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02 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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08 Held:

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09 Thursday, September 1, 2005

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11 Time:

12 7:00 p.m.

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14 Location:

15 Council chambers

15 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

16 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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23 Lisa M. Graff, RPR

24 Court Reporter

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01 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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03 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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05 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

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07 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

08

09 MR. JOHN POCIUS

10

11 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

12

13 MR. MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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15 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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17 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Please stand for the

02 Pledge of Allegiance. Please remain standing for a

03 short prayer. Kay, can we have a roll call, please?

04 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

05 MR. McTIERNAN: Here.

06 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

07 MS. EVANS: Here.

08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

09 MR. POCIUS: Here.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Here. Mr. Walsh, if

14 you would dispense with the reading of the minutes,

15 please.

16 MR. WALSH: Certainly. Third

17 order. 3-A, MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD

18 MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2005.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

20 comments on 3-A? If not, received and filed.

21 MR. WALSH: 3-B, MINUTES OF THE

22 NON-UNIFORM PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY,

23 AUGUST 24, 2005.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

25 comments on 3-B? If not, received and filed.

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01 MR. WALSH: 3-C, MINUTES OF THE

02 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY,

03 JULY 27, 2005.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

05 comments on 3-C? If not, received and filed.

06 MR. WALSH: 3-D, MINUTES OF THE

07 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON

08 WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2005.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

10 comments on 3-D? If not, received and filed.

11 MR. WALSH: 3-E, AGENDA FOR THE

12 ZONING HEARING BOARD TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER

13 14, 2005.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

15 comments on 3-E? If not, received and filed.

16 MR. WALSH: 3-F, clerk's notes.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Mr. Saunders,

18 if you would, please.

19 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, last

20 week we discussed or Charlie Newcomb, Jr. discussed a

21 problem that he was having at I believe 459

22 North Cameron, the 400 block of North Cameron, the 200,

23 well, we have backtracked all the letters that have

24 gone out on the 200, 300 and 400 block that you are

25 looking at right now as we speak.

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01 Letters from our office did go

02 out. We sent out six requests on that. We do have a

03 return from George Parker in 2004, that may be before

04 your time when you lived there, but his response to

05 that is that they don't know exactly what the problem

06 is over there and they will continue to monitor that.

07 Okay. I'll check with him on that.

08 Mr. President, something that has

09 been A success for our office, and also I would imagine

10 other offices in City Hall is the www.slout.com.

11 That's when your streetlight is out, you know, you go

12 right to this website, punch in the location, the grid

13 number, and within days, they're fixing those

14 streetlights.

15 Our calls have gone down

16 tremendously since this website has gone up, and we
17 hope that continues. So, I will remind everybody,
18 that's www.slout.com. That will be up and running, and
19 that is MEM that runs that. They get the complaint,
20 and they fix your streetlight in a hurry.

21 The last thing I have is

22 Mark Sietzinger from license and inspection, he is the
23 director of safety. He -- he has sent a memo down to
24 us asking us that we -- the blight hotline that was up
25 for months and months and months on Channel 61, that
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01 was actually going to an answering machine that nobody
02 was answering.

03 They want to redirect those calls

04 that are on Channel 61. The phone number now is
05 directed to the right spot, but if you have any blight
06 complaints, please call 348-4193 and ask for Mark
07 Sietzinger, and he will be happy to answer your
08 problems.

09 But if you called and left a

10 message on that machine, please redirect that call.

11 That's all I have, Mr. President.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

13 Mr. Saunders.

14 MR. WALSH: Fourth order, citizen

15 participation.

16 MR. DIBILEO: We have a sign-in

17 sheet, and before I call up the first speaker, I'd like

18 to welcome all audience members and welcome all

19 speakers. We appreciate you being here.

20 I'd like to remind all speakers to

21 please refrain from comments of a personal nature, and

22 in keeping with that, I'll ask our solicitor Mark Walsh

23 to aid me in trying to determine when the fine line

24 between Freedom Of Speech and restricted speech is

25 crossed.

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01 Also, please keep your comments,

02 if you would, to no more than five minutes. And we

03 appreciate that. And with that said, the first speaker

04 on the list is Jimmy Stucker.

05 MR. STUCKER: How are you doing,

06 Mr. DiBileo?

07 MR. DIBILEO: Good, Jim. Just for

08 the record, Jim, give your name and address, please.

09 MR. STUCKER: Okay. I live in

10 Hyde Park now, Main Avenue. The new -- it used to be

11 the old theater. I live up there now. I moved out of

12 Moosic Street, so I feel better up there and made some
13 friends.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Go right ahead, Jim.

15 MR. STUCKER: Thanks for the
16 shirt. I got a shirt the other day --

17 MR. DIBILEO: You're welcome.

18 MR. STUCKER: -- from Hyde Park
19 from your office.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Good. Glad you got
21 one.

22 MR. STUCKER: Okay. We need some
23 maybe -- the police are telling me I should not do
24 this, but the police is a little bit nice to me, and
25 they're sitting in the coffee shops a lot, I see then.
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01 They're not doing their job. They sit in the coffee
02 shop every day and every night. They're supposed to be
03 out on the road, they're not.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

05 MR. STUCKER: Okay. We have --
06 the building we have -- the building I used to be in,
07 they should condemn that building, you know why, I told
08 Jay about it, there's dogs and cats in the building,
09 and I have friends there, people that lived in the
10 building, they should get out of there. They should
11 evict the building, they should clean it right out
12 altogether and rip it down.

13 MR. DIBILEO: That's where you
14 used to live, Jim?

15 MR. STUCKER: Yeah, Moosic
16 Street.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

18 MR. STUCKER: There's a lot of --

19 MR. DIBILEO: Well, after the
20 meeting you can leave that former address and we will
21 have Mr. Saunders look into it for you.

22 MR. STUCKER: Yeah, I want an
23 inspector to go over there and see what they can do.
24 We got a new landlord. He's New York, he's not from
25 around here.

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Okay, Jim. We'll
02 look into that for you. Thanks for coming. I
03 appreciate it, Jim.

04 MR. STUCKER: Yeah.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Douglas Walsh.

06 MR. WALSH: Douglas Walsh,
07 Scranton. It's hard to believe I have to come here.

08 Last week was the five-year anniversary, five-year
09 anniversary of a pretty big hole opening up in my
10 backyard. It continues to get bigger and bigger.
11 I've informed the Sewer Authority,
12 the mining people, and now I'm informing you for the
13 public record to make the -- with each rainfall, the
14 hole in my yard gets bigger and bigger and bigger.
15 It's now 25 feet deep by 22 feet
16 wide. It's 16 inches from the base of my back porch.
17 It is 5 feet from a 50-foot pine tree with a 25 foot
18 pine tree next to it.
19 With rainfall in the forecast,
20 heavy rain fall, I'm not a weatherman, but in the next
21 month it's coming, the hole keeps getting bigger and
22 bigger, safety problem here, the tree is going to fall,
23 it's either going to fall on my next door neighbor's
24 lot, his fence, his back porch while he's sitting
25 there, or it's going to fall on the other neighbor's
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01 back porch, backyard, and there's going to be an even
02 bigger problem.
03 So, really all I'm here to do is
04 to inform you of that, because it's under litigation
05 now.
06 Two things I'm really looking for
07 is when we're going to go to court about it or when are
08 we going to settle it, because the tree is going to
09 fall in the next two or three rainstorms. That's all I
10 have.
11 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Saunders, we
12 would like to try to get that information for Mr. Walsh
13 as quickly as possible before anything disastrous would
14 happen. Do you have something?
15 MS. EVANS: Yes. I know exactly
16 what Mr. Walsh is describing, because early on during
17 my first year on Council, I was over to his property
18 and I saw that hole, which was of sizable proportions
19 at that time.
20 Obviously since then it's only
21 grown far worse, and I've learned very recently that
22 there are sewer problems and flooding problems, which
23 I'm going to talk about later, over at Park Gardens,
24 and when the residents contacted Mr. Lennox from the
25 Sewer Authority, he informed them that what's occurring
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01 in Park Gardens is directly connected to the pipe in
02 the hole on Fisk Street, which is in this man's
03 backyard.

04 And as he noted, this has been
05 ongoing now for years, and there's no reason. There's
06 absolutely no reason that this hasn't been addressed
07 before. And I did at that time bring it to the
08 attention of the mayor, and his response was pretty
09 negative.
10 When I cited that the man might
11 sue or the man was going to sell his property in
12 Scranton and other properties, and he's a lifelong
13 resident of this area, and we're talking about
14 Green Ridge, which is my neighborhood and the Mayor's
15 neighborhood, and, you know, when I brought that up to
16 him and asked, please, could he intercede, because I
17 know when he takes something under his wing, he can get
18 action immediately.
19 There's no one quite like him. He
20 is unparalleled in what he can do in a short amount of
21 time, and I admire that, which is why I went to him,
22 but when I explained that, his answer was, Let him.
23 Let him move, let him sue. And now this is what's
24 happened almost, well, a year and a half later.
25 So, I'm really hoping that, you

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01 know, the city is finally -- at least take care of the
02 tree. Now he's in court with it, so I'm sure that's
03 going to settle the hole one way or another.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

05 Mrs. Evans. Mike Mazza.

06 MR. MAZZA: Good evening, Council
07 members. My address would be 431 Wyoming Avenue,
08 Scranton. I'm president of the Scranton Building
09 Trades. I was wondering, if I'm out of order, tell me,
10 but I -- in the paper there has been several
11 discussions about the CRF loan, and I just want to know
12 if I'm out of order by commenting on it or not.

13 MR. DIBILEO: No, I don't think

14 so.

15 MR. MAZZA: This here
16 revitalization and this loan is going to keep people
17 working in the community. The city hasn't seen this
18 resurrection since the Boscov Steamtown Mall and the
19 theater project, have we seen this kind of work, and
20 we'd like you guys to really, and woman, not used to
21 seeing a woman up on Council.

22 MS. EVANS: That's okay.

23 MR. MAZZA: But really consider
24 this loan revitalization. I mean, it's important to
25 our members and a lot of construction workers, and it's

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01 going to dwindle down, have an effect on a lot of
02 people in business, and it could be a material
03 supplier, it could be the guy that owns a restaurant, a
04 coffee house, it's going to have that trickle down
05 effect.

06 I mean, I'm sure there's a lot of
07 activity right now down in Scranton and a lot of the
08 businesses see that for lunches ongoing. It's good for
09 everybody.

10 And, please, this means jobs. It
11 means jobs to everybody. It will be permanent jobs.
12 The money created here -- the money used to create
13 these jobs, probably \$5 million on a project that would
14 probably bring in another 140 permanent jobs, and we'd
15 like to just --

16 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Mazza, can I
17 interrupt for just a minute?

18 MR. MAZZA: Go ahead.

19 MR. DIBILEO: And don't take any
20 more time from Mr. Mazza, please. I want to address
21 this, if I can.

22 This issue, this City Council
23 follows Roberts Rules of order, and that's in order to
24 maintain rules and maintain order obviously, and it's
25 my understanding that in order for that piece of
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01 legislation which was voted on to be reintroduced, that
02 a member of the majority of the vote would have to make
03 a motion to reintroduce it.

04 Now, number one, I voted in favor
05 of it, but there were three people here, and for the
06 record, just once again, I did not schedule any
07 meetings where certain members of Council could not
08 attend, that the August 1 meeting that was held was a
09 meeting that was scheduled to replace the July 28
10 meeting, the Thursday prior to that Monday vote when
11 there was only two members of City Council here, so
12 there wasn't three.

13 I wasn't able to be here.

14 Mrs. Evans actually was going to preside over
15 City Council that day.

16 Mrs. Evans made the decision to
17 reschedule the next meeting in place of Thursday,
18 July 28, for Monday August 1.

19 At that point in time, we were
20 going to be breaking for August, so we had the meeting
21 August 1, and then there were three people here,

22 myself, Mr. Courtright and Mrs. Evans.

23 That legislation was on the agenda

24 for July 28, it was going to be voted on then, so it

25 was voted on the next meeting, you know, August 1.

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01 It was a 2-1 vote, and the two votes were in the

02 negative.

03 Now, it's my understanding that to

04 follow Roberts Rules of order, a person in the

05 majority, which in this case was Mr. Courtright and

06 Mrs. Evans, would have to make the a motion to

07 reintroduce, and I'd like to really ask right now,

08 Mr. Courtright, would you consider reintroducing that

09 legislation?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: No. I haven't

11 changed my opinion on this particular subject.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Let me ask

13 Mrs. Evans if she would re introduce the legislation on

14 the selling of the loans, the CRF legislation.

