
7 aroma therapy, and I'm asking you to table  
8 that because it's very scary because when  
9 you start fooling around people's emotional  
10 or physical problems you do have a problem.

11 Now, I want to say this here, aroma  
12 therapy and, you know, listen to me first,  
13 Mr. McGoff, before you -- you already have a  
14 "yes" in your mind anyway.

15 Generally accepted definition of  
16 aroma therapy, "An individual that has aroma  
17 therapy training and has been licensed and  
18 hands-on fields such as massage, nursing or  
19 cosmetology. Some people loosely use the  
20 term aromatherapist without such training as  
21 you always need to confirm the credentials  
22 without any perspective aromatherapist."

23 She is not an aromatherapist, she is  
24 a not an aromacologist, she isn't -- she is  
25 a cognitive therapist and she is not trained

16

1 in this and she offering this here therapy  
2 which can hurt people. It's a wellness type  
3 of program.

4 Now, please, listen to me, I don't  
5 want taxpayers' money going to people who

6 are going to hurt another person. You have  
7 to be so trained that you have to know just  
8 what you are using. Look at him laughing.  
9 Can you believe that?

10 MR. JACKOWITZ: No, I can't.

11 MR. QUINN: Can you believe that?

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: It's the president.

13 MR. QUINN: It's the president of  
14 council, and an Irishman, too, my God. You  
15 know what, bu anyway, the fact that, and let  
16 me tell you, she has to be known to be a  
17 well-being of the body, mind and soul and,  
18 to do a walk and say you're an  
19 aromatherapist, all right?

20 Also, all scents create a specific  
21 memory thus inducing a mood or behavioral  
22 responses, these responses enhance a  
23 person's mood. You are fooling around with  
24 a person's emotional well-being. And do you  
25 know what, people had are depressed and who

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1 are more likely to get more involved in  
2 perfume are more likely to go to these type  
3 of places because it is symptom, all right?

4 Now, in all due respect, you know,  
5 this is a holistic approach she is trying to  
6 take to therapy, and she is not qualified,



7 and whoever put that on there is  
8 definitely -- will you stopping laughing Mr.  
9 McGoff or leave the room, please do  
10 something?

11 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me. Are you  
12 finished?

13 MR. QUINN: We are taxpayers here.  
14 My five minutes is not up. How can you  
15 people put up with him doing that. It's  
16 ashamed. But she has -- she has products in  
17 over 100 stores throughout the United States  
18 and I ask you to check her credentials with  
19 the American Psychological Association to  
20 see if she's qualified to be involved in  
21 this.

22 I'm not trying to condemn the lady,  
23 but I don't like to see taxpayers' money be  
24 spent when you going to hurt a person's  
25 emotional or physical life, and I hope you

18

1 are the first one to go through.

2 MS. EVANS: Mr. Quinn --

3 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me, Mr. Quinn.

4 MR. QUINN: Excuse me you for what?  
5 What did you do?

6 MR. MCGOFF: I have been to her shop.

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MR. QUINN: You what?

MR. MCGOFF: I have been to her shop.

MR. QUINN: I don't understand what he said.

MR. MCGOFF: You said you hoped I was the first one to go there, I have been there already at two different occasions.

MR. QUINN: Well, I'm sorry. There are people out there that can really be hurt with this here, and I ask you just to call a psychologist up --

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

MR. QUINN: And a member of the APA.

MS. FANUCCI: Actually, I'm a licensed cosmetologist, would you like me to talk about?

MR. QUINN: To the APA and check it out.

19

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.

MS. FANUCCI: I actually am certified.

MS. EVANS: Mr. Quinn, may I ask you a question?

MR. QUINN: Sure.

MS. EVANS: Are you certain that it

8 is she who would be the aromatherapist or is  
9 she perhaps hiring an individual. I know  
10 that I believe anyway according to the terms  
11 of this loan she has to create one position.

12 MR. QUINN: She is the applicant.  
13 She has to be the applicant and she says she  
14 is not only going to change her name from  
15 aromatherapist to an aromacrat and she  
16 doesn't qualify.

17 MS. FANUCCI: I can actually clear  
18 this up in about three seconds if you'd like  
19 me too.

20 MR. QUINN: Go ahead.

21 MS. FANUCCI: Ozzie, I know. I can  
22 answer the question any way, when you are an  
23 aromatherapist that means you're dealing in  
24 essential oils that are pure which means  
25 they are not put into any products. When

20

1 you are putting --

2 MS. QUINN: She --

3 MS. FANUCCI: Wait. Wait.

4 MR. QUINN: Go ahead.

5 MS. FANUCCI: When you are putting  
6 them into products they are no longer  
7 qualified to do what you are claiming that

8                   they can do. So this is not -- this is not  
9                   attaining to the same thing. She uses them  
10                  in soaps. She uses them in perfumes.

11                  MR. QUINN: I understand that.

12                  MS. FANUCCI: So it's only a pure  
13                  essential mineral that we are talking about  
14                  --

15                  MR. QUINN: I understand that.

16                  MS. FANUCCI: -- that you need to be  
17                  qualified and licensed by the state to use  
18                  and you know why I know that, Ozzie, because  
19                  I'm a cosmetologist.

20                  MR. QUINN: I want to tell you  
21                  something -- wow.

22                  MS. FANUCCI: Look at me, and I  
23                  actually can answer that question for you,  
24                  so you are incorrect about what you are  
25                  saying is all I need to tell you.

21

1                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

2                   MR. QUINN: You know what, when she  
3                   is talking about pure oils she means pure  
4                   oils.

5                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.

6                   MR. QUINN: However, she is using a  
7                   vegan oil. She is vegan oil.

8                   MS. FANUCCI: Then it's not pure.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Quinn --  
10 MR. QUINN: And it's right here.  
11 It's right here.  
12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.  
13 MR. QUINN: And you people are going  
14 to be up for a lawsuit if somebody gets  
15 hurt.  
16 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else on 5-B or  
17 7-A? Thank you.  
18 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER. NO  
19 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.  
20 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
21 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION -  
22 RESOLUTION NO. 113, 2009 - AUTHORIZING THE  
23 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
24 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A  
25 LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN FROM THE

22

1 COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN  
2 PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.21 IN AN AMOUNT NOT  
3 TO EXCEED \$25,000.00 TO DANIELLE AND  
4 COMPANY, INC. TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

5 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
6 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
7 Committee on Community Development.

8 MS. FANUCCI: As chairperson for the

9 Committee on Community Development, I  
10 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

11 MR. MCGOFF: A second?

12 MS. GATELLI: Second?

13 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

14 MS. EVANS: I know that this is a  
15 very good small business within the City of  
16 Scranton. It's a relatively new business to  
17 our city. I don't know, you know, if  
18 otherwise it's -- are there headquarters  
19 elsewhere or additional stores?

20 MS. FANUCCI: No, it's here. It's  
21 based here.

22 MS. EVANS: This is the one and only  
23 store? And I thought I had learned that  
24 they were going to offer classes as well in  
25 various types of activities like

23

1 horticulture and one or two other areas I  
2 believe, so it does appear to be beneficial  
3 to the community. I do -- you know, I hear  
4 Mr. Quinn's concerns, but, you know, I'm  
5 confused as this point because I'm, you  
6 know, I was assuming that as Mrs. Gatelli  
7 said the ingredients are placed into her  
8 product line, soaps, lotions and etcetera,  
9 and that's what was being considered the

10 aromatherapy as many of the products I know  
11 I've purchased, not from this particular  
12 business, but, you know, in a department  
13 store it will be labeled aromatherapy.

14 So would it be possible that we can  
15 table it just to get the, you know, a  
16 statement from the owner explaining exactly  
17 what it is.

18 MR. MCGOFF: There's nobody doing  
19 therapy in the business. It's simply the  
20 name of a product, products that are sold at  
21 Bath and Body and other places.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Right.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Right. There is no  
24 nobody conducting therapy sessions at  
25 Danielle and Company.

24

1 MR. QUINN: You don't know what  
2 you're talking about.

3 MS. GATELLI: And it's even in air  
4 freshener. If you buy air freshener now it  
5 says on it aromatherapy. It's just a buzz  
6 word.

7 MS. FANUCCI: I mean, I could see his  
8 point if she was using an untainted oil that  
9 is just pure in it's form, he is right. I

10 mean, there are certain elements that -- but  
11 that is not what we are talking about.

12 MR. QUINN: If I may --

13 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me, Mr. Quinn.

14 You had your opportunity to speak.

15 MR. QUINN: She is making oils.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me.

17 MR. QUINN: For specific

18 treatments--

19 MS. FANUCCI: To put into products.

20 MR. QUINN: To focus, to relax.

21 MS. FANUCCI: To put into products.

22 (Mr. McGoff bangs the gavel.)

23 MS. FANUCCI: She is making scents to

24 put in products --

25 MR. MCGOFF: There is no classes.

25

1 MS. FANUCCI: To put into products.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me?

3 MS. GATELLI: We can go to Boscov's

4 right now and by 1,000 products that say

5 aromatherapy on them.

6 MR. QUINN: Definitely.

7 MS. GATELLI: It's just someone put

8 oil in there and cinnamon is supposed to

9 make you hungry and lilac is supposed to

10 make you calm.



11 MS. EVANS: Lavender.

12 MS. GATELLI: It's just -- you know,  
13 it's just -- they are just theories and I'm  
14 sure they are not true, but, you know,  
15 people do that for certain scents.

