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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

LOCATION:

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

MR. ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

MS. JUDY GATELLI, VICE-PRESIDENT  
(Not present.)

MS. JANET E. EVANS

MS. SHERRY FANUCCI

MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

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. Ms.  
7 Fanucci.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Let the record  
13 reflect that Mrs. Gatelli is in New York  
14 with her husband for medical reasons. She  
15 had asked that we move the meeting, but  
16 there was no other night that was convenient  
17 for other council members, so she will be  
18 unable to attend. We have a proclamation to  
19 present.

20 MS. EVANS: Well, Brian, it's with  
21 great pleasure that I'm going to present  
22 this to you, tonight. I'm so proud of you  
23 and I have been for several years, but you  
24 really embody what the Scranton School  
25 District is all about. You are the best of

1 us.

2 "WHEREAS, the COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
3 SCRANTON is desirous of honoring "BRIAN  
4 SHOENER" for his many social and academic  
5 achievements; and.

6 WHEREAS, "BRIAN" is the Class  
7 Valedictorian of the Scranton High School  
8 Class of 20098 a member of the National  
9 Honor Society, Captain of the Scholastic  
10 Bowl Team, a National Merit Commended  
11 Student and Scranton High School's Scholar  
12 of the Year; and.

13 WHEREAS, "BRIAN" President of the  
14 School Orchestra has studied piano for 15  
15 years being a Paderewski medal recipient,  
16 performed in Carnegie Hall in addition to  
17 having an original composition performed at  
18 Yale University. "BRIAN" also studied the  
19 cello for 4 years; and.

20 WHEREAS, "BRIAN" is a member of the  
21 Hickory Street Presbyterian Youth Group, a  
22 member of the Board of Council and performed  
23 service time on the Lakota Indian  
24 Reservation in Montana assisting in  
25 rebuilding parts of the church; and.

1                   WHEREAS, "BRIAN" a Jack Kent Cooke  
2                   Young Scholar is a recipient of the Jack  
3                   Kent Cooke College Scholarship given to only  
4                   30 students across the country which  
5                   entitles him to a full scholarship to a  
6                   college of his choice where he plans to  
7                   study Civil Engineering; and.

8                   WHEREAS, "BRIAN" has been accepted  
9                   at Bucknell University, MIT, Carnegie Mellon  
10                  University, Lehigh University and Cornell  
11                  University; and.

12                  WHEREAS, "BRIAN" is the son of Susan  
13                  and Darwin Shoener, of Scranton;

14                  NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that  
15                  on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, Scranton City  
16                  Council wishes to congratulate "BRIAN  
17                  SHOENER", and his parents, on his  
18                  outstanding achievements and extend our best  
19                  wishes for success in all his future  
20                  endeavors.

21                  BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this  
22                  Proclamation be made a permanent part of the  
23                  Minutes of the Council, as lasting tribute  
24                  to "BRIAN SHOENER".

25                  MS. EVANS: It is truly wonderful to

1 present a proclamation to a young man for  
2 academic and humanitarian achievement  
3 outside of athletic achievement. They, too,  
4 are noteworthy, but all too often I think  
5 the public disregards what is also very,  
6 very important and I'm sure he will be a  
7 leader of his community in the future.  
8 Brian, would you like to say something?

9 MR. SHOENER: No.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Third order, Mrs.  
11 Garvey.

12 MS. GARVEY: 3-A. CITY OF SCRANTON,  
13 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
14 DECEMBER 31, 2008.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
16 If not, received and filed.

17 MS. GARVEY: That's it for Third  
18 Order.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Prior to citizens'  
20 participation just a number of things that  
21 I'd like to announce that speakers have  
22 brought up in the past, so that if anyone  
23 would care to comment during civic  
24 participation they may. The first had to do  
25 with the meeting with Judge Minora

7

1 concerning the Tripp Park development and

2 his order on and the stopping of or the stay  
3 of permits, building permits in that area.  
4 At this meeting attended by the attorneys  
5 for both sides in the suit and also by  
6 members of the city, what was finally  
7 decided was that because there were some  
8 issues that Judge Minora had not considered  
9 and were announced or enunciated during that  
10 meeting he asked that a proposal be drawn up  
11 by the attorneys that they could agree to  
12 that would set some guidelines for areas of  
13 concern and that once this proposal was  
14 drawn up and agreed to by the attorneys it  
15 would then be signed by Attorney Minora --  
16 or by Judge Minora, excuse me, and this  
17 would be done hopefully the date set for it  
18 was May 8.

19 All of the parties were amenable to  
20 that and it seemed to -- and the meeting  
21 ended with that with the proposals being  
22 sent out by May 1 and then May 8 became the  
23 time when it would be his -- Judge Minora's  
24 decision would be then amended according to  
25 those proposals.

8

1 The second thing, we did receive --

2 some people had been asking about the North  
3 Scranton Junior High School and what was  
4 taking place there. We did receive a letter  
5 from Mr. Langan that answered three things:  
6 It said, "Be advised that the gate in front  
7 of the building was damaged three different  
8 times by automobiles running into the gate.  
9 It was fixed once, we were in the process of  
10 fixing it a second time when it was hit  
11 again."

12 They are now in the process of  
13 securing bids to fix it and it will be fixed  
14 very shortly. Until it is fixed, anyone  
15 interested in visiting the Veteran's  
16 memorial can access this from the Theodore  
17 Street entrance. The second thing was the  
18 North Scranton project is being done in two  
19 stages, stage one is the completion of the  
20 auditorium which will also include  
21 replacement of windows on all sides of  
22 building. Stage two will take place while  
23 stage one is being completed, and that will  
24 be the development of housing that is  
25 similar to the housing that exists now in

9

1 South Scranton. This should take -- it says  
2 this should take one year from the start



3 date to the completion, and also the last  
4 thing, "Please be advised that our building  
5 is checked twice a week to assure no  
6 homeless people have taken up residency.  
7 Also, residents living near the school call  
8 to report any problems and they are  
9 addressed immediately."

10 So, that for those people who had  
11 questions about the Goodwill building and  
12 dealing with Scranton Junior High those are  
13 the responses.

14 The last thing brought up last week  
15 about pipe lines being placed on Meadow  
16 Avenue. Mrs. Gatelli did do some research  
17 into that and found that they are gas lines  
18 that are being placed that will connect from  
19 I'll get the -- whatever, was it the  
20 Alliance Landfill?

21 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

22 MR. MCGOFF: From the Alliance  
23 Landfill to the Cogen plant in Archbald.  
24 They are designed to carry methane gas from  
25 the landfill to the Cogen plant where it is

10

1 then somehow transformed to electricity or  
2 use of energy. The methane lines that will

3 be -- although, they may be a little bit  
4 larger, they are -- it's the same type of  
5 line that is now in existence from the  
6 Keystone Landfill to the Cogen plant and  
7 that line has opinion in for 11 years and  
8 methane gas that will be carried is very  
9 similar to or natural -- to the natural gas  
10 lines that we have throughout the city are  
11 basically methane gas or much of it methane  
12 gas, and so they are very similar in nature.

13 The last thing that she asked was  
14 that she -- there is no -- she was unable to  
15 find out if there is any fee that can be  
16 assessed for these lines going through the  
17 city, that was going to be investigated and  
18 to see if that was something that could be  
19 done, and that is all I have, those three  
20 things. Mrs. Evans?

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. First, I  
22 would like to publically thank Mr. Langan  
23 for responding so promptly concerning  
24 Goodwill Industries project at North  
25 Scranton Junior High School. I had asked

11

1 for that response and an update concerning  
2 the phases of the project at last week's  
3 meeting and he did, indeed, provide a timely

4 response. Also, please remember in your  
5 prayers this week all who have died,  
6 particularly, Paul Steppacher, father of  
7 Scranton police officer, Katie Steppacher.  
8 Alexa Hoffman, mother of council speaker  
9 Charles Newcomb. Regina Pat, mother of Tony  
10 Pat, and wife Sue; Catherine Wexler, mother  
11 of Joe Wexler and wife Cathy, and all their  
12 dear familiar members and friends they leave  
13 behind.

14 Also, St. Peter and Paul Russian  
15 Orthodox Church, 1720 Academy Street, will  
16 conduct a baked haddock dinner on April 10  
17 from 4 to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$8 and  
18 takeouts are available.

19 The friends of the Scranton Knights  
20 will conduct their annual night at the races  
21 he raises on Saturday, April 18, at Holy  
22 Rosary Center from 7 to 11 p.m. to benefit  
23 the Scranton Knights football team. Tickets  
24 are \$10. Bring your friends and family to  
25 enjoy food, drinks, music and horse racing.

12

1 Also, on April 18, a night at the  
2 races will be held at Keyser Valley  
3 Community Center to benefit the West

4 Scranton High School baseball team. Tickets  
5 are also \$10 for this event which begins at  
6 7 p.m.

7 The PLCTA foundation Walk for  
8 Autism, will be held at Nay Aug Park on  
9 April 18 at 11:00. The booths and  
10 registration area will be located near the  
11 gazebo and a forum discussion of autism will  
12 begin at 10:30 a.m. please try to attend  
13 this worthy event to benefit autistic  
14 children in our community.

15 And, finally, the Upper Hill  
16 Ecumenical Committee invites you to take  
17 part in Friendly's Family Fun Night on  
18 Wednesday, April 22, from 5 to 8 p.m. a  
19 percentage of all food receipts will be  
20 donated to St. Francis of Assisi Food  
21 Kitchen. Your support for this worth  
22 project is greatly appreciated. And that's  
23 all.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Fourth  
25 order, citizens' participation. Les

13

1 Spindler.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.  
3 Les Spindler, city resident. First off, I'd  
4 like to thank everybody for their

5 thoughtful and sympathy over the loss of  
6 my mother, especially some council people.  
7 Mrs. Evans, thank you for your kind words  
8 last week. Mr. Courtright, thanks for  
9 coming to visit, and I'm sorry Mrs. Gatelli  
10 isn't here, we don't often see eye-to-eye,  
11 but I appreciate the sympathy card she sent  
12 so I hope she watches the replay.

13 Last week in the paper Mrs. Fanucci  
14 called for the resignation of Art Moran from  
15 the Democratic Committee because she wasn't  
16 endorsed and said she was discriminated  
17 against. I think the reason she wasn't  
18 endorsed is maybe because the terrible job  
19 she has done as a council person the last  
20 three plus years, and the next thing is to  
21 get endorsed you have to go and ask the  
22 Democratic Committee for their endorsement,  
23 which you didn't do, Mrs. Fanucci, so it  
24 wasn't discrimination. Mrs. Evans wasn't  
25 endorsed and she is not whining like a

14

1 two-year-old, so I think you should just  
2 grow up and act like a grownup.

3 MR. MCGOFF: That's out of order.

4 MS. FANUCCI: That's not city

5 business.

6 MR. MCGOFF: That's out of order, Mr.  
7 Spindler.

8 MR. SPINDLER: I don't think -- no,  
9 that's a fact.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Come on, Les.

11 MR. MCGOFF: That's out of order.  
12 Thank you.

13 MR. SPINDLER: Moving on, about these  
14 stolen signs again, on March 30 the DiBileo  
15 campaign sent a letter to the mayor and Ray  
16 Hayes to have the state police investigate  
17 the sign stealing because they think the  
18 Scranton police might have a conflict of  
19 interest and they do have an idea of who is  
20 doing the stealing, to date the mayor has to  
21 the asked the state police for their help.  
22 I wonder why. Maybe he doesn't want to know  
23 who is stealing the signs.

24 Next thing, Mr. McGoff, next time  
25 you have people coming in to speaking before

15

1 council could you make it in a caucus  
2 meeting before citizens' participation?  
3 When the tax collector and an attorney were  
4 here it was the most boring and  
5 uninformative 45 minutes I have ever been

6 here before, and I have been coming here to  
7 seven years, and the tax collector didn't  
8 even did all of the talking. The attorney  
9 did all of the talking and she stood in the  
10 back not saying a word. I think it was a --  
11 we know nothing more now than we did before  
12 that caucus.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Just for the record,  
14 they --

15 MR. SPINDLER: Could you do it after  
16 I'm done so --

17 MR. MCGOFF: You can hold the time.  
18 I'm just saying for the record they were not  
19 here at my request, they came --

20 MS. FANUCCI: We didn't ask them to  
21 come.

22 MR. SPINDLER: Well, then they should  
23 have waited in line just like everybody else  
24 does.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

16

1 MR. SPINDLER: They are not  
2 privileged people, they should sign in and  
3 talk like everyone else. Saturday Chris  
4 Doherty was in the Tripp Park section,  
5 stopped at my house and handing out

6 propaganda that he is not closing engine  
7 companies and that's an out and out lie  
8 because there is documentation that he said  
9 it last year he was going to close engine  
10 companies, Captain Schreiber had them when  
11 he was here two weeks ago, so why should we  
12 believe anything this mayor says. He said  
13 he was going to be a sixth council person,  
14 that's a lie. He was going to lower our  
15 wage tax, that was a lie. He said he was  
16 going to work closely with the unions,  
17 another lie. How can we trust anything this  
18 man says?

19 Finally, I sent a letter to the  
20 editor, to the Doherty newsletter, but they  
21 wouldn't put it in so I think I'll read it  
22 here at city council: "On Monday, March 23,  
23 2009, a local television station aired a  
24 report about political signs being stolen  
25 from private properties. They even showed

17

1 someone caught on tape stealing a sign on  
2 Harrison Avenue. The report showed many of  
3 these signs thrown into the Lackawanna River  
4 under the Market Street bridge. This is not  
5 only theft, but it is adding to the  
6 pollution of the river.



7                   When the station contacted Mayor  
8                   Doherty, he said it was just a political  
9                   distraction. Instead of the mayor saying he  
10                  doesn't condone behavior like this and tell  
11                  whoever is doing is to stop it he made it  
12                  political. The mayor's solicitor should  
13                  educate him on the laws and tell him if  
14                  someone trespasses on private property and  
15                  steals that's a crime, it's not a political  
16                  distraction. I hope whoever is doing this  
17                  is arrested and prosecuted."

18                  Now, there were about 70 DiBileo  
19                  signs stolen, there was one sign stolen of  
20                  the sheriff's opponent and the sheriff made  
21                  a comment: "Vandalism or theft of any  
22                  candidate's signs is something he neither  
23                  advocates or condones, Mr. Syzmanski said."

24                  That's because one sign was stolen.  
25                  There were 70 DiBileo signs stolen and Chris

18

1                  Doherty said it was a political distraction.  
2                  It figures, he makes everything political.  
3                  Thank you.

4                  MR. MCGOFF: Margaret Miller.

5                  MS. MILLER: I have some handouts.  
6                  Good evening. My name is Margaret Miller.

7 I'm of Native American descent out of  
8 Georgia, the Cherokee tribe. I run the  
9 Genesis Wildlife --

10 MS. FANUCCI: Is your mic on?

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Is that mic on, we  
12 can't hear you?

13 MS. MILLER: I run the Genesis  
14 Wildlife in Nay Aug Park and there has been  
15 a lot of battering in the news about it and  
16 a lot of things said and I'm here to speak  
17 on our behalf. First of all, we are not a  
18 zoo and a lot of people cannot get this into  
19 their head that we are not a zoo. We are a  
20 wildlife sanctuary. The animals that are in  
21 Nay Aug Park are animals that are unwanted,  
22 they have been confiscated by the game  
23 commission, animal rights groups, people  
24 that shouldn't have them, people that don't  
25 want them. They come to me with medical

19

1 problems, with psychological problems and a  
2 lot of other things and I try to help those  
3 animals out. I have been doing this for 30  
4 some years and I do feel like I know what  
5 I'm doing. When I first came in --

6 MS. FANUCCI: Can you close that  
7 door.

8 MS. MILLER: When I first cam into --

9 MS. FANUCCI: Hold on. Oh, you're  
10 bringing animals in.

11 MS. MILLER: What I have is some  
12 visuals here. When I first came into Nay  
13 Aug Park in Scranton the mayor actually did  
14 come down to my center, I was in there and  
15 they did ask me to come here up here, and I  
16 no longer have my buildings from coming into  
17 Nay Aug Park in Scranton so, therefore, I  
18 have no place to take my animals now. When  
19 I came in there in Nay Aug Park I was the  
20 first person, there was nothing there. The  
21 building was -- some people think it's  
22 really bad now, but the building was really  
23 bad and if any of you visited at that time,  
24 it was really bad and it took a lot of  
25 people, a lot of money and time to get it to

20

1 a point that it would pass inspection and  
2 bring the animals into Nay Aug Park and  
3 everything came in around me, and everything  
4 I think was held except the wildlife, and I  
5 totally understand where the people are  
6 coming from that they would want a nice  
7 building and I want the same things that

8 they want, but I don't think that my animals  
9 should suffer because, you know, what's  
10 going on here.

11 I have a really good working  
12 relationship with the state and federal and  
13 I have given you copies of my report  
14 reports, and they are there. The vet care,  
15 there is one thing that was mentioned in the  
16 paper that -- about the vet care and what  
17 happened, the thing that they were  
18 complaining about was I had to -- if any you  
19 are still have it --if any of you are  
20 family with the animals Sid is an old spider  
21 money that came from a zoo that retired him  
22 and at that time he was pretty sick and the  
23 veterinarian came up six consecutive times  
24 in a row and they had slipped the paper in  
25 the USDA federal report thing, and I though

21

1 I was doing them a favor by having a  
2 veterinarian and sign that paper each time  
3 they came when, in fact, it was mandatory to  
4 have him come every month. When Sid was  
5 well I didn't have him come and you know  
6 yourself if you have pets you go yearly to  
7 the vet for your shots and that's how it is  
8 at the wildlife. He comes yearly unless

9                   there was a problem. I am a veterinary  
10                   technician. I do the work myself. Robin is  
11                   here, she is a nurse, and she vaccinates.  
12                   We get the medicines, and the other thing  
13                   that was said about outdated medicines, I  
14                   had creams, eyedrops, some things that were  
15                   outdated and I think probably all of you  
16                   have some creams in your house that are  
17                   probably outdated. I have suntan lotion  
18                   things like that.