15 MS. EVANS: No, not at this time.

16 It's possible in the future if I were presented with a

17 viable project, that I'm very willing to listen and

18 consider that, but at this point in time, no.

19 MR. POCIUS: Mr. DiBileo, is it

20 proper for one of us to speak at this time?

21 MR. DIBILEO: Sure. Why not?

22 MR. POCIUS: WELL, then at this

23 time I'll make a motion that Scranton City Council

24 suspend their rules allowing for the reintroduction of

25 the CRF legislation as it was presented and those

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01 pieces of legislation be placed back on a future agenda

02 for further consideration by this Council.

03 MR. McTIERNAN: Second.

04 MR. WALSH: If there's a motion to

05 be made, this is public comment. We don't make motions

06 during fourth order. If you do indeed want to make a

07 motion, don't you think we should do it during --

08 MR. POCIUS: Are you sure, Mark,

09 we've never made a motion during public comment?

10 MR. WALSH: I'm not aware of one.

11 I don't know.

12 MR. POCIUS: Are you sure?

13 MR. WALSH: I'm not disagreeing

14 with your motion.

15 MR. POCIUS: Well, then --

16 MR. WALSH: Listen, I'll sit here

17 until someone asks me, but all I'm saying is that --

18 MR. POCIUS: Well, should I wait
19 until motions?
20 MR. WALSH: I would. I mean,
21 you've been here longer than I have, and in fourth
22 order, citizens participation, it doesn't --
23 MR. POCIUS: Because I'm not
24 real -- on the question -- well, when we have a motion
25 and a second. Could we go on the question or what are
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01 you telling us?
02 MR. WALSH: Again, I think 5-A
03 motions is generally where Council makes its motions.
04 MR. POCIUS: Is that the advice
05 you're giving us right now?
06 MR. WALSH: Yeah. I would think
07 if you wanted to make a motion, it probably shouldn't
08 be --
09 MR. POCIUS: Is that the advice of
10 our Council solicitor that I should wait until motions?
11 MR. WALSH: Yeah, I think that
12 that would probably be your best bet. I mean, have
13 you, Mr. Pocius, during the entire time that you've sat
14 on Council, have you ever made a motion in 12 years
15 during citizens participation?
16 MR. POCIUS: I can't say, Mark. I
17 can't remember what I did at lunch today, really, to
18 tell you the truth some days. My days go flying by. I
19 mean, I'm 55-years-old, I don't remember sometimes what
20 I had for breakfast. I mean, it's one of those things.
21 And I can remember what I did at the age of three, so
22 you tell me. I think it's called Sometimes Disease,
23 it's not all the time, it's sometimes.
24 MR. DIBILEO: Let me interject one
25 second. One reason that we may want to wait until the
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01 period of time where we generally make our motions is
02 because someone may have information tonight from the
03 podium that may affect that vote, and I would suggest
04 that we listen to members of the audience that might
05 want to discuss that topic that would possibly have
06 some kind of influence over --
07 MR. POCIUS: Not to drag this out,
08 on the advice of our solicitor, I will withdraw my
09 motion.
10 MR. MCTIERNAN: I withdraw my
11 second. Thank you.
12 MR. POCIUS: And we'll do it under
13 motions then.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

15 MR. POCIUS: Let's proceed.

16 Sorry, Mr. Mazza.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Go right ahead,

18 Mr. Mazza.

19 MR. MAZZA: I guess the other

20 point we have to look at, for a lot of these projects

21 you usually have to get federal funding, and with the

22 disaster down south, I'll tell you, the federal bucks

23 for the northeast and the rest of the country is going

24 to dry up.

25 So, I think if we're going to do

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01 something, we have to act fast on a lot of projects

02 where we need federal money, and that probably goes for

03 the state, the whole -- everybody, because they're

04 going to need a lot of money to fix up with the

05 devastation.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Mazza,

07 Mr. Courtright has a question, if you don't mind.

08 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Mazza, do you

09 know of projects that are in the pipeline that we need

10 the money for, are you aware of them, because we've

11 been made aware of no projects whatsoever. That was

12 one of our questions, what projects are pending?

13 MR. MAZZA: I would say on

14 Lackawanna Avenue there was talk of redoing a lot of

15 the buildings on Lackawanna Avenue, that, for one, I

16 knew about.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Has the mayor

18 told you that's what he was going to use the money for,

19 that's what he would be using the money for?

20 See, because he hasn't told us

21 anythings, so I don't know. I'm asking. You seem to

22 know more than I do, that's why I'm asking you.

23 MR. MAZZA: No.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: He hasn't told

25 you either? Okay. Well when you're saying time is of

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01 the essence, I thought maybe you knew something I

02 didn't.

03 MR. MAZZA: His program is for the

04 development of the downtown, so I assume it's all the

05 buildings downtown.

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. I just

07 thought maybe you knew a particular project or

08 something in the pipeline.

09 MR. MAZZA: I know that one for

10 one in particular, that one. I'm sure they have the
11 money all appropriated for the Medallion Parking
12 Garage. I'm sure all that money is in place. Okay.
13 Thank you.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

15 Mr. Mazza. John Brzycki, Jr.

16 MR. BRZYCKI: Good evening,

17 Council. John Francis Brzycki, Jr., taxpayer,

18 333 Slocum Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania. I did not

19 come to bash the mayor or the City of Scranton tonight.

20 You see, I love this city, and my

21 ancestors on both sides came from Poland, and my dad's

22 father broke his back in the mines and my mother's

23 father was gased in the mines.

24 Be that as it may, the last time I

25 spoke to Council was on August 18. Mr. Courtright,

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01 Mr. DiBileo, Mrs. Evans and Mr. McTiernan were here,

02 and Mr. Pocius was absent.

03 Let me refresh on that August 18

04 when I was here. Like I said, it's been 50 years since

05 our city or streets have been paved. As a matter of

06 fact, I was a year-and-a-half when Hurricane Diane

07 ripped through the South Side Plot Section, which this

08 city gave my parents and my God Mother no assistance

09 whatsoever in the flood.

10 Evidently the voters are tuning in

11 to Channel 61, because a gentleman by the name of

12 William Samski came forward and approached me at my

13 home telling me that the abandoned vehicles in the

14 parking lot were his and that would he still be there

15 and he would remove them as soon as possible.

16 There's one car that's left there

17 now. The only problem is there's a danger that looms

18 over our area because of the fact it's so dry. That

19 now exists a fire hazard from the two properties.

20 Both the family garment and

21 Scott's Warehouse are covered with dry weeds and tall

22 trees and vegetation. Both buildings were boarded up

23 and a potential fire hazard. Now half the block could

24 go up.

25 Now, I'm worried about that, and I

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01 also have pictures to show. And I just want to bring

02 the pictures up.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Sure. Bring them

04 up, John.

05 MR. BRZYCKI: Thank you, Council.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
07 Mr. Brzycki. And we'll look at these photos and
08 appreciate your comments. Andy Sbaraglia.
09 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
10 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I live on
11 Main Avenue, just so desired.
12 For a lot years I, too, have been
13 a member of the building trades, retired member, but
14 still a member of the building trades.
15 Now, he mentioned that one
16 project, which there's nothing wrong with it, but
17 already the state gave them \$10 million. We gave them
18 a half a million dollars. How much more do they want
19 from us? We're walking on dirt for sidewalks
20 throughout the city.
21 Money that could be utilized for
22 the improvement of the neighborhoods are being wasted
23 in downtown. I wouldn't even say -- that building
24 should be ripped down and rebuilt. That would probably
25 be the best thing to do with them.

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01 They're 100 years old. We've got
02 a section of the city over there where -- I think where
03 Bittenbender's is and so forth and so on where the old
04 Lackawanna Laundry was that they considered historic,
05 along with the GAR building. That's enough.
06 If you want to go forth, let's go
07 forward, not backwards. Why are we fixing buildings
08 that's going to be falling apart in the next ten
09 years?
10 We have to spend a fortune. They
11 only want to do fronts. Them buildings have to be
12 ripped apart all the way. And they're not really --
13 it's cost effective, I doubt if it'd be worth it.
14 I'm not an engineer, but it's
15 probably a lot cheaper to build a brand new building
16 than to refurbish an old one that's 100 years old and
17 bring it up to code.
18 But these are the projects that
19 are in the works for the city. And what does he want
20 to do with them? He wants to turn them into
21 apartments. Low rental, which I doubt, medium income,
22 which I doubt.
23 These projects are not viable.
24 They don't really do much for the money we're spending.
25 We need a buck for a buck, and we're not getting it.

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01 That is the quirks of all my

02 speaking to you. I have come on this podium many times
03 and spoke about money matters, because really that's
04 what affects me the most.
05 I live in the city, I've always
06 lived in the city, I could have lived anywhere else,
07 but I love Scranton, I really do love it, because I
08 grew up as a child in Scranton, and I enjoyed all my
09 playgrounds, that's all we had to do.
10 In fact, I grew up at a good time
11 just slightly after the Depression and during the War
12 when there was no car traffic and you could play in the
13 streets, and I did play in the streets and I did swim
14 down the falls and I swam at the reservoir over in --
15 well, I guess Keyser Valley.
16 I went to all them places. We
17 used to play in the trough running down and throw rocks
18 in it and watch it fly.
19 Okay. Maybe that's what set me
20 into Scranton and my love for Scranton, but as I grew
21 older, of course, some of my priorities changed, and I
22 no longer sit down the Roaring Brook or up the
23 Reservoir, I think they blew it up anyway, but the
24 things that matter now is money matters. That's what
25 I'm interested in, a buck for a buck.

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01 Like I said many times before,
02 there's only one thing I asked from any elected
03 official, to give me an honest government and
04 efficient, and it doesn't pay for what's happening.
05 I'm not crazy about what is
06 happening. I came before you many times on this hotel
07 Hilton, many, many times, also came about these garages
08 they're building. I don't think they'll pay for
09 themselves and I don't think, whatever they're going to
10 do, they're going to pay for themselves, and I don't
11 think that a hotel, no matter what they're pushing on
12 you, it can't really be moved. The hotel is there.
13 Whoever foreclosed it has maybe
14 three options, he can operate it himself, he can shut
15 it down, or he can sell it.
16 Now, he's looking for a position
17 to sell it, so he wants a lot of giveaways from the
18 city. And believe me, it's not worth the giveaway. No
19 matter if -- it's better, I told you the last time I
20 was here, it's better if you do nothing than do
21 something, because as a taxpayer, we come out better if
22 you do nothing.
23 They talked about losing this

24 \$3 million, actually the mayor I think has paid it down
25 to about \$600,000, so it's probably only about
0026

01 \$2,400,000, but even so, we stand to make more by doing
02 nothing, because he's going to have to pay for the
03 garage, and we don't have to pay for it.
04 And like I said, they're going to
05 take the money from CommD funds, and a lot of these
06 CommD funds you're giving away as grants, you're giving
07 away for engineering that these people who got all
08 these brainy ideas should be paying for themselves if
09 they want to do something.
10 They haven't come before you with
11 one concrete proposal that would help the taxpayer of
12 this city. I thank you.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

14 Mr. Sbaraglia. Les Spindler.

15 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,

16 Council, Les Spindler. I'm disappointed to see
17 Mrs. Williams isn't here tonight, and last week she
18 brought a paper and said that there's 3,000 jobs that
19 Chris Doherty created, and I shouldn't be coming here
20 anymore, well, I have the list, and we're going to blow
21 a bunch of holes through this list tonight.

22 And exactly she has -- the list
23 has 3,417 jobs that Mayor Doherty created. Well, I
24 just picked a bunch of big ones here, I didn't
25 scrutinize the whole list.

0027

01 TMG Health, 350 jobs. Well,
02 Mayor Doherty moved them into the KOZ on
03 Lackawanna Avenue, but they've been up on -- they were
04 up on James Avenue for 14 or 15 years. That was under
05 Mayor Connors.

06 Diversified, 500 employees. My
07 brother has worked there for five years, and he didn't
08 start when they moved in right away. Another one under
09 Mayor Connors.

10 Scranton Hilton and Conference
11 Center, 200 jobs. Another one that Mayor Connors
12 started.

13 Here is the one I like the best,
14 Bank of America, which used to be Fleet, which used to
15 be NatWest, which came in about 1993, but they're not
16 even in Scranton, they're in Moosic. Does
17 Mayor Doherty thing he's mayor of Moosic, also?
18 Northeast Credit and Collections,
19 140 jobs. They came in late 1990s under Mayor Connors

20 again. Mayor Doherty must think Mayor Connors did a
21 great job, he wants to take credit for everything he
22 did.