16 MR. QUINN: It's a science.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Quinn, you had your  
18 opportunity to speak, I'm going to ask you  
19 once more to refrain from yelling or else I  
20 will ask you to leave.

21 MS. GATELLI: I mean, I don't think  
22 the woman is doing psychotherapy with oil.

23 MR. QUINN: Yes, she is.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else on the  
25 question?

26

1 MR. QUINN: Just vote  
2 (untranscribable.)

3 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Quinn, would you  
4 please leave? You are out of order.

5 MR. QUINN: I'll be glad to leave.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Because you are a sick  
7 person.

8 MS. GATELLI: Well, I mean, I don't  
9 care. If you want to table it we'll table  
10 it.

11 MR. MCGOFF: There is no reason to  
12 table it.

13 MS. GATELLI: You want to get her in  
14 here.

15 MR. MCGOFF: I don't see any reason  
16 to table it.

17 MS. EVANS: Well, I think it might be  
18 --

19 MS. FANUCCI: The problem is now here  
20 we are in a place where this woman is doing  
21 a wonderful job, a great job, and now she is  
22 tainted because of, you know, accusations --

23 MS. EVANS: Right. That's why I  
24 think it would be beneficial if she wanted  
25 to come in and do give us an explanation and

27

1 maybe do a little presentation.

2 MS. FANUCCI: If she -- she doesn't  
3 even have to go that far. We can table it  
4 and have her send a letter, we'll send a  
5 letter to her and have her reply to us with  
6 the allegations of what is alleged.

7 MS. GATELLI: And if she would like  
8 to come she is welcome to come.

9 MS. EVANS: Yes.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Right. I do want to  
11 apologize to her or anyone who is using her

12 products or anyone who is trying to open a  
13 business in if city that this is not how is  
14 should be conducted and this is just awful.  
15 Really.

16 MS. GATELLI: I'll second tabling of  
17 7-A. It's been moved and seconded.

18 MR. MCGOFF: All in favor of tabling  
19 7-A signify by saying eye.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye.

21 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

22 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Opposed? No. The ayes  
24 have it and 7-A is tabled. Fourth Order.  
25 Andy Sbaraglia.

28

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
2 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I  
3 read the backup on 7-A, okay, \$25,000 at 5  
4 percent interest sounds good. Now, we have  
5 no -- we have nothing legal that's going to  
6 happen to us if we give him the money. In  
7 other words, if somebody sues somebody the  
8 most we can do is lose 25,000 if she goes  
9 under with a lawsuit, but that's it. We are  
10 not sued anywhere. Whatever she does she  
11 has to comply with whatever the state codes

12 are, so it's not big deal. I don't know why  
13 Ozzie made such a big deal out of it.

14 Okay, we did the insurance, let's go  
15 with the tax collector comparison report.  
16 Do you realize that from '08, 3-7-08, that  
17 month, that the 3-9-2009 we have almost  
18 doubled the income coming. 3-7-2008 we had  
19 \$4,870,956.57. 3-9-2009, \$8,597,388.17.  
20 Something is wrong with that office. You  
21 should get ahold of McDowell and let him  
22 explain why so much money is being generated  
23 now that wasn't generated when he was in  
24 charge. That's an important thing. You  
25 should be on his back because something was

29

1 wrong when he ran that office and now he has  
2 even got a bigger job, so God knows what's  
3 happening there. But you should at least  
4 get back to him and explain why all of these  
5 figures are escalated now that wasn't  
6 before. Something definitely wrong there.

7 Okay, little reminiscent, we went  
8 through all of this other stuff. As you  
9 know, seven years ago we had a golf course,  
10 we had the South Side Complex, our good  
11 loans are gone, our delinquent real estate  
12 taxes people can't pay, it goes to two

13 entities now one NCC and then the lawyer on  
14 top of it, which I forget his name. We had  
15 a DPW site that we no longer own, and I  
16 believe we even sold our storm drains to the  
17 sewer authority, I don't know because nobody  
18 knows exactly where that piece of  
19 legislation was. That all of sudden says  
20 they are independent, so somewhere along the  
21 line money passed or property passed and  
22 this is what I mean.

23 We have lost our assets being  
24 fiddled away, especially the golf course  
25 that brought us \$50,000, sometimes \$100,000

30

1 a year in income. That's gone. And what do  
2 we got out of it, we got little -- you got  
3 an open area up in Nay Aug, but I guess with  
4 people losing their homes maybe it will be a  
5 nice tent city up there especially with all  
6 of the Johns that are up there now. But  
7 these things we had and in seven years we  
8 lost it.

9 Now, I realize you weren't there.  
10 You weren't sitting there when a lot of  
11 these things were done. Even when he did  
12 the DPW site that he so -- well, the guy

13 wanted to give us \$600,000 over 20 years or  
14 25 years, but the original contract with  
15 that was for 198 years for a dollar a year.  
16 This is the kind of deals he was making.  
17 Now, you tell me common sense wise who would  
18 site a contract like that?

19 Even now, I don't believe we are  
20 going to get any money from the DPW even it  
21 he does put stuff there. I mean, yeah,  
22 because he leases it for a dollar year. His  
23 obligation to the city is \$1 a year. That's  
24 it. I don't even know who carries liability  
25 on it because them contracts are pretty well

31

1 mute when it comes to him. Anybody that  
2 read the original contract didn't seeing  
3 anything about liability because when that  
4 contract was -- of course, there was  
5 buildings there and the DPW was in operation  
6 there, but these are things we have lost in  
7 the city. They were assets that are no  
8 longer assets to the city, and it's been  
9 sitting there all them years as an empty  
10 lot.

11 Now, what's going to happen? They  
12 are going to be looking for KOZ's again. I  
13 know this coming like -- you don't even have

14 to be any kind of soothsayer to realize  
15 what's going to happen. All of these people  
16 who have sat on that land for ten years  
17 without paying any taxes are going to be out  
18 there looking for another handout. Thank  
19 you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Sbaraglia. Ron Ellman.

22 MR. ELLMAN: You guys changed and  
23 thought I wouldn't know it, didn't you?  
24 Mrs. Rosie read the paper and told me it was  
25 tonight. Last week was my birthday, big 39,

32

1 I didn't have to designate a driver to bring  
2 me down here, so I just have a couple of  
3 little notes.

4 I publically would like to say how  
5 elated I am that the mayor is going to run  
6 on his record. This seemed like a big help  
7 for his opponents to be, but I'll give  
8 credit where credit is due. I got a little  
9 statement here that "Whatever we do --" I  
10 copied this out of something, I don't know  
11 where it came from. It said, "Whatever we  
12 do we must assume responsibility for the  
13 consequences."

14                   So I guess running on your record is  
15                   assuming the responsibility, but I think the  
16                   mayor is just trying to sell us the same old  
17                   car by washing it or something. The problem  
18                   around here is half the city doesn't vote.  
19                   I just don't know how people are going to  
20                   get these people that don't vote. I talked  
21                   to them and for both sides. I've never seen  
22                   so much apathy. I mean, just vote for  
23                   somebody. Just don't sit in the house, you  
24                   know, but everybody needs to get these  
25                   people out to vote. I don't know how to do

33

1                   it, you know, unless you give them some  
2                   hotdogs or something, doughnuts. I don't  
3                   know. I sit and talk to people and hear  
4                   people and almost everybody I talk to they  
5                   just don't vote. I never seen a city like  
6                   this. You know, even if they vote for  
7                   Doherty they are doing something, you know,  
8                   like I said, it's just so much apathy here  
9                   and then everybody complains about potholes  
10                   and this and that and the other thing and  
11                   who did you vote for and say, "I didn't  
12                   vote."

13                   Isn't that ashamed? I hate to say  
14                   it, but I go in little bar called Dunn's and



15 they brag they don't vote and a couple of  
16 them own houses, they own property. You  
17 know, there is people dying for us so we can  
18 vote and have a flag and all and the people  
19 don't vote. Well, I'm just getting carried  
20 away. I thank you for giving me a minute or  
21 two up here. I had some notes I don't even  
22 want to get into it. I get everybody mad at  
23 me and get you alienated at me. Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.  
25 Les Spindler.

34

1 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
2 Council. Les Spindler, city resident,  
3 taxpayer and homeowner. Mr. McGoff, you  
4 said Mr. Courtright couldn't make it tonight  
5 because he had to work. Why couldn't have  
6 the meeting been reschedule for Thursday?

7 MS. FANUCCI: He had to work  
8 Thursday, too.

9 MS. SPINDLER: No, he didn't have to  
10 work Thursday. I spoke to him, he asked to  
11 have it done for -- he asked to have the  
12 meeting on Thursday.

13 MS. GATELLI: I can't make it on  
14 Thursday.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Well, somebody  
16 couldn't make it on Thursday.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Oh, okay, so if you're  
18 in the mayor I guess you get your way.

19 MR. MCGOFF: It was a night we could  
20 have a quorum. Last week Mr. Sbaraglia  
21 mentioned about Scranton Today operating  
22 from that room back there and there were  
23 tossed out because they are supposed to do  
24 something in that room, when Chris Doherty  
25 got his own TV station CDTV all of a sudden

35

1 they are allowed to broadcast from there.  
2 If that wasn't a political move then my name  
3 is not Les Spindler.