19                                 We did have one thing where that was  
20                   attached to the monkeys, it was Clavimox or  
21                   something in the refrigerator, my fault, I  
22                   didn't pull it out and throw it away. The  
23                   Chordata monkeys were put down, I didn't  
24                   need it anymore and I didn't think about it.  
25                   But they have made things into this major

22

1                   battery of things that has really attacked  
2                   the wildlife for no real reason. Can I have  
3                   a little more time to speak or --

4                                 MR. MCGOFF: Briefly.

5                                 MS. MILLER: No one goes in the with  
6                   a large cats, and no one goes in with the  
7                   primates unless they are staffed with the  
8                   wildlife and the bottom line is when I go

9 out of Nay Aug Park, now, I did not receive  
10 a written thing, but I was asked to start  
11 finding places for the animals, even if I  
12 find places, if other people find places  
13 they can't go and you will find that in  
14 there the game commission laws have changed,  
15 they have to be euthanized. They must be  
16 euthanized. It's not my law. I don't want  
17 it.

18 And the point of bringing Jerry is  
19 he gets euthanized. Jerry came from an  
20 animal auction, they drugged him out with a  
21 chain around his neck like in the slave days  
22 with his arm shaved, and I made sure --  
23 Jerry has been with me a long time. Pat,  
24 the bird, his owner was terminal and he  
25 place -- she placed Pep with me hoping that

23

1 Pep would the rest of his life have a safe  
2 place so she could die in peace knowing he  
3 would be save, and the stories go on and on  
4 with these animals, so they are not going  
5 anyplace, and so the day I go out of Nay Aug  
6 Park is the day the veterinarian comes and  
7 euthanasia is just a sweet word for killing  
8 them and it's not going to be easy on the  
9 vet tech. They don't all go down. Thank

10                   you very much.

11                   MS. EVANS: Mrs. Williams, just  
12                   before you go though, I just want to clear  
13                   up two things so that there is no  
14                   misunderstanding.

15                   MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

16                   MS. EVANS: You are saying that just  
17                   this primate would be euthanized or all of  
18                   them.

19                   MS. WILLIAMS: All of them.

20                   MS. EVANS: All of your animals.

21                   MS. WILLIAMS: Everybody. I'm going  
22                   to try to find places to send some of the  
23                   other animals that still can, but the  
24                   primates absolutely won't. They will all be  
25                   put to sleep, from the lemur right down the

24

1                   line. Everybody.

2                   MS. EVANS: Would this be a difficult  
3                   task --

4                   MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.

5                   MS. EVANS: -- for you to find other  
6                   placements --

7                   MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.

8                   MS. EVANS: From what I'm hearing you  
9                   say you received the animals --

10 MS. WILLIAMS: For the other animals,  
11 yes.

12 MS. EVANS -- because they had no  
13 place to go, had been abused or were ill,  
14 etcetera.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Exactly. And other  
16 places are full and these are not zoo  
17 quality animals because, you know, when you  
18 go to a zoo you are going to see topnotch  
19 animals because you are paying \$25 to come  
20 in the door, so you are not going to see an  
21 animal with one eye or an animal that has  
22 psychological problems or health problems or  
23 whatever the case may. They come to me  
24 without words and I have to figure out what  
25 happened to them.

25

1 MS. EVANS: And were you told you are  
2 closing?

3 MS. WILLIAMS: I was told that. I  
4 did not receive a letter saying that, but,  
5 yes, I was told to find places for the  
6 animals.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: By who? Who told  
8 you you had to go?

9 MS. WILLIAMS: Chris Doherty did call  
10 me on the phone and we talked a little bit



11 and he did say because of the economics and  
12 different things and the way of the  
13 building, things like that, that they  
14 wouldn't be able to renovate it and that I  
15 should start looking for places for the  
16 animals.

17 MS. EVANS: Were you given a time  
18 line?

19 MS. MILLER: No, I was not, no. I  
20 received nothing written, just a talk on the  
21 phone. That was it.

22 MS. EVANS: I see.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: But it's not like a  
25 big zoo is going to come and scoop them up

26

1 or I'm going to have this miracle thing, and  
2 everybody can find places. They can get on  
3 the phone or internet and places will say  
4 they will take them, but they can't because  
5 the law has changed. They can't take them.  
6 The bottom line is they get euthanized.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

8 MS. WILLIAMS: And that's their  
9 thanks for waking up Nay Aug Park, and that  
10 breaks my heart because those little guys

11                   woke up Nay Aug Park. They have given -- I  
12                   have veterinary students, kids from the  
13                   college that are going onto veterinary  
14                   school, in fact, I have one girl here that's  
15                   going onto veterinary school and her letter  
16                   is in there, Jess Smallwood. I have one  
17                   that's in the Caribbean now, Jet Corey, she  
18                   is in veterinary school, they worked with  
19                   these animals and learned the behavior and  
20                   the husbandry of animals one on one and  
21                   veterinary care and learned about these  
22                   things which is so beneficial for them,  
23                   because you can read about things in a book,  
24                   but doing them firsthand makes all of the  
25                   difference.

27

1                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Miller.

2                   MS. MILLER: Thank you very much for  
3                   listening.

4                   MR. MCGOFF: Bob Bolus.

5                   MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.  
6                   Bob Bolus, Scranton. You know, what you  
7                   just heard from Margaret is factual. I went  
8                   up to the Genises Wildlife Sunday, I wanted  
9                   to see it myself. As I grew up at a child,  
10                  you know, we had the zoo. When my children  
11                  grew up, we went to the zoo. And, of

12 course, you know what's happened to the zoo  
13 over the years, so that -- beating a dead  
14 horse here tonight about it. But what you  
15 saw if you went there Sunday, which I did,  
16 Girl Scouts coming in, being talked to,  
17 shown the animals, questions were being  
18 asked. There had to be probably 75 people  
19 when I was up there Sunday. This little guy  
20 -- and I asked them to bring the animals  
21 here today because I think it's important to  
22 see what's going to happen to these animals.  
23 Euthanization is a nice, kind word. This is  
24 killing the animals. This is wholesale  
25 murder if you really want to come down to.

28

1 It's a premeditated murder, we are  
2 going to kill these animals. We are going  
3 to deprive the kids and the families of the  
4 City of Scranton the right to be able to go  
5 there.

6 Margaret has given her heart there  
7 and then we have this woman, this Beatrice  
8 Heveran or whatever her name is, well, I got  
9 some research off the computer today and she  
10 was charged with having piles of manure on  
11 her property up in New England where she

12           came from. There is running discolored  
13           water in trenches at the base of the slope  
14           along the edge of the road, smelled, and she  
15           is in here criticizing what we are doing up  
16           there, what Margaret is doing, what her  
17           helpers are doing, yet this woman comes in  
18           here in here in a white veil, come on, let's  
19           get realistic. This is Scranton. We take  
20           care of our own. I don't know who she is  
21           where she came from, but I want to know her  
22           qualifications. I want to know what gives  
23           her the darned right to judge what's going  
24           on here. I want to know her medical  
25           background in veterinary medicine.

29

1           I want to know who, just somebody  
2           moves into the area and right away she is an  
3           authority. I called up there and checked  
4           with the board where she worked. Nobody  
5           even knew who she was today, so I don't know  
6           when she was on the board last. Let her  
7           come forward. Let her come here and tell us  
8           who she is that she can criticize of the  
9           heart of the people of this city that are  
10          taking care of these animals.

11          This mayor has played games with  
12          this city long enough, and you know last

13 week I brought out his picture, showed a  
14 kid, that's what it shows in the paper, he  
15 is acting like a child, he is running the  
16 city like a child and the Scranton Times  
17 doesn't lie. This is the gospel, he put it  
18 in there. We know who he is, we know what  
19 he is about and this is an end result of it.  
20 Not the guy downstairs that should act like  
21 a man, not call up threatening people to  
22 throw things out when he spent millions and  
23 millions of dollars on Nay Aug Park, but he  
24 can't stand here like a man and come up  
25 here. It's a child, and this isn't child's

30

1 play anymore. This city is where it is  
2 because of what he is and I want to see him  
3 come in and say it, I want to see Gary  
4 DiBileo come here and tell us what he plans  
5 to do, I want to know what's going to happen  
6 to these animals because they are going to  
7 get killed. That's the hard sense of this  
8 word. We are going to murder these animals,  
9 and that's what we are doing and we all have  
10 to take a hard, hard look. Look at those  
11 animals. Look them in the eye. We are  
12 going to execute them. Are we going to

13 permit that? I want a motion here tonight  
14 that this council tells this child what's  
15 going to happen.

16 I spoke about the horses last week.  
17 I gave you the information, he breached that  
18 contract, what kid doesn't like horses?  
19 What kid doesn't like animals? Apparently  
20 this kid does not, and that's the issue I  
21 have.

22 MS. EVANS: Mr. Bolus, I did notice  
23 though, I read over the information that you  
24 had provided and I did notice that that  
25 particular company wanted to take over

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1 Genesis.

2 MR. BOLUS: Well, that was between  
3 -- and if that worked together and it was  
4 hand-in-hand and they could do that, and  
5 these animals survived and they worked with  
6 Margaret you couldn't ask for anyone more  
7 than having that.

8 MS. EVANS: No, I think what they  
9 were suggesting they wanted to oust her and  
10 take over the zoo and return it to it's days  
11 of glory.

12 MR. BOLUS: That may have been there  
13 conversation what they were doing. The

14 contracts that I gave you spoke for  
15 themselves --

16 MS. EVANS: Yes.

17 MR. BOLUS: -- as what was happening  
18 with the horse rides and all.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

20 MR. BOLUS: And just quickly, if I  
21 may, Mr. McGoff, on the gas line, there is  
22 no disaster readiness in place, there is no  
23 training or anything else. When Keystone  
24 Landfill ran their lineup to the plant they  
25 ran it through the rural area of Dunmore and

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1 Throop. This is going through the City of  
2 Scranton, it's going down a railroad bed  
3 that's been abandoned. It may not even be a  
4 conforming use for that railroad bed  
5 anymore. That was for trains, not the gas  
6 line, and we need to look into this very  
7 strongly. This line has to stop until you  
8 have assisted and notified of the public, an  
9 alarm, evacuation routes, shelters. There  
10 is a disaster preparedness plan that must in  
11 place for this to happen, and it's going  
12 through Scranton, it's going through  
13 Dunmore, and God forbid this disaster

14 happens in a mind subsidence and we have  
15 this problem and you need to look into it,  
16 so that's why I raised that issue.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

18 MR. BOLUS: And I gave you the  
19 information on what they are doing, it's  
20 going through DeNaple's land, you know, it  
21 seems they do what they want, when they want  
22 and no questions.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

24 MR. BOLUS: Okay, Mr. McGoff, if you  
25 would do that I would like to wish everybody

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1 a happy Easter and hopefully the animals  
2 will survive. Thank you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Doug Miller.

4 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.  
5 Doug Miller, Scranton. I'd just like to go  
6 back to last week I raised the issue of the  
7 mysterious \$5.5 million that we all thought  
8 we are getting, you know, we went and  
9 plugged it in our budget because we knew we  
10 were going to have a hole, but obviously  
11 it's election season so we weren't going to  
12 raise taxes. But, again, I am going to  
13 bring this up, I question council on this  
14 and I hope you are going to make a decision



15 soon on how we are going to fill this hole.  
16 You know, you put us in this situation by  
17 passing a budget that you knew was  
18 questionable.

19 In recent days we have all been  
20 informed that the future of the Genesis  
21 Wildlife Center at Nay Aug Park remains  
22 uncertain. Seven years ago, Mrs. Margaret  
23 Miller transferred her animals from the  
24 Poconos to Nay Aug Park because the city  
25 invited her to come here. This agreement

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1 was certainly a huge step forward in the  
2 revitalization at Nay Aug Park. For the  
3 past seven years thousands of city residents  
4 as well as out of town tourists have visited  
5 the Wildlife Center. Many college students  
6 have also served internships working one on  
7 one with the animals and the many volunteers  
8 that you see here tonight. Many schools,  
9 Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops have gone on  
10 field trips to visit the animals. These  
11 experiences have given visitors a better  
12 knowledge and understanding of our wildlife.

13 However, today, Genesis must deal  
14 with unfair criticism from a select few.

15 One of the lead critics that we heard about  
16 tonight, Mrs. Beatrice Haveron, a former  
17 board member of the Zoo of New England, has  
18 made statements recently to the Scranton  
19 Times saying, and I quote, "What the mayor  
20 got he is pointing to as an attraction, she  
21 said, it is a cesspool. It is an infested  
22 public disaster. The citizens can get very  
23 hurt there.

24 Well, I, as well as many other  
25 people here tonight would like to know what

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1 gave her the right to even open her mouth  
2 and make a statement like that. I would  
3 also like to know her qualifications  
4 regarding animals care and while she is no  
5 longer a member of the board in New England.  
6 You know, it seems to me this is just  
7 another example of someone trying to bully  
8 other another person and, of course, in  
9 Scranton we know what that's all about.

10 Many other critics have tried to  
11 compare the Wildlife Center to the Bronx  
12 Zoo, the Philadelphia Zoo, the San Diego Zoo  
13 and so on. Let me make it quite clear to  
14 you again tonight, and you already heard it,  
15 and this is something that the

16 administration should have informed us all  
17 seven years ago. Genesis is not a zoo, it  
18 never was. Genesis acts as a sanctuary  
19 caring for animals that you have heard  
20 tonight have been abused and neglected by  
21 others. Mrs. Miller, as well as her many  
22 volunteers, have developed a sincere passion  
23 and dedication to the animals that they care  
24 for but because of politics and egos that if  
25 the sanctuary is closed due to the change in

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1 law, every animal in that building will be  
2 murdered for no reason.

3 Lee Morgan and I will be circulating a  
4 petition across the entire area to help save  
5 the Genesis Wildlife Center and I am asking  
6 every Scrantonian that is here tonight as  
7 well as everyone watching at home to join us  
8 in our mission to help save the lives of  
9 these innocent animals. Thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Lee Morgan.

11 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
12 I would just like to give my phone number.  
13 It's 558-1648 for anybody who would like to  
14 pick up a petition, and I would just like to  
15 add that, you know, I had a conversation

16 with Mr. Lesh who running for school board  
17 and he thought the Genesis was one of the  
18 best things that everybody ever happened to  
19 this city. He gave me this phone number and  
20 said he would really like to be involved to  
21 help to, you know, salvage Genesis and the  
22 only thing I have to ask is can council  
23 itself state where it stands on this issue,  
24 and I think it's important that Mr. DiBileo  
25 and Mr. Bolus and the mayor even though

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1 there has been statements made that the  
2 mayor intends to close I think that these  
3 people should come forward because if we are  
4 going to elect a new mayor we should know  
5 where they stand on this issue, because in  
6 my own opinion when they asked this lady to  
7 bring her animals here they implied  
8 something to her and they must have  
9 understood that she was not going to keep  
10 the property she had originally kept these  
11 animals at and when somebody comes forward  
12 and decides they are going to close  
13 something I think they should know what the  
14 parameters of the decision they are making  
15 are, and I'm just wondering is the mayor  
16 informed that these animals will have to be

17 euthanized? And I think that somebody like  
18 the Scranton Times or someone, maybe the  
19 local TV stations or radio stations need to  
20 ask this mayor, does he know that?

21 And as we develop the park around  
22 the zoo I think Les Spindler went up there  
23 and helped the clean up of the zoo because I  
24 was talking to him in the back one day and I  
25 think he stated he went up there for the

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1 clean up, and I would like to say the mayor  
2 has asked people to come forward and  
3 volunteer, but how much can you ask a person  
4 to volunteer when the people that work at  
5 Genises most of them are volunteers and they  
6 don't get paid and have done it probably for  
7 years and they have invested in this  
8 community and they have helped the rebirth  
9 of Nay Aug Park and now are we going to just  
10 dump these individuals and euthanize these  
11 animals for another -- I don't know -- for  
12 the life of me I can't really think what  
13 this structure can be used for other than  
14 what it's being used for now. And, I mean,  
15 is this the city with the heart and have we  
16 decided that we wanted them there because we

17 knew that he wouldn't afford a zoo? I mean.  
18 This is the next best thing to a zoo. Young  
19 children come through, they learn a lot  
20 about animals, they don't care about the age  
21 of the animals are whether they were  
22 neglect, because quite honestly they  
23 probably can't tell. Probably the only  
24 people who can really tell they have been  
25 neglected, I know I can't tell when I look

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1 at them because I don't know their  
2 behavioral patterns, but the people who work  
3 there know that, but to me I don't know,  
4 it's nice to watch them in the cage and know  
5 that they are safe and that somebody is  
6 caring for them and they are the definitely  
7 an asset to this community. And this is a  
8 mayor who put a lot of money in Nay Aug Park  
9 with the playgrounds and the lookout over  
10 the gorge and all of the trails and all of  
11 the landscaping, and I just don't  
12 understand. I mean, if it comes down to a  
13 point of them funding themselves then I  
14 think we should give them an opportunity to  
15 accomplish that, and not only do I think we  
16 should give them that opportunity but we  
17 should help them to reach that goal, and

18 that's I all I have. Thank you.

19 MR. MCGOFF: John Judge.

20 MR. JUDGE: Good evening, City  
21 Council, John Judge. I'm secretary with  
22 Firefighters Local 60. The reason I am here  
23 tonight is to talk about something that we  
24 brought to this council and brought to the  
25 administration probably close to seven years

40

1 ago when Mayor Doherty first came into  
2 office, but was met with resistance through  
3 the mayor and Director of Public Safety.  
4 There was a council, I think some of the  
5 council members that are seated up there did  
6 vote to have him reconsider, and it's the  
7 QRS system, and I'm sure all of the council  
8 members up there very familiar with it.

9 Mr. McGoff stated last week that we  
10 are trying to negotiate our contract with  
11 council. Let me just clear something up, we  
12 have a contract. We have a contract right  
13 now. The firefighters have a contract. The  
14 Commonwealth Court award put forth a  
15 contract that we are working under right  
16 now. Mayor Doherty said that once that  
17 contract was in place he would begin to look

18 at QRS. For the last seven years my brother  
19 and sister firefighters have listened to  
20 ambulance dispatches for people that needed  
21 advanced life support, medical treatment, it  
22 was recently just one a block away from -- a  
23 couple of blocks away from engine seven I  
24 believe it was last week or the week before  
25 on Luzerne Street where there was somebody

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1 that was in cardiac arrest. Our hands are  
2 tied. We cannot go on those until the mayor  
3 begins to implement that system. If you  
4 look across the Commonwealth of  
5 Pennsylvania, the municipal fire departments  
6 are involved in EMS. All of the fire  
7 departments that we have been compared to  
8 have some type of QRS system in place. We  
9 have brought this to council before, stated  
10 it's a minimal cost, and what we also hear  
11 happening over the past six, seven years is  
12 we hear police being dispatched to these  
13 medical emergencies.