23 Last but not least, construction,
24 500 jobs. Well, construction jobs are nice, but
25 they're not permanent jobs that stay in the city. I'm
0028

01 talking permanent jobs.

02 Now, what I just spoke of is a
03 total of 2,090 jobs. Take that from 3417, there's a
04 total of 1,327. I don't think that's 3,000, is it?

05 So maybe after this,
06 Joanne Williams shouldn't show up at the meetings
07 anymore.

08 Oh, while we're talking about
09 construction, I wonder if any of the Southern Union
10 contractors have been paid.

11 Okay. Next. Joanne Williams said
12 I'm negative, well, all I do is state the facts here.

13 MR. WALSH: Excuse me,

14 Mr. President.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

16 MR. WALSH: You had asked for me
17 to interrupt, and I do apologize.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

19 MR. SPINDLER: I think
20 Mr. Spindler's perfectly able to speak about any of the
21 things that Ms. Williams brought in, but to use her
22 name in connection with it probably isn't appropriate,
23 because she's not a city official. You asked me.

24 MR. DIBILEO: That's a good point.

25 MR. SPINDLER: She used my name
0029

01 last week when she spoke.

02 MR. WALSH: And, please,
03 Mr. Spindler, I apologize about that, and I will
04 interrupt her if she does the same.

05 Mr. DiBileo had asked me before
06 the meeting, he said, Would you try to interrupt if
07 these things come up? And, again, I'm going to try to
08 honor that and do that.

09 I think, sir, you can certainly
10 eloquently put forth your position without mentioning
11 Mrs. Williams. Thank you.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Appreciate that.

13 Mr. Spindler, you can use our names, but not anyone
14 else.

15 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Well,

16 anyway, she said I'm negative, well, all I do is state
17 the facts, such as Mayor Doherty not putting money in a
18 trust fund for the golf course, not being the sixth
19 councilman, not being there when the troops came home,
20 not being there when the Plot got flooded. I could go
21 on and on.

22 If these facts are being negative,
23 well, I guess I'm negative. But what negative really
24 is is certain people criticizing Mr. DiBileo for having
25 meetings in August to try to save the city \$3 million.

0030

01 They said that's political. If that's not being
02 negative.

03 It wasn't for Mr. DiBileo having
04 the meetings in August, the negotiations currently
05 going on with Spectrum wouldn't be happening and the
06 city would be out \$3 million.

07 I have one last thing here.

08 Bob Bolus couldn't make it tonight, but he sent a note,
09 he wanted this to be told that he has tractor-trailers
10 set up at Scooter's Hot Dog's, it's on the
11 O'Neill Highway in front of Price Chopper, for anybody
12 that wants to donate non-perishable items or water or
13 whatever to send to flood victims in Louisiana and
14 Mississippi.

15 Well, since I have a couple more
16 seconds, one last thing, I see about the subpoenas in
17 today's paper, and Chris Doherty called the subpoenas
18 unnecessary, he said the information will be supplied,
19 well, it's funny how he's very cooperate now since the
20 subpoenas are issues. Why wasn't this information
21 supplied before when it was asked for many, many
22 times? Thank you.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

24 Lee Morgan.

25 MR. MORGAN: Good evening,

0031

01 Council. I'd just like to state for the record that
02 the Scranton Lackawanna Taxpayers and Citizens
03 Association is totally against reintroduction of CRF.

04 I want to state that point blank very flatly.

05 That issue was kicked around, and
06 that fund was supposed to self perpetuate itself. The
07 interest was supposed to build that fund.

08 That fund is doing exactly what
09 it's supposed to do, it's been loaned out in the city,
10 it's gaining interest, the interest is being paid in
11 and the fund is growing.

12 If we allow this company to come
13 in here and loot this fund, like they plan to do --
14 and, you know, I find it really troubling that somebody
15 from a trade union would come up here and pretend like
16 they have to try to force Council to move legislation
17 that's not productive for the residents of this city.
18 We have to remove politics from labor, okay?
19 We've just allowed too much of
20 this stuff to go on. And if we really want to do
21 something for this city, let's do something for the
22 neighborhoods.

23 You know, let's find grant money
24 for sidewalks in the neighborhoods, let's create a
25 partnership with the trade unions, let's talk to the
0032

01 mayor, let this Council present themselves and enter in
02 with the building trades into a revitalization of the
03 neighborhoods, sidewalks, curbs. Let's look for money
04 for that, but let's not loot this city any further.

05 I mean, you know, like Andy got up
06 and spoke, we've all heard the spin that's come out of
07 this, not this Council, but out of previous Councils
08 and out of this administration.

09 I really think it's terrible when
10 you've got signs up saying that you paved 500 blocks
11 and all these innuendos flying, and then we listen.

12 You know, the greatest thing that
13 happened to this Council, and nothing personal, was
14 with Mr. McTiernan and Mr. Pocius weren't here, and
15 finally the residents won one. We stopped ourselves
16 from being looted.

17 And I'm going to say that I don't
18 want that reintroduced and passed through Council.
19 It's not good for the people, period.

20 And I think we've done enough
21 backdoor politics in this city for enough decades to
22 finally say that enough is enough, okay?

23 And I also agree with Andy that
24 we've got to stop giving stuff away. You know,
25 Mr. O'Malley came here and sat at, I think, right here
0033

01 and talked about the funding crunch that the Scranton
02 School District is under.

03 We have an obligation to fund that
04 school and give every student in this city the best
05 education we can, and as long as we keep giving things
06 away, we're shorting our children and future
07 generations of children in this city for politics, and

08 it's not acceptable, all right?
09 And I'm not here to talk for
10 unions, because you know what, they'll do their
11 negotiating at the table with the mayor and this
12 Council, but somebody has to say something about the
13 kids in this city that are being short-changed,
14 absolutely, all right?
15 And what I say to these unions is,
16 you know what, I'm not anti-union, I'm a very pro-union
17 person, but you know what, get involved, find out what
18 the issues are, read the legislation and know what
19 you're talking about before you step up to this podium.
20 Thank you.
21 MR. DIBILEO: Raymond Lyman.
22 MR. LYMAN: Raymond Lyman. I have
23 a -- I have a question to ask City Council, if you will
24 vote on this bill to send to Gaynor Cawley to stop the
25 high price of gas, to put a cap on the state of
0034
01 Pennsylvania, him and all the state representatives and
02 the governor.
03 I looked down here at this
04 convenient, it's 319, on Davis Street, \$3.26. People
05 cannot afford it, and I think it's time that you stand
06 up and tell him, I don't know if he's watching this or
07 not, because I don't even think none of them.
08 I mean, I heard from the county
09 commissioners they might be raising the taxes again,
10 and people are eating dog food now, because they can't
11 afford it.
12 And now this mayor thinks he can
13 raise taxes. That's what I heard. It might be my
14 opinion and others where I live, they're tired.
15 Now, I have another question that
16 Mr. Keeler, that guy who spoke last week --
17 MR. DIBILEO: Ray, please refrain
18 from using other people's names, okay?
19 MR. LYMAN: Okay. But he said last
20 week that when Nay Aug Park first opened up it was
21 free. Well, I'm 38-years-old, when I was a kid, my
22 mother, my grandmother and my uncle went up there with
23 me, the pool was free.
24 And my grandmother, who's dead
25 since 1992, told me when Nay Aug Park first opened up,
0035
01 it was free. And she even remembers when it was
02 Lake Lincoln, and that was free.
03 So, I don't know where this guy

04 can say that they were charging 50 cents, and she
05 remembers when it was free. She's dead now, and she
06 told me back in 1987 that. And I think that those
07 pools should be free.

08 I asked a question a couple of
09 week ago where did our tax dollars -- a portion of our
10 taxes that we pay go to those pools, to maintain those
11 pools, to fix them, put the chemicals in them and pay
12 the lifeguards, not charging fee at all these pools.

13 So, I'm saying this, today you
14 should also put a bill up, a question for the election,
15 to eliminate this fee once and for all and let the
16 people vote on it.

17 I'm tired of hearing Doherty says
18 that they need it because one lifeguard said the word
19 riff-raff, and I think it's ridiculous that a mayor who
20 never worked a day in his life, whose father gave
21 him --

22 MR. DIBILEO: Ray, you can't make
23 those insinuations, please.

24 MR. LYMAN: Hey, he said that he
25 served in the military. My friend who served in
0036

01 Vietnam said that he never served. He said a certain
02 unit in the military that was Vietnam. Never served.
03 It might be my opinion, but --

04 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

05 MR. LYMAN: And he also said in
06 his commercial that he worked in the furnace thing or
07 something, did that. His father gave him that
08 religious card business, and that's how he did.

09 MR. DIBILEO: All right, Ray.

10 Thank you very much.

11 MR. LYMAN: That is the truth.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

13 Fay Franus.

14 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus,
15 Scranton. I'm going to talk about five different
16 things tonight, and none of them pertaining to one
17 another, but I want you to listen.

18 I'm just so sick and tired, and
19 now I'm just fed up. Everybody says, We'll get back to
20 you, we'll get back to you.

21 Well, let me say one thing further
22 here, I came here before about the streets, the truck
23 traffic in my neighborhood. Mr. Courtright, I
24 addressed this with you and Chief Elliot. This is ten
25 years now since I came in front of Council, ten years.

0037

01 Not one person has gotten back to me. I'm tired of it.

02 I go to work every day, we'll get

03 back to you. Every place you go, we'll get back to

04 you. Nobody gets back to you. And you wonder why

05 we're here, why we're mad? Somebody better start

06 getting back to us.

07 Now, I want to know what is going

08 on with the truck traffic in my neighborhood, it's a

09 cave area, and I want somebody to get in touch with me.

10 It's a \$300 fine. I have pictures of trucks going up

11 and down my street every day, not one truck in ten

12 years has been stopped. This city would have a fortune

13 if they stopped these trucks.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Fay, I'm being

15 told that when they're able to, they're monitoring it.

16 If you want something in writing, I'll ask Jay to

17 ask --

18 MS. FRANUS: When have I heard

19 this before, Mr. Courtright?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm just telling

21 you what's being told to me, you know.

22 MS. FRANUS: You know what I get

23 in the mail, a letter from Council saying who knows,

24 just a form letter, nothing.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: I know. All we

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01 can do is ask. I'm not a --

02 MS. FRANUS: All you can do is

03 ask?

04 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah. I mean, I

05 will ask Dave Elliot to put in writing for you what

06 they're actually doing.

07 MS. FRANUS: They're doing

08 nothing, so what would be in writing? Zero. I want to

09 know how many trucks they stopped it ten years, not

10 one. Show me on paper.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll ask him to

12 do that. I'll get my badge out and start stopping

13 them. This is ridiculous.

14 When my house caves in, who is

15 going to be responsible, you, Dave Elliot, who? Who?

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: He's in charge of

17 the police department. He has the say on what they do

18 and don't do. I could only ask.

19 MS. FRANUS: Okay. And I'll be

20 waiting for an answer. I'm sick of it.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: I will ask him.

22 MS. FRANUS: Now, another thing,
23 Mrs. Evans, I think it's about time you get at T-shirt
24 that says, like Cindy Sheehan, meaning for the mayor to
25 come out and start talking to us, to you, answering
0039
01 questions.
02 I mean, you should all get in
03 front of City Hall with these T-shirts and say, We're
04 going to wait until you start answering questions. He
05 won't come in here. This is ridiculous.
06 He wants money, but he doesn't
07 want to say where he wants to spend it, dah. So, why
08 should you give it to him? What is he nuts?
09 That's like somebody coming to my
10 door and saying, Give me \$600, I won't tell you why,
11 but just give it to me.
12 MR. DIBILEO: Excuse me,
13 Mrs. Franus. I'd like to ask audience members to
14 please keep noise down.
15 MS. FRANUS: Okay. Now, here is
16 another issue, because of what I do when I work, I see
17 all these animals every day. Now, you can do what you
18 want with this, but I want answers on this, too, and I
19 want answers.
20 I've called the department,
21 whatever the department is, the animal abuse officer,
22 I've come across animals that needed help during the
23 day, the guy is on vacation.
24 I leave the name and my number,
25 nobody has called me. This is going on for months. I
0040
01 give addresses of these dogs that need help. Nobody
02 calls me.
03 I called back later, the guy is
04 still on vacation. What happens if something is going
05 on and an animal needs some help? What happens to
06 these dogs in this hot heat? There's no backup, is
07 there. Why? Because they're just animals.
08 I want something done about this,
09 and I want an answer on this one. If you can't get
10 someone to do the job, then get somebody else. You
11 should have a backup when they're not there, and not
12 have a policeman come out and shoot the animal.
13 That's what I was told, We can
14 come over and shoot him. That's not the answer. Why
15 would I be there? I even took a day off work to sit
16 with a sick animal because nobody worked in the city.
17 I've had it, I've had it, I've had it with no answers.