4 And like I said last week, these  
5 people they have to find a new place to  
6 setup their shop in and I don't know where  
7 they are going to get the money from, but I  
8 don't know how the three of could have  
9 located the money for CDTV before the appeal  
10 is heard.

11 Moving on, I heard from a good  
12 source the developers of the office park  
13 that's going to be off Linden Street there  
14 uses nonunion labor, and I see there is a  
15 Scartelli trailer setup on the lot there.

16 That figures? Scartelli plowed the DPW lot,  
17 now they'll be building the office park, I  
18 guess it's just payback for the mayor for  
19 the campaign contributions they give.

20 Two weeks ago, Mrs. Fanucci, you  
21 said you represent the taxpayers. Well, you  
22 voted for a 25 percent tax hike, you voted  
23 for those ridiculous fees and penalties on  
24 late taxes, and you voted for all Chris  
25 Doherty's budgets. If that's representing

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1 the taxpayers, Mrs. Fanucci, please don't do  
2 it anymore.

3 I guess city vehicles -- I guess  
4 they get a free parking placard in them,  
5 maybe you know about that Mrs. Gatelli?  
6 City vehicles can park free in the city.

7 MS. GATELLI: I think the inspectors  
8 can.

9 MR. SPINDLER: Well, are they allowed  
10 in their own personal vehicles?

11 MS. GATELLI: I believe if they are  
12 using their own vehicle for work, yes.

13 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I know for a  
14 fact that Mark Seitzinger's wife has one in  
15 her own personal vehicle and she works in

16 the law department. I don't think she needs  
17 that for work. I think there should be an  
18 investigation into that, and if you want to  
19 see a pictures, there is pictures on a  
20 certain website. Mr. McGoff, could you look  
21 into that?

22 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me?

23 MR. SPINDLER: Could you look into  
24 that? About people using these free parking  
25 placards in their own personal vehicles, and

37

1 if that's the case would you see what you  
2 could do about getting me one?

3 Last week I stated that two people  
4 were attacked in West Side a few weeks ago,  
5 a U of S student was attacked, now yesterday  
6 in South Side two people were shot in broad  
7 daylight in the backyard and Chris Doherty  
8 wants to let go policemen. He wants to lay  
9 policemen off, he wants to lay firemen off,  
10 he doesn't give a darn about public safety  
11 in this city, all he cares about is hiring  
12 his crony friends, giving them raises, but  
13 he doesn't care about the safety and the  
14 citizens of this city and it's a disgrace.  
15 We need more policemen on the street, not  
16 less.

17                   Yesterday I was driving through the  
18                   Hill Section, the 400 block of Clay Avenue,  
19                   there was students out there sitting on the  
20                   porch as they were Saturday and that block  
21                   was a disgrace. There were beer cans and  
22                   cups all over the lawn, it looked like a  
23                   garbage dump, it was a disgrace. We should  
24                   have had public safety people up there on  
25                   Saturday because I was up there Saturday and

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1                   my mother is in a nursing home up there.  
2                   Kids were on their porches drinking, instead  
3                   of throwing them away they throw them out on  
4                   the lawn. I wish I had my camera with me,  
5                   it was a disgrace, and I think the  
6                   University should police their own kids  
7                   there. This is totally uncalled for, I  
8                   mean, I could see a couple, but the lawns  
9                   were littered, literally littered with  
10                   dozens and dozens of cans and cups. It's a  
11                   disgrace. I mean, these kids don't live in  
12                   the city, they don't care. I lived in this  
13                   city my whole life and I'm proud of it and  
14                   it's just a disgrace. So, I don't know what  
15                   they could do, I know the police can only be  
16                   in certain places at one time, but I think

17 the University should be contacted next year  
18 and let them police their own kids because  
19 it's just totally ridiculous. Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Spindler.  
21 Bernadette Royce.

22 MS. ROYCE: Hi. God evening. Happy  
23 St. Patrick's Day. Bernadette Royce, West  
24 Scranton. First off, I would like to go on  
25 record saying that I have used scented bath

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1 oils, scented bath products, lotions and  
2 candles for years and except for one asthma  
3 attack and my cat I have never, ever had a  
4 problem with them, so you can feel safe  
5 about that.

6 Onto new business, late Saturday  
7 afternoon after the festivities I returned  
8 to my West Scranton neighborhood to discover  
9 thick black smoke staining the sky. As I  
10 approached Luzerne Street Engine 2 from  
11 South Scranton raced to the scene just as  
12 the smoke began to dissipate. Obviously,  
13 Engine 7 located on Luzerne Street as the  
14 first due engine in West Scranton had a much  
15 quicker response just as Engine 2 would have  
16 for South Scranton fire.

17 According to the Scranton Times,

18 Mayor Doherty cited new building  
19 construction as an excuse for less fire  
20 protection. He is wrong. Rather than real  
21 wood new construction often uses particle  
22 boards and glue. These burn hotter than  
23 real wood. Fire also grows exponentially.  
24 This means that for every second fire grows  
25 it gets twice as big. The results of this

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1 are clear, 30 years ago a person had  
2 17 minutes to escape a house fire. Today  
3 the National Fire Protection Association  
4 estimates that you have approximately three  
5 minutes to escape a house fire. Citizens  
6 need to keep this in mind before they vote  
7 for a mayor who will close their local fire  
8 stations or reduce engine companies in this  
9 city. The mayor won't say which stations he  
10 will close, so I'm asking you, my council  
11 members, to tell me what stations are being  
12 closed and will my neighborhood be safe? Do  
13 any of you know?

14 MS. FANUCCI: I don't know.

15 MS. GATELLI: I never heard of any  
16 that will be closed as of right now.

17 MS. EVANS: I have read that the

18 mayor intended to downsize the manpower of  
19 the fire department by I believe over 30  
20 individuals and he did intend to close fire  
21 stations. Now, I don't know that means  
22 specifically the station will close or if  
23 the engine company is going to be  
24 eliminated, but he has gone on record saying  
25 that. He at least has not expressed to me

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1 which engine companies or firehouses are  
2 going to be affected, but I'm waiting for  
3 that announcement shortly, particularly  
4 since the ruling of the Courts that I  
5 believe the city has to abide by it within a  
6 certain period of time, specifically, by  
7 taking such measures and also by awarding  
8 raises, and to my knowledge those raises  
9 have not yet occurred as well.

10 MS. ROYCE: Okay. My concern,  
11 obviously, is when will he decide and  
12 announce, I think we all know that the mayor  
13 has said he has plans, my concern is when we  
14 will decide to announce to the citizens of  
15 Scranton exactly which companies will be  
16 reduced? I think it's time that the  
17 citizens of Scranton receive an answer from  
18 this mayor.



19 MS. EVANS: Oh, I agree, and I think  
20 another concern is what he is basing that  
21 decision on, what study?

22 MS. ROYCE: Thank you very much.  
23 Thank you very much. Have a good evening,  
24 folks.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Royce.

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1 Marie Schumacher.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening. Marie  
3 Schumacher, resident and member of the  
4 Taxpayers' Association. I have corrected my  
5 collating error, so I am prepared to read  
6 the final page of my letter to DCED,  
7 Secretary Cornelius. These, of course, deal  
8 with variances from the PEL developed  
9 Recovery Plan. "Page 37 noted, in the  
10 absence of salary increases the city's  
11 cumulative deficit would total 7.21 billion  
12 dollars in 2007. Despite the majority of  
13 employees, that being police and  
14 firefighters, having had no increase, the  
15 cumulative operating deficit was reflected  
16 in principal debt of about \$95 million  
17 dollars. \$159,162,385 of the Authority's  
18 debt is included again just principal only."

19                   Next point, "Failure to conduct  
20                   Civil Service Testing resulted in increased  
21                   expenses to fill vacancies."

22                   We are now paying dearly in our  
23                   police agency, we are paying what used to be  
24                   paid by the Act 120 people themselves for  
25                   Act 120, themselves. Now, we taxpayers get

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1                   to foot that bill because the Civil Service  
2                   did not -- committee did not to what they  
3                   were supposed to do.

4                   "Page 64, for 2003, 2004, and 2005,  
5                   the base hourly wages and salaries of all  
6                   city employees shall not exceed exceeding  
7                   rate, existing rates. Many salaries exceed  
8                   the 2002 rates.

9                   Page 85, lesser capital purchases,  
10                  especially vehicles, technology  
11                  infrastructure, etcetera, shall generally be  
12                  funded from funds which are made available  
13                  through contributions by the three city  
14                  hospitals. The city was to have formalized  
15                  the intended use of the payments made by the  
16                  three hospitals in a written agreement of  
17                  understanding by no later than August 1,  
18                  2002. This has not happened, or if it has  
19                  it's the best kept secret in town.

20                   As a matter of fact, despite no  
21                   raises, police have been purchasing their  
22                   own cruisers. The administration did manage  
23                   to find \$100,000 per year for five years to  
24                   purchase a bank to be part of an estimated  
25                   \$16 million library, however.

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1                   I could go on for several more  
2                   pages, but I'm sure the information provided  
3                   is sufficient to illustrate the city has  
4                   ignored, negated and emasculated the adopted  
5                   Recovery Plan and failed to execute any  
6                   rational financial plan as an alternative.  
7                   Yet, there have been no sanctions, no  
8                   amendatory orders in the first decade of the  
9                   current century and there were during the  
10                  final decade of the last century. Why? I  
11                  look forward to your response."