14 I'm sorry, I was a police officer in  
15 the City of Scranton before I was a  
16 firefighter so I feel like I can speak on  
17 this, after the cuts that have happened to  
18 the police department as far as their



19                   manning numbers and some of the -- they're  
20                   still running 66 to 70,000 calls a year,  
21                   that's not their job to be running on those  
22                   type of calls, especially when their  
23                   training is minimal compared to ours.  
24                   They're required as a police officer to be  
25                   trained in first aid and CPR. It's I think

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1                   24 hours worth of training. Almost every  
2                   single member of the Scranton Fire  
3                   Department is an emergency medical  
4                   technician which requires 150 hours of  
5                   training and we have to do 24 hours of  
6                   continuing education credits during our  
7                   certification over a three-year period plus  
8                   retain our CPR.

9                   We have -- I don't want to give an  
10                  exact number, but it's probably close to a  
11                  dozen of our members are certified as  
12                  paramedics. I believe we have one or two  
13                  nurses. For our manpower to not be used in  
14                  that manner is a disservice to this  
15                  community. The mayor now has his contract  
16                  in place through the Commonwealth Court  
17                  award. This is a minimal cost to better  
18                  serve the citizens of the City of Scranton.

19                   If you have looked across, I'll take  
20                   I think it was Boston, for instance,  
21                   Boston's survival rate when they started  
22                   training their firefighters as EMT's and  
23                   sending them on emergency advanced life  
24                   support calls the cardiac emergency survival  
25                   rate went up 50 percent since 1994. I

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1                   believe that it's -- if you look at the  
2                   American Heart Association 70 to 80 percent  
3                   of all cardiac emergencies, severe cardiac  
4                   emergencies will occur in a home. Our fire  
5                   departments are community based. We are in  
6                   the communities, the way that it's setup  
7                   now. We have, you know, outlying companies  
8                   that are very close. Our response times  
9                   reflect, you know, between four minutes our  
10                  average response times for our fire alarms.

11                  The National Heart Association -- or  
12                  the American Heart Association and Red Cross  
13                  will tell you that you need to have external  
14                  defibrillation to increase the survivability  
15                  of somebody that experiences a cardiac  
16                  emergency within four minutes. Our  
17                  department is able to do that at a minimal  
18                  cost. I can't stress it anymore than that.  
19                  It's a very minimal cost. We already have

20 the apparatus, we have the training, we have  
21 the people in place. I would be a very  
22 minimal cost as far as the equipment that's  
23 needed.

24 If you look at some of the things  
25 that have happened in this city over the

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1 last couple of years, the ambulance  
2 companies are not starting -- I don't want  
3 to say they are cutting their staffing, but  
4 their staffing is become thinner because of  
5 maybe the call volume or --can I just finish  
6 my thoughts?

7 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

8 MR. JUDGE: Or it's possibly because  
9 they are doing more transports. Whatever  
10 the reason is, we are seeing an increase in  
11 outside agencies such as Dickson City  
12 ambulance who is now gone to a paid service.  
13 We've had Chinchilla's volunteer ambulance  
14 company come in the city a number of times,  
15 Old Forge's ambulance company that's a paid  
16 service came in several times. That  
17 continues to grow. That number is now going  
18 to increase as far as their response time if  
19 they are coming from an outline place like

20 that. I ask council to urge the mayor to  
21 start to develop this QRS program. If you  
22 look back from the Scranton Times' articles,  
23 2004, 2005, there has been three times where  
24 he said that once you had the contract in  
25 place this may be something that they look

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1 at. It's a minimal cost to the taxpayers  
2 and the city. It's a nominal at best. So,  
3 please, urge the mayor to start to look in  
4 this direction so we can serve the community  
5 lot better. Thank you.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Andy Sbaraglia.

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
8 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,  
9 last week I asked why we are still covering  
10 the liability on the South Side Sports  
11 Complex and we were told that it was sold to  
12 the University. Is it sold, not sold? Can  
13 the children -- if we are paying the  
14 liability why can't our children use it? Is  
15 it open for the children? No answer. Okay.

16 Let's go down to Providence Road.  
17 Why are we paying for Providence Road when  
18 lease the property out. Surely somebody had  
19 brains enough to put into the lease that  
20 they were liable for the property that they

21 are getting. We gave them a KOZ and there  
22 it sites idle and we are paying the  
23 liability. I don't know if -- I don't quite  
24 understand why. I wish you people would  
25 inquire why, because this requires --

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1 MS. EVANS: Mr. Sbaraglia, we did. I  
2 requested that all of the questions you  
3 posed at last week's meeting concerning the  
4 liability insurance issues would be sent to  
5 the insurance agent and we'll receive a full  
6 explanation of that. As soon as we receive  
7 the response, we will give it to you.

8 MR. SBARAGLIA: You may get a  
9 response, but it's in the contract. You  
10 signed the contract. I don't know care what  
11 the response is. You can't change it. Once  
12 a contract is signed it's signed. You'd to  
13 go to Court. They are not going to Court  
14 over this. The people of Scranton are going  
15 to be saddled doing this thing. Year after  
16 year for another 99, probably not 99, maybe  
17 another 90 years because that lease down  
18 there is for 99 years. It was ashame what  
19 that contract was written and I sat up there  
20 many, many times. I brought that contract

21 up. It's immoral. It's bad as a lot of the  
22 other stuff done by this council and the  
23 mayor. It wasn't -- I don't blame all of  
24 yous. Most of yous weren't there.

25 MS. EVANS: None of us were.

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1 MR. SBARAGLIA: When that was signed.  
2 I know that, but I was. I fought it then  
3 and I continue to fight the injustice done  
4 to the citizens of this city. It's  
5 ridiculous.

6 Now, the little engine, now I don't  
7 know what the story is on that either. I  
8 don't know if that was donated to the city  
9 or how we acquired it, but we got the  
10 miniature train. I am not a child, I don't  
11 get to ride it, I did ride it when I was  
12 small, but I don't, but we are covering the  
13 train. Is it leased to somebody that we  
14 don't know about or did the city own it and  
15 the city is running it and any kid that  
16 wants to ride on can't just jump on it and  
17 take a ride when it's coming. Them are I  
18 think so that should be answered. I guess  
19 they won't be in my lifetime though.

20 Okay, I got the information, some of  
21 the information anyway on the zoo,

22 especially the zoo. Now, the zoo seems to  
23 be a hot topic. The building is currently  
24 listed for 397,091, okay, \$397,091. The  
25 contents is insured at \$170,522. We all

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1 know we give the zoo 50,000 a year. We pay  
2 for their heat and I guess we are  
3 responsible for all of the maintenance in  
4 that zoo. I would assume that's how it  
5 goes. I don't know if we are responsible  
6 for liability and really that's the only  
7 question I would really ask, are we covering  
8 the liability for everybody that volunteers  
9 at that zoo or not or do they have a  
10 separate liability contract? Thank God she  
11 is here and she can give you an answer on  
12 that then we don't have to worry about it.  
13 But if we are responsible for the liability  
14 that's people really ought to know that.

15 I'm not going to get into the merits  
16 of it. I used to love that zoo. I used to  
17 play with the elephant and the donkey up  
18 there, but them are long time ago, we can't  
19 bring all of them back. I used to use the  
20 penny arcade and the theatre, too. That's  
21 all gone. You can't bring back the past.

22 Our main concern is the safety of the  
23 animals that are in our care because  
24 actually they are in our city care as a  
25 whole. There is not just the wild life.

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1 It's all of us because we are paying for it.  
2 We are paying for it. Our main concern is  
3 the safety of those animals and that should  
4 be the only concern we got and everything  
5 else we seem to be paying for.

6 Now, if the animals are being safely  
7 taken care of I would fight it. If they are  
8 not being safely cared for I would seek to  
9 remedy that they can be safely taken care of  
10 in that facility. I always liked the  
11 petting zoo. I'm sorry they didn't go with  
12 a petting zoo instead of a wildlife center.  
13 I did enjoy. Thank you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Ozzie Quinn.

15 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn. I'm  
16 president of the Scranton/Lackawanna County  
17 Taxpayers and Citizens' Association. I,  
18 too, would like to speak on the park a  
19 little bit. When I was the president of the  
20 city planning commission there was a  
21 drowning and everybody up in the city was up  
22 in the air about what happened. Okay, there



23 was 30 some drowning in the gorge. Well, we  
24 had several meetings here, and without  
25 sounding arrogant, I pulled together a

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1 geologist pro bono, Brian Redmond from  
2 Wilkes University, and an environmentalist,  
3 Roger Nare from South Scranton, and for two  
4 years we worked on an application and got  
5 approved the gorge as a national, natural  
6 landmark. It took a lot of work, and the  
7 idea was for the people to enjoy -- to be  
8 able to go in the gorge with classes and see  
9 just the rock formations, to explain the  
10 rock formations, how that gorge was formed,  
11 okay? You know, and those Indian legends  
12 that were around for thousands of years and  
13 also the proposal that the Steamtown Train  
14 would stop there and the people could enjoy  
15 the gorge and sometime come over and go over  
16 to Nay Aug Park, wrote letters to Mayor  
17 Doherty about it and never happened.

18 And you know what, we have a plaque  
19 that designates that and you know where that  
20 plaque is located? The last time I heard it  
21 was in a closet in Weston Field and I asked  
22 the mayor he won't post it. Okay? Now,

23 there was a drowning after that and most of  
24 you know the fellow's brother, Chris  
25 Phillips, who is on the school board,

51

1 brother drowned in Nay Aug gorge. What a  
2 heart breaker because of the fact that  
3 nobody would listen. Well, that's sad, you  
4 know.

5 It's the same with what happened up  
6 here at the wildlife center. Now, he spent  
7 thousands, millions maybe on that bridge  
8 down below that is going no where, whatever  
9 it is for, and we have the tree hut and I  
10 don't know if they'll maintain it. If it's  
11 true to what you do in Scranton in another  
12 ten years that bridge will fall down and  
13 that treehouse will fall down because there  
14 won't be any maintenance, just like there is  
15 never any maintenance on the curbs, the  
16 sidewalks or the roads in the City of  
17 Scranton.

18 Now, I want to say one thing about  
19 the taxation here, okay? We finished 2007  
20 with a surplus of \$664,345 okay? What an  
21 oxymoron. We owe \$170 million. How can you  
22 be in the black with a surplus when you owe  
23 \$170 million? That's a paradox if I ever

24 saw one. Now, let me tell you something.  
25 Now, what you want to do, what's going to

52

1 happen if the mayor doesn't get this  
2 5.5 million you know what his backup plan is  
3 going to be, he is going to sell delinquent  
4 land, just delinquent taxes just like he did  
5 in 2007 with a 25 percent tax increase. If  
6 you recall you voted for it, Mr. McGoff,  
7 Mrs. Fanucci voted for it and Mrs. Gatelli  
8 voted for it. Yes. Can you imagine that,  
9 that we are going to be -- we don't know if  
10 we are going to be able to have operating  
11 expenses?

12 It's really a laugh. I mean, when  
13 you look at it, you know, I feel sorry,  
14 25 percent of the city as we spoke about at  
15 the school district last night is none -- is  
16 made up of nonprofits. You are not going to  
17 get shall you are not going to be able to  
18 pay off this debt with property taxes. You  
19 know, and to say we have a surplus with such  
20 a debt of 170 million, principle only, if  
21 you extrapolate the interest into that, I'm  
22 not a -- you do the math, 300 some million  
23 dollars, I don't know, but, you know, let's

24 face it, you know, and they want to figure  
25 out -- here is the backup plan, sell the

53

1 delinquent taxes and that will makeup for  
2 what is lacking from the Scranton Tax  
3 Office. Is that a plan? I don't know.  
4 It's a good thing that mayor isn't a  
5 quarterback.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Janet Fargo.

7 MS. FARGO: Good evening. My name  
8 is Janet Fargo and I volunteer at the  
9 Genesis Wildlife Sanctuary on Sundays doing  
10 animal enrichment. Well, I can personally  
11 testify that the animals receive excellent  
12 care, the cages are all cleaned daily and  
13 the animals are well-fed. They probably eat  
14 better than I do actually. I would like  
15 tonight to ask a few questions and address  
16 some issues regarding funding and the unfair  
17 criticisms we have been receiving in the  
18 paper.

19 The newspaper states that we cannot  
20 afford a new building since it would cost  
21 about \$10 million to build. What I would  
22 like to know is there was money raised  
23 towards the building of this new building.  
24 I have heard all kinds of rumors how much

25

was raised. I have heard as high as

54

1

\$3 million. What I would like to know is I

2

would like to have facts instead of rumors,

3

can anyone come up with how much was raised

4

for this new building, where is this money

5

now, and if people donated money to build a

6

nicer facility for the animals and that

7

money is still here why can't that money be

8

used to renovate the building that the

9

animals are in now at Nay Aug Park?

10

We have been criticized unfairly. I

11

wasn't going to mention names, but I think

12

her name has come up already a couple of

13

times, this Beatrice woman, I mean she has

14

gone down so far as to criticize the fact

15

that the birds are in bird cages. That is

16

kind of the point of a bird cage. What we

17

could do though if there was this money and

18

we did want to say takes the birds from the

19

front room and not put them in cages,

20

perhaps we could build an aviary there with

21

plants and trees and, of course, we would

22

have to figure out which birds could get

23

along and cohabitate this.

24

We have been criticized because the

1 criticizing comes from someone who has just  
2 moved here, probably has spent all of an  
3 hour in the facility, has never been there  
4 when Jess, who is out of the room, has done  
5 educational talks. We have the Girl Scouts  
6 Troops come through, we've had Boy Scout's  
7 Troops come through, I personally have  
8 worked with teachers where we have had their  
9 students look at every animal on the  
10 Internet and come in and tell us a fun fact  
11 as they are went through this tour. But,  
12 again, if this money is available maybe we  
13 could do something to start an outreach  
14 program. I know Margaret would love to go  
15 to the schools with some animals. You could  
16 see she was only too happy to bring them  
17 here and talk to the children about exotic  
18 wildlife.

19 The final criticism that I would  
20 like to address, because I know I'm l  
21 limited to five minutes, is the acquisition  
22 of the two tiger cubs. We have been  
23 criticized because the facility we got them  
24 through from people are saying it's a bad  
25 place, they breed tigers indiscriminantly,

1           and I do not want to discuss their policies  
2           and procedures because I have never been  
3           there, but I just want to put point out  
4           something that should be obvious. If you  
5           are rescuing an animal, you are going to  
6           rescue it from a bad situation. Nobody  
7           needs to be rescued from the San Diego Zoo,  
8           nobody needs to be rescued from the Bronx  
9           Zoo, so Margaret is trying to rescue  
10          animals, of course, she is going to be  
11          taking them from places that are less than  
12          ideal. At this place, these tigers came to  
13          us they had fleas, they had ear mites, they  
14          had a very persistent case of ringworm, all  
15          of which she was able to deal with. Where  
16          they were at 10 or 11 weeks they were  
17          already considered obsolete. They were  
18          throw-aways, at their present age they would  
19          not even exist.

20                         Right now at the facility you can go  
21          down to Genesis and see they're happy,  
22          they're healthy, they're magnificent  
23          animals, we even got criticized because  
24          there is two in one cage. If you go there  
25          and you watch them they play together all

1           day. When the male tiger went to the vet it  
2           was unmerciful. The female cried the entire  
3           day missing him.

4                        So what I would like to see is  
5           rather than just criticizing something you  
6           don't like or don't know anything about it,  
7           people should make an effort to improve the  
8           situation. You can get involved. You can  
9           make a donation, you can volunteer for a  
10          day, you could organize a fundraiser,  
11          participate in a fundraiser. The staff and  
12          volunteers at Genesis do something every  
13          single day to improve the lives of these  
14          animals and you are all welcome to join us  
15          in that effort. Thank you very much.

16                      MR. MCGOFF: Carl Kuchinas.

17                      MR. KUCHINAS: Good evening. My name  
18          is Carl Kuchinas and the reason I'm here  
19          this evening is I don't like being lied to  
20          by the current administration of the City of  
21          Scranton, mainly Mayor Doherty, especially  
22          in an election year. I am a resident of the  
23          lower Greenridge section of Scranton and our  
24          neighborhood was flooded in 1996, 2004, and  
25          the most devastating flood was in 2006.



1                   Recently one of my neighbors told me  
2                   that Mayor Doherty is taking credit for the  
3                   current flood project currently underway in  
4                   our area. It is even listed on the city  
5                   website under infrastructure improvements  
6                   the Lackawanna River levy project, \$055  
7                   million. The levy improvement was first  
8                   proposed for the Lackawanna River by the  
9                   Army Corp of Engineers after the first flood  
10                  in 1996 which was during the Connors'  
11                  administration.

12                  After the most recent flood in 2006,  
13                  the Army Corp of Engineers held a meeting at  
14                  the new Scranton High School for the flooded  
15                  residents. The mayor was at that meeting  
16                  along with city council members Mrs. Evans  
17                  and Mrs. Gatelli. The only one who tried to  
18                  help the residents and get answers from the  
19                  Army Corp was Mrs. Evans. She was actually  
20                  concerned about our neighbors. The mayor  
21                  just kept pacing back and forth looking at  
22                  his watch, obviously not concerned about the  
23                  people in that neighborhood one bit.

24                  Last year there was a meeting with  
25                  the Army Corp at Weston Field with an update

1 on the flood project for our neighborhood.  
2 Again, the mayor did nothing to show his  
3 concern for the residents. Our neighborhood  
4 was promised a flood siren by the Doherty  
5 administration. The funding and location  
6 for the siren were approved. It is now  
7 April of 2009. We still do not have a flood  
8 siren. In the mean time, until the levy  
9 project which is completed, which according  
10 to the Army Corp of Engineers will be in the  
11 first quarter of 2010 our neighborhood is  
12 still very vulnerable to yet another flood.