18 I want answers. And everybody here wants answers.
19 Nobody is getting answers. So,
20 I'm going to go home and I might get a little note from
21 City Council with nothing, just a form letter. Ten
22 years I'm waiting, and as far as these animals, never
23 got an answer.
24 So, what do we do? One day I was
25 walking and this meter reader called me on the phone,
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01 and I get the phone and he hands it to this little kid.
02 The little kid was at Nay Aug, he said he was about
03 four or five years old, he said, Did I do something
04 wrong on my birthday? I said, What's the matter,
05 Honey? He said, I didn't have a dollar to get in, they
06 told me I couldn't go in, and it's my birthday. They
07 said I have to go home. Well, thank God the meter
08 reader have him a dollar to go in.
09 But Mr. Marinucci, Mr. Truth And
10 Wonder, said we won't turn anyone away. Ha, that's a
11 joke. Again, here is another man -- and whatever
12 happened to that? Okay. Let me hear about this one.
13 Never got back to me.
14 What does it take for a person, a
15 regular person in the City of Scranton, to get
16 appointed to the Recreational Authority? Why does it
17 have to be handpicked by the mayor? Very convenient.
18 What does it take to get that rule
19 changed? All these appointments by the mayor, people
20 in the city should have these opportunities. I'd like
21 to sit on that recreational authority, then we'll see
22 what happens, what's right and what's wrong and see
23 what's good and what's bad around here.
24 Let somebody honest get on there
25 and straighten these people out that have been corrupt
0042
01 for all of these years. We've had it.
02 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
03 Mrs. Franus, appreciate it.
04 MR. DIBILEO: Lisa Lowry. I
05 apologize, Lisa.
06 MS. LOWRY: That's okay.
07 Lisa Lowry, City of Scranton resident. I'm here
08 tonight to ask the community if they could pull
09 together to help the residents of the hurricane
10 disaster.
11 I have a relative willing to drive
12 a truck into Jefferson County. It would be in
13 Carson City, Mississippi. Once there, we have already

14 made arrangements with high sheriff,
15 Henry Allen McCullen, to distribute the supplies that
16 we have already collected, and they will be given to
17 the most needy.
18 We are asking if anyone with
19 access to a box truck or is willing to help with the
20 understanding that the truck would not be returned for
21 approximately one month.
22 I have tried to contact the
23 mayor's office, and I have gotten no response to try
24 and find some help.
25 At this time the only ones that

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01 are willing to help will be U-Haul, but the rental of a
02 truck is \$1,000. I already have donations of gas and
03 non-perishables that I have received, but I am not able
04 to come up with a box truck or the cost to rent a
05 U-Haul.

06 I'm asking the city for help, not
07 only for my family members that are living in
08 Mississippi, but also the people that live near the
09 area. The items would be given to the most neediest.

10 For 25 years, my father,
11 George Lowry, served this city, and to this day, is
12 still helping people who are still calling him to ask
13 him questions or help with animals or things like that,
14 and I also helped the city.

15 For four years I was a humane
16 society police officer and never refused to respond to
17 a call for help from either the Scranton Police or the
18 city inspectors. It did not depend if it was holidays,
19 nighttime. If they called me, I always responded to
20 any calls.

21 So, I am asking for any kind of
22 help from anyone who is willing to help the people with
23 the cost of a truck or to provide a truck for us to get
24 these non-perishable items down to my family members
25 and other residents.

0044

01 MS. EVANS: Ms. Lowry, maybe you
02 might be wise to get in touch with Mr. Bolus, since an
03 announcement was made earlier this evening that he's
04 taking up a collection, as well. You might even talk
05 to him about transportation.

06 MS. LOWRY: Well, we have actually
07 started this project days ago before anybody had even
08 lined up any trucks, because we have family members
09 there.

10 We were actually able to get a
11 hold of some of them. We did a story with WYOU
12 yesterday, and we were actually able to get a hold of
13 family members by phone and they did a live interview,
14 and they really right now are asking for water.

15 And I know the Red Cross is
16 actually only taking cash, but people said the cash is
17 not going to help them. There is nowhere to buy
18 anything. The grocery stores are not open, pharmacies
19 are not open.

20 My father-in-law is on oxygen, he
21 has three tanks left. They are run by gas now, because
22 they have to use generators. There's no electricity
23 down there whatsoever, and he's going to run out of
24 oxygen.

25 MS. EVANS: So, in other words,
0045

01 you're looking for materials, not cash?

02 MS. LOWRY: I am not looking for
03 cash, I'm looking for a truck or help to get a U-Haul.
04 Most of the rental places will not allow their trucks
05 to be rented to go into this area, they're not renting
06 out to go to this area.

07 U-Haul is willing to rent anyone
08 that can go straight into Jackson, which would meet up
09 with the sheriff department for the materials to be
10 disbursed. Those arrangements have already been made.

11 MS. EVANS: You know what, if you
12 would leave your phone number with Kay, I'll work with
13 you on this, and let's see if we can't get someone who
14 be good-hearted and compassionate enough to --

15 MS. LOWRY: And we're lucky that
16 we have a sheriff in the family down there that can get
17 us in. A lot of these trucks are not even getting in
18 because they don't have the right connections.

19 MS. EVANS: But I wouldn't be
20 surprised that somewhere within the viewing audience of
21 this Council meeting there's someone I think
22 who will --

23 MS. LOWRY: That's what I was
24 hoping for.

25 MS. EVANS: -- step up to the
0046

01 plate with a truck. And in addition to that, as you
02 say, you need water, you need gas.

03 MS. LOWRY: Actually my parents
04 are willing to put up the money to pay for the gas to
05 get the truck down there, and I have already received

06 donations of cash to be used to buy water once we get
07 the truck.
08 The problem was when we did the
09 story with WYOU, it was to see if we could get a truck,
10 but when the story ran, they didn't mention that we
11 were looking for a truck, so it kind of hit a deadend.
12 And I've been on the phone for two
13 days now. Red Cross also has another citizen from
14 Scranton who is also looking to do the same thing that
15 I'm looking for, so if I can come up with a truck,
16 they're willing to put us two together to work together
17 to fill this truck.
18 MS. EVANS: Excellent. Well, I
19 would suggest, as I said, leave your number, I'll be in
20 contact with you. I think you should also speak to
21 Mr. Bolus, and I think for anyone who is watching, if
22 you're willing to assist in this endeavor at all,
23 please call Council's office at 348-4113, 348-4113, and
24 we'll put all of this together as best we can.
25 And thank you for all that you're doing.
0047
01 MS. LOWRY: I also have a team in
02 place that's willing to take phone calls, they are
03 willing to load the truck. We are willing to even go
04 pick up any -- if someone can't get it to us, we are
05 willing to get it to us. What we're looking for right
06 now is the transportation.
07 MS. EVANS: Okay. And we're going
08 to -- I think we'll turn over every stone to make that
09 happen.
10 MS. LOWRY: Thank you.
11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Lisa.
12 And leave your phone number with Kay. Hopefully
13 someone will come forward.
14 MS. LOWRY: While I'm here, maybe
15 I can help the lady that was just speaking about the
16 animal problem that you were having.
17 MS. EVANS: Yes.
18 MS. LOWRY: I don't know where she
19 went to.
20 MR. COURTRIGHT: She left, Lisa.
21 MS. LOWRY: Okay. She was saying
22 about that she's having a problem with animals that are
23 being neglected or abused in some sort of way and she
24 is contacting the animal control office, I don't know
25 if she knows that there's a difference between the
0048
01 animal control office and a humane society police

02 officer.

03 The animal control officer is here
04 to provide shot records, license records, to make sure
05 your animals are up to date, leash laws, poopie
06 scooping laws, things like that. That is what is
07 provided about animal control.

08 The Humane Society has police
09 officers that are to be called when an animal is in
10 distress, you feel it's being neglected, it's being
11 abused, life-threatening situations, those officers can
12 respond to those problems; whereas, animal control, it
13 really doesn't fall under his legislation, and I don't
14 know if she didn't -- isn't aware of that, but if she
15 would call the Humane Society, they do have police
16 officers still there that do come and look for those
17 type of problems, and that's what they specifically
18 handle.

19 MS. EVANS: Oh, thank you.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Lisa, could I
21 just say, I've known your dad my entire life, and he
22 was a dedicated employee to this city, and I've never
23 gotten an opportunity to say that here, but he did a
24 wonderful job and he was always willing to help
25 somebody.

0049

01 MS. LOWRY: We're still receiving
02 phone calls, we still take in animals, and I figured --
03 we've tried to do the best we can for the city since
04 we've been here our whole lives, and that's why I
05 figured tonight I'm going to come and I'm going to ask
06 for help.

07 MR. COURTRIGHT: I thank you and I
08 thank your dad.

09 MS. EVANS: And really, you are to
10 be commended, and so many, many people are, because
11 when you think of all of the natural disasters that
12 have occurred in our city, in our country, and globally
13 speaking, and yet the American people rise to the
14 occasion time after time, and sometimes you have to
15 wonder, how many times, how many times will they keep
16 responding, how many times can you stand back up after
17 you've been knocked down?

18 But I think we are a very
19 resilient and compassionate people, and you certainly
20 embody all of that. Thank you so much.

21 MS. LOWRY: It's hard, too,
22 because when we had family members on the phone, that
23 we actually did get through to Carson, and they're,

24 like, Please, they knew their son is coming. And he
25 said, I'm getting there as fast as I can, Mom, but I'm
0050

01 trying not to come empty handed. And she's like, We
02 need water. We need water and we need food. They're
03 running out of food, and we've got probably close to
04 50 members of the family that are missing that were in
05 Gulfport and Pascagoula, and we can't locate them.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much,
07 Lisa.

08 MS. EVANS: Well, we'll try to get
09 that truck, non-perishables and water.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Lisa, you definitely
11 have your father's compassion, and you can tell you're
12 your father's daughter. Erik Johnson.

13 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening City
14 Council and Lisa and staff.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

16 MR. JOHNSON: Erik Johnson,
17 Scranton taxpayer. And this lady that just spoke,
18 she's right, they need supplies more than they do
19 money. I know President Bush said they need money, I
20 mean, give money instead of supplies, but they really
21 do need supplies more than they need money right now,
22 because, jeez, they're dying like -- there's babies
23 dying down there, there's -- they're in real indeed
24 dire straits down there.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Erik, not to cut you
0051

01 short, but I spoke with the Red Cross yesterday --

02 MR. JOHNSON: Allow me some of
03 this time, you know, that's lost, okay?

04 MR. DIBILEO: I spoke with the
05 Red Cross yesterday, and they suggested that people
06 give monetary action, give money, compared to trying to
07 send goods and services down. That's what they
08 recommended to me when I spoke to them. So, they said
09 people need money down there to buy those things.

10 MR. JOHNSON: But this last
11 speaker just spoke that they need some supplies.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Well, they need a
13 lot of things, but that's what the Red Cross told me
14 yesterday. But go right ahead.

15 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. All right.
16 Thanks. City of Scranton, an area in America is being
17 under siege of crime. As I said before, Scranton and
18 this area is being invaded by drug gangs from New York
19 City, Newark and Philadelphia, where there are

20 shootings in the inner city streets, not only gang
21 members dying, but innocent citizens, such as children
22 and the elderly.
23 The three cities' interstructures
24 is being destroyed. Businesses are moving out of their
25 inner cities, criminals are taking over control in
0052
01 place of businesses and law abiding citizens.
02 Our police officers' hands are
03 tied to possible suits from criminals who seem to
04 nowadays have more rights than law abiding citizens and
05 the police officers trying to protect them.
06 I think Reverend Cathryn Simmons
07 is indeed ringing the alarm bell for Scranton to wake
08 up and circle the wagons of defense around Scranton.
09 We need more cops in the street, not less.
10 Detectives are not counted for
11 call outs of crime being committed. We used to have
12 179 police officers, we now have 150, and more area to
13 cover per square miles of new populated areas, where
14 years ago the population of Scranton was more condensed
15 to a smaller area close to the central city.
16 It's evident that we need more
17 funding for public safety and lesser for building
18 projects that the city seems to be losing money on.
19 The city already has a nice
20 improved facelift, but it's now time for improvement of
21 number of police officers on patrol against large and
22 small groups of youths loitering and committing
23 vandalism and disorderly conduct, harassment, and the
24 main concern dealing drugs and assaulting our Scranton
25 citizens.