12                  Next week I'll give you the bottom  
13                  line on what the response was and the  
14                  response I will again be responding to.

15                  Moving to a new topic: Last week  
16                  Mrs. Gatelli you talked about the Village at  
17                  Tripp Park and you mentioned that the  
18                  developer had fled. I don't think that's  
19                  the case. I think the developer lives and

20 everybody knows that the developer lives in  
21 the City of Dunmore. I think he is a member  
22 of the Marywood faculty senate, and I don't  
23 think he would be too hard to find and I am  
24 very disappointed that you are not looking  
25 at out for the taxpayers who are being

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1 flooded because of the runoff from that.

2 MS. GATELLI: We are, Mrs.  
3 Schumacher.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, what --

5 MS. GATELLI: There is case in Court  
6 with Mr. Speicher and he also sued city  
7 council.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I don't know  
9 whether he sued city council, but Judge  
10 Minora has already ruled on the Tripp Park  
11 runoff and I am concerned, I have asked  
12 about this before, if Mr. -- if the  
13 developer is not being held accountable and  
14 fixing that runoff the way I read that  
15 ruling it's going to fall on us taxpayers,  
16 and I don't think that's right and it's been  
17 -- I think the ruling was in December, I  
18 don't know how long the judge gave for those  
19 corrections to be made, but-

20 MS. GATELLI: I don't have it with me

21                   this week. I had the order with me last  
22                   week.

23                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, maybe you  
24                   could bring that next week.

25                   MS. GATELLI: But he does have an

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1                   order. There is an order against him.

2                   MS. SCHUMACHER: I know that, but  
3                   it's -- why would you want -- the only  
4                   recourse there is, is to put -- do what he  
5                   did, and you asked for what he did to be  
6                   rescinded last week.

7                   MS. GATELLI: If it was items that  
8                   don't affect water run off.

9                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Well --

10                  MS. GATELLI: Why should the people  
11                  up there be punished? They have been  
12                  punished enough by Mr. Speicher.

13                  MS. SCHUMACHER: next week.

14                  MS. GATELLI: Go talk to anyone that  
15                  lives in Tripp Park.

16                  MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs.  
17                  Schumacher.

18                  MS. GATELLI: They have suffered long  
19                  enough.

20                  MR. MCGOFF: Dave Dobson.

21 MR. DOBSON: Good evening, Council.  
22 Dave Dobson, a member of the Taxpayers'  
23 Association, Scranton resident. I just  
24 stopped by briefly to bring up a subject  
25 that was discussed last week about the

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1 spraying of herbicides. Is that --

2 MS. GATELLI: We didn't get an answer  
3 yet, Mr. Dobson.

4 MR. DOBSON: You didn't get an  
5 answer?

6 MS. GATELLI: No, not yet.

7 MR. DOBSON: I would like to make a  
8 suggestion that you people just get together  
9 and tell them to keep it out of here.  
10 Apparently that line runs right along the  
11 gorge from Chamberlin and are they going to  
12 be spraying there, will they be spraying  
13 within Nay Aug Park and certainly the  
14 neighbors up on Mark Avenue or is it Matthew  
15 Avenue don't want it done, and these  
16 herbicides are harmful substances and it's  
17 certainly something you wouldn't want your  
18 animals exposed to or your lawn or  
19 potentially have it in the drinking water or  
20 whatever else, so to me I think seeing as  
21 this is Scranton, it's our town, we have a

22 right to tell the power company where or  
23 what they can and can't do within our town  
24 especially when it comes to exposing people  
25 to that type of chemical.

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1 Also, I felt that having them  
2 petition to move their power lines out of  
3 Nay Aug Park was a good idea, and I'm not  
4 really going to forget it, so I promise to  
5 be attesting from here on in on that issue.  
6 I want to see those power lines on the other  
7 side of the highway some day. It's all  
8 abandoned rail line and coal lands and so  
9 forth and there is not a lot there that can  
10 be disturbing if you ship those lines after  
11 the gorge over the other side. We were  
12 deprived of the full extent of Nay Aug Park  
13 when 81 came through. I don't know if  
14 anyone is aware of that, you probably are,  
15 but there is a plaque up on Elmhurst  
16 Boulevard that, currently Wattres for  
17 donating that land, and there is about 30 or  
18 40 acres up there that just gets ignored, we  
19 can't build on it, we can't sell it, we  
20 can't do anything with it, but when 81 came  
21 through it split the park right in half and

22 that power line was also, you know, hanging  
23 around who knows how many years. They might  
24 have wanted to expand that some day and take  
25 the rest of Nay Aug Park on us, so I think

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1 personally they have enough money they can  
2 get those lines out of there.

3 But definitely, please, no spraying.  
4 No spraying within the city. Anybody that's  
5 downwind of that mist is going to get a dose  
6 of it and we know what Agent Orange does. I  
7 have a brother-in-law that is on disability  
8 at 60 years old because of Agent Orange from  
9 Vietnam, so most of those substances are  
10 extremely harmful and let's keep them out of  
11 here. Have a good night.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Dobson.  
13 Gary DeStefano.

14 MR. DESTEFANO: Good evening,  
15 Council. My name is Gary DeStefano. I'm a  
16 city resident and a Scranton firefighter.  
17 I'm here tonight to inform city council and  
18 the public of what we have just learned from  
19 this administration. In the very near  
20 future, Mayor Doherty is going to close two  
21 engine companies in this city. The Scranton  
22 firefighters are going to do all we can to



23 prevent this. This is a drastic, baseless  
24 cut of our fire protection, our safety and  
25 we are asking everyone to help us stop this

50

1 and the mayor's intended actions.

2 If anyone has any questions feel  
3 free to contact our union leadership about  
4 this. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,  
6 Mr. DeStefano. Anyone else?

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,  
8 Mr. President, Scranton City Council. What  
9 about the people who have lived below Tripp  
10 Park, they have suffered long enough, also.  
11 They need help and assistance, also.

12 Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton  
13 resident and member of the Taxpayers'  
14 Association. City, state and federal taxes  
15 have always been paid, my taxes have always  
16 been paid on time and in full. Two Scranton  
17 parking tickets within 11 years, paid within  
18 24 hours, the only two I have ever received.  
19 I must also ask myself why I pay on time?  
20 Maybe because I'm a member of the Taxpayers'  
21 Association and an honorably retired senior  
22 noncommissioned officer of the United States

23 Air Force. While, on the other hand, we  
24 have elected officials and appointed  
25 officials who just seem to ignore their

51

1 responsibility until they are outed in the  
2 public. Maybe because I am not connected to  
3 the mayor, county commissioner, governor or  
4 tax collector or school board member.

5 Retired judge gets 46 months in  
6 jail. Former prosecutor gets house arrest.  
7 Former state senator charged with defrauding  
8 the state a nonprofit and museum for more  
9 than 3.5 million. He was convicted today on  
10 all 127 counts. He was also destroyed --  
11 also charged with destroying evidence.

12 Influence denied in the Manner deal.  
13 The president of the Pittsburgh based firm  
14 hired to train state liquor store clerks and  
15 managers to be nice to customers is married  
16 to a top liquor control board employee.

17 Two judges Luzerne County going to  
18 jail. The head of the Scranton Housing  
19 Authority going to Court. State  
20 representative not paying his taxes on time.  
21 Former tax representative voted out of  
22 office for not showing up for his job, but  
23 collecting per diem. City council falls

24 into that category. They get paid for  
25 cancelled meetings.

52

1 Pennsylvania Economy League hired to  
2 help Scranton out of it's distressed city  
3 status, 17 years later Scranton is still  
4 distressed. Pennsylvania Economy League  
5 still being paid. What a racquet.

6 As far as grant money, I'm very  
7 familiar with federal, state and grant money  
8 as distributed -- how it is distributed. I  
9 realize that if the money is not used it  
10 will be taken away and possibly never  
11 return. My complaint is the way the city  
12 spends the grant money, taxpayers' money.  
13 They waste the money on projects that should  
14 be funded but they give the money to the  
15 rich developers and business owners. There  
16 are so many ways this money could be used to  
17 help young or old struggling businesses get  
18 back on their street or possibly create new  
19 business in the city who might be able to  
20 open storefronts in the downtown and  
21 neighborhoods. Instead, we give our money  
22 to Rinaldi, Joyce, Boscov, Hilton, Radison,  
23 Alexander's and Donahue to name a few.

24 Kildaire's restaurant hires nonunion  
25 workers and is it not pay union wages. Jack

53

1 Lockheed to inspect the company and manage  
2 the township is hired, only the restaurant  
3 neighbor McGrogan is a resident of  
4 Philadelphia. Jerry Joyce is the property  
5 owner. How many millions of taxpayer  
6 dollars has he received? I guess this fits  
7 the theory of jobs and wages being brought  
8 into Scranton.

9 Let's find out how many Scranton  
10 union works work on the 500 Lackawanna  
11 Avenue project and how many Scranton union  
12 workers are working on the Connell building.  
13 The Mt. Pleasant corporate project and the  
14 University of Scranton. My information says  
15 no union workers worked at the University of  
16 Scranton. They are all nonunion workers.  
17 Mr. McGoff, are you awake or are you  
18 sleeping?

19 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me?

20 MR. JACKOWITZ: I asked you, are you  
21 awake or are you sleeping? I couldn't tell  
22 because your eyes were closed and you were  
23 holding your head up. I just asked you a  
24 question, that's all I did.