13 Now, onto the firehouses. First the  
14 mayor said he will be closing two fire  
15 companies, then all of a sudden he changes  
16 his tune, he is not closing the two  
17 companies. What are we to believe? Of  
18 course, an election year the mayor will say  
19 anything he thinks just to have the  
20 taxpayers hear what they want to hear so he  
21 will get elected.

22 Monday I read in the Scranton Times  
23 that the mayor is closing the Genesis Center  
24 up at Nay Aug Park. I think that's  
25 terrible. First of all, all of those

1           innocent animals are going to be put down.  
2           That's not fair to the animals, also not  
3           fair to the people who come to Nay Aug Park  
4           to see that. Several of my friends bring  
5           their children up to Nay Aug Park just to  
6           visit the Wildlife Center.

7                         They also comment that add Nay Aug  
8           Park they should be paying more attention to  
9           the dirty conditions of the bathrooms, they  
10          are actually concerned to have their  
11          children go into the bathrooms because they  
12          have such filthy conditions and also dog  
13          droppings at the park.

14                        As a lifelong resident and taxpayer  
15          and homeowner of Scranton, I can assure you  
16          to me that good fire and police protection,  
17          clean and safe conditions for our families  
18          at Nay Aug Park and other city facilities  
19          and neighborhood flood control is much more  
20          important than some of the accomplishments  
21          of the Doherty administration. Some Doherty  
22          administration accomplishments were the  
23          Electric City sign on Linden Street, the  
24          reconstruction of the 500 block of  
25          Lackawanna Avenue, which was four lanes and

1 is now narrowed down to two lanes on a very  
2 busy street, the dog park, the bridge to  
3 nowhere and, of course, the Nay Aug Park  
4 treehouse, number one.

5 If you are a tired of the lies and  
6 the misdirected properties, remember there  
7 is a mayor election on May 19. All it takes  
8 is a stroke of the pen for change, then the  
9 taxpayers of the city will get the proper  
10 police, fire and flood protection that they  
11 paid for and deserve. Thank you very much  
12 for your time.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Bernadette Royce.

14 MS. ROYCE: Hi. Good evening,  
15 Bernadette Royce, West Scranton. First I'd  
16 like to say I have several friends who  
17 volunteer at the wildlife center and you  
18 will never meet a group of people that are  
19 more dedicated to those animals and they are  
20 absolutely wonderful with the animals and I  
21 think you need to consider that.

22 Now, onto my normal topic. In the  
23 past 10 days one of two things has  
24 apparently happened: One, Mayor Doherty  
25 suffered an epiphany regarding Scranton's

1 need for adequate fire protection; or, two,  
2 the mayor believes the rest of us suffer  
3 massive amnesia regarding his years of  
4 previous pledges to lower the level of  
5 Scranton's fire protection.

6 Fortunately, for the forgetful, his  
7 pledges are well-documented. On February 2,  
8 2009, the mayor planned to close fire  
9 stations and cut at least 30 firefighters.  
10 According to the Times, on August 31, 2008,  
11 Doherty wanted to reduce the department by  
12 32 to 38 firefighters and consolidate eight  
13 stations 2-4.

14 On July 8, 2008, the mayor was  
15 quoted: "Make no mistake about it, I will  
16 reduce the fire department's staff."

17 I can go back years with more of the  
18 same. It is time this council pins down the  
19 mayor's actual position on fire protection  
20 and hold him to it. We all understand  
21 situations are dynamic and no position is  
22 static. However, the economic realities  
23 facing Scranton are unlikely to change  
24 between now and the May election. The only  
25 thing likely to change is the mayor's

1 political position.

2 Chris Doherty hopes we are not  
3 forgetful, not only forgetful but also  
4 ignorant to realize this. The council needs  
5 to tell the mayor that his time to stop  
6 playing politics with people's lives. This  
7 council needs to ensure that the decisions  
8 made guarantee the safety of Scranton  
9 citizens and the firefighters. Thank you.  
10 Have a good night.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Brett McCloe.

12 MR. MCCLOE: Good evening. My name  
13 is Brett McCloe, Scranton homeowner and  
14 taxpayer. First, I'd wanted to say  
15 something about the Genesis project or the  
16 Genesis out there, one of the -- it brings  
17 to mind something that I have heard one time  
18 that you can judge a society by how you  
19 judge the least of it's citizens and even  
20 though they are creatures of mother nature  
21 they are in the City of Scranton and this  
22 probably should not speak well for this  
23 current administration.

24 But a few weeks ago I said something  
25 about the nature of state and federal

1 government and that it's changing to be more

2 results oriented and performance oriented in  
3 it's approach to handing out tax dollars  
4 through grants and loans to failing  
5 companies and distressed municipalities, how  
6 are we performing and what are the results?

7 Yes, our downtown is becoming more  
8 esthetically pleasing. Yes, the medical  
9 school will be a great feather in a cap,  
10 and, yes, the distance train will get even  
11 closer, but while we are waiting for all of  
12 this to actually turn a buck the current  
13 administration and the power base at the  
14 Chamber of Commerce has the citizens of this  
15 city picking up nickles and dimes in front  
16 of a steamroller of low wages, inflated  
17 budgets and \$150 million of debt. Some call  
18 it the price of progress, at the same time  
19 telling us that Scranton is no different  
20 than any other cities.

21 I have a hard time believing that we  
22 are no different than any other city. The  
23 proof that we are different can probably be  
24 found in the budgets and debts of those  
25 other cities. Allentown has 26,000 more

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1 people than Scranton and their metro area  
2 has 200,000 more than we do yet their budget

3 for 2009 is \$89 million and ours is  
4 \$85 million. I will admit I don't know much  
5 about the mechanics of a city's budget, but  
6 something doesn't add up. Perhaps there is  
7 something in the material.

8 Perhaps it's time to take a closer  
9 look at the budgets of Erie, Bethlehem, and  
10 any other city close to our size and  
11 location just to see if we really are no  
12 different than any other city having  
13 financial difficulties. Perhaps it's time  
14 for change. Maybe we need to realize that  
15 becoming a service class city may not be in  
16 the best interest of the people especially  
17 when I believe that the Obama administration  
18 will get rid of tax breaks or even penalize  
19 American companies who ship manufacturing  
20 jobs and technical jobs overseas. I'm not  
21 sure if that's the reason why Sally May came  
22 back to the US, but I'm quite sure it will  
23 be the reason some other companies do.

24 We need to identify these companies,  
25 find out what their needs are, enhance the

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1 capabilities of our own adult population and  
2 through focused training specific to the



3 needs of that company. I say adult  
4 population not to exclude the young, but to  
5 include the whole population of Scranton and  
6 the northeast.

7 I'm quite sure we have what it takes  
8 to bring successful companies into Scranton,  
9 perhaps medical plastics or a producer of  
10 semi-conductors, these are all good high  
11 paying jobs that I believe the average  
12 citizen of Scranton can retrain and learn to  
13 do. I believe the citizens of Scranton  
14 deserve more than to base their future on  
15 providing goods and services to those who  
16 believe after they have received their  
17 education. After two or three graduations  
18 of the medical school there won't be enough  
19 jobs to keep any of them here. They will be  
20 educated, heavily in debt, transient and  
21 should not be counted on to consume as much  
22 as conventional wisdom would have you  
23 believe.

24 I just want to everyone to keep  
25 their minds open on this election day and

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1 engage vigorously in conversation with your  
2 neighbors and above all vote.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Robin Perry.

4 MS. PERRY: Hi. Good evening. My  
5 name is Robin Perry and I'm a volunteer at  
6 Genesis Wildlife and I assist Margaret  
7 Miller. I have been there for six years.  
8 Margie has trained me during those six  
9 years. I just wanted to emphasize that when  
10 the public is in our facility all glass  
11 doors leading to the monkey area, lemurs,  
12 are locked when the public is there. They  
13 are not allowed anywhere near those cages.  
14 The tigers and the cougar, same thing. You  
15 have a huge iron bar wall with a small  
16 walkway in-between for staff members only  
17 and then have you a huge wall of chain link  
18 fence plus two locked doors besides. The  
19 public can get no where near them, so I  
20 don't understand where this Beatrice Heveran  
21 is saying that our place is unsafe to the  
22 public.

23 I mean, our birds there are caution  
24 boards across to keep people away. We  
25 usually have a volunteer sitting there

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1 stating, "Please do not stick your fingers  
2 into the cage."

3 I mean, any common sense adult would

4 not stick your fingers into a cage because  
5 you are going to get bit. Okay, these are  
6 not birds that are their birds at home.  
7 They are birds that have come from very bad  
8 situations and, you know, they are loud  
9 that's why we have them.

10 I feel that being at the Genesis  
11 Wildlife Center has enriched my life  
12 immensely. It's a dream come true for me.  
13 My grandchildren adore being there, they  
14 come as often as they can. They know the  
15 name and history of every animal that is  
16 there. My granddaughter is going to be  
17 seven, my grandson is nine. They go to  
18 school telling their classmates about these  
19 animals, the stories of them. Their  
20 classmates have come down to the center all  
21 enthused, "I know what this animal is,  
22 Anthony told me about it."

23 To take away these animals,  
24 especially from those children, I think is  
25 horrific. It's bad enough for us to have to

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1 deal with it, but to have to tell these  
2 children that come to the center all of the  
3 time that these animals are no longer going  
4 to be here is going to be very devastating

5 to them. I would hope that you would please  
6 think of some way to help us, to help save  
7 these animals' lives because, believe me,  
8 Margie has done the most exceptional job  
9 with these animals that you could possibly  
10 imagine. She has been doing it for over  
11 30 years. She can incorporate animals that  
12 are usually not of the same species and put  
13 them together and it's miraculous to  
14 actually see them, to play together, to  
15 encounter each other. She does wonders and  
16 I just wanted to make that point perfectly  
17 clear and also about the safety of the  
18 public because nobody has happened to  
19 mention that. We are open to the public.  
20 Nobody gets near the animals. Thank you  
21 very much.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Jessie Smallwood.

23 MS. SMALLWOOD: My name is Jessie  
24 Smallwood and I am a Marywood University  
25 student. I would firstly like to address

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1 the ladies and gentlemen of the council, my  
2 fellow audience members, and the people of  
3 Scranton and would like to thank them for  
4 their kind attention.

5                   As we are all aware, the wildlife  
6                   center of Nay Aug Park, known as Genesis  
7                   Wildlife, has long been a target of intense  
8                   scrutiny and objection now to the point of  
9                   being shut down and it's inhabitants  
10                  disposed of. Despite the recent publicity  
11                  and public slandering, Genesis Wildlife is  
12                  an integral and priceless part of the  
13                  community. For the past seven years the  
14                  wildlife center has not only been a home and  
15                  safe haven for many abused, neglected and  
16                  otherwise unwanted animals, but it is also  
17                  has opened the eyes and brought in the minds  
18                  of countless children and adults of all  
19                  ages.

20                  In the automated and electronic  
21                  world we live in today, too much children a  
22                  think that moves without batteries shows  
23                  them a side of the world completely  
24                  unreachable through a television screen.  
25                  There are rules and facts of life that

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1                  cannot be found on-line, in a book or  
2                  anywhere else other than being face-to-face  
3                  with something truly wild. At Genesis,  
4                  anyone can have that unique experience  
5                  whether they come from a penny to their name

6 or not. The rush for those who have never  
7 had such an experience awakens in all of us  
8 a deep and primal connection with the only  
9 thing that's real, nature.

10 We all have heroes or I have heard  
11 of those who do heroic things leaving many  
12 -- just, I'm sorry, as an aside, that sound  
13 is an animal screaming for it's life. For  
14 all of those who have heard of those who do  
15 heroic things leaving many of us wishing for  
16 that one chance, that one opportunity to do  
17 something that matters, to all of those here  
18 tonight and to those watching at home, I  
19 appeal to your inner private selves, if you  
20 are one of those who want to make a  
21 difference this is your chance. And for  
22 those who stay silent and do nothing  
23 thinking that someone else will step up to  
24 the plate I can tell you with extreme  
25 certainty they will not. You are that

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1 someone that your neighbor is thinking  
2 about. If you are ready to do something the  
3 animals thank you.

4 For an example, we have had someone  
5 come up tonight who wishes to remain

6 anonymous who has agreed to be the project  
7 manager of an effort to restore Genesis  
8 Wildlife to it's full splendor. We need as  
9 many volunteers as humanly possible. You  
10 can speak to me afterwards if so wish or you  
11 can come and find us at the zoo. We can  
12 take your name, your number, the time you  
13 are available, even if it's only for an  
14 hour. The date, the tentative date is  
15 April 18th and 19th, that's a Saturday and  
16 Sunday, and we are in desperate need of  
17 paint, rakes, shovels, brooms, any equipment  
18 that can be used to help us and with people  
19 behind us we will be able to accomplish our  
20 goals. We are planning to bring in a  
21 veterinarian to check every animal and  
22 ensure they are capable of being there for  
23 as long as they are on this planet. Thank  
24 for your kind attention.

25 MR. MCGOFF: David Dobson.

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1 MR. DOBSON: Good evening, Council,  
2 David Dobson, resident of Scranton and  
3 member of the Taxpayers' Association. I  
4 have been reading in the paper about our tax  
5 debacle with the tax office and I'm very  
6 curious, I don't know who can answer it up

7                   there or possibly Mr. Minora, if an employer  
8                   deducts money out of your paycheck and does  
9                   not turn it over to the proper taxing  
10                  authorities who is responsible that these  
11                  taxes be paid? I think in the instance of  
12                  the IRS the taxpayer is responsible to see  
13                  who the lawyer pays these taxes back? I'm  
14                  just wondering.

15                         MR. MINORA: If you asking me the  
16                         question, I'm not sure.

17                         MR. DOBSON: You're not sure.

18                         MR MINORA: I'd want to look at this  
19                         and I suspect that it's different for the  
20                         IRS, whether the State Department of Revenue  
21                         and probably different for the \$52 for the  
22                         city.

23                         MR. DOBSON: Yeah, because apparently  
24                         taxes were being -- the wage tax was being  
25                         deducted and not paid -- turned over to the

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1                         tax office and that's particularly  
2                         egregious. Shame on those employers. Shame  
3                         on them.

4                         I'd also like to express a little  
5                         support for these people from the wildlife  
6                         center. It's really ashamed that something



7 more can't be done. Hopefully with some --  
8 we can find some of resources, but a list of  
9 different things that I have seen going on  
10 at Nay Aug over the years, for instance,  
11 Wednesday concerts I brought up, that  
12 concession stands no longer is open on  
13 Wednesday nights. Last year my wife and I  
14 went over planning to probably spend 20  
15 bucks, the year before the line was from  
16 here to the wall, you had to wait 20 minutes  
17 to get waited on and last year we sat there  
18 hungry and thirsty we didn't even bother to  
19 have dinner. If we wanted to go somewhere  
20 else the concert would have been over.

21 Also, the gypsy moth problem that  
22 exists up there and it's really killing off  
23 a lot of the beautiful old growth oaks and  
24 it really needs to be addressed. Even the  
25 very -- Ozzie Quinn raised this tonight, the

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1 very tree that supports the treehouse I took  
2 a picture of it, I still have it, I could  
3 bring it in if anybody is interested in  
4 seeing it, and it had gypsy moth damage on  
5 it and it looks like some of the branches  
6 are dead already. So, you know, we spent  
7 how much on that and I don't always

8 criticize spending money on green space, but  
9 I've never used the bridge to no where,  
10 other people can if they feel that way and  
11 so forth, but it should be maintained once  
12 it's there.

13 And I really didn't receive any kind  
14 of answer on the power lines from the paper  
15 that I was given and especially concerned  
16 about herbicides being dumped into Nay Aug  
17 Park.

18 Another issue is the swim free. We  
19 never got anywhere with the swim free out of  
20 that authority except to pay the rate for  
21 the day. Even though we are bringing in a  
22 lot of people and you think we could at  
23 least get a group rate it never happened.  
24 It never happened or it did after 250 people  
25 or something. I pointed out the year before

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1 last, I wasn't heavily involved in the Kids  
2 Free Swim last year, I had something doing  
3 in the earlier part of summer, but the  
4 lifeguards, one of the lifeguards didn't  
5 seem to like all of the kids there, I  
6 pointed out to them, well, if this was a  
7 private concern we couldn't justify the

8 wages that are paid out to lifeguards,  
9 there's about 26 lifeguards present there at  
10 any given time on Sunday, and if you are  
11 look at the amount of people in the pool at  
12 three bucks a pop you couldn't even justify  
13 the wages if it were a private concern.

14 Now, one more second, I'd like to in  
15 the past I have mentioned trash removal and  
16 the fact that garbage is just being tossed  
17 out in bags and some people just don't seem  
18 to care, well, I talked to a man today that  
19 does care, I wrote down his phone number and  
20 his name and his address, if you are  
21 interested in a vote this fall you might  
22 want to give him a call. Could I give this  
23 to Neil?

24 MR. MCGOFF: Please. Thank you.

25 MR. DOBSON: All right, he is from

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1 South Scranton and he has some points.  
2 There's a garbage can in back of his house  
3 that has not been dumped since last May.  
4 You know, and it's a head-butt with the guys  
5 from the DPW, it's too heavy for them to  
6 pick up, he says he has a bad heart, he will  
7 throw it on there if they need any help.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

9 MR. DOBSON: Have a good night.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Other speakers?

11 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, City  
12 Council. My name is Dave Gervasi, I'm a  
13 city resident and firefighter. I'm here  
14 tonight to straighten out what I think is  
15 water that's getting very muddy, especially  
16 your dissertation at the end of the meeting  
17 last week, Mr. McGoff. We have been out,  
18 the firefighters, trying to educate the  
19 people on firehouse closures, engine company  
20 closures and possibility of things that  
21 could happen and the folie that we believe  
22 it is, but it seems like the mayor all of a  
23 sudden changed his mind and now he said he  
24 is not going to do any of that. I want the  
25 people and I want the city council to think

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1 about this what I have to say tonight. This  
2 is what's been said in the past.