0053

01 The fliers Scranton Police are
02 handing out to all the city middle and high school
03 students concerning the risk of growing crime, gangs
04 and disturbances leading to law-breaking activities or
05 criminal assaults on an off-duty cop that was attacked
06 by 12 to 15 youths. That's a gang last month.
07 It's high time now that we
08 citizens take back our streets from the criminals that
09 represent potential gangs like the JRB representing the
10 rappers of The Insane Clown Posse.
11 Scranton could be possibly another
12 Wilkes-Barre or Williamsport if we citizens do not
13 cooperate with our police and give full support to the
14 police, because the police needs us, as we need -- as
15 much as we need them. Report any suspicious activities

16 that may be tied to drugs or anti-crime.
17 I've been called a police lover,
18 well, let me say I'd rather be a crime hater whose head
19 is not fried out from drugs, like scrambled eggs.
20 My kids grew up free from drugs from the likes of
21 their mother and father.
22 Our prayers and sorrows go to the
23 Katrina victims who died and the refugees that are in
24 agony. It's America's Sunami.
25 It's time now American tends to
0054

01 its homeland extreme crisis and care for its own
02 people. Saudi Arabia and other countries we help will
03 not help us, or they don't even give a damn.
04 Times are changing. To get
05 harder -- and they're going to get harder for us all.
06 God needs to bless America all over again. Thank you
07 for letting me speak.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
09 Mr. Johnson. Charlie Newcomb.
10 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Good evening,
11 Council.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.
13 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: I'm going to
14 start out with a few comments that were in the Scranton
15 editorial page. I'm going to start out with this line,
16 Editor, I am disgusted that Gary DiBileo and the
17 majority of City Council are wasting the taxpayers'
18 time and money by meeting during August.
19 That's one statement, and it was
20 by a person named Christine Balkunas. Well, I'm just
21 going to enlighten her and the other people in the
22 audience and listening to about who is wasting money.
23 If people don't know, we have five
24 Council people up there, and they are paid \$12,500 per
25 year each, which is a total of \$62,500 for all five.

0055
01 Round that off, an average of
02 \$1,040 a month, \$240 roughly per meeting of the
03 taxpayers' money.
04 So, I commend Mr. DiBileo,
05 Mrs. Evans and Mr. Courtright, and Mr. McTiernan was
06 here for some meetings in August, but I understand that
07 he had some personal problems, which is acceptable, for
08 having these meetings in August, because as everybody
09 knows, our Home Rule Charter does not allow Council to
10 take a vacation in August, it says a meeting will occur
11 every week.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Newcomb, I want
13 to just remind you that Mr. Pocius was here last week,
14 also.

15 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: I was going to
16 get to that. I was going to say Mr. Pocius attended
17 last week.

18 MR. DIBILEO: I'm sorry.

19 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: What I was
20 saying was is we pay our Council people \$12,500 per
21 year, and our Home Rule Charter does not allow us to
22 take a vacation in August, so on contrary to this
23 remark, I thank Mr. DiBileo and the majority of
24 City Council for not wasting our taxpayers' dollars,
25 because if there were no meetings here in August at
0056

01 all, whether we were going to discuss this \$3 million
02 that we're going to lose or not on the hotel, it's
03 costing the taxpayers, like, \$5,000 for the whole month
04 of August to have no meetings whatsoever.

05 So, on the contrary, it's not a
06 waste of money, they are doing their job, and we are
07 getting what we paid for.

08 Another article, it says, Pull
09 plug on 61, by somebody named John Tully. Are you
10 looking for an excuse to get satellite television? Try
11 watching Channel 61 and the antics of Scranton City
12 Council.

13 Now, my remarks to this is, if you
14 want to pull the plug on Channel 61, Channel 61 has
15 cable meetings, authority meetings, Council meetings,
16 all other kind of meetings, but the closing remark here
17 says, On the other hand, if you want to stay with cable
18 but are embarrassed by the imagine of Scranton
19 portrayed by Channel 61, call Adelphia Cable and ask
20 them to pull the plug on City Council meetings. So,
21 that tells you where that agenda goes. He's only
22 concerned about pulling the plug on City Council
23 meetings.

24 And my answer to him is, there's a
25 lot more channels on your television than 61. You
0057

01 could change it.

02 And, again, like I said, for
03 having the meetings in August, we did not waste the
04 taxpayers' dollars, we saved them money.

05 And about these 3,000-some jobs
06 that were supposed to be here, obviously we heard
07 something contrary to it, and I believe we will hear

08 some more, but my question is, If any of these jobs
09 were created, and I read some of these, like, Wendy's
10 from West Side was on there, the Harbor House up on
11 Keyser Avenue. Wendy's has been here a long time. The
12 Harbor House has been here a long time, it was just
13 under a few other businesses, under a few different
14 names.

15 My question is, if all these jobs
16 were created, how many of these jobs are
17 family-sustaining jobs? If anybody doesn't know, right
18 now, it was just in the newspaper, \$17,500 to \$20,200
19 is really in the low level, it's a poverty level for an
20 income. \$40,145 is an average level in the United
21 States for a medium income, so out of all these jobs
22 that were created, I would like to know how many of
23 these jobs are family-sustaining jobs.

24 And one more thing, I wasn't here
25 last week, but I was here the week before and I asked
0058

01 about that manhole cover, whatever you want to call it,
02 over there on the corner of North Grant, or, I'm sorry,
03 South Grant and Jackson, and I don't believe -- I don't
04 know if anybody ever came over to look at it, but it's
05 still sticking up like it was before. Do you know if
06 anybody looked at it?

07 MR. SAUNDERS: I didn't receive
08 anything back from the administration on that.

09 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Okay.

10 MR. SAUNDERS: We will send it out
11 again, though, as a reminder.

12 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Okay. Thank
13 you. And like I was going to say in my closing, that I
14 know Mr. Pocius was here last week, but I know he put
15 an article in the newspaper himself about, you know,
16 not being awol, and like I just said, if anybody is not
17 here in August due to surgeries or anything else,
18 that's acceptable, but just because there's no agenda
19 on City Council does not give anybody the right not to
20 be here.

21 And in the future, if anybody runs
22 for Council or is on Council and it requires you to be
23 here during a noon meeting for whatever the case may
24 be, and you are paid by the taxpayers, and you're
25 elected by the taxpayers, well, if you have a job
0059

01 that's going to conflict with this, maybe you shouldn't
02 put your name on the ballot in the first place because
03 you're not going to be serving the people the best that

04 you can. Thank you.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

06 Cathy Unguarsky.

07 MS. UNGUARSKY: Kathy Unguarsky,

08 I'm a resident of the City of Scranton. This is my

09 first Council meeting. My husband watches every one of

10 them several times during the week just so he knows

11 what's going on in the city, and I just wanted to say

12 that we're very proud of the Council and we're proud to

13 be citizens of Scranton. Thank you.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much,

15 Kathy. Appreciate that. Okay. Joanne Dipwa. Okay.

16 Joanne's not here. John Keeler.

17 MR. KEELER: Good evening,

18 Council. John Keeler, Orchard Street, Scranton,

19 Pennsylvania, resident and taxpayer, and the red faced

20 drunken Irishman, as I was referred to on the website

21 supporting the mayor's opponent, who's also referred to

22 my wife as a bounces, which is kind of ironic, because

23 if they ever met her, the only thing she bounces is her

24 grandson.

25 I'm here tonight to talk about the

0060

01 CRF. Mr. Courtright wanted to know about projects, I

02 don't know if there's a foreseeable way to understand

03 what the projects might be if the money isn't

04 available, number one; number two, the \$5.6 million has

05 already been invested. That money has been spent,

06 invested and it's created considerable amount of

07 economic impact. You can easily multiply by \$2.37,

08 which is a standard multiplier for economic impact.

09 If the money is sold, if the loans

10 were sold and you were to receive \$5.2 million, you

11 could reinvest that in various projects, which would

12 generate another \$2.37 in economic multipliers, which

13 is a considerable return on that \$5.2 million, plus, if

14 you factor in any future value of that money at current

15 interest rates, the \$5.2 is going to be a lot more than

16 \$5.6. So, I think that there's good reason along those

17 lines.

18 Another reason is to vote against

19 it, is to vote for a tax increase. Anyone who would

20 actually consciously vote against the CRF is actually

21 voting for a tax increase, because if you would take at

22 least at minimum 1 percent derived via the proceeds

23 from that investment and tax revenue, that's about

24 \$256,000 a year in tax revenue that's being lost.

25 That's just a minimum of 1

0061

01 percent. That's a direct result. That has nothing to
02 do with economic multiplier.

03 So, I think that the idea that,
04 and that sort of \$256,000 can go a long way to support
05 the needs of the firemen, police and clerical workers
06 here.

07 This is the sort of a thing that
08 can generate revenue without tax increases, and I
09 believe that's what you folks are missing here. I can
10 understand the apprehension about \$5.6 versus \$5.2, but
11 it isn't the same dollar. You're not talking about the
12 same dollars today, as you were when that \$5.6 was
13 allocated.

14 I think you're just missing the
15 attraction there with the tax advantages that would be
16 received from those investments.

17 And also along the lines of the
18 propensity here to describe South Side as being on the
19 verge of the eve of destruction and the city on the
20 verge -- here's a property that sold -- it was
21 advertised as being sold in the paper two weeks ago,
22 601 Pittston Avenue, which is the corner of Pittston
23 and Alder, I believe, \$457,500.

24 Now, to me, that's bonafide proof
25 that the economic recovery plan that's underway here is
0062

01 working, and the jobs that were mentioned here, whether
02 pro or anti, not included any of the jobs in the ice
03 rink do there, not included -- I didn't see or hear
04 anything about Don Tomaso's or any of the other
05 facilities that have located.

06 TMG moved from the James Complex
07 because the James Complex changed its method of
08 operation. It is now becoming apartments.

09 So, by moving -- these people
10 don't look at every asset or facet of every issue. You
11 want to be able to be comprehensive here. Let's not --
12 there's different ways of telling the truth, there's
13 the whole truth and then there's just simple truth.

14 So, by moving TMG from the
15 James Complex into the SCC, by the way, I'm on the
16 advisory board of the SCC, the incubator is a second
17 floor and the second floor only, not the entire
18 building.

19 But by moving TMG into the SCC,
20 saved those jobs, otherwise they would have left. So,
21 to indicate that the jobs just simply moved from the

22 James Avenue Complex into the SCC is not totally
23 accurate, and I wanted to be able to -- I spoke years
24 ago on behalf of the public school. Neither of my
25 children, except my son, who was handicapped, who
0063

01 attended the NEIU, attended public school.

02 I believed in the new school, I

03 believe in it now. I believe in the economic

04 development that it spawned. It's obvious that that

05 school was a centerpiece, but look what's taking place
06 after that.

07 People did not understand it.

08 There were people against the mall, against the

09 stadium, against the office building, against

10 everything that's ever gone on here in Scranton,

11 because it's hard to visualize what will take place.

12 Scranton compared to any other --

13 to Reading, Wilkes-Barre, Binghamton, any municipality

14 in our size is ions ahead.

15 So, I just wanted to say that my

16 family, Mrs. Evans indicated that I was only -- I

17 haven't been living in South Side long enough, my

18 family has been in South Scranton for over 100 years.

19 I've been very fortunate to have

20 family in South Side for 100 years, and in

21 West Scranton for over 100 years. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Mr. Keeler, I didn't

23 say that you hadn't lived there long enough.

24 MR. KEELER: Yes, you did.

25 MS. EVANS: No. I said that there

0064

01 were others I've encountered at South Side resident

02 association meetings who had resided in South Side

03 longer than you.

04 MR. KEELER: Much longer than you,

05 you said.

06 MS. EVANS: Right. And, you

07 know --

08 MR. KEELER: What does that mean?

09 MS. EVANS: That they've --

10 MR. KEELER: What does that mean?

11 MS. EVANS: That means that the

12 people that I've spoken to have told me that they've

13 lived there for 50-some years.

14 MR. KELLER: The insinuation is I

15 haven't lived there long enough.

16 MS. EVANS: Well, you can

17 insinuate that, but that's putting words in my mouth.

18 MR. KEELER: You're insinuating
19 it, I'm not.

20 MS. EVANS: No.

21 MR. KEELER: Yes, you are.

22 MS. EVANS: You're saying -- I
23 told you what I said. You're telling me what you're
24 reading into it.

25 MR. KEELER: I don't insinuate,
0065

01 you're insinuating.