25

MR. MCGOFF: Don't be rude.

54

1

MR. JACKOWITZ: I'm not being rude.

2

You were rude by laughing at Mr. Quinn, so

3

don't tell me not be rude, okay?

4

Northwestern Pennsylvania -- Northeastern

5

Pennsylvania again votes and we get 15

6

million, plus another 84 for schools. I

7

hope Scranton spends some of their 9 million

8

to heat West Scranton High School and repair

9

the ceilings in the middle school. Stars

10

and afterschool programs like the young lady

11

talked about at this meeting.

12

Also, my friend on Hemlock Street is

13

not very happy because her dog was skunked

14

in her own backyard, so maybe we need to get

15

the skunk patrol out and active because, you

16

know, people don't like getting their dogs

17

skunked.

18

Are the cameras working in the city

19

of Scranton that the police department in

20

the city put up, Mr. McGoff?

21

MR. MCGOFF: I have no idea.

22

MR. JACKOWITZ: Can you find out for

23

me or would that be asking too much?

24

MR. MCGOFF: You know, you are being

1 MR. JACKOWITZ: No, I'm not.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, you are.

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: No, I'm not. It's  
4 your opinion that I'm being rude, it's my  
5 opinion that I am not.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: All I did was ask you  
8 a question and I have yet to -- I have to  
9 yet to laugh --

10 MR. MCGOFF: -- with the comment.

11 MR. JACKOWITZ: I have yet to laugh  
12 at you, have I? Have I laughed at you yet?  
13 I have yet to laugh at you, have I? So I'm  
14 not being rude, so please don't accuse of me  
15 of something that you can't back up.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me. It was rude.

17 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini,  
18 Scranton. I find myself in a very unique  
19 position tonight, I'm defending the council  
20 and some of the speakers and I'm taking  
21 issue with at the same time. One thing I'd  
22 like to clarify is the subject of  
23 aromatherapy. I don't think anybody in here  
24 knows what they are talking about when it  
25 comes to aromatherapy, I have been moved

1           around since 1973. I have been a certified  
2           professional hypnotist and member of the  
3           World Congress of Hypnotists since 1984. I  
4           taught metaphysics, I've studied physics, I  
5           had a metaphysical center, and I can tell  
6           you right now, and I would have to defer to  
7           Mr. Minora on this subject, hypnosis,  
8           aromatherapy, holistic medicine is accepted  
9           in some areas, it's regulated in other  
10          areas. There are people who are unlicensed  
11          that practice it, including Wal-Mart and a  
12          few others, but aromatherapy is merely a  
13          term. Anybody who practices aromatherapy  
14          has a history of holistic medicine and they  
15          studied it very gratefully.

16                 You can go back to Buddhism and  
17          Hinduism and go back to the Catholic Church,  
18          incense, oils, etcetera, used constantly for  
19          centuries now. So to take it and make an  
20          issue out of this, I don't know this lady,  
21          but I'm sure that what she is doing within  
22          reason and it's a legitimate thing. I mean,  
23          I can go to Wal-Mart and buy aromatherapy  
24          soap and oils, etcetera. It's a nonissue,  
25          but as long as it's going to become an issue

1 I have take issue with you as well as  
2 Mr. Quinn and also defend your positions,  
3 both of you. So I really don't know.

4 The primary reason I came tonight is  
5 because I saw two young ladies down at the  
6 parade the other day sitting on the float  
7 and/or on the dais and they acknowledged me  
8 and I said hello to them, but I also  
9 encountered several people from out of town  
10 who were very, very disturbed with the City  
11 of Scranton primarily because they could not  
12 get a cab. These are people from  
13 Binghamton, people from Cleveland, people  
14 from Virginia, who came into this town with  
15 good intentions, spent money to be here for  
16 a parade and could not get a taxi cab. They  
17 asked a police officer if he could get one  
18 and he told them flatly, half the times  
19 McCarthy Cab will not even answer their  
20 phone from the police department, and I can  
21 attest to that because I listen to my  
22 scanner all the time, and I take issue with  
23 the fact that if a police officer or a  
24 dispatcher calls for a cab McCarthy's  
25 insists on knowing whether or not the patron



1           has any money. I don't know that's  
2           incumbent upon the police department to find  
3           out whether a person has money or not.

4                       I don't know how this cab company is  
5           regulated, but it certainly is lacking and  
6           it's deficient in it's service. Now, I live  
7           in the senior building and I can tell you  
8           right now there are seniors who have to go  
9           to the doctors and they are waiting an hour  
10          or an hour and a half for their cab to show  
11          up. That's deplorable. I mean, if this cab  
12          company is regulated then somebody should  
13          look into why they are not meeting their  
14          obligations.

15  
16                       MR. MINORA: Can I interrupt you for  
17          a second? That maybe be a PUC issue and I  
18          honestly don't know what the cab's  
19          requirements are, but they are licensed by  
20          the Public Utility Commission and it might  
21          be something to be raise with them.  
22          Frankly, that's not news, I have heard the  
23          same thing and Kay just mentioned the same  
24          thing to me. If it's that widespread a  
25          problem perhaps bringing up to the PUC and

1                   whatever enforcement regulations they may  
2                   have might be the way to go with that. It's  
3                   not -- once it it's regulated by the PUC the  
4                   city won't have anything to do with it.

5                   MR. TALIMINI: Well, does the city  
6                   issue licenses for a cab company?

7                   MS. GATELLI: No.

8                   MR. MINORA: The Public Utility  
9                   Commission.

10                  MR. TALIMINI: Okay. So, in other  
11                  words, anybody can come in here and open a  
12                  cab company.

13                  MR. MINORA: No. You have to be  
14                  licensed by -- yeah, well, if they are  
15                  licensed by the Public Utility Commission,  
16                  yes.

17                  MR. TALIMINI: Thank you. Because I  
18                  have had several people ask if they could.  
19                  I said I don't know, I'd check into it.

20                  MR. MINORA: Public Utility  
21                  Commission.

22                  MR. TALIMINI: But, I just thought it  
23                  was something that council should be aware  
24                  of and I think that something should be done  
25                  because I don't think it's up to a police

1 officer to ask me if I have a money if he  
2 calls a cab for me. I mean, that's not what  
3 we are paying him for. The cab company is  
4 making money, that's incumbent upon them to  
5 find out whether the customer has money or  
6 not. That's all I have to say and thank you  
7 very much and I hope you clarify this  
8 aromatherapy situation.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Talimini.

10 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Talimini, just so  
11 you know, I did see an advertisement where  
12 they got money from, I don't know what  
13 organization, but they were giving free  
14 vouchers for taxi cabs so I wonder --

15 MR. TALIMINI: I had 38 e-mail  
16 messages yesterday and today people from out  
17 of town who could not get a cab to get back  
18 out to the Hampton Inn and places --

19 MS. GATELLI: I'll have to try see  
20 where that ad was and tell them that they  
21 couldn't get taxis.

22 MR. TALIMINI: And, you know, it's  
23 ridiculous because these people come here  
24 every year and get the same routine and it  
25 happens with the local citizens at well.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

2 MR. TALIMINI: I mean, there is  
3 something radically wrong.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

5 MS. HAAS: Good evening. My name is  
6 Mary Ann Haas, and I'd like to bring to the  
7 attention of city council board here  
8 something that I think we all need to be  
9 concerned about, whether it's Scranton,  
10 Taylor, Moosic, Minooka, Old Forge, West  
11 Scranton, South Scranton, I take it all in.  
12 And, of course, there is a misconception in  
13 the newspaper and so forth that this  
14 particular thing that I will bring up only  
15 takes in Taylor, but after I explain this  
16 I'm sure you will see differently.

17 I'm concerned about the proposed  
18 Ethanol plant and refinery that has been  
19 brought to the attention only through  
20 Taylor, and Taylor has been meeting  
21 consistently on this right now and I think  
22 they have just taken it in hand and has been  
23 doing wonderful work, but they can't do it  
24 alone nor could they have to because, first  
25 of all, the misconception is Taylor,

1                   however, the good portion of the land is  
2                   Scranton. And, as a matter of fact, the  
3                   last meeting that I went to, although it's  
4                   been bandied about Taylor, Taylor, Taylor,  
5                   the city council president actually said  
6                   when he was pressed to the point of where it  
7                   would be he said behind anthracite. Now  
8                   that is fully Scranton.

9                   Not that it matters, because this  
10                  cluster takes in everything, the effects of  
11                  this particular refinery, really if there is  
12                  any particular hazard or detriment that  
13                  comes prosecute if will be spread out over  
14                  all of these towns that I personally  
15                  mentioned.

16                 Now, first of all, I would like to  
17                 say that it's closer. This is a plant that  
18                 was rejected in Mayfield and by the efforts  
19                 of some very courageous people who just  
20                 never quit and it's closer than Mayfield,  
21                 and will sit right here in the middle of a  
22                 cluster of urban areas right next to  
23                 Steamtown, I mean, next to Wal-Mart. I  
24                 mean, I don't even know what that will do to  
25                 the Wall-Mart project if they really become

1                   understanding that it's that close to them

2 if it's their whole trade and the rest of  
3 the stores that might be affected.