3 First off, the Recovery Plan states  
4 that the city wants to the right to decide  
5 what organization structure and operations  
6 of the fire department including, but not  
7 limited to, the number and location of  
8 firehouses, the temporary and permanent

9 closing of fire stations and companies. Why  
10 would that would be in there if it wasn't  
11 the mayor's intent?

12 November 24, 2003, Times' article:  
13 "Mr. Doherty, however, when asked did not  
14 specifically say that he would cut police  
15 and firefighter's staffs or close  
16 firehouses. When we have the ability to  
17 take advantage of those options, we will  
18 look into that situation, he said."

19 November 11, 2004, Scranton Times'  
20 article: "One question is how Mr. Doherty  
21 would use the Recovery Plan. While  
22 Mr. Courtright said the mayor indicated to  
23 him it would involve staff cuts, the mayor  
24 would only say that the city would look at  
25 it once the union contracts are in place.

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1 As for Mr. Courtright's statements, the  
2 mayor said, 'I don't comment on what other  
3 people say.'"

4 January 7, 2005, Times' article,  
5 "And while the administration has pledged  
6 not to reduce the police department from  
7 it's current 140 officers, the mayor would  
8 not make the same promise in the fire  
9 department. We have to wait and see what

10 our parameters are, Mr. Doherty said,  
11 referring to the arbitrator's decision and  
12 the contract."

13 June 12, 2005, Scranton Times'  
14 article, "He has not listed specific  
15 changes, but he has made broad statements  
16 that point to potential fire department  
17 reductions."

18 June 25, 2005, Times' article on an  
19 applying for grants for federally funded  
20 firefighters that the city refused to apply  
21 for Director Ray Hayes said, "In addition,"  
22 he said, "the city would be prohibited from  
23 reducing the department from it's current  
24 level during the length of that grant. The  
25 administration has not said what it would do

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1 if it achieves Recovery Plan language and  
2 firefighter contracts now in arbitration  
3 that would eliminate minimum manning  
4 clauses, but it has hinted in the fire  
5 department reductions."

6 October 28, 2005, Times' article,  
7 Mayor Doherty stated, "We are always worried  
8 about safety," Mr. Doherty said, but he  
9 added, "Decisions must be made based on how

10 much the city needs," meaning the  
11 firefighters, "and the city can afford."

12 November 17, 2005, Times' article,  
13 "Details of the Recovery Plan would actually  
14 save money, but are sketchy. Mr. Doherty  
15 says he plans to restructure the fired  
16 department to gain \$2.4 million in savings.  
17 He has been silent on the details of the  
18 restructuring, although, he has not ruled  
19 out job cuts."

20 January 1, 2007, Scranton Times'  
21 article, "The city's appeal of the police  
22 and fire union arbitration awards also is  
23 expected to move forward in 2007,"  
24 Mr. Doherty said. "I hope that is a victory  
25 in Court over unions would allow the

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1 administration to reduce the firefighting  
2 staff of 150 to about 112."

3 January 12, 2008, Scranton Times  
4 article, "While he has vowed not to cut  
5 police officers, Mr. Doherty has made no  
6 secret of his desire to reduce the fire  
7 department's staff by as much as 32  
8 firefighters."

9 January 23, 2008, Times' article,  
10 "City officials have acknowledged the

11 firefighter's contract will be more  
12 difficult of the two to settle only because  
13 of the administration's stated intent to  
14 eliminate 32 to 38 positions in the  
15 department."

16 July 18, 2008, Scranton Times'  
17 article: "Mayor Doherty is quoted as  
18 saying, 'Make no mistake about it, I will  
19 reduce the fire department staff.'"

20 August 31, 2008, Times article, "In  
21 the city hall office of the public safety  
22 Director Ray Hayes, there is a manilla  
23 envelope marked "scenarios." Inside are  
24 maps and charts, notes and research as the  
25 outline of what's in store if Mayor Doherty

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1 wins the right to cut firefighters, a staff  
2 of 150 down to about 112, three platoon  
3 instead of four," and listen very carefully,  
4 "eight fire stations eventually consolidated  
5 to four or five."

6 January 23, 2009, an interview on  
7 WNEP TV Mayor Doherty stated, and I quote:  
8 "I want to build superstations throughout  
9 the city to make and provide better fire  
10 protection because the way the firehouses



11 are laid out in the city really it's  
12 100 years old."

13 Mr. McGoff, can I have just a moment  
14 to finish up?

15 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

16 MR. GERVASI: February 2, 2009, the  
17 Scranton Times' article, "Also on the  
18 horizon is the prospect of closing the fire  
19 stations and cutting the ranks by more than  
20 30 firefighters, both of which Mr. Doherty  
21 has proposed as cost saving measures."

22 March 13, just a little while ago,  
23 my President Schreiber, who is a terrific  
24 firefighter, and one thing he is not is a  
25 liar, was at a meeting on March 13 with

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1 business administrator Stu Renda and  
2 director of public safety, Ray Hayes, who  
3 told him they are closing Engine 9 On Main  
4 Avenue and they are closing Engine 4 at fire  
5 headquarters.

6 On May 16, Gary DeStefano, one of  
7 our firefighters, came here to this meeting  
8 to report to the public and the council on  
9 the mayor's intention on closing those  
10 companies. The next day Ray Hayes -- I'm  
11 sorry, in the Times' article, "While reached

12 by phone, Mr. Doherty denied that claim.  
13 While his desire to reduce the number of  
14 firefighters under the Recovery Plan is  
15 well-known, he refuted eminent plans to  
16 close companies."

17 The next day in the Times' article:  
18 "Scranton is seriously exploring plans to  
19 shut down two fire engine companies as part  
20 of the Recovery Plan initiative to  
21 restructure the fire department, Public  
22 Safety Director Ray Hayes said Tuesday."

23 March 23, 2009, during the interview  
24 on the WBRE TV the mayor said it, and I  
25 quote, "We are not closing firehouses at

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1 all."

2 Now, the mayor on his website has  
3 published a letter that says, and he has had  
4 his campaign people drop literature at homes  
5 around the city that states, and I quote:  
6 "He is, the mayor, disappointed to see a  
7 stream of misinformation and political  
8 posturing surrounding firehouses. Let me be  
9 perfectly clear, the City of Scranton has  
10 absolutely no plans to shut down firehouses  
11 or retire fire engine companies or trucks."



13 Thank you.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I thought it  
15 would nice if you heard what I said that's  
16 why I'm here, so I thought you would wait  
17 until I finished your conversation, I'm  
18 sorry.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Wait one more second  
20 then. Okay, go ahead.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

22 MS. FANUCCI: We have work, too. We  
23 have work, too.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher --

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: Tell her it's out of

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1 order.

2 MR. MCGOFF: That's out of order, Mr.  
3 Jackowitz.

4 MS. FANUCCI: He's never been in  
5 order.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me, it's out of  
7 order.

8 MS. FANUCCI: We work, too. Go  
9 ahead.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher,  
11 resident and city taxpayer, member of the  
12 Taxpayers' Association. Tonight

13 Mrs. Gatelli is not here, but I would like  
14 to know how the rental registration is  
15 currently billed and when the RFP for  
16 improving that system will be issued.  
17 Mrs. Gatelli estimated one and half million  
18 dollars of revenue from this effort, but I  
19 believe there is about \$18,000 in the 2009  
20 budget. That's quite a discrepancy.

21 Now, Mr. McGoff, you made it to the  
22 Tripp park permit hearing yesterday and now  
23 I hope you will also be able to attend those  
24 authority meetings and garner support for  
25 earlier completion of their audits such that

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1 we may receive our city audit well before  
2 the mayor's budget and tomorrow the  
3 Redevelopment Authority meets at 12:15 if  
4 you are interested right above Northern  
5 Lights.

6 Now another question, why does the  
7 recording for city hall telephones say the  
8 hours beginning at 8:30 months after the  
9 starting hour was changed to 8:00.

10 A question on council duties: The  
11 audit report for 2007 says council approves  
12 sewer authority rate increases, but council  
13 did not approve the 50 plus percent

14 increase, so it is the current audit report  
15 incorrect? Question.

16 Also, late last year Mrs. Evans  
17 announced the NCC contract was automatically  
18 renewed if there wasn't action taken six  
19 months prior to the expiration. This was  
20 not brought to council's attention, so is  
21 the NCC contract valid? Question.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: What is the city's  
24 policy on disposing florescent compact  
25 bulbs? I understand that contain mercury

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1 and should not go to landfills, but I have  
2 never received any word on how we are to  
3 dispose of those items.

4 Last week I asked whether the ad for  
5 a city engineer was in addition to or  
6 replacing Bruce Swanson and received no  
7 response. I would like an answer to that  
8 because I believe there is only one engineer  
9 in the budget for 2009.

10 Also, has the health inspector  
11 position been filled? I have seen no ads  
12 for this position and it's scary to think  
13 that all required health inspections may not

14 be occurring. Who, for instance, performed  
15 the required health inspection prior to the  
16 opening of Kildare's just around St.  
17 Patrick's Day -- or the parade, I should be  
18 more accurate.

19 To Mrs. Miller I would say a belated  
20 welcome to Scranton. Our mayor makes  
21 promise after promise, but most are not  
22 fulfilled. Ask the people of East Mountain  
23 what happened to the 200 plus thousand  
24 investment he was going to make at Robinson  
25 Park in 2002 or the Elm Street improvements

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1 he promised in make in 2005 just a month  
2 before his second election. The mayor is  
3 good at making promises, but not so good at  
4 keeping promises.

5 What he is threatening to do to Mrs.  
6 Miller and her animal family is cruel,  
7 inhuman and heartless. What did our mayor  
8 use the \$175,000 the state provided for the  
9 wildlife center to have Himler and Camard  
10 draw up plans for a new facility and  
11 refurbishment of the existing facility if he  
12 never intended to build a new facility? Why  
13 didn't he use it for the betterment of the  
14 Genesis Wildlife Center to help the upkeep

15 of the animals.

16 Incidentally, and then I'll finish  
17 and pick up again next week, I did call the  
18 Zoo New England and Bernice Heveran was  
19 never a member of the board. She was a  
20 member of an advisory council. Thank you  
21 and I'll see you next week the good Lord  
22 willing. Happy Easter.

23 MS. GENTILE: I'm not prepared with  
24 no notes, but have a passion for Nay Aug  
25 Park and the City of Scranton, born and

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1 raised here. Can you hear me?

2 MR. MCGOFF: Just your name, please,  
3 for the record.

4 MS. GENTILE: Oh, I'm sorry, Johanna  
5 Gentile. Johanna Androsky Gentile. I'm a  
6 local ordinary housewife at this time,  
7 worked as a hairdresser twice in the city  
8 and managed the lines of Gertrude Hawk  
9 chocolate, married to my high school  
10 sweetheart Danny Gentile.

11 We love Nay Aug Park. I love this  
12 town, I'm a promoter to everybody I meet. I  
13 said we are 200 miles back from Manhattan  
14 and we are coming back. It takes



15 cooperation, it takes a passion and it takes  
16 working together. All of these names are so  
17 familiar as a child to me and I call us the  
18 children that were left behind. We swam at  
19 South Side pool at Nay Aug Park and the Red  
20 Cross taught us, we were great. We spent  
21 all the days in the outdoors in those days  
22 and our dads were away in war, mine was,  
23 serving South Africa, and I said, "Danny --"  
24 we walked -- we moved away in 1963. I was  
25 the first paid teacher in Morris County, New

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1 Jersey, a deli cook first and we learned a  
2 finer way of life. They had awful water  
3 though. Couldn't wait to come home for a  
4 good drink of Scranton water and then after  
5 eight years we moved to Thousand Oaks,  
6 California, and eventually Knoeble Park. My  
7 brother, Wally, went out with Capital  
8 Records with his high school sweetheart and  
9 did quite well and is Henderson right now,  
10 so Scranton has always meant something to  
11 us. We moved back after the industry of the  
12 space industry crashed and Danny lost his  
13 job and we said, "Where do we go?"

14 He was a Brunswick mechanic, we will  
15 go to Colorado, we'll go to Morristown or

16 we'll come home and we have been here ever  
17 since. We lived in Nicholson across -- next  
18 door from Congressman Sherwood's mother and  
19 eventually in '79 came back to my mother's  
20 homestead, 1009 South Irving Avenue and he  
21 has been a sick man for 20 years and we lost  
22 our home to predatory lending, and that's  
23 okay, but we walk the park every, every day,  
24 especially in the summer, winter and we cry.

25 And, you know, at one time we parked

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1 by the museum and we would go out with my  
2 grandchild Nicholas, who lives in Hazelton,  
3 and every squirrel would greet us because no  
4 one was there. We carried peanuts and they  
5 would just come down and converge upon us,  
6 and now it's so different. You can't find a  
7 squirrel unless you have a peanut.

8 You know, and I'm horrified to think  
9 that this place is going to close down. I  
10 have been there the last three weeks  
11 straight with a girl I met from New Jersey  
12 and a local resident who has lived her all  
13 her life. She never saw it. I explained  
14 everything, I think this is the greatest  
15 tourist attraction, and I was horrified.

16 There was a wedding party there and I lost  
17 my sunglasses, finally they were returned  
18 and I was so happy. And I said, Amy, there  
19 is Fern, she grew up with my husband Danny  
20 from Petersburg, I would do what I can and I  
21 think if this city pulls together and gets a  
22 grass root operation that we can convince  
23 people to work together.

24 I represent a national golf product,  
25 my brother invented it, I'm his

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1 representative, I get nothing, and these men  
2 I know most of them, my dad was Walter  
3 Androsky, the cop, he shot somebody down  
4 town, he was quite famous, he dug down and  
5 got all of the benefits for the men.

6 My husband wanted to be the cop.  
7 His dad, Denali Gentile, was the first cop  
8 of Bunker Hill in Scranton and wore a six  
9 shooter and my son got a dream and he is a  
10 state police officer in Bloomsburg and the  
11 sergeant in command. So, I just pray that  
12 there is someone somewhere that will work  
13 together. I pray for the policemen. I pray  
14 for my council, my president, everything and  
15 pray that we can solve. We have brilliant  
16 minds in this town and we can't waste them.

17                   We can't let a child, we can't let a  
18                   dog or cat go down, those animals are in  
19                   great shape. They are beautiful. They are  
20                   beautiful. And I talk to the director, she  
21                   was horrified and so am I and I just beg  
22                   that we mas a city somehow work together.  
23                   Thank you so much and God bless you.

24                   MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,  
25                   council, Council president, Bill Jackowitz,

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1                   South Scranton resident and member of the  
2                   Taxpayers' Association. All taxes paid up  
3                   to date in full, paid two parking tickets  
4                   within 24 hours of issuance.

5                   I would like to thank Councilwoman  
6                   Evans for answering my question last week.  
7                   I would also like to thank Councilwoman  
8                   Gatelli, even though she is not here, for  
9                   her vote last week. My other two questions  
10                  were answered by the Times-Tribune front  
11                  page news stories. \$134,000 paid to  
12                  Nihill-Riedley for no answers only more  
13                  questions. Price tags still going up.  
14                  Backup plan for the shortfall of the  
15                  5.5 million, selling delinquent taxes from  
16                  recent years. Did not work the first time

17 in 2007, taxes were raised in 2007. What is  
18 the definition of insanity? Doing the same  
19 thing over even though it does not work.

20 Cheerleaders drunk during the ST.  
21 Patrick's Day parade. Is public drunkenness  
22 not a crime? Selective enforcement of the  
23 laws cannot be tolerated. Eight-six  
24 underage drinkers cited in the Hill Section  
25 for the very same crime. I ask why

95

1 selective enforcement of the law? Somebody  
2 needs to look into this, why no citations  
3 were issued to the cheerleaders. Chief  
4 Elliott, who provided the alcohol to the  
5 students? Oh, I forgot, I am in Scranton  
6 and it was the St. Patrick's Day parade.  
7 Who pulled the strings on the puppets this  
8 time?

9 What is the difference between  
10 organized crime and politicians? Crime  
11 figures carry guns. The coverup that is  
12 occurring at the Single Tax Office cannot be  
13 tolerated. Citizens and taxpayers of  
14 Scranton and Lackawanna County work hard for  
15 their money. Scranton city controller for  
16 21 years has not. Tax collector for seven  
17 years have not. Mayor of Scranton for seven

18 years has not. County commissioners for  
19 seven years have not. City council members  
20 for seven years have not, with the exception  
21 of Mr. Courtright and Mrs. Evans. They at  
22 least listen to the speakers at city council  
23 for the last three years about the  
24 corruption and coverup that were happening  
25 at the city single tax office.

96

1 Councilwoman Fanucci once asked  
2 Councilwoman Evans to provide proof. Well,  
3 the proof has been provided and nothing is  
4 being done. We, the citizens, should not  
5 have to wait until 2010 which, by the way,  
6 would be after the general election of 2009.  
7 Wow, what timing after the election.

8 We have been lied to, made to look  
9 foolish, that is those who trust their  
10 elected officials, I do not fall into that  
11 category. I am more than capable of  
12 thinking for myself. Twenty-eight years  
13 experience in criminal investigation and a  
14 licensed and private investigator. My  
15 opinion, the perfect white collar crime was  
16 devised by someone to cause confusion to  
17 cover up their crime. Comments such as: I

18 never realized how bad things were at the  
19 tax office. It might be best to focus  
20 resources on moving ahead. In other words,  
21 let the taxpayers pay the bill, no need to  
22 look into or investigate the  
23 misappropriation of taxpayers' money,  
24 comment from elected city council members  
25 Gatelli and McGoff.

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1 How much money has been wasted to  
2 fight the firefighters and police officers,  
3 Court costs, arbitration awards and PEL? It  
4 took 30 seconds for the district attorney to  
5 file charges against the individual who  
6 brought the check into city council chambers  
7 and two tax office employees, again,  
8 selective enforcement of the law.

9 As at citizen of Scranton and the  
10 United States, I demand that a full-blown  
11 investigation be started by the City of  
12 Scranton, Lackawanna County, State of  
13 Pennsylvania, Scranton School District and  
14 the United States Justice Department. The  
15 time has come for all citizens and taxpayers  
16 in Scranton and Lackawanna County. Stand up  
17 for your right, but more importantly stand  
18 up against the dishonesty that is abundant

19 in our local. Fair, honest and open  
20 government, doesn't matter.