02 MS. EVANS: No. Well, maybe now I
03 am. How does that come across?

04 MR. KEELER: It comes across just
05 as patronizing as the last time. Thank you.

06 MS. EVANS: Well, I might add,
07 though, too, since we want to trace family roots, I can
08 go back to South Side, as well, with my grandparents
09 and my great grandparents who've built homesteads on
10 Moosic Street and River Street, but I don't think that,
11 you know, that would make me any more of an authority
12 on it than the people who are living over there.

13 But what I do see when I look at
14 the property transactions in the Scranton Times daily,
15 I see that the properties sold in Scranton are sold at
16 a price far less than those in all surrounding areas,
17 whether it's Old Forge, Taylor, the Abingtons.
18 And, you know, just in fact today,
19 when I was driving home from work, I was driving over
20 Boulevard Avenue, and for sale sign caught my eye, and
21 I've never -- even though I've been driving over that
22 street all week now on route home, I noticed for the
23 first time that in one block of Boulevard Avenue there
24 were four houses for sale, and I'm wondering why that
25 is.

0066

01 And I know even, you know, as I've
02 stated before, when I campaigned throughout South Side,
03 particularly the difference in a two-year period was
04 remarkable, the homes for sale.

05 And I can't understand really what
06 is going on, and my fear is that sometimes the people
07 purchasing these homes are the absentee landlords who
08 are creating so much of the problems that we're
09 experiencing. So, it's unfortunate. I don't like to
10 see people leaving.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

12 Mrs. Evans. J.B. Davis, III.

13 MR. DAVIS: My name is

14 James B. Davis, III. You're right. The Davis has been
15 in the United States for at least three generations
16 that I know of, my grandfather, my uncle and myself.

17 My father came here to Scranton in
18 1924 as a coal miner. I'm very proud to be from
19 Scranton. I was born here at the State Hospital in
20 1936, which was probably -- I don't think there's
21 anybody else at the podium that's that old.

22 MS. EVANS: Not I.

23 MR. DIBILEO: We feel that old,
24 Jim.

25 MR. DAVIS: I wonder at times what
0067

01 does perpetuity mean, and I'm going to ask our esteemed
02 lawyer to please give me a definition, because it
03 pertains to what I'm going to say next. Sir.

04 MR. WALSH: Mr. Davis, you'd like
05 to know what the word perpetuity means?

06 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir.

07 MR. WALSH: Mr. Davis, that means
08 it goes on forever into perpetuity, it never ends.
09 It's perpetual.

10 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir.

11 MS. EVANS: You get an A plus.

12 MR. DAVIS: These are the words
13 that were used by SRA when the property under what we
14 call Midtown were taken from my parents and other
15 people of my generation, and they said that they're
16 going to take care of this property into perpetuity for
17 the community, as well as for the school, and also for
18 the Scranton neighbors. They were going to be
19 responsible.

20 I have spent the last ten years
21 trying to find that. I finally found it in a document
22 that was written in 1970, and it was very interesting,
23 and I would like to -- I cannot afford to give you each
24 a copy of it, but it says that this was going to be
25 upheld, this property, then it was sold -- I think
0068

01 Central was sold, and I believe it had something to do
02 about -- for the good of the public, but at that time
03 property was taken away from the community.

04 The play yards that were at
05 Central were there and created by HUD through SRA for
06 the residents of the community that was supposed to
07 stay there in perpetuity, and this is the statement
08 that I found.

09 I go to the school board and I

10 say, But you said that you're going to take care of
11 this property, but it's all gravel and the kids can't
12 play on it, and you say that you're not responsible for
13 it. You refuse to pay for it, you refused to rebuild
14 it.

15 So, I'm asking you who have formed
16 a union with the school board and with the county
17 commissioners to get yourselves together, because
18 you've got the money. Not you, per se, but Scranton
19 got the money to take care of this property from
20 HUD in perpetuity. And now we find ourselves not able
21 to take care of this property.

22 Please get together, unite with
23 them, do whatever you have to do, but please restore
24 that property up there at Tech High School, old Tech
25 High School, which is now Northeast. It is a
0069

01 disgrace. Do something for ourselves. Our kids, they
02 don't have any place to play.

03 Then you worry about gangs. Come
04 on. Give me a break. If you don't give a child
05 something to do, he's going to do it wrong regardless.
06 If you don't do something for the parents, like, jobs
07 and etc., and there's no equality.

08 This trade union person came here
09 and he was speaking, I don't -- I know of five
10 African Americans that are members of trade unions and
11 can't get a job in Scranton. They cannot get work in
12 Scranton with the trade unions in Scranton, and they
13 live here, they're natives of the city, and they're
14 very equipped.

15 They work all over. They work in
16 Allentown, they work in Washington, they work with
17 PennDOT, but they can't get jobs in Scranton.
18 I have a young man that came with
19 me, I went and got him, he's a young businessman, and I
20 heard Ms. Evans speak before about using this money
21 that they're talking about, giving away as collateral
22 and using it for the businesses, the small businessmen,
23 that need these to funds just to keep going.

24 This young man has been in
25 business for almost three years, and he's a very able
0070

01 businessman, a very hardworking young man, and he kept
02 trying to go to the banks for loans to keep his
03 business -- it's just a small business. He keeps
04 getting turned away.

05 He has a very strange name, it's

06 Enrique Muhammad, my goodness gracious.
07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
08 Mr. Davis.
09 MR. DAVIS: Finish your thought.
10 MR. DAVIS: I was going to give up
11 the rest of my time to have him talk, but I guess I
12 overtook -- so, he'll come up later.
13 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Sure.
14 MR. DAVIS: But I want to
15 introduce you to him and I'm very proud of him.
16 Hopefully you can do something to help him. Thank you.
17 MR. DIBILEO: We have one more
18 speaker on the sign-in sheet, and then he's more than
19 welcome to come up and address us, please.
20 Mike Dudek.
21 MR. DUDEK: Good evening. My name
22 is Mike Dudek, 608 Depot Street, Scranton, PA. I live
23 in the Plot. And the reason why I'm here is to make a
24 point, a very simple point, the City of Scranton is
25 just as susceptible to having any kind of an emergency
0071
01 happen, just as what happened in New Orleans.
02 New Orleans is not an emergency.
03 It is the most tragic incident in American history.
04 It's worse than the San Francisco Earthquake.
05 This is something that's
06 untenable, but we're going to get through it somehow
07 and we will help them.
08 But Scranton is in a situation
09 where we can have our own. We had a snowstorm, the
10 famous March snow storm, I believe in, '93, 44 inches
11 of snow in a 24-hour period, and the one question I
12 want to ask City Council is simply this, if the mayor's
13 recovery plan were in place, if that had been in place
14 at the time, would we have had adequate fire and police
15 protection on the date of that snowstorm? I can Ready
16 give you answer to that one, and the answer is no.
17 So, with that thought in mind, I
18 want you to keep that in mind as this recovery plan
19 keeps coming up and coming up and coming forward,
20 okay?
21 The other point I want to make is
22 that something on the insidious side of a political
23 nature directly affecting this Council has been
24 brewing, and it's starting to shape itself, it's the
25 interjection of our state senator in our local politics
0072
01 and our local government.

02 And quite frankly, I resent it.

03 For me, to look at a person who is the protection of
04 early -- of an early summer day take over \$33,000 in a
05 salary grab, the worse salary grab in Pennsylvania
06 history, and then turn around and demand that city
07 employees take a \$5,000 pay cut in terms of what the
08 mayor is proposing under this recovery plan, I think
09 it's one of the most outrageous things I've ever seen
10 in my life, and I think that Senator Mellow ought to be
11 fried for this.

12 Now, I know what his response is
13 going to be, as far as I'm concerned, because he's
14 already made it, he wants to pull the plug on
15 Channel 61.

16 We have a State Senator,
17 Robert Mellow, who wants Channel 61 eliminated.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Mike, why do you say
19 that, Mr. Dudek?

20 MR. DUDEK: Because he did.

21 MR. POCIUS: Where?

22 MR. DUDEK: If he hadn't said it,
23 I wouldn't be saying it.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Pocius is asking
25 where he said it.

0073

01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Where did you
02 hear this, Mr. Dudek?

03 MR. DUDEK: Pardon me?

04 MR. POCIUS: Yeah.

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: Where did you
06 hear this information about the senator?

07 MR. DUDEK: It's been said. I
08 found that part of it out.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Is it hearsay?

10 MR. DUDEK: Nom, it's not hearsay,
11 it will be coming out in a major story next week in the
12 Union News as to where and when.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: I just don't
14 think we want to say anything if we can't back it up,
15 you know, saying that a senator is saying something,
16 and maybe it's just hearsay. If it's fact, then it's
17 fact.

18 MR. DUDEK: Oh, it's fact. I will
19 prove it to you next week if you want hard copy proof.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm not trying to
21 be argumentative, I just would like --

22 MR. DUDEK: Oh, I understand.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Like, you know,

24 if he said it, then he said it.

25 MR. DUDEK: He did.

0074

01 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Well,

02 if you could present that with us, I'd appreciate it.

03 MR. DUDEK: I'll bring it next

04 week for you.

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Thank

06 you.

07 MR. DUDEK: I will bring hard copy

08 proof for everybody on Council. But to me, it's

09 absolutely outrageous for him to do this, to want this,

10 especially in light of what he has done as far as

11 what -- this has to be the worse salary grab I have

12 seen in Pennsylvania history. Thank you.

13 MR. MUHAMMAD: I would just like

14 to introduce myself, my name is Enrique Muhammad. I've

15 been in business in Downtown Scranton for about a

16 little over two years, and I just want to tell you and

17 share with you my experiences, and then I have a

18 question for you.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Pull that microphone

20 up, if you don't mind.

21 MR. MUHAMMAD: Yes, sir. All

22 right. You probably seen me downtown when I first got

23 started about two years ago, we used to vend on the

24 corner of Lackawanna and Wyoming. I'm a little

25 nervous, and I'm going to get over that, but we used to

0075

01 vend down there, and we vended there and a few other

02 what you might call nightclub lobbies, and we grew a

03 business and we moved to 311 Adams Avenue, and from

04 311 Adams Avenue, we've been constantly growing the

05 business.

06 Now, I don't believe in illegal

07 activity by any means, but I'm going to show you what

08 creates illegal activity.

09 What we did, we grew a business

10 from nothing. We've been in business for two years

11 without any subsidies or any loans.

12 I'm a member of the

13 Chamber of Commerce, I applied to OECD, I've worked

14 with the Small Business Development Center, I've done

15 everything that they say that you're supposed to do to

16 have a thriving business.

17 We applied for a metro, what they

18 call the express loan, and this was the letter that I

19 received and returned for my application.

20 The letter received says, We have
21 completed our review of your application. Based on the
22 information received, the application has been denied
23 under the SBA Express program for one or more of the
24 following reasons. The only one that's checked off is
25 derogatory credit history.

0076

01 Now, because it was kind of
02 baffling to me and my partner what was the derogatory
03 credit history, we wanted to know what it was.
04 This is the following information.
05 It says, If you would like to contest our decision,
06 reconsideration requests are accepted by fax only.
07 Please do not call, in bold print, the bank or your
08 technical assistance provider.
09 If your loan request was denied
10 due to credit issues, please obtain and review a copy
11 of your credit report before your fax -- before you fax
12 your request for consideration.
13 Now, we already looked at our
14 credit before we applied, because we know that if
15 you're going to apply for a loan, you have to have
16 decent credit, so we were kind of baffled that we
17 couldn't talk to anybody to find out what it was on our
18 credit that we missed that we wouldn't receive a
19 community express loan which is designed for minority
20 businesses.
21 What I did was I looked on the
22 census when I was developing my business plan to find
23 out what was the census, -- what basically what I was
24 up against.
25 The census that's up to date right

0077

01 now shows that the African American community makes up
02 about a little more than 1 percent of the population,
03 but yet they make up 50 percent of the poverty.
04 So, with that kind of result, it
05 made me look at those people who are trying who don't
06 have the education. I graduated from Scranton High
07 School, they didn't teach me about credit.
08 You have a lot of people who don't
09 learn about who want to go into business, who want to
10 be productive citizens, but the odds -- if you make up
11 1 percent, but yet you make up 50 percent of the
12 poverty, look at what you're up against.
13 And you've got new people coming
14 into town that are looking for opportunities, these are
15 young people who have entrepreneurial spirits who have

16 created energies.
17 I built a business from nothing.
18 I was downtown with nothing, and we built a business
19 out of that. I did the steps to apply for the loan to
20 get the funding.
21 I joined, became a member of the
22 organization that they say you're supposed to become a
23 member of, and I still couldn't get the funding.
24 I gave a copy of my business plan
25 to Congressman Kanjorski, I gave a copy of my business
0078
01 plan to Mayor Doherty's office, I gave a copy of my
02 business plan to anybody I could get it to who was
03 supposed to be in a position to help the community or
04 help the minority community, and I haven't heard
05 anything yet.
06 So, if I'm fortunate enough to
07 know that these are the different avenues to try and I
08 have no response, imagine those who don't know that.
09 Imagine what they're going to do. Imagine what they're
10 thinking about. They only option is what they know,
11 and that's the streets.
12 So, they're producing gangs, at
13 least they're trying to form some unity to come out of
14 this situation. We're looking at it like this is a
15 plague, I'm just showing you that if I'm striving and
16 I'm doing what they say you're supposed to do and I'm
17 still getting these kind of results, what do you think
18 they're going to do?
19 And the question that I have for
20 you is, I'm tired of running into fake important
21 people. I want to run into somebody that's a real
22 community servant who can show me and help me get where
23 I want to go.
24 If any one of you people that make
25 up this board or anybody that's listening knows
0079
01 somebody like that, just send them to my business, it's
02 311 Adams Avenue. They can call me at 570-963-0337.
03 Thank, you.
04 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. That's
05 it for the sign-in sheet. Anyone else?
06 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Regina
07 Yetkowskas, Scranton resident and taxpayer. Last week
08 I watched as Mr. McTiernan and Mr. Pocius tried to have
09 Council revisit Mr. Doherty's desire to sell the city's
10 \$5.2 million loan portfolio for 91.88 cents on the
11 dollar.