4 I would like to say now, sorry to go  
5 on, but I need to get my head together.  
6 This is an inappropriate site for many  
7 reasons especially because it's close to  
8 neighbors and homes and businesses;  
9 secondly, because of the hazard, the high  
10 potential for hazard and the hazards are,  
11 the mines. There is a whole cluster on  
12 honeycomb mines all under that area, and  
13 that honeycomb mines I can vouch for myself,  
14 this was actually mine fires at that time, I  
15 used to look out my window and it used to  
16 look beautiful. I mean, actually the whole  
17 area was just covered with beautiful blue  
18 flames. What did I know?

19 But, anyway, those were fires and  
20 they were able to put them out, but should  
21 this particular thing go there and the fire  
22 would be -- a fire would come forward, this  
23 can ignite the situation again. And then,  
24 of course, we are saying about what the  
25 product is. It's Ethanol fire. Ethanol.

1 Ethanol has a great potential for fire. The

2 set point of the fire as it comes out is  
3 extremely low. It can't be put out with  
4 water, it needs special foam. You can't  
5 determine what kind of foam it is sometime  
6 until the fire rages, so that you can have  
7 all of this foam in storage and then all of  
8 a sudden found out you have the wrong one  
9 and you really up a creek especially for  
10 those poor fire departments that are going  
11 to be faced with that calamity.

12 There is no real plan for an access  
13 road to come into that area and people have  
14 bandied about and said where would it  
15 possibly even come in. The only road that  
16 goes into that, you know, of any great  
17 degree is the one that comes out on Elm  
18 Street where all the trucks will come out  
19 but that's not an access road for this  
20 department.

21 I was really surprised, too, when  
22 you said there was a plan for two less fire  
23 departments. This would be even more  
24 hazardous to us. There is also special  
25 training that needs to be done for fire

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1 departments. There is an expense that you  
2 say to yourself to whose benefit is this?

3 I think one of the things when you  
4 even determine whether there is some city  
5 zoning change is to what benefit would you  
6 change a zone that would benefit the  
7 community? This would not benefit the  
8 community and will put it at great hazardous  
9 risk.

10 You also need an evacuation plan,  
11 and if you think about it, just a few weeks  
12 ago, maybe less than two weeks ago, there  
13 was a train derailment right off the  
14 expressway, and two cars tipped over and  
15 they lost 12 Escalades, Cadillac Escalades,  
16 but the next car had it tipped over would  
17 have warranted an evacuation, because it  
18 had just the one car would have created that  
19 kind of a hazard with the stuff that would  
20 go into the environment.

21 Now, in this case the storage tanks  
22 on the land that would be projected -- can I  
23 just finish this little --

24 MR. MCGOFF: Finish, please.

25 MS. HAAS: It would be two

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1 three-quarter million gallons storage tanks  
2 of this highly excessive fuel. The rail



3 exit, you can't depend on the DPW because  
4 the DPW has lowered their standards from 150  
5 ton of pollutants that go out into the air  
6 to 250 to accommodate businesses. And,  
7 also, it's not zoned for this, that's the  
8 bottom line. We would have to change zoning  
9 which would be foolish to do. Lackawanna  
10 County Planning Commission did not give a  
11 recommendation for this already for Taylor.

12 Remember this is not limited to  
13 Taylor, there is strength in numbers, and if  
14 anyone would like to be kept informed about  
15 this issue they can e-mail us at  
16 [\[email protected\]](#) And,  
17 please, we need to get together as a  
18 combined community and so there is Ethanol  
19 meetings on this, you know, as a kick off  
20 for us, would be in Taylor next Tuesday,  
21 March 24, at the Borough building in Taylor,  
22 and that's off Union Street, you know,  
23 before you go up to Davis Street and they  
24 let everyone speak so this Ethanol plant  
25 will be a high priority, and then there is

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1 two following that April 7 and April 8, both  
2 at 7:30, all of them are at 7:30, so it's  
3 next Wednesday -- Tuesday the 24th, the

4 following 7th and 8th is the council meeting  
5 and the work session. I hope I'm not  
6 confusing about these meetings I just came  
7 up with them now, but I really ask all of  
8 our city residents and surrounding  
9 communities to get involved. Thank you very  
10 much.

11 MS. MCGOFF: Thank you, Ms. Haas.

12 MS. GATELLI: Maryann, I left a  
13 message at the house, but I didn't hear back  
14 from you and I announced earlier, and you  
15 weren't here yet, we are having a meeting  
16 Wednesday at Smith's at 5:30 with Minooka,  
17 South Side and West Side.

18 MS. HAAS: And there is so much more  
19 information about this. It's just we  
20 can't --

21 MS. GATELLI: Please try to make it.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anyone else?

23 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.  
24 My name is Nancy Krake. First I would just  
25 like to remind everyone that if you would

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1 like to pay your 2008 city real estate taxes  
2 you can still do so in our office up until  
3 March 31.

4 I would also like to make just a few  
5 comments. When several of the speakers were  
6 mentioning the increased revenue from the  
7 Single Tax Office I would like to remind  
8 everyone that Mrs. Evans' budgets included  
9 them and they also included pay cuts for  
10 administrative people that have received  
11 them over the years. They were truly  
12 balanced budgets which no one on this  
13 council besides Mr. Courtright supported.

14 There was an article in the Times  
15 Leader where DCED, the Department of  
16 Community and Economic Development made  
17 several, you know, basically they lie. You  
18 know, I don't like to say that, but they  
19 did. As far as administrative people  
20 receiving salary increases and so forth, I'd  
21 like to refer to an article in the Scranton  
22 Times November of 2005. Our human resources  
23 director actually decided to take to  
24 arbitration maternity leave of the clerical  
25 contract. The city loss. Mrs. Moran

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1 received \$5,236 for a 12-week maternity  
2 leave that she rewarded to herself after the  
3 clerks won the award that she fought. Also,  
4 another administrative person was awarded

5 that same thing. That was also after she  
6 had been working from home and had already  
7 been paid, let's see, several thousand  
8 dollars for working at home and coming into  
9 evening meetings while she was on the leave.

10 So that's a huge violation of the  
11 Recovery Plan which says: "Whatever the  
12 terms of future collective bargaining  
13 agreements, arbitration awards, etcetera, no  
14 back wages or other retroactive adjustments  
15 shall be paid."

16 So the administration violated their  
17 own Recovery Plan. And speaking of  
18 Mrs. Moran, there are not supposed to be any  
19 wage increases, she has received well over  
20 \$100,000 since 2002 in strictly wage  
21 increases. If her salary had been frozen  
22 like police and fire that number would not  
23 exist. Half of that \$26 million difference  
24 between the budgets when this mayor came in  
25 and up until now the eight years, half of

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1 that are increases to administrative people.  
2 DCED lied. Flat out. If anyone would like  
3 to investigate this we have all of the facts  
4 and figures unlike them.

5                   This mayor has given you a  
6                   25 percent tax increase, so have people on  
7                   this council, huge penalties and fines you  
8                   must pay to a law firm and a collection  
9                   agency when you can't pay your own taxes.  
10                  The only way to stop this is to not vote for  
11                  these people again. You are only affirming  
12                  what they have done to us in the past eight  
13                  years, and obviously from the speakers we  
14                  have heard tonight, the things they are  
15                  taking away are your fire protection and  
16                  your police protection. This is no way to  
17                  choose how to pay our city debts and how to  
18                  use our tax dollars. This is no way to run  
19                  a city. Thank you.

20                         MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.

21                         MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening. Nelson  
22                         Ancherani, First Amendment Rights. Last  
23                         week I spoke about Fred Redding from the PA  
24                         Economy League, is that an oxymoron when I  
25                         state that? If they were an Economy League

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1                         I would assume, and there I go again making  
2                         a donkey out of you and me, I assume that  
3                         they would have the best interest of the  
4                         taxpayers at heart, but then again, if they  
5                         didn't have the administration at heart they

6                   wouldn't have jobs. Reddings letter to the  
7                   Taxpayers' Association sparked my interest  
8                   since in previous years I worked out the pie  
9                   charts for the budgeted years. I hadn't  
10                  gotten around to it this year until  
11                  Redding's letter said the police and fire  
12                  departments were 49 percent of the budget,  
13                  so I decided to figure it out.

14                         Stu made it easy when he just put  
15                         the individual departments in the pie. It  
16                         was easy to figure out each department's  
17                         budget. In previous years when I figured  
18                         out the expenditures pie chart, each  
19                         department was inflated by higher  
20                         percentages, which meant that the pie charts  
21                         percentages were higher than the amount in  
22                         the budget pages for the listed pie chart  
23                         slices. This made the total amounts higher  
24                         in the pie chart than on the actual pages of  
25                         the budget thereby causing a difference in

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1                   the pie chart budget total.

2                         The previous years differences were  
3                         the totals of the tax anticipation notes.  
4                         This year the budget does not include the  
5                         words excluding tax anticipation notes. The

6 expenditure pie chart this year again  
7 inflates the pie slices. Police and fire  
8 come in at 35 percent of the budget, not 49  
9 going from 38 million to 27 million, a  
10 difference of 11 million. Again, this year  
11 all of the slices, the pie slices, are  
12 inflated. The difference this year totals  
13 \$23,998,000 in change. This totals the  
14 nondepartmental expenditures which aren't  
15 even listed in the pie chart.