21 A request to the FBI, come on down  
22 81 North, take the River Street exit, you  
23 can start at the tax office and then city  
24 hall, county courthouse, school district,  
25 when you are finished make a call to the US

98

1 Marshalls Office. They really are the  
2 people I would like to see because they are  
3 responsible for prisoner transport which  
4 means that arrests have been made. Can you  
5 imagine that the FBI really believes that  
6 pay for teacher's job may have happened in  
7 Northeastern, Pennsylvania? By the way, US  
8 Department, we have over 300 empty office  
9 spaces in Scranton, a great place to open up  
10 a training academy for new FBI agents,  
11 secret service agents, ATF agents and US  
12 deputy marshalls. Come on down, the honest  
13 taxpayers of Scranton are waiting for your  
14 arrival.

15 No forensic audit, not even an  
16 audit. May I finish?

17 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

18 MR. JACKOWITZ: Tax probe cost hits



19 \$134,000. The taxpayers are paying \$145 an  
20 hour up to \$325 an hour to Nihill-Riedley  
21 for what? Why? Did the taxpayers create  
22 the mess? Attorney McGovern states forensic  
23 audit was a catch phrase. He must feel that  
24 the citizens taxpayers who pay your salary  
25 are not capable of handling the truth.

99

1 Where is the tax collector, Mrs. Flynn?  
2 Does she not have a voice?

3 Scranton Tea Party demonstration in  
4 front of the courthouse, Veteran's monument,  
5 15th of April 2009, noon to 2 p.m. come one  
6 come all. Mr. McGoff, get ready to gavel me  
7 out of order because I am mad as hell and  
8 pissed off.

9 MR. MCGOFF: That is out of order,  
10 Mr. Jackowitz. You should have more respect  
11 for the room if nothing else.

12 MR. GIAM: Good evening. My name is  
13 John Giam, I have lived in the City of  
14 Scranton for about six years now. I'm  
15 originally from Jersey, I know a lot of  
16 people have heard my name several times. I  
17 don't think the city is ever going to come  
18 back and I don't know how all of you have  
19 known about the project up at the zoo, I

20 have something a little bit serious more  
21 than that issue to come out right now. I  
22 won't hold up your time, I know people have  
23 other things to do.

24 I have two issues that really  
25 concern me, number one is my wife and my

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1 landlord are both with the City of Scranton  
2 crossing guards. Whittier School is for  
3 children. These people are supposed to  
4 watch over those children. If you close  
5 down or you do anything to the fire company  
6 in the City of Scranton you are going to  
7 burn down children and you're going to lose  
8 a lot of people's lives. Not just, you  
9 know, the majority of teachers, you know,  
10 people like that, you are going to lose a  
11 lot of people.

12 Another issue I wanted to come up  
13 was parking on Moosic Street. There should  
14 be something done seriously there of signs,  
15 some kind of signs. Maybe a sign that says  
16 "No parking" so these people could see,  
17 something they can do. We are still hoping  
18 that maybe somewhere down in the future they  
19 will pull an alarm in the city so the fire

20 company can come there, besides the people  
21 in the City of Scranton seeing what's going  
22 on with the school. This is in Lackawanna  
23 County. This is in Scranton, Pennsylvania,  
24 you know. Maybe it's just me, but when you  
25 lose kids, my son is old enough right now, I

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1 got to pay for a car, excuse my expression,  
2 I mean, we have all children, I have seen  
3 this man's child stand out on the corner  
4 with him and there is so many people that  
5 are coming in out of there, the work that  
6 these people do with two people, especially  
7 my wife.

8 I don't believe this is Scranton,  
9 Pennsylvania, I don't care what anybody  
10 says. I don't care how long you people have  
11 been seeing this and going on, well, damn  
12 it, if you don't get nothing done there is  
13 going to be a lot of lives lost and I know  
14 that for a fact. I mean, I'm not one for  
15 sitting down on my face not getting up and  
16 saying something, I don't want to bore  
17 anybody with what I want I have to say, but  
18 I believe I do have something to say as a  
19 human being and for one thing the United  
20 States of America, plus I'm still in it,

21 even though they said I'm a little bit up  
22 here, but that's all right. That happens to  
23 everybody.

24 Ladies and gentlemen, everybody  
25 here, please consider the lives of these

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1 children and what's going to happen with  
2 these schools because once they get on the  
3 fire people ain't there I don't care who you  
4 are you are going to have to come out of the  
5 City of Scranton take these children out  
6 alive and if these people lose their lives  
7 because somebody else don't give a darn  
8 then I have wasted my time to talk to you  
9 people right here standing in front of me  
10 and sitting in front of me. Thank you very  
11 much and have a good Easter. God bless you  
12 all, I mean that.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

14 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening. Nelson  
15 Ancherani, First Amendment Rights. What I'm  
16 about to say in no way reflects on the  
17 workers of the Single Tax Office or the tax  
18 collector. Last week I asked 17 questions,  
19 this week I will be curious to see how many  
20 of them will be answered. Question: What

21 is going to be done about the missing two  
22 million from the single tax office? I don't  
23 ever, and I say ever, agree with the slimes,  
24 but for once I do. I agree with their  
25 editorialist and Chris Kelly about an

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1 investigation into that missing money.  
2 Forgive me, fellow city work employees, but  
3 I almost lost my supper thinking I agreed  
4 with the slimes.

5 Back to reality, two million is lot  
6 of money to be missing. Myself, along with  
7 every other property owner, got a 25 percent  
8 tax hike in 2007 when the 12.2 million was  
9 found in that tax office account in 2008.  
10 Undispersed money, money in progress, in a  
11 collective account, lousy accounting and  
12 sloppy bookkeeping is blamed. It may never  
13 be found or recovered. What? Never  
14 recovered, never found? They say the cost  
15 of finding out where it went missing could  
16 be cost prohibitive. That's another what?

17 Are we not curious as to where that  
18 \$2 million went or is it just, oh, well,  
19 it's only taxpayers' money. The taxpayers  
20 who paid the 25 percent tax increase and the  
21 homeowners who can't pay that increase and

22 are losing their homes is of an answer. The  
23 taxpayers will never forget that it was  
24 Mrs. Gatelli, Mr. McGoff and Mrs. Fanucci  
25 who voted for that 25 percent tax increase

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1 and for the record budget last year when  
2 this 12.2 was hidden in that account.

3 One of the other questions is where  
4 was Mr. Pilchesky in 2007 when we were short  
5 money if wasn't being dispersed to the city  
6 from the tax office? Who didn't pick up on  
7 the short fall? It makes me believe that  
8 the money was being hidden to make it appear  
9 that we were distressed and to keep us in  
10 this status. Therefore, we deserve an  
11 answer, but, no, we demand an answer. Clear  
12 the air or try to.

13 According to what Chris Kelly of the  
14 slimes writes, get what little is left of  
15 public confidence in government back if that  
16 is at all possible. Question: Was the  
17 letter that Mrs. Evans requested to be sent  
18 to the different law enforcement agencies  
19 asking for an investigation ever sent by  
20 council? Two million is a lot of money. So  
21 let's slide through our fingers. We paid

22 millions for improvements at Nay Aug Park.  
23 Examples, millions for dirt and Davis trail  
24 that had raw sewage flowing it over from the  
25 Wildlife Center which was no fault of the

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1 center. Maintenance of the building, city's  
2 responsibility. A bridge to no where, an  
3 undersized bat house, a black and green fish  
4 pond that cost the city 1.2 million and the  
5 city was too cheap to buy an aerator to keep  
6 the fish from freezing in the winter. Also,  
7 a collapsed amphitheater roof without  
8 insurance coverage and a treehouse. All of  
9 the while west side and north end got zilch.

10 That two million could have gone  
11 towards lowering the wage tax that was  
12 promised to be lowered seven years ago and  
13 hasn't been. The Times is calling for an  
14 investigation into the missing two million.  
15 We must remember that the Lynettes are also  
16 property owners and were subjected to the  
17 25 percent tax increase and that 25 percent  
18 increase was probably not needed if that  
19 money was dispersed like it should have  
20 been. The taxpayers are tired of being the  
21 scapegoats.

22 I also where the money was going to

23                   come from if the 5.5 million doesn't  
24                   materialize. Stuy says contingency fund.  
25                   There should be a lot of money in that fund

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1                   since the city received revenues through the  
2                   budgets and loans approximately 700 million.  
3                   That's close to three-quarters of a billion  
4                   dollars. Thank you.

5                   MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Ronnie  
6                   Ellman, homeowner and member of the  
7                   Taxpayers' Association and new parent.  
8                   Rosie and I had a little I guess what people  
9                   would say a bundle of joy this week, last  
10                  Tuesday at my age, we adopted a three year  
11                  old.

12                  MR. MCGOFF: Congratulations.

13                  MR. ELLMAN: You haven't heard it all  
14                  yet. Yes, this is a real joy. We adopted a  
15                  little Bassett hound. He is just -- I  
16                  didn't want another dog after Lump died, but  
17                  he is just such a joy and so good I just  
18                  didn't, you know, I couldn't turn him down.

19                  I didn't no notes tonight I just --  
20                  you know, it's hot in here. It's election  
21                  here and someone has turned up the heat, and  
22                  I'm burning up. I took my coat off. You



23 know, I talked to some people this week and  
24 really I know the heart of the city that we  
25 were talking about what I said last week

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1 about I want to live here and I want to stay  
2 in town. I had a little piece of land in  
3 Tennessee that I gave up, it was what, three  
4 by six or whatever. I had a \$1,500 funeral  
5 or 750 cash and I took the cash years ago  
6 because I'm going to stay here, but a few  
7 minutes ago the lady was talking about all  
8 of these pictures on the wall. This is the  
9 worst administration since Mr. Hill's  
10 picture was put up there 100 years ago, I  
11 guess, when this building was built and I  
12 think this is the first election year that I  
13 have seen so many people seem to take an  
14 interest in it. I sure hope that there is a  
15 good vote instead of like it's always been  
16 like half the people vote. I've had people  
17 tell me that they want accessibility to the  
18 mayor's office, you know, not going in there  
19 in person, they want someone that they could  
20 talk to and trust and that is part of them,  
21 not someone that takes his tie off and has a  
22 hot dog with Joe Snedeker in the morning and  
23 says, look, I'm one of you guys, you know.

24 That's being phony. The people, it's time  
25 for a change in the city. If you weigh the

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1 good and the bad, you know, because I am not  
2 totally anti-Doherty, there is lot of things  
3 that I have agreed with, but if you weigh  
4 the good and the bad, you know, you know how  
5 it comes out. It just -- and people are  
6 starting to see that when I'm holding my  
7 little office at the Taurus Club and all. I  
8 have never heard so much adversity like, you  
9 know, like I guess because it's election  
10 year and those people are more interested  
11 than most of the city, but I just hope  
12 people get out and vote and make this a fine  
13 election.

14 I have been talking to several  
15 candidates that come by the house and I wish  
16 everybody good luck. All of them have good  
17 ideas. But if you can't get these people to  
18 vote and register I don't know it's just  
19 going to be another poor election like we  
20 have had year after year after year where  
21 half the people vote and half don't and then  
22 they cry and whine and complain. You know,  
23 it's getting to be like half the city seems

24 to be supporting the other half, but they  
25 just don't do nothing about it. I never

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1 seen homeowners that don't vote, you know,  
2 lots of them. Well, thank you for the --  
3 I'd just thought I'd throw that in about my  
4 dog. I was 73 years old a couple of weeks  
5 ago I don't think I need no diapers or  
6 nothing. Thank you, council.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

8 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.  
9 My name is Nancy Krake. I have several  
10 different things that I would like to speak  
11 about this evening, but they are all related  
12 under the headings of fiscal responsibility  
13 or irresponsibility in case of this  
14 administration and the lack of  
15 accountability by administration and council  
16 members.

17 Mrs. Fanucci is an employed by the  
18 state, and I have an article here from the  
19 Times Shamrock newspaper from April 28,  
20 2003, Wyoming County Commissioner is  
21 appointed to the regional director -- as  
22 regional director of Agriculture for the  
23 state. He does not seek another term as  
24 Wyoming County Commissioner specifically

25

because federal law, not state law, federal

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1

law prohibits state employees from holding

2

elected office. Mrs. Fanucci sits at the

3

pleasure of Governor Rendell who also holds

4

the ax over our heads for Act 47. It would

5

behoove her to follow his instructions.

6

My secondary marks are concerning

7

Mrs. Evans' request for a letter from the

8

pension board about the double pension.

9

What I'd like to read is dated February 2,

10

2004, it's from then city solicitor Robert

11

Farrell to Bernice Spracino, the mayor's

12

then secretary. "Bernice, please relay this

13

message and attached letter to Chris," that

14

would be the mayor, "Lynn, the business

15

administration, told me that the pension

16

board is doubling pensions."

17

I want to interject something here,

18

that was negotiated by Ms. Moran, the

19

receiver of nearly \$100,000 in raises, by

20

the way since she has been here, not with

21

me. She did not negotiate that with the

22

union president, okay? She did that behind

23

my back. "This will result in a larger hit

24

to the city than we promised in the

1 ordinances on the pension wherein we  
2 committed 90,000 annually. I told Lynn that  
3 this doubling was troubling."

4           Funny how we can make so light of  
5 something that is now costing the city over  
6 \$800,000 a year in an MMO, which will  
7 continue for the next 20 years. That was  
8 the big fat savings that we got when we got  
9 rid of 30 clerical people. We not only took  
10 their salaries and applied it to  
11 administrative people, we also cost the  
12 taxpayers another \$800,000 for the next  
13 20 years for nothing and these people  
14 received full benefits.

15           After he says the doubling was  
16 troubling, "In particular, given that names  
17 of qualifying pensioners keep surfacing."

18           They weren't quite sure who was  
19 getting it. They had to make sure it was  
20 everybody they wanted. "I drafted the  
21 attached letter to Tom Barrett to clarify  
22 the city's position. I talked this over  
23 with Dick," that would be Dick Goldberg, the  
24 city's labor attorney, "regarding the  
25 potential for the clericals to say that the

1 deal they worked out should only apply to  
2 union members, i.e., the 90,000 could be  
3 split only among them and no nonunion or  
4 DPW's."

5 That's not what happened. Everybody  
6 got it. Then there was a lawsuit for people  
7 they left out and even more people got them  
8 which truly is fair. You can't just get it  
9 to one as Lisa Moran pointed out in her  
10 maternity lawsuit and not to everyone.  
11 That's what Mayor Doherty likes to do. He  
12 likes to do it for his friends, but  
13 ultimately through the Courts everyone gets  
14 it when they pass these very bad laws.

15 Dick Goldberg suggested that before  
16 the letter was sent "we should decide as a  
17 matter of policy whether we want to stir  
18 this pot."

19 Do you know how sickening that is?  
20 "If we do, it may result in the changing of  
21 benefits already being paid and in some  
22 cases it may change benefits to some like  
23 Paul McGoy to use an example."

24 Talk about pay to play and cronyism.  
25 "Please let me know you want to handle this.

1 Rob." Well, we now how the story ended. We  
2 are continuing to pay. I'll finish next  
3 week. Thank you.

4 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Bill.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Hi, Chris.

6 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Slide it up a little  
7 bit, Bill?

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, pick it up,  
9 Chris.

10 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Billy, I'm going to  
11 say two people tonight from my church, is  
12 that all right, Bill? Esther and Ann, they  
13 are friends of my, Bill. They are good  
14 friends of mine, do you mind if say hi to  
15 them tonight?

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: No, go ahead.

17 MR. SLEDENSKI: Esther and Ann, hi.  
18 Billy. We were' winning two games last  
19 week, Bill, going for number three tomorrow,  
20 baby. They are coming back, Bill. Thank  
21 you.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, Chris.

23 MS. EVANS: Good evening. Just to  
24 give you an update first on the independent  
25 audit of city council for financial year

1           2008. We did receive a report dated April 6  
2           and this report comes to us from the BA's  
3           Office. He has provided 13 items to Rossi  
4           and Sons as of April 6 and 11 additional  
5           items should be available on April 20. I do  
6           hope the progress continues and produces an  
7           audit by the end of the second financial  
8           quarter of this year.

9                         Also, in response to some remarks  
10           made earlier by a council speakers, in  
11           budgets I created in the last five years of  
12           service on city council, I included the  
13           implementation of a QRS city run ambulance  
14           company. This revenue service, however, was  
15           never approved by the majority of city  
16           council.

17                         Over the last week additional  
18           information regarding the Single Tax Office  
19           fiasco came to light. First, no forensic  
20           audit was performed. In fact, no audit was  
21           performed for the 134,000 and counting spent  
22           by the city, school district and county.  
23           Rather, taxpayers received a report that  
24           holds no one accountable and allows to  
25           \$2 million in missing funds to go



1 unanswerd.

2 Second, we were misled by the  
3 officers of the tax office who stated in  
4 newspaper articles and correspondence that a  
5 forensic audit was being performed.

6 Third, city council allocated  
7 \$40,000 to the controller's office in the  
8 2009 operating budget for an audit of the  
9 Scranton tax office in 2009. These funds  
10 were given not to the controller's office  
11 however, but to the Scranton tax office. I  
12 would like to know who authorized this  
13 transfer of funds without the knowledge and  
14 consent of city council.

15 Kay, I'd like a letter sent to  
16 Mr. Renda, BA, requesting a response to this  
17 question and also asking when this transfer  
18 occurred, and I'd like that letter on or  
19 before -- a response to the letter rather n  
20 on or before April 13, 2009.

21 Fourth, at the March 24 council  
22 meeting I asked for letters to be sent to  
23 the county commissioners, the superintendent  
24 of the board of directors of the Scranton  
25 School District and the mayor proposing that

1 the three taxing bodies jointly request a  
2 state and/or federal investigation into the  
3 lost or missing approximate \$2 million and  
4 the lack of accountability for these lost  
5 tax monies. I am currently awaiting  
6 responses to those letters.

7 Fifth, I would like Attorney Minora  
8 to research the possibility of an ordinance  
9 whereby the Scranton Tax Office could not  
10 use city taxes to supplement it's operating  
11 budget without the knowledge and consent of  
12 city council. This admittedly occurred in  
13 2008 according to Attorney McGovern.