12 The city's \$5.2 million loan
13 portfolio is a valuable city asset. In plain language,
14 this is another attempt by Mr. Doherty to sell a city
15 asset for less than its value, just like he -- just
16 like --

17 MR. DIBILEO: Excuse me, Mrs.
18 Yetkowskas. Chrissy, if you can keep it down back
19 there, Buddy. And, Regina, if you want to pull your
20 microphone down.

21 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Okay. Thank you.
22 In plain language, this is another attempt by
23 Mr. Doherty to sell a city asset for less than its
24 value, just like he sold the South Side Sports Complex
25 and the golf course for less than their true values,
0080

01 only this time the asset is worth \$5.2 million.
02 The sole reason Mr. Doherty wants
03 to sell the asset loans at a loss is because he claims
04 there will then be a pot of money to make new loans for
05 economic development.

06 I, for one, do not believe his
07 reason for the sale, because he did not give Council
08 truthful figures and that it will have the final
09 approval on the new loans.

10 For one thing, he could turn the
11 money from the sale over to the various municipal
12 authorities he controls and escape Council's oversight
13 control to spend the money.

14 When the city made the loans to
15 different businesses, it knew the money would be tied
16 up for periods of time during which the city will
17 receive a profit based on the interest the loans will
18 generate.

19 My reason to revisit the same,
20 quote, sale of loans, unquote, subject is to try and
21 inform Council members just what they are doing if they
22 even consider such an asset sale at less than its
23 value.

24 The origin for Mr. Doherty's
25 request to sell Scranton's \$5.2 million loan portfolio
0081

01 is a June 6, 2005 request over the signature of
02 Robert Farrell, city solicitor, in which he asks
03 Council's approval of a resolution to have the mayor
04 enter into a sales agreement with CRF to sell the
05 \$5.2 million loan portfolio for what the newspaper
06 incorrectly claims to be 92 cents on the dollar.

07 If Council will please look at the

08 next to the last page of Mr. Farrell's request, there
09 is a chart prepared by Mr. Farrell or someone for him.
10 This chart sets forth the names of the companies who
11 borrowed money from the city and make up the
12 \$5.2 million of loans together with the then market
13 value and the average percent of par of the loans.
14 The chart shows if the city sells
15 its loan asset of \$5.2 million to CRF, it will receive
16 91.88 percent or \$4,777,760.
17 This is a loss of \$422,240. Is
18 Council prepared to tell the people that it has no
19 objection to selling a city asset and losing \$422,240
20 in this debt ridden city?
21 Whoever did the addition for those
22 who would revisit the same issue are wrong in their
23 totals.
24 For the second time I say, anyone
25 must please check the addition and division in the
0082
01 chart's last column. That person would learn that by
02 adding each item in the percent of par column and
03 dividing by 19, the number of loans, it would result in
04 an average of 87.32 percent of the \$5.2 million, not
05 91.88 percent as stated in the chart.
06 This means that instead of the
07 city losing \$422,240 in the asset sale, the city will
08 lose \$659,360. To me, that's a lot of money.
09 Is it worth selling this city
10 asset and lose \$659,360? Council must first ask the
11 people if they approve the sale of an asset in which
12 they know the city will lose \$659,360, again, in this
13 debt-ridden city. It will be interesting to hear the
14 people's comments.
15 I ask Council, please, do not
16 accept my figures on Scranton's loss if it sells the
17 lot portfolio, please check Mr. Farrell's chart figures
18 and verify their accuracy or inaccuracy yourselves.
19 If I am wrong, then I apologize
20 and promise to be much more careful in the future, but
21 if I am correct, I want the people to clearly know if
22 City Council reconsiders this matter and votes to sell
23 the \$5.2 million asset, it will send a message to the
24 people that it has no problem to rubberstamp
25 Mr. Doherty's continued sale of city assets, even if it
0083
01 means the city and, really, the people will lose
02 \$659,360 in the transaction.
03 I await someone from City Council

04 to check Mr. Farrell's chart and inform the public how
05 much the city will lose if Council would reconsider and
06 vote to sell that city asset. I thank you.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

08 Anyone else?

09 MS. JONES: Good evening, Council,

10 Julie Jones. I haven't been here in a few weeks, and I
11 was sitting home this evening watching my TV, and I
12 thought, you know what, I better go.

13 Number one, I wasn't going to come

14 this evening, because what's going on here to me right
15 now is petty when you put on CNN and see everything
16 that the victims of Katrina are going through.

17 So, I chose to stay home and watch

18 the coverage of the problems down there and say a few
19 prayers. And I said to myself, Boy, we're damn lucky

20 to be where we are right now, but then I flipped on the

21 City Council meeting, heard a few things, and I said to
22 myself, I guess it's time to go back to City Council.

23 Number one, it was brought up, if

24 people want to go back years, that's fine, my family

25 goes back in South Side at least 250 years, okay?

0084

01 My father was the first policeman

02 to ride a motorcycle in the City of Scranton. So, if

03 they want to go back years, they could go back years,

04 but whatever anybody says, when they come to this

05 podium, crime is at an ultimate high in South Side.

06 I guess it just must jump over Orchard Street, because
07 it is everywhere.

08 And if people want to come up here

09 and say it isn't, come to our association meetings. If

10 they want to speak about South Side here, they belong

11 there, too, and voice their opinion. But crime is at

12 an ultimate high, number one.

13 Number two, I never said I wanted

14 to build a fence with barbed wire on the top, like it

15 was said here at the meeting.

16 I said that, yes, we're having a

17 problem with Valley View, and I also said after that,

18 I'm sure there's good people that live up there. I was

19 not pinpointing, you know, everybody that lived there.

20 I missed the meeting the one week

21 because Mr. Scopelliti had called me and said, I'll be

22 out tomorrow. So, me and my husband and my son, we

23 went for a ride, decided where the fence should start,

24 where it should stop, what we need, came home, missed

25 the meeting, missed work the next day, stayed home the

0085

01 whole day. Did he come? What else is new, no. Never
02 heard from him again.
03 Don't waste my time like that.
04 You know, I'm a working person, I take a day off, I
05 don't get paid for it, but that's how important it was
06 for me for that fence to go up.
07 You take a ride up to the Hill Top
08 and see how high their fence is and how long it goes up
09 by Telespond.
10 I thought of something else, as
11 far as the path goes, the cheapest way the city could
12 block it, go half way, cut down a couple trees and let
13 them drop. What is it going to cost them, a little bit
14 of gas and a chainsaw? But nobody ever came out.
15 You know, somebody says they're
16 going to come out from the city and you wait, they
17 should come out. Don't waste my time, unless you want
18 to pay my day's wages that I lost sitting there.
19 It just aggravates me about the
20 people coming here and talking about South Side, like I
21 said. I really wish the person that was talking, I
22 won't bring up any names, he was in here right now, and
23 I'd love to know where he lives. Maybe I should move
24 to that block and my problems would be solved, but I
25 like where I live.

0086

01 And we go back -- I was born and
02 raised in South Side. We go back so many years, I'm
03 staying there. I'm not going to let crime push me out.
04 Do I want to eliminate some of it? Yes, I do, but I
05 ain't going anywhere, and I've made it known in my
06 neighborhood that I'm not going to go anywhere.
07 You know, if they want to
08 retaliate, they can retaliate, but I'll still be there
09 the next day.
10 When I came here first I did ask
11 about the stop sign at Genet and South Webster, that
12 was over six weeks ago. Nothing has been done.
13 I asked about a Children At Play
14 sign six weeks ago in the 500 block of Birch, nothing
15 has been done. That deterred me a little bit from
16 coming.
17 You know, I come, I come, I talk,
18 nothing gets done. I don't think for a stop sign to be
19 moved is too much problem, and I don't think to put a
20 Children At Play sign is too much to ask. It's a
21 matter of DPW going out or whoever and putting it up.

22 But, no.
23 You know, after I was here and I
24 didn't come back, we went three weeks without our
25 garbage being picked up. I guess DPW must have saw me
0087
01 here and decided they're not going to pick up the
02 garbage.
03 So, I called City Hall, told them
04 my garbage wasn't picked up, told them they had until
05 approximately one 1 p.m. to pick up my garbage, of
06 course they don't answer the phone, so this was all
07 left on the answering machine, I said, They have until
08 one or it will be dumped all over City Hall's steps,
09 because I am not going to deal with it.
10 And if I had a video camera since
11 the day I live in my house 11 years, I would videotape
12 DPW urinating in my backyard every single solitary time
13 they pick up my garbage. That is disgusting for a city
14 employee to do that on a private property. There's no
15 reason for it, and it's not only me that sees it, it's
16 the neighbors that see it.
17 So, I'm just at my wit's end.
18 There's no reason for this. There's no reason for this
19 at all. I would like the signs to go up. Six weeks
20 ago I asked, they're not up.
21 I mean, I don't ask for too much.
22 I would hope Mr. Scopelliti would call me back and come
23 out. You said things probably would be done because
24 it's an election, year, well, I haven't seen anything
25 done in my neighborhood.
0088
01 I asked for paving, I got one
02 little pothole filled. So, I ask if you can have
03 Mr. Scopelliti come out, and if you could please try to
04 put those two signs up, I'd appreciate it. Thank you.
05 MS. EVANS: Jay, tomorrow those
06 calls.
07 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes.
08 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,
09 Council, Charlie Newcomb. I just gave you pictures
10 of -- this is what happens in front of a home that we
11 just purchased.
12 Every time it rains, and
13 whether -- and that is from when it rained the other
14 day for five minutes, that's what happens in front of
15 my house.
16 Kay was kind enough to give me
17 letters that were sent to Mr. Parker. April 16 of this

18 year was when I -- is as long as I have been asking for
19 something to be done.

20 Now, you look at those pictures

21 and tell me if that's acceptable to walk out of your
22 house and see that every time it rains, and that's only
23 for a five-minute rainstorm. Just imagine if we were
24 to get a flood.

25 Five responses and nothing done is
0089

01 not acceptable to me. I don't expect an immediate fix
02 tomorrow, but what I do expect is an answer as far as
03 what could be done.

04 It's not my problem, it's a city
05 problem, and it doesn't only affect my house, it
06 affects the house next door.

07 So, if nothing is done on this
08 issue, I'm going to have to go down there with -- the
09 gentleman came before that it went on deaf ears, and it
10 shouldn't have to go that way.

11 Council should not have to send
12 five requests to a department head and not get anything
13 done about it. It's totally unacceptable.

14 And I just don't understand why
15 the mayor can't come here and address the CRF issue
16 himself. Why does he have to send people here with
17 T-shirts on to tell you how to vote? It's
18 unacceptable. If you want an answer, come to this
19 podium and ask the question and stop the politics.

20 Did we get an answer yet on the
21 total for the Summer In The City banners that we've
22 been asking for since about April?

23 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, do you have
24 anything?

25 MR. SAUNDERS: No, nothing yet.
0090

01 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Well, I think
02 you need to use your power of subpoena here again,
03 because that seems to be the only way that you have
04 meat on any issue, because I don't know what the heck
05 takes so long to look up some bills and add them up,
06 unless there's a lot of them and you can't find them.
07 I think it's totally ludicrous the way that this city
08 is heading.