16 Did you three, Mrs. Gatelli, who I  
17 believe is the finance chair, Ms. Fanucci  
18 and Mr. McGoff know that when you voted on  
19 the budget? Does anyone know why  
20 nondepartmental expenditures are not listed  
21 on the pie chart? Approximately 24 million  
22 is a lot of money to not list it as a slice  
23 of the pie. If I was conspiracy theorists,  
24 which I'm not, I would be thinking inflating  
25 the pie chart slices would make the police

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1 and fire and for that matter all of the  
2 departments in this city, including the  
3 mayor's, look like they were spending more  
4 for employee services than they are, thus  
5 being able to keep us in distressed status.

6 But then again, why is a

7 nondepartmental expenditures not included on  
8 the pie chart as it's own slice?  
9 Twenty-four million is a lot of money.  
10 Divide that up amongst the departments and  
11 they are really inflated. In year's past,  
12 the pie slices were inflated, but the total  
13 difference equal the tax anticipation notes.  
14 As Mrs. Evans would say, "It doesn't pass  
15 the smelly taste."

16 Nondepartmental expenditures are  
17 approximately 31 percent of the budget.  
18 They are not employee-related costs. Some  
19 examples are the Everhart museum, Genesis  
20 Wildlife refuge, and I wonder if the monkeys  
21 are watching Dancing with the Stars on their  
22 TV's, and it includes \$22,393,017 to debt  
23 service in TANS. That leaves 69 percent for  
24 the service end of the city duties, wages,  
25 supplies, electricity, and any of numerous

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1 supplies needed to run the service industry,  
2 which the city isn't.

3 Mrs. Gatelli, as finance chair, she  
4 not there, can you find out why  
5 nondepartmental expenditures are hidden in  
6 the budget pie slices and don't have their



7 own slice of the pipe? I also thought of  
8 something else, Mrs. Gatelli as finance  
9 chair since you and Ms. Fanucci and  
10 Mr. McGoff voted for a budget that is being  
11 plugged with the expectation of 5.5 million  
12 in found money in the Single Tax Office, how  
13 would you handle the budget for 2010 if that  
14 money is it not materialize from the tax  
15 office?

16 Without that money from the tax  
17 office we will have a 5.5 million deficit  
18 this year and going into next year. We will  
19 have at least a 11 million deficit, possibly  
20 15 million. Would you raise taxes the  
21 second 25 percent and third 25 percent that  
22 PEL and the mayor said was needed and wanted  
23 for 2008/2009? Would you borrow more money,  
24 but that might not be possible with the  
25 economy. Can I finish just a little bit?

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1 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

2 MR. ANCHERANI: But that might be  
3 impossible with the economy the way it is.  
4 We are all already at 300 million of  
5 long-term debt. Please don't say that it  
6 too early to start thinking about the 2010  
7 budget. It is only eight months away. I

8 know that the taxpayers out there are  
9 thinking about it so, Council, what will you  
10 do? Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.  
12 Ancherani? Anyone else? Mrs. Evans?

13 MS. EVANS: Good evening. I wish to  
14 apologize for my absence from the last two  
15 week's meetings. I was ill and unable to  
16 attend school, council, and all public  
17 functions during that time. I do recognize  
18 the importance of my duties and  
19 responsibilities and will never take them  
20 lightly.

21 First, I was contacted by residents  
22 of the Matthew Avenue area regarding the  
23 chemical spraying of vegetation by PPL in  
24 their area. I support their opposition to  
25 such measures and will attend all meetings

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1 that they request to stand with them and  
2 help them fight this health and safety  
3 issue.

4 Next, I have also been in regular  
5 contact with residents of West Scranton,  
6 Bellevue, and South Side who adamantly  
7 oppose the construction of an Ethanol plant

8 behind the site of the new Wal-Mart and  
9 adjoining shopping mall.

10 I understand that East Elm Street  
11 between South Washington Avenue and the Elm  
12 Street viaduct will be used as an access  
13 road to this plant which intends to produce  
14 Ethanol, jet fuel and diesel fuel. There  
15 will be at least one and possibly two  
16 70-foot high holding tanks on the site which  
17 is not far from the Lackawanna River as well  
18 as railroad tracks running through the area.

19 Residents of Taylor await the  
20 decision of the Taylor council since the  
21 Taylor planning commission would not rule on  
22 the installation of this plant. No  
23 legislation has reached Scranton to date and  
24 I would anticipate that Mr. Scheller will  
25 contact Scranton's governing bodies to

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1 present information and requests, and was  
2 mentioned earlier, there will be a meeting  
3 Wednesday at 5:30 at Smith's restaurant to  
4 discuss the impact of an Ethanol plant on  
5 Scranton and I believe that Mr. Scheller,  
6 CEO of Northeast Ethanol will attend.

7 I encourage residents of South Side,  
8 Minooka, West Scranton and Bellevue to

9 attend. Scrantonians deserve to know the  
10 impact of this plant on our neighborhoods  
11 because we know that you cannot put a price  
12 tag on good health and human life.  
13 Northeastern Pennsylvania already suffers  
14 from an alarmingly and abnormally high  
15 cancer rate and we can ill afford to add to  
16 that tract. There is strength in numbers  
17 and in knowledge, so please try to attend.

18 About two weeks ago council accepted  
19 minutes of the police and firemen's pension  
20 committee meetings for January 2009. As I  
21 scanned those meeting minutes, I was  
22 troubled to see the number of highly  
23 experienced police officers who were leaving  
24 the Scranton Police Department and the  
25 number of experienced firefighters who are

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1 applying to buy back time in order to make  
2 arrangements to leave their jobs as well.  
3 The exodus from our police department isn't  
4 news to anyone, but it seems now to be  
5 spreading to our fire department.

6 Our community has lost dedicated  
7 veteran police officers to neighboring  
8 communities and the state police force

9                   mainly because the seven-year stretch of low  
10                   pay and the lower moral could no longer be  
11                   survived and now it inoculates the fire  
12                   department.

13                                 In this case I have to wonder if we  
14                   are losing some of our most experienced  
15                   firemen not only because of the contract  
16                   unrest, but also because veterans are trying  
17                   to provide for over 30 of their newer  
18                   brothers and coworkers who stand to lose  
19                   their jobs as the mayor cuts manpower and  
20                   closes engine companies. Some call this  
21                   progress. I'd like to know how many  
22                   taxpayers agree to downsize safety in their  
23                   neighborhoods in the name of progress. Do  
24                   the people who pay the bills have a voice in  
25                   these cuts? Do you even have a voice in the

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1                   stimulus package and how it's spent locally?  
2                   Do you choose a library or streets, curbs  
3                   and bridges, for example? Do you choose  
4                   upper level housing and more office space in  
5                   the downtown or your neighborhood? And the  
6                   Scranton State School for the Deaf, do you  
7                   chose public safety or highly paid  
8                   management? Tax increases or fiscal  
9                   restraint?



10 colleagues, Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs. Fanucci  
11 and Mr. McGoff were not in support of this  
12 legislation, and so we'll send the letter  
13 simply on behalf of myself.

14 I would also support the  
15 resurrection of a City Home Rule Charter  
16 Commission and any efforts made to control  
17 excessive tax increases in Scranton. It is  
18 one way to reign in the borrowing and  
19 spending habits of a mayor who creates  
20 massive debt.

21 On an encouraging note, two local  
22 rainbows have appeared lately after a  
23 lengthy storm, the federal stimulus package  
24 will provide 2.5 million in much needed  
25 funding to the Scranton Housing Authority

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1 for the renovation of the Washington Plaza  
2 apartments. Many families have waited far  
3 to long to return to their neighborhood.

4 In addition, Scranton will receive  
5 46,000 to purchase two emergency flood pumps  
6 and \$3,700 for a sprayer for vegetation  
7 control from a state flood grant. I do hope  
8 these flood pumps will be used for the areas  
9 of lower Greenridge where the city has  
10 failed to provide protection on river banks

11 for the last two years as the federal flood  
12 project continues in the Parker Street area  
13 which continued to suffer, although the Plot  
14 flood projects was completed.

15 As Mrs. Gatelli mentioned before,  
16 the audit report of the Scranton Tax Office  
17 will be read this Friday, March 20.

18 Although several postponements occurred in  
19 the last three weeks, the forensic auditors  
20 will present their findings to the  
21 stakeholders, that would be representatives  
22 of the county, of the city, the mayor and  
23 city council specifically, and the Scranton  
24 School Board, and legal representatives of  
25 each, and then the report will be released

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1 publically on the Scranton Tax Office  
2 website.

3 In addition, I hope that  
4 Mr. Seitzinger will soon implement the  
5 Pennsylvania Blight Law which allows judges  
6 to appoint conservators who can facilitate  
7 the rehabilitation of decaying properties  
8 that have been vacant for a year and where  
9 the owner is absent. Scranton has far too  
10 much these properties, many of which have



11                   been abandoned for many, many years. The  
12                   neighbors are at wit's end waiting for a  
13                   resolution to these eyesores and safety  
14                   hazards.

15                   And I do have, as you can imagine, a  
16                   very lengthy list of citizens' requests that  
17                   I have acquired over the last two and a half  
18                   weeks. If you will excuse me I'm not going  
19                   to read them tonight, but I will pass them  
20                   onto Neil, who is a very good assistant, and  
21                   ask Neil that all of these letters be sent  
22                   out this week, and that's it.

23                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Mrs.  
24                   Gatelli?