14 Sixth, the city seems currently to  
15 have about a \$2 million budget pothole to  
16 fill. I would like a letter sent to  
17 Mr. Renda and the mayor requesting to know  
18 what tax claim years they intend to sell in  
19 2009 since 2007 and 2008 tax claims were  
20 already sold to the Redevelopment Authority  
21 for purchase by Municipal Revenue Services  
22 on April 15, 2008. I would like to know if  
23 they intend to sell future years  
24 delinquencies and if so what are those years  
25 and I would like a response on or before

1 April 13, 2009.

2 I may remind everyone, however, that  
3 the mayor is on record on October 18, 2002,  
4 saying, "Delinquent property taxes are  
5 one-time revenue. The state has criticized  
6 the city in the past for using such revenues  
7 to balance it's budget. One time hits like  
8 the delinquent taxes should be used for  
9 capital expenses such as infrastructure and  
10 parks."

11 Yet, the mayor seeks to use the sale  
12 of delinquent taxes for the second time in  
13 one year to fill his budget potholes even  
14 though the state frowns on it and he  
15 criticizes others for doing so, but as they  
16 say, desperate times make for desperate  
17 measures, yet, we will continue to be  
18 optimistic and hope that the administration  
19 will find better ways to balance it's  
20 bloated budget.

21 Next, Kay, I would like a letter  
22 sent to Mrs. Moran, human resources  
23 director, please list the number of errors  
24 contained on the active fire and police  
25 health care list including the number of

1           deceased participants for which the city has  
2           continued to pay. Also, list the  
3           administrative fee and stop loss per error  
4           that the city has paid and please provide  
5           the minutes of the April 2, 2009, health  
6           care containment committee meeting.

7                     It seems the city is wasting  
8           taxpayers' money by paying health care costs  
9           in error even for some deceased employees.  
10          They don't appear to understand that they  
11          are wasting your money.

12                    Unfortunately, we are all very  
13          concerned about the status of the animals at  
14          the Genesis Wildlife Center, like our  
15          firehouse closings, the administration can't  
16          seem to make up it's mind to close it or  
17          allow it to remain open to the public. The  
18          mayoral election likely will play into this  
19          decision, but it is cruel to play with the  
20          lives of animals.

21                    As we learned earlier this evening,  
22          the primates will be euthanized and the  
23          other animals will suffer the same fate if  
24          they can't be placed in an appropriate care  
25          and environment within I would imagine a set

1           period, so what was designed to be an animal

2           refuge sadly and ironically may become a  
3           death sentence until the people of Scranton  
4           speak up. Whether you support or oppose the  
5           wildlife center, I'm sure there is no one  
6           who would want these animals to be  
7           euthanized.

8                        On a related note, it also appears  
9           that the Pocono Equestrian Center was hoping  
10          to replace Genisis and take over the zoo in  
11          2007 according to the information and  
12          contracts supplied by Mr. Bolus at last  
13          week's meeting. The Recreation Authority  
14          was acting independently in negotiating a  
15          2007 contract with Pocono Equestrian Center  
16          for the land surrounding the wildlife  
17          center. It appears less than prudent and  
18          fiscally irresponsible to place the  
19          operations and decisions of all of Nay Aug  
20          Park under this authority since they do not  
21          bay the bills for this park. Since the  
22          operating budget provides for the  
23          employment, pool chemicals and maintenance  
24          issues of Nay Aug among other costs, the  
25          administration should take responsibility

1           for all of Nay Aug Park. The mayor invited

2 this animal refuge center to the zoo area  
3 and he must either properly take care of it  
4 or properly provide for the relocation of  
5 these animals. Such hasty and poorly  
6 planned decisions must stop.

7 Therefore, I move that city council  
8 send a letter to Mr. Doherty and  
9 Mr. Dougher, Director of Parks and  
10 Recreation adamantly opposing the  
11 euthanization of any animal who is housed at  
12 the Genesis Wildlife Center.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

14 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?  
15 Again, I don't like voting on motions that  
16 are made at the table here. I would like to  
17 have more information about whether there is  
18 any plan to have any animals euthanized. I  
19 would like to know what the intent of the  
20 city is as far as the Wildlife Center is  
21 concerned. I think there are is a number of  
22 questions that need to be answered before we  
23 go ahead and make decisions or make motions  
24 and vote on motions concerning this  
25 situation.

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1 MS. EVANS: Well, I can appreciate  
2 it, but I am only asking for a letter to be

3 sent to the two city officials involved in  
4 this situation expressing our opposition to  
5 euthanization of any animal housed at the  
6 wildlife center.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Well --

8 MS. EVANS: It's not to make a  
9 decision regarding the wildlife center, it's  
10 simply stating that --

11 MR. MCGOFF: I understand.

12 MS. EVANS: -- if this is an option  
13 or an action that will be taken as a result  
14 of the closing of the Genesis Wildlife  
15 Center, that we are opposed to the  
16 euthanization of animals.

17 MR. MCGOFF: But the implication in  
18 sending the letter is that you are -- you  
19 are implying that they are going to be  
20 euthanized.

21 MS. EVANS: No, what I'm -- I'm  
22 implying --

23 MR. MCGOFF: Well, that is the  
24 implication of the letter.

25 MS. EVANS: No.

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1 MR. MCGOFF: It absolutely is.

2 MS. EVANS: No, it's not an





4 motion.

5 MR. MCGOFF: See, you try and turn  
6 everything into a black and white issue and  
7 it's not. You are trying to turn what I  
8 said into me implying that I want the  
9 animals euthanized. All I'm saying is that  
10 I do not want to vote on motions that are  
11 made here without having adequate  
12 information as to whether or not, you know,  
13 these things are being planned. I'm not  
14 going to vote on something based on  
15 supposition. That simple. Anyone else?  
16 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Opposed? No.

20 MS. FANUCCI: No.

21 MS. EVANS: Well, unfortunately --

22 MR. MCGOFF: Motion defeated.

23 MS. EVANS: Unfortunately, that  
24 motion dies and --

25 MR. MCGOFF: Appropriately.

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1 MS. EVANS: As Mr. McGoff jokingly  
2 says appropriately it dies.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Appropriate the word.

4 MS. EVANS: Well, small difference  
5 that I think speaks for itself. Finally, I  
6 have citizens' requests for the week. A  
7 letter to Jeff Brazil, DPW, who is  
8 responsible for the removal of "No Parking"  
9 signs on Moosic Street? Also, who is  
10 responsible for replacing these signs, the  
11 city or the state? Residents of Moosic  
12 Street and Harrison Avenue have reported  
13 this hazardous problem and request and  
14 solution ASAP.

15 Also, I did receive a letter from a  
16 resident of Park Gardens or at least the  
17 letter appears to focus on Park Gardens, but  
18 I could not read the handwriting. I think  
19 maybe Mr. Courtright had a similar problem  
20 awhile ago with a letter. If the person who  
21 wrote the letter would call council's office  
22 at 348-4113, 348-4113 and leave your name,  
23 phone number and a brief message for me I'll  
24 return the call and then you can tell me  
25 specifically what the problem is that you

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1 were trying to relate in the letter.

2 Also, I would just like to join in  
3 the previous wishes made tonight for a very  
4 happy and blessed Easter, and that's it.

5 MS. FANUCCI: I'm going to start off  
6 by making comments on Nancy Krake. I guess  
7 she was asking me to resign or I don't know  
8 what she was insinuating, but my job at the  
9 Governor's Office does not entail money.  
10 Anything I do there is not -- has nothing to  
11 do with financial gain or monies that are  
12 dispersed. That's what the federal  
13 government does. That's what the law is  
14 about. So, therefore, I have and will stay  
15 there because I can and I think you know  
16 that because I know that it was filed two  
17 weeks ago actually to try to remove me and I  
18 know that the verdict had come in saying  
19 that it does not apply to my position in the  
20 Governor's office. I also knew that four  
21 years ago when I accepted the job. I  
22 certainly do do my homework and make sure  
23 that these aren't the plans and the intent  
24 to get rid of someone just for your own  
25 personal benefit, but it was very good try

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1 and I do want to commend you on that.

2 As always, and I'm going to say this  
3 again and again, you are stuck in the middle  
4 of election. I hope you are enjoying the

5 ride. This is what it's like every four  
6 years, like it or not we get here and we are  
7 convinced that we are unsafe, we are told  
8 that no matter what we do you are not going  
9 to be okay. You are not. Run for your  
10 lives. Run for your lives. The last --  
11 four years ago it was -- I believe crime and  
12 gangs, that was the theory, but make no  
13 mistake our firemen and our policemen are  
14 good at what they do. They are very good.  
15 They get the bad guys and they put out the  
16 fires. That's not going to stop, so all of  
17 this talk week after week trying to make you  
18 afraid of certain things is nothing but  
19 that. It's to make you afraid.

20 We talked about the -- we are going  
21 to talk about the firehouses because it's  
22 another recurring theme. Yes, I do believe  
23 that that probably was spoken about the  
24 closing firehouses. I believe that -- I  
25 know for a fact superhouses were discussed.

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1 They talked about that for years. It is in  
2 the recovery plan, but it's negotiation.  
3 That's what negotiation is. It's not any  
4 different than the school board when the  
5 teachers go on strike. It's too make a

6 point. It's to get what you want, posture  
7 so that the other side comes to some type of  
8 agreement. It's what goes on in  
9 negotiations. That's what I said for four  
10 years I have been sitting here and I said  
11 this is not going to do anything. We could  
12 say we want contracts signed, but it's going  
13 to play itself out this Court. That's the  
14 only way it's going to happen and there are  
15 many reasons for that. Many reasons on both  
16 sides because this is about money and it's  
17 about how many money has been paid out and  
18 how much money will be paid out, not any  
19 different than what I do with my job or  
20 Mrs. Evans being in the school district,  
21 that's what it's about.

22 But, after the negotiations on  
23 March 4 we have a letter here that, you  
24 know, we all received after it was read last  
25 week saying that was not part of the plan.

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1 It wasn't. It was sent to the union saying  
2 we are going to state clearly that this is  
3 about shift changes and that letter does not  
4 say anything about firehouses being closed  
5 or firefighters being laid off or what else,

6 engine companies closing, but then  
7 coincidentally, that was three weeks before  
8 all of the signs popped up. Like it or not,  
9 this is how it goes. I mean, this is how it  
10 is.

11 Rumors and fear need to stop. None  
12 of us are going to let anyone or agree with  
13 the fact that anyone should not be safe. I  
14 certainly am not going to sit here and say  
15 that I think it's okay to cut or to get rid  
16 of or to close. We want the safety. That's  
17 what it's about. I mean, it is the basic,  
18 basic job for us as public safety, but this  
19 fight will be nasty and it has been nasty  
20 for four years and there are so many  
21 reasons.

22 Last week Mr. Ancherani got up and  
23 spoke about one of his people having  
24 200 percent health care increase.  
25 Absolutely true. Absolutely true. What was

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1 it, 100?

2 MR. ANCHERANI: 1,100.

3 MS. FANUCCI: 1,100 percent increase,  
4 so I got some figures. Before, this was  
5 before the settlement came down in the 2009  
6 awarding for the contracts, the health care

7 that was paid per single person, the  
8 contribution level was, let me get this,  
9 from 2002 to 2008 if you were single and you  
10 were -- your contribution for health care  
11 was \$3.89 a week. Now after the ruling came  
12 down it's \$11.70. Yes, per week I'm saying,  
13 52 weeks a year, per week, so it did go up,  
14 it went up a lot.

15 If you were a family plan it was  
16 from 2002 to 2008, you are paying \$16.87,  
17 \$16.87, you are paying \$876.98 a year on the  
18 family plan. Now, you are paying \$2,000.00  
19 a year. You are paying \$2,161.54, so now  
20 the contribution weekly is \$41.56.

21 The active amount we are paying for  
22 active health care for the people -- this is  
23 just for -- I'm doing the firefighters right  
24 now, \$1,753,551.64, that's for the active.  
25 The retired health care, now this is for the

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1 retirees, we are paying health care for  
2 them, if you retire before and I don't have  
3 this -- before actually the new ruling, if  
4 you retire we are paying your health care  
5 for life, you and your spouse member, it  
6 doesn't have to be a spouse, it could be

7 your child, whoever you put on we are paying  
8 your health care for life, and if you do  
9 pass away you are still paying for that  
10 other person to have health care for life,  
11 so the retirees are actually more money than  
12 the people who are active right now, so they  
13 are over \$3 million we are paying for them.  
14 \$3 million.

15 Those are the figures, so Mr.  
16 Ancherani correct after 2009 when the new  
17 ruling came down they are contributing more  
18 to their health care, but still I'm not sure  
19 if they are contributing as much as you are  
20 out there, that's for sure, to your health  
21 care. Most of us are working daily for our  
22 health care. That to me is a huge benefit.

23 So let's talk a little bit more  
24 about the fact that cost of living, cost of  
25 living increased, this was our big thing for

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1 four years we are going to hear about it,  
2 cost of living. They did not receive a cost  
3 of living increase, definitely did not  
4 until, let me get -- I'm sorry, I have a lot  
5 of stuff here so I just want to get this  
6 straight because I can't do this wrong,  
7 until 2009 in September -- 2008 in September



8 they received 7 percent raise due to the  
9 settlement with the city, so they did  
10 receive 7 percent then. After this new  
11 award came down which was in 2009 they  
12 increased their wages by only .5 percent  
13 because at that time they had a cap saying  
14 they could only take 2.5 -- or, I'm sorry,  
15 7.5 percent, so that is why they only  
16 received 5 percent at this time. So, that  
17 was their first cost of living increase, but  
18 remember, their health care to me is almost  
19 like a raise. Paying that health care all  
20 this time because the health care costs for  
21 the city for a single person in 2007 --  
22 let's go to 2008 because that was the number  
23 I used so I don't want to be inaccurate  
24 here, the health care for the city in 2008  
25 is \$4,900 per person which is \$94.40 per

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1 pay. Well, not even per pay, for weekly, so  
2 we need to do the same, the city's  
3 contribution and your contribution, what you  
4 are paying for their health care is \$94.40.  
5 What the contribution was until this last  
6 award was \$3.89. That to me is probably the  
7 reason we are in this mess, part of the

8 reason we are fighting, part of the reason  
9 that every week held here used as a forum of  
10 constant debates and madness and, you know,  
11 just spewing problems all of the time.

12 PEL, let's talk about PEL. PEL  
13 didn't come here because they felt like  
14 dropping themselves off. They came here  
15 because they were asked to come here, they  
16 were voted to come here. Then the unions  
17 asked to put it on referendum. We don't  
18 know if we want recovery, let's let the  
19 people decide. The people decided they  
20 wanted the recovery. Misinformation they  
21 are saying because misinformation was that  
22 they didn't understand the recovery plan.  
23 Whatever the reason we have them now and we  
24 are stuck with them. Whether or not we  
25 agree with the way this is happening it

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1 doesn't matter. If we decide to give  
2 everything the unions want and, you know  
3 what, more power to them. I would  
4 absolutely love to. If we had all of the  
5 money in the world I would say just give  
6 them what they had. It was a wonderful deal  
7 and let's keep it going. The problem is we  
8 don't have the money. Nobody has the money

9                   anymore. Corporate America doesn't have the  
10                   money, your small businesses don't have the  
11                   money, and your municipalities have not had  
12                   the money in years. You don't have to like  
13                   it, it's a fact.

14                                 PEL is not going anywhere until we  
15                   clean our mess up. Does it mean it's the  
16                   union's fault? Absolutely not. Does it  
17                   mean it's the administration's fault?  
18                   Absolutely not. This has been going on for  
19                   years and years and years. This mess is all  
20                   over the country, it's in every household,  
21                   it's in every business, so to sit here every  
22                   week and say that it's one person's fault or  
23                   one administration's fault is absolutely  
24                   false. We got here because we did exactly  
25                   what the rest of America was doing. We were

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1                   trying to do what we thought was right and  
2                   actually ended up in a mess. PEL is not  
3                   leaving until we straighten out our house  
4                   out, so I don't care who runs or what they  
5                   say or what they are going to do if we  
6                   decide to give them everything we'll get  
7                   sanctioned. They will red flag us and we  
8                   won't get any money from the state or the

9 federal government. So, I mean, that could  
10 definitely happen. That's an option. It's  
11 in the Recovery Plan and who knows if they  
12 will do it or not, but it is something that  
13 they can do.

14 My theory is enough is enough. This  
15 is ridiculous. We are going to spend  
16 another ten years fighting over this. Now  
17 there are contracts and was said tonight  
18 there is contract. The sad thing is that  
19 because we went to Court and we kept going  
20 to Court some of these people who worked  
21 forever and believe that they were going to  
22 retired with full-blown health care for the  
23 rest of their lives and their spouse they  
24 actually lost it. They retired without any  
25 now after all of their years of service the

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1 health care is gone for them. That to me is  
2 sad. That's what can happen if we stay  
3 distressed and also if we don't try to use  
4 the parameters that are set.

5 None of us like it, it's time that  
6 we all just finally say enough is enough, we  
7 need to do what's best for everyone and it's  
8 not against the unions, it's not against the  
9 administration, it's not against the

10 taxpayers, it doesn't matter. It doesn't  
11 matter. It's about how you're going to end  
12 up in the long run. This is your money.  
13 You are paying everybody. You are paying  
14 everybody. So whether or not you agree with  
15 PEL it doesn't -- it has nothing to do with  
16 it. They are here. They are not going  
17 away. I know you want to get rid of them,  
18 you should want to get rid of them. Believe  
19 me, they want to take things away from you.  
20 I understand that. I get it. You know, I  
21 went through all of this paperwork and I get  
22 why, longevity pay. Huge. Huge. Some  
23 people are getting over \$3,000 in longevity  
24 pay. It's amazing to me, you know, and  
25 that's a problem, too.

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1 Overtime, what'd we pay \$700,000 in  
2 overtime? That's a problem. \$700,000 in  
3 overtime. That's a major problem. We need  
4 to work something out because it is not  
5 getting any better and it's not better on  
6 it's own and coming in here every week and  
7 screaming and yelling is not changing a  
8 thing because guess what, we are still here,  
9 eight years later we are still here doing

10 it. Yeah. Yeah. I agree.

11 So that is all I have on that  
12 tonight. I'm certainly going to give you  
13 more next week because I got some other  
14 figures on Mrs. Evans had asked for figures  
15 on DPW, I have those, I have figures on the  
16 police and also the administration that I  
17 will doing also in the next few weeks.

18 On another note, I just want to say  
19 my grandfather was sick and ask him -- and  
20 let him know that, you know, I love him very  
21 much. He is wonderful man, Frank Scatino,  
22 anyone who knows him knows he is a wonderful  
23 guy and at 90 years old it is very difficult  
24 to see one of the best people in your life  
25 sick, and it's not any different than, I

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1 mean, you all know that, and just to let him  
2 know that I would not be the person I was if  
3 it were not for him, and that is all. Thank  
4 you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Courtright?

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah. I would like  
7 to make one -- Mrs. Fanucci put out a lot of  
8 information there, I believe the only people  
9 that got benefits for life were pre '93 if  
10 I'm not mistaken.

11 MS. FANUCCI: '97. '97 I think it  
12 was.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Well,  
14 I'll check into that, I'll make sure.  
15 Anyway, the individual that stopped me on  
16 Faar Street we did send a letter out about  
17 your road and the whole thing will be taken  
18 care of. Kay, I need one more letter, the  
19 DPW had gone out to Forest Glenn and the  
20 driving range and patched it the best they  
21 could but now the blacktop plants are open  
22 and it needs to be graded and paved. It's  
23 just someone is going to get seriously  
24 injured right there. If they need the exact  
25 location I believe they know it, but if they

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1 need the exact location you can ask them to  
2 call me and I will personally drive them to  
3 the spot. It's very bad. Someone is going  
4 to get hurt, it's on a turn and the entire  
5 road is dug up.

6 The woman from Genesis Wildlife, I  
7 don't know what prompted this to happen all  
8 of a sudden, why all of a sudden is there a  
9 need to close that place and I would ask --  
10 I guess, I would ask the administration that

11 if we could, Kay, why all of a sudden are we  
12 interested in closing the place because I'm  
13 looking at the reports you gave me and she  
14 passed everything that was given to her by I  
15 believe it was the Game Commission. Yeah,  
16 by the PA Game Commission she passed  
17 everything on the inspection and it was a  
18 surprise inspection as far as I could see,  
19 so why all of a sudden do we need to close  
20 that place? That I don't understand.

21 Mr. Judge spoke about the QRS and I  
22 spoke about this more than one time in the  
23 past we sat at this table on a couple of  
24 different occasions, myself, members from  
25 the administration, firefighters, we thought

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1 we had a plan worked out for QRS and we  
2 thought it was a go and then the mayor  
3 refused to entertain that plan.

4 One of the reasons that I was  
5 pushing for it so hard was the fact that at  
6 the time, and I think it probably still  
7 exists, that the response time of the  
8 ambulances weren't what we had hoped that  
9 they would be. Again, as he said, I don't  
10 know if it's because of the volume of calls  
11 that they are getting or if they are cutting



12 back on staff or what, but I had gotten so  
13 many complaints that I spoke to the  
14 individual that to me is probably the most  
15 knowledgeable person in the ambulance  
16 business and he said if, you know, if we  
17 weren't go do the QRS then maybe the  
18 ambulances could do what they call posting  
19 because at any given time we would have no  
20 ambulances available in the City of  
21 Scranton, none. So, to try to avoid any  
22 problem barring the QRS, which I'm still in  
23 favor of, I asked about posting which would  
24 mean, you know, the ambulance service if  
25 there was no ambulance in the City of

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1 Scranton they would post them say the border  
2 of Taylor, Abington and Dunmore so we could  
3 get some quicker response times.

4 I still believe that the QRS will  
5 work because of the proximity to the  
6 problems is that all of these firehouses  
7 are. They are all trained, not that they  
8 were going to take over the ambulance jobs,  
9 but if they can get to the person and  
10 stabilize them until what time, you know, a  
11 paramedic would get there why not do it?

12 The union was good enough to agree at the  
13 time to not use any of those runs to bill up  
14 their numbers. I think that was a concern  
15 to the administration that they would use it  
16 to bill up their numbers to justify more  
17 firefighters and they agreed, you know, they  
18 wouldn't do that so I would hope at this  
19 point in time we would consider it again, I  
20 think Mr. Judge made some very, very good  
21 points and I'm in favor of the QRS, I always  
22 have been and I think there is members of  
23 this council that have been, also.

24 The tax office, I have avoided  
25 talking about it for obvious reasons, but I

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1 have to agree with Mrs. Evans that we have  
2 been mislead. Like I said last week, we  
3 were mislead when we were told there was 12  
4 million, no 12 million. We were mislead  
5 when we said there was a forensic audit and  
6 we find out the forensic audit is nothing  
7 more than some kind of a catch phrase.

8 I'll have to agree with  
9 Mr. Ancherani I don't agree with a lot  
10 that's in the newspaper, but I had this  
11 article brought to my attention that a man I  
12 only met one time, I believe his name is

13 Chris Kelly? Yeah, right here, Chris Kelly,  
14 he kind of hit the nail on the head for the  
15 people I have been talking to and there's a  
16 lot of good things in there, so if you are  
17 interested in what is going on over there it  
18 was in this Sunday's paper and I thought it  
19 was a pretty good article. It more or less  
20 hit the nail on the head and what people  
21 have been talking into thinking what is  
22 going on over there now, and I don't want to  
23 read the entire article, I don't want to  
24 make it look like I'm bashing anybody, I  
25 would ask you go and read Chris Kelly's

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1 article Sunday and decide for yourself.

2 It's one time that I agree with him.

3 I think what the people of the City  
4 of Scranton now that I talked to just want  
5 to see is some honesty, all right? They  
6 just want a little bit of honesty and I  
7 don't think that's too much to ask for. So,  
8 again, I'm tiptoeing around this issue  
9 because of the circumstances, but I think  
10 this is an article worth reading and you  
11 make your own decision. I don't want to  
12 make it for you, and I would just like to

13 say Happy Easter to everybody and I am done.  
14 Thank you.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. A number of  
16 quick things. First, I don't know if I was  
17 being accused of muddying the waters or that  
18 the waters had somehow gotten muddied by  
19 someone else, but I didn't attempt to muddy  
20 the waters, I tried to not be misleading.  
21 The only point that I tried to make last  
22 week was that a memorandum was sent to the  
23 union on February 25, one that you can --  
24 one that was conveniently out of the  
25 timeline that we heard tonight which a draft

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1 of the proposed new organizational structure  
2 of the fire department was given to the  
3 union. Two weeks later we had someone come  
4 in and tell us that there was a proposal to  
5 close firehouses and a sign demonstration or  
6 whatever you want to call it, signs appeared  
7 around the city to keep the firehouses open  
8 when, in fact, at least the fire union knew  
9 that that was not the plan.

10 I think that is muddying the waters.  
11 That's muddying the waters.

12 MR. GERVASI: It was a bid sheet.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Two -- excuse me.

14 MR. GERVASI: It was a bid sheet.

15 MR. MCGOFF: My turn.

16 MR. GERVASI: Not a structure, a bid  
17 sheet. Be accurate.

18 MR. MCGOFF: I am accurate. It's  
19 right here.

20 MR. GERVASI: No, you are not.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Last week someone comes  
22 to council and says we don't have any idea  
23 what the plan is. It's in a secret folder.  
24 The plan was in their hands. That's  
25 misleading. That is muddying the waters. I

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1 don't mind listening to information as long  
2 as it's accurate and not misleading and I  
3 think that in some cases we have been  
4 mislead, and that was all I was trying to  
5 say.

6 As far as the Wildlife Center is  
7 concerned, I didn't want to get into an  
8 argument or I didn't mean to get into an  
9 argument about whether or not euthanizing  
10 animals was a good or a bad thing, I would  
11 just like to get some more information. I  
12 would like to get information from the  
13 administration as to what their intent is,

14 if there is some type of plan, some  
15 structure to what they are going to do, as  
16 far as I knew there was no intent to  
17 euthanize any animals, the intent was to  
18 move them to new homes. What I see on what  
19 was given to us by Ms. Miller and that there  
20 is a law, a recent change in the law, I  
21 would like to find out what that change was  
22 and, you know, the accuracy of that if, in  
23 fact, that maybe that was something that was  
24 not considered when the suggestion or when  
25 the mayor told them that they should seek

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1 other places. I just think at that there is  
2 more information that's needed.

3 I, too, have, you know, fond  
4 memories of being at the Nay Aug Zoo and I  
5 think it's a -- I had my granddaughters  
6 through there, through the Wildlife Center  
7 last year, they enjoyed it, I think it's a  
8 good thing, but I still think that we need  
9 some more information before we proceed to  
10 do anything concerning the Wildlife Center.

11 And the last thing, dealing with the  
12 tax office, this is probably the most  
13 perplexing thing that I have had to deal  
14 with since I have been on in council. I

15 just can't understand what's taking place  
16 and I don't want to blame anyone, I just  
17 think that the situation has become so  
18 complex that I don't know that there is  
19 anybody that has an adequate answer to  
20 what's going on. Everybody seems to have  
21 different parts of a puzzle and it's parts  
22 don't seem to fit together, and one of the  
23 things that I think is causing the problem  
24 or that's a major part of the problem is  
25 that we haven't had an audit of the tax

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1 office that we thought we were. We had an  
2 investigation. I think that the city paid  
3 for an audit. I think that at this point in  
4 time we should demand that that audit be  
5 taken. Not another investigation, not put  
6 off, if we paid for an audit that's what we  
7 thought we were getting then there should be  
8 an attempt at an audit of the Single Tax  
9 Office and let them come back -- let someone  
10 come back and report on what has taken place  
11 and maybe it's an impossibility to conduct  
12 an audit as Mr. McGovern seemed to indicate,  
13 but I think it should be attempted and get  
14 away from all of this investigation and, you

15 know, whatever terminology wants to be used.

16 And I'm not, again, I'm not looking  
17 for an audit to place blame on anybody, I  
18 don't want an investigation, I don't want to  
19 place blame on any particular person persons  
20 or computer system, I think it is incumbent  
21 upon us to find out how that money got  
22 there, how much is there and what -- and how  
23 it can be accurately dispersed. That is  
24 what we thought we are going to get and  
25 perhaps in conducting this office we can

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1 ascertain what amounts of money were lost, I  
2 know it's been indicated it may be up to  
3 \$2 million, it may be \$2, who knows, but an  
4 audit should be able to determine more  
5 accurate figures than we have received and I  
6 don't know what process we need to go  
7 through in order to make that demand, but  
8 within the next week or so I think that we  
9 should -- I would pursue or attempt to find  
10 out how we can go about getting what we paid  
11 for, and that is accurate audit of the  
12 Single Tax Office for the years in which  
13 this 12 point whatever million had  
14 accumulated, and that's all.

15 MS. EVANS: Can I just say I agree



16 with you. I think that's a very good idea.  
17 I don't know, again, as you said, how that's  
18 going to occur since they evidently have  
19 performed work over an eight-month period  
20 for which they have billed and I'm sure have  
21 been paid or will be paid. We may incur  
22 additional costs in pursuing a traditional  
23 forensic audit which I am not opposed to. I  
24 believe there should be an audit and I agree  
25 with you. We were lead to believe it was an

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1 audit and now we find out after the fact it  
2 was not an audit.

3 But, I also want to say that I will  
4 not be satisfied until an investigation of  
5 that office is conducted either by the State  
6 Attorney General's Office or Federal Bureau  
7 of Investigation, whatever appropriate  
8 agency is necessary. The FBI can certainly  
9 open up it's investigation once again  
10 because this type of situation wouldn't be  
11 permitted I'm sure in any private business  
12 or probably any government, but that's all I  
13 wanted to add to that.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Attorney Minora.

15 MR. MINORA: If I could just kick my

16 two cents into this, which I think you  
17 already have, I spoke to Solicitor Patterson  
18 this week. A forensic audit is going to be  
19 very expensive and there are other  
20 communities that have a stake in this who  
21 haven't really stepped forward to contribute  
22 to a forensic audit, although, they have  
23 money involved. I thought that there might  
24 be a possibility or I suggested to her that  
25 she considered filing a declaratory judgment

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1 action and putting the matter in Court.  
2 That would, of course, bring all of the  
3 other parties involved into a -- well, more  
4 than a discussion, but as far as the cost  
5 then I think a Court would be almost  
6 obligated to at least request some money  
7 from all of the other municipalities towards  
8 a forensic audit and perhaps there's some  
9 ability to the Court function itself of a  
10 declaratory judgment in coming to numbers  
11 that you could live with as a distribution  
12 perhaps based on some, you know, multiple  
13 population or taxes, but that would be a  
14 settlement, but my original thought was to  
15 try and get the other communities to  
16 contribute to part of this since they have a

17 stake. I suggested that to her, she thought  
18 it was an idea to consider and she is going  
19 to be looking into it.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: May I just say one  
22 thing, Mr. McGoff, I think the Times  
23 reported 134,000 and counting, so we are  
24 still paying them. I would suggest we stop,  
25 you know, paying them until we see what it

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1 is we are paying for them. I mean,  
2 \$134,000, correct me if I'm wrong, but I  
3 don't think we know a whole lot more than we  
4 did before.

5 MS. EVANS: NO.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: So, I would like to,  
7 you know, see them stop paying them until we  
8 know what we are paying them for, you know.  
9 I would want to know what I'm paying for.

10 MS. EVANS: Well, there is obviously,  
11 according to the newspaper we still have a  
12 CPA or perhaps a controller at work in that  
13 office who is overseeing I'm assuming the  
14 day-to-day operations until the city and the  
15 school district and the county hire a  
16 full-time controller.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: I like Mr. Minora's  
18 idea of trying to get everybody else to  
19 share in paying them.

20 MR. MCGOFF: I will also talk to our  
21 solicitor and see if that's -- if we can  
22 move that forward.

23 MS. EVANS: Attorney Minora, I'm  
24 sorry.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Go ahead.

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1 MS. EVANS: Do you know what costs  
2 would be incurred to the city, that is, by a  
3 possible state or federal investigation?

4 MR. MINORA: Well, I'm not -- if you  
5 are talking about a criminal investigation  
6 then the entities that do that they don't  
7 surcharge the municipalities that they are  
8 investigating that I have ever seen, so it  
9 would be something that the FBI would  
10 undertake by themselves or the Attorney  
11 General's Office would undertake by  
12 themselves. I'm not aware of them ever  
13 surcharging a municipality for investigating  
14 some wrongdoing in that municipality.

15 MS. EVANS: So that's a very  
16 cost-effective way in which to pursue this.

17 MR. MINORA: Well --

18 MS. EVANS: In addition to an audit.

19 MR. MINORA: Well, I don't think it  
20 gives you any information on money, they are  
21 two separate things.

22 MS. EVANS: Exactly.

23 MR. MINORA: A criminal investigation  
24 and an audit are two completely different  
25 things. One is looking for did somebody

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1 involve themselves in some criminality,  
2 you're really looking at very narrow  
3 parameters for that, and a forensic audit  
4 you are looking for mistakes. You are  
5 looking for errors.

6 MS. EVANS: An accounting.

7 MR. MINORA: You are looking for --

8 MS. EVANS: The accounting of  
9 missing monies.

10 MR. MINORA: Yeah. Well, and that as  
11 well, but it's also to try and remedy  
12 whatever the inherent errors were in the  
13 first place, so they are really two  
14 completely different things and they  
15 don't -- well, they don't ordinarily cross  
16 over. There may be some line to cross over  
17 in a criminal case, but the forensic audit

18 is a different animal from a criminal  
19 investigation.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. MINORA: I don't know if that  
22 answer the questions.

23 MS. EVANS: Yes, that helps me.  
24 Thank you.

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

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1 your turn.

2 MS. GARVEY: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
3 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING  
4 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229590 ENTITLED  
5 "A.R.T.S. ENGAGE! GRANT" FOR THE RECEIPT  
6 AND DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS FROM  
7 LACKAWANNA COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
8 SERVICES AND DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE  
9 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
10 CITY OF SCRANTON POOL MURALS PROGRAM.

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

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

16 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

17 MS. EVANS: I was looking through the  
18 backup for this piece of legislation and I

19 noticed mentioned in the language and even  
20 in the costs a title or a group called  
21 Heart-to-Art, and I'm wondering if we can  
22 find out, please, who that group or who owns  
23 it or who will be president or directors of  
24 that would be and where they are from.

25 MS. FANUCCI: I believe Donna Doherty

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1 is in charge of part of that program, maybe  
2 that's why you are asking. The mayor's wife  
3 is definitely a significant part of that  
4 group, but it's many, many people. They  
5 have done work in Wilkes-Barre, also, but I  
6 can find out more on that for you.

7 MS. EVANS: That would be good.

8 MR. MCGOFF: All in favor signify by  
9 saying aye.

10 MS. EVANS: Aye.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
14 ayes have it and so moved.

15 MS. GARVEY: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
16 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
17 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
18 SCRANTON TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS

19 FROM LACKAWANNA COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
20 SERVICES AND DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE  
21 A.R.T.S. ENGAGE! GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF  
22 \$34,100.00 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
23 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION POOL  
24 MURALS PROGRAM.

25 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll

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1 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be  
2 introduced into it's proper committee.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

5 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
6 in favor signify by saying aye.

7 MS. EVANS: Aye.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

12 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER. NO  
13 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.  
14 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
15 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 116,  
16 2009 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
17 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
18 ENTER INTO MUNICIPAL SUPPLEMENTAL  
19 ENGINEERING AGREEMENT NUMBER 041761-D WITH



20 BUCHART-HORN, INC. TO AMEND PART III OF THE  
21 AGREEMENT TO COVER UNANTICIPATED ADDITIONAL  
22 WORK NECESSARY TO CONTINUE SERVICES DURING  
23 CONSTRUCTION AND AN OVERALL EXTENSION OF THE  
24 LACKAWANNA AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT FOR AN  
25 ADDITIONAL COST OF \$22,906.67.

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1 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
2 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
3 Committee on Public Works?

4 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the  
5 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
6 passage of Item 7-A.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

8 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
9 call, please?

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

11 MS. EVANS: Yes.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli. Ms.  
13 Fanucci.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

17 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
19 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

20 Thank you and I'll entertain a motion to  
21 adjourn.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

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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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