25                   MS. GATELLI: I heard from Attorney

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1                   Penetar as you know, we have been asking for  
2                   some amendments and ideas from people that  
3                   would like to see some changes to the zoning  
4                   ordinance. Two of the items were pole barns  
5                   and garages and windmills, those were the  
6                   first two that were brought to my attention.  
7                   The other ones that were brought by the  
8                   zoning board were stand alone signs in a  
9                   neighborhood commercial zone, reduce the  
10                  height to 25 feet; restrict recycling  
11                  collection centers to light industrial zones

12 and general industrial zones, 500 feet from  
13 residential lot lines. Change to one  
14 commercial vehicle under 6,000 pounds in a  
15 residential zone to be parked. No trailers  
16 to be parked in a residential zone. No  
17 trailers within 500 feet of a residential  
18 lot line. Outdoor storage, require paved  
19 surfaces or a plan approved by the city  
20 engineer. Tires, reduce the number from 250  
21 to address service stations. Multi-family  
22 homes change to all existing dwellings,  
23 Section 402.1, and no parking in the front  
24 setbacks. Site distances at intersections,  
25 excessive restructures, reduce the maximum

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1 height. If anyone has any other  
2 recommendations before I send these to  
3 Attorney Penetar to work on, please notify  
4 Mrs. Garvey.

5 Also, I did send a letter to  
6 Mr. Beasley at PPL, have not heard back from  
7 him yet concerning the spraying of  
8 herbicides in the Matthew Avenue section of  
9 the City of Scranton and also in other areas  
10 where they intend to spray with herbicides.  
11 I will keep you posted when we hear that.

12 I just wanted to give you an update  
13 on houses that have been rehabilitated. It  
14 seems that we hear all negative things from  
15 these chambers, and I'd like to bring to  
16 your attention some of the positives things  
17 that have been happening. Our HOME program,  
18 our subrecipient for that is Neighborhood  
19 Housing Services of Lackawanna County. They  
20 have been the subrecipient since 2004.  
21 There have been 66 homes have been  
22 rehabilitated and that includes lead-based  
23 paint abatement. The total amount of  
24 funding that was spent for housing  
25 rehabilitation was 1.242 million dollars.

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1 The City of Scranton's emergency rehab  
2 program is funded under CDBG in the amount  
3 of \$124,000 and has provided assistance to 22  
4 households.

5 Also, they have put out to bid  
6 paving of city streets to include  
7 handicapped curb cuts, and I would just like  
8 to briefly read a list of the streets:

9 Twenty-two, 23 and 2,400 of Amelia  
10 Avenue in the Plot Section; four, five and  
11 600 of Grace Street in the Plot Section,  
12 Shawnee over from Race to Bates; four and

13 five of Depot; 1,000 of Hemlock; eight and  
14 nine of Adams; Vine Street between Penn and  
15 Mulberry behind the Veteran's Hospital; 100  
16 of Spruce; Eleven and 12 of Swetland;  
17 Sixteen of Muncy; 300 of Filmore and the 500  
18 of North Sumner, and there will be more when  
19 the stimulus package is approved. One of  
20 the areas where they are going to focus is  
21 on paving of city streets, so we are  
22 certainly looking forward to that.

23 Also, when the gentleman spoke about  
24 taxi cabs, there is a service from the  
25 county, and I don't have the phone number at

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1 hand, but I will ask Kay to get it for us  
2 for next week, the county provides a service  
3 with their vans where they will pick up  
4 people, especially in the elderly  
5 high-rises, and take them to doctor's  
6 appointments and places where they have to  
7 go, so maybe they don't know about that  
8 service and that's why they are waiting for  
9 taxi cabs. It is a free service. It is  
10 provided by the county, and I will have the  
11 number for you next week. In the mean time,  
12 you might want to call the county

13 commissioner's office and they will tell you  
14 where you can call to get the van to take  
15 you back and forth to the doctor.

16 As far as the Ethanol plant, I  
17 attended a meeting this past week with the  
18 Minooka Neighborhood Association and  
19 previous to that we had some people from  
20 Taylor attending our last South Side  
21 neighborhood meeting, which was the end of  
22 February, and we have since found out many  
23 things about the Ethanol plant, and the fact  
24 that it is not zoned for the City of  
25 Scranton. I did check the zoning maps, it's

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1 light industrial, and it is not permitted in  
2 that particular area, however, it may be  
3 permitted in the Taylor side, so we need to  
4 all rally together and support this. It may  
5 not effect everyone in the City of Scranton,  
6 but it certainly will effect a great portion  
7 of our community and we would not want it  
8 anywhere else in our community either, so  
9 please try to attend on Wednesday evening.

10 The owner, CEO of Northeast Ethanol,  
11 will be there to make a presentation and  
12 certainly to answer some of our questions  
13 that we have. I have also contacted people

14 in Taylor to make them aware of the that  
15 they are certainly welcome to come to our  
16 informational meeting, and that's all I  
17 have. Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, one thing  
19 then I'll be quiet. Kay, could we find out  
20 first thing tomorrow what engine companies  
21 the mayor intends to close?

22 MS. GARVEY: Okay.

23 MS. EVANS: And on what study he is  
24 basing his decision or on who is  
25 recommendation he is basing his decision?

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1 MS. GARVEY: Okay.

2 MS. EVANS: Thanks. And I just  
3 wanted to very much thank my colleagues  
4 tonight on council for their very kind  
5 consideration of my situation tonight. I  
6 really appreciate it very much. Thank each  
7 and every one of you.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Fanucci.

9 MS. FANUCCI: I have one request, we  
10 have had this request probably about 50  
11 times since I have been here, but it's for a  
12 four-way stop sign on East Gibson and North  
13 Webster, and every time we talk about this

14 we say, you know, that they don't want to do  
15 four-way stop signs anymore, but there have  
16 been so many accidents there lately that the  
17 residents are actually really starting to be  
18 afraid and because people are using this  
19 route to go to the hospitals and they are  
20 flying down the street and there is  
21 millions, you know, besides the traffic, but  
22 the children. There is tons of children  
23 around there, so I think that maybe send a  
24 letter to the mayor's office and ask him if  
25 we can do something with the attorneys

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1 because what they are saying now is that  
2 four-way stop signs are actually not allowed  
3 for some reason, I guess there is some new  
4 law, but if there is something we could do  
5 to try to get four-way stop signs if we can.

6 I also want to thank the fire -- or  
7 the policemen and woman for all that they  
8 did on Saturday. We had that many wonderful  
9 people in our city and it was a pleasure to  
10 be there and watch and everybody was safe  
11 and had a good time and it was not, I'm sure  
12 not an easy task to make it look as  
13 wonderful as it ended to be. The event was  
14 great and I'm just happy and want to thank

15                   them for all that they do because without  
16                   them it would not have worked out.

17                   I also want to send a letter because  
18                   of Mr. Ancherani's -- since this is a very  
19                   good idea to talk about the monies that will  
20                   be coming in and what we could do to plug  
21                   the hole in the budget that we talked about.  
22                   I'd like a letter to Stu Renda and also the  
23                   Single Tax Office. I did request this a few  
24                   weeks ago, but I'm going to go into a little  
25                   bit more in detail to provide an anticipated

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1                   of tax revenue that would be coming in from  
2                   the KOZ and the KOEZ in 2010 and 2012. That  
3                   way we can figure out what we are looking at  
4                   and what we are hoping for and maybe reap  
5                   some benefits of, you know, that we waited  
6                   long to see how much is going to come in so  
7                   I want to send that letter, and I was going  
8                   to do the housing rehab so I'm glad you did  
9                   that because that is something that every  
10                  week we hear that we do not do this, and we  
11                  do that to the city so that's wonderful, and  
12                  that is all I have. Thank you.

13                  MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. I, too,  
14                  would like to commend the St. Patrick's Day



15 Parade Committee for a wonderful event.  
16 Over 11,000 participants in the parade  
17 itself, some people may have found it a  
18 little lengthy. It ran for almost close to  
19 four hours from beginning to end, but the  
20 parade itself was a great event and the  
21 streets are filled with families and  
22 enjoying the parade and I realize that are  
23 some after effects of the parade, but the  
24 event itself I think is one of the best  
25 things that we do in this city and so my

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1 thanks to that parade committee for what  
2 they have done and what they do ever year.

3 And last thing, I would just like to  
4 apologize to Danielle and Company and the  
5 owner for the statements that were made  
6 concerning their business, concerning the  
7 owner and that business. And, yes, I did  
8 respond to the statements because they were  
9 preposterous. The statements they were  
10 simply try to demonize a reputable business  
11 and its owner, and I don't think that that's  
12 necessary. Statements of that type are  
13 unwarranted, they are misleading, and they  
14 have really no place in this chamber. It  
15 was pure hyperbole and somehow we let it

16 influence us and maybe brought a, you know,  
17 person's reputation into question and for  
18 that I apologize.

19 And I have never -- I have never  
20 insulted or been disrespectful to a person  
21 in these chambers. I don't intend to be, I  
22 don't think it's a place for that type of  
23 behavior. I don't know that the same can be  
24 said of all of the speakers that come to  
25 that podium, but I will attempt at all times

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1 to treat everyone with the respect that's  
2 due to them as members of this community and  
3 as people participating in government in  
4 these chambers, and I take it personally  
5 when that is brought into question. And  
6 thank you and we have nothing else? Motion  
7 to adjourn.

8 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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