09 I, myself, because I was
10 interested in knowing, too, went on the website, and I
11 got a copy of the jobs, and it says on the top, The new
12 jobs that were created in 2003 on 2005.

13 Well, I did my homework this week,

14 and I got halfway through the list, and I researched
15 the jobs through the tax office and through the
16 employers themselves, and to take it a step further,
17 before we get into that, it was mentioned here before,
18 and I have the records at home, also, we actually lost,
19 according to the wage tax earnings, approximately 2100
20 jobs, according to -- if you take the amount that we
21 received in 2003 and 2004 and divide it by \$10 over the
22 last year's, we actually lost 2100 jobs.

23 So, let's do some simple math, and
24 we'll add the 2100 jobs to the so-called \$3,417 -- or
25 subtract it from the \$3,417. So, you're left with
0091

01 1,317 so-called created jobs.

02 So, let's go down the list here.

03 Southern Union is on the list for 30 jobs. It's
04 obvious, we've been told approximately 12 jobs. We'll
05 even give them the benefit of the doubt of the 30.

06 It was brought up here before

07 Bank of America, formerly Fleet, was brought to Moosic
08 in 1999 on the mountain. They pay 89 percent of their
09 wage tax to the Moosic Borough. It has down there
10 listed 450 jobs. Take that out of there.

11 Diversified was brought here under

12 the former Globe Store Building under Mayor Connors,
13 and it stated on there that there's 500 jobs. They
14 currently have 198. Let's knock them out of the loop.

15 Scranton Health Care Center, Green

16 Ridge Health Care Center, they have done 120 jobs.

17 It's amazing, that building isn't even built yet and

18 the ground isn't even broke to build it yet, so we must
19 be psychic.

20 Fidelity Bank, we have down for

21 eight jobs. Fidelity Bank came downtown over
22 approximately 15 years ago. There's a Fidelity Bank
23 going up in West Side, we must be psychic again,
24 because it's not even built yet.

25 Northeast Credit Collections,
0092

01 140 jobs. Northeast Credit Collections was here.

02 They've had the contract under Mayor Connors to
03 contract the garbage fee. We have down 140 jobs.

04 Let's take them off the list.

05 The Avenue Restaurant, formerly

06 the Waffle House, all it did was change names. Let's
07 take them off the list.

08 Zumo's in Green Ridge, I went

09 there when I was a kid for penny candy, as well as

10 other people, take that off the list.
11 500 construction jobs, temporary,
12 they're not permanent. Gibbons Toyota, I want you to
13 research this yourself, because you'll get a kick out
14 of this and you'll laugh, also. Let's take those off
15 the list for 70.
16 The Icebox downtown, we'll give
17 them them, freebie, KOZ; the Riverfront, freebie, KOZ;
18 Nittany Lions, freebie, KOZ; William At The Ritz where
19 the headquarters are, freebie, KOZ.
20 The best one, and it was brought
21 up here before, and I'm not going to mention the
22 gentleman's name, and he stated that when people come
23 to this podium, they really, really need to know what
24 they're talking about, and I agree with him 100
25 percent, because he has the information for TMG Health
0093
01 Care wrong.
02 First they have down that there
03 was 350 jobs created there. They were in Scranton for
04 years. They were given a free ride downtown KOZ, and
05 it also is a, and I'm not going to mention anybody's
06 name, because that's not the way that it should be, but
07 it has to do with the administration and a family
08 member that owns that business, and it's free. It's
09 KOZ. They do not have 350 employees there.
10 These are people that work at
11 their homes that come and they do sheets and they get
12 paid 15 cents a piece.
13 MR. DIBILEO: If you can wrap it
14 up, please.
15 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: I'll sum it up
16 real quick. So, when you add these up, we're in the
17 negative. So, don't make fools out of the people in
18 the City of Scranton, because your fictitious numbers
19 are wrong.
20 So, that's what Channel 61 is good
21 for, the second side of the story, and that's why it
22 can't be shut down, for this reason. Thank you.
23 MR. McANDREW: Good evening, City
24 Council, Larry McAndrew, taxpayer. Attending these
25 meetings here at City Council as a taxpayer, I have
0094
01 observed fellow taxpayer and citizens come to this
02 podium requesting information, I also have seen
03 City Council members also requesting information from
04 this administration.
05 Mr. Saunders was given the okay to

06 send letters to this administration stating what
07 information we needed, and over and over and over again
08 I hear there is no reply.
09 So, I am saying right now, it is
10 refreshing to see the subpoena power being taken, that
11 we're going to get the truth, the whole truth and
12 nothing but the truth for the taxpayers of Scranton.
13 I hope that I can attend these
14 public meetings where they will be open to the public
15 so we can hear what the mayor has to say or what his
16 administration officials have to say, their side.
17 We're getting two different
18 stories here. Somebody is not telling the truth.
19 Let's get the true information. I thank you.
20 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.
21 MS. PILOSI: Good evening, City
22 Council. Violet Piloni, taxpayer and resident. I just
23 want to remind everybody that a couple speakers ago we
24 heard another chapter from the manuscript in the red
25 three-ring binder authored by the famous ghost writer
0095
01 attorney.
02 All I could say is, consider the
03 source of the mouth that the words came from. It's
04 sickening. Thank you.
05 MR. FIGURED: Good evening,
06 Council. My name is Jack Figured. I'm a resident of
07 North Scranton, and I'd like to just say one thing, I
08 don't try to know everything about everything, but I
09 know that there are people in this community that the
10 mayor, yourself, Mr. DiBileo, that are trying to come
11 up with ways to stir economic development.
12 I represent a number of people in
13 the construction trades, and their livelihood depends
14 upon foresight of yourself and the mayor looking at
15 certain aspects, deciding what's best for the city and
16 following that path.
17 This is a very emotional issue. I
18 have never had such a spirited discussion in all my
19 life in the last hour and a half, but what I think we
20 need to see is the personal aspect of this.
21 If we should take no action on
22 either plan, and I'm not advocating either plan,
23 because I don't really know enough about either one of
24 them, we have been very busy, myself, but if we don't
25 take action on a plan soon, we're going to stagnate
0096
01 the economy of this city.

02 And I don't think either yourself
03 or the mayor wants that stigma. I think we need to
04 move forward. I think that, yes, it's an election year
05 and there's a lot of political things that are
06 involved, but the political things that are going on
07 are hurting the average person.
08 And you can see, I just drove in
09 from Harrisburg, and all I have is two cents, and I'd
10 like to give you my two cents tonight after
11 the gas prices I paid coming in.
12 What we need to do is look into
13 the future, put the political parts aside from this,
14 look at the plans, see if they're viable.
15 Like I said, Gary, I apologize, I
16 really don't know your side of the plan, I have only
17 read a few excerpts from the paper, and I've only heard
18 about the mayor's plan from what I'm hearing from the
19 people speaking here tonight, but I think we need to
20 move forward.
21 Tonight, tomorrow night, the next
22 night, whatever it takes, I think the political
23 in-fighting hasn't done anything for the citizens of
24 this community, and you're hurting the average working
25 person.

0097

01 And I take offense to the person
02 that says construction jobs are just part-time jobs.
03 We try to make a living of it, and we work hard and we
04 work out in the cold and we work out in the sun, and we
05 pay good wages.
06 Another thing I'd like to point
07 out is a fact from the Citizens Taxpayers Group, I am
08 thinking about joining that myself. It's a very good
09 group. I think it's about time somebody stood up and
10 looked out for the taxpayers' money, but I think they
11 also need to focus on what economic development brings
12 to this community.
13 It brings city wage taxes on
14 good-paying jobs, it brings building permit fees.
15 We're talking about going with a company buying these
16 loans and we're going to lose \$400,000 to \$600,000, but
17 what is the return on that? Is it a million and a half
18 dollars in permit fees and taxes? I'm going to trade
19 \$600,000 or \$400,000 for a million and a half any day
20 of the week.
21 What projects are they for? What
22 are they earmarked for? It doesn't make a difference
23 to me, as long as it's earmarked for something and this

24 community is going to benefit from it, and I think it's
25 about time we put the politics aside, look at both
0098
01 plans, take action and do something, because every day
02 you delay stagnates the future of the city's economy.
03 Thank you.
04 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, ladies
05 and gentlemen. My name is Dave Gervasi, taxpayer,
06 homeowner and a member of the Scranton Fire Department.
07 You know, I saw some of these
08 union leaders coming up here tonight, and I know some
09 of them, one of them I know very personally, and I
10 think they have the right idea, because when you do get
11 these unionized jobs up off the bench and projects do
12 happen, these are family-sustaining jobs, these aren't
13 jobs, you know, I'm not knocking anybody that has a
14 lower-paying job, but these are jobs where you can
15 achieve the American dream, and I personally would love
16 to see as much development as we could to get these
17 guys to work.
18 The only problem I have with it,
19 and I have to tend to agree with Mr. Courtright and
20 Mrs. Evans, because this whole buyout plan, I think
21 because there has been a pattern of money lost in a lot
22 of Doherty's deals and plans that he has made, I think
23 that -- I think we do have to have caution.
24 Somebody said to me the other day
25 it's like giving an arsonist a can of gas the way he
0099
01 has been spending money.
02 And correct me if I'm wrong,
03 because this seems to be becoming a political issue,
04 and I'd like to ask Mr. Courtright and Mrs. Evans,
05 because I heard their comments a few weeks ago when
06 this was voted down, and I believe all you said was,
07 Show us where the money is going or give us guarantees
08 that this elected body would be able to pass
09 any of these projects so that things like the Hilton
10 don't happen and we lose millions of dollars.
11 Am I correct to say that if there
12 are guarantees and a little bit of oversight and not
13 circumventing this body or circumventing
14 Mrs. Novembrino and taking this \$5 million that he
15 wants and giving it to, say, the OECD so he could do no
16 bids and have no oversight on our money, would you vote
17 for that if there was some type of oversight?
18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, I would
19 consider voting for it if all those things you brought

20 up came true. I have a fear. I have a fear. Whether
21 you were for or against the sale of the
22 South Side Complies, he spent \$700,000 before it was
23 ever really sold. Those type of things make me
24 afraid.

25 I absolutely want to see these
0100

01 union guys working, my God. I probably have some of
02 their business from their children and themselves. I
03 am not against that at all.

04 And I think everybody knows where
05 I stand with unions. Some people say I'm too tight
06 with the unions. My father was a teamster his entire
07 life, I ran the whole story, I'm not going to run it
08 again, but if I had some of those guarantees, yes, I
09 would consider it, but I'm gun shy because of the way
10 this administration has acted in the past.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Let me just say
12 this, if there's any more comments on this topic,
13 Mr. Saunders, please don't take the time away from
14 Mr. Gervasi.

15 MR. GERVASI: Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: I'll just be very
17 brief. I do consider that to be one of the issues I
18 have with this particular deal, but it's not the only
19 issue.

20 MR. GERVASI: Thank you. Thank
21 you for your candor. Now, I noticed tonight that -- I
22 believe Mr. Pocius is going to make a motion to just,
23 you know, run this through again.
24 Mr. Pocius, have you looked into
25 the other alternative collateralizing these loans that
0101

01 Mr. DiBileo brought up, or has anybody actually studied
02 that, except for one of Mr. Doherty appointees who said
03 it just doesn't make sense?

04 MR. POCIUS: We received a written
05 report from the Office of Economic Development
06 basically saying they ran it by some local banks, and
07 they said it didn't fly.

08 MR. GERVASI: It wouldn't fly?

09 MR. POCIUS: It wouldn't fly.

10 MR. GERVASI: Okay. Thank you.

11 Thank you for your answer.

12 MR. POCIUS: Always.

13 MR. GERVASI: Getting to another
14 subject, I believe Mr. Keeler was up here before, and I
15 could be wrong, but my dad lives right by the James

16 Avenue Complex, we're talking about TMG moving from
17 James Avenue Complex to the tax free status on
18 Lackawanna Avenue, and he said that they had to move
19 because things changed at the James Avenue Complex,
20 well, maybe the owner was lying to my 82-year-old
21 father, because my dad hangs around over there a lot
22 and they talk a lot and they've become quite close
23 friends, and he told him that he had to change his
24 plans because he lost his biggest tenant to the
25 incubator building.

0102

01 So, I mean, he was talking about
02 saying the truth about moves, well, the truth, as far
03 as I'm concerned, because I don't think my dad would
04 lie to me, was that TMG, when they left, they lost
05 their biggest tenant, that's why they had to change the
06 building and come to zoning to try to put apartments in
07 there because he lost his tenant to a tax-free status,
08 so -- but maybe I'm wrong. Maybe he lied to my dad or
09 my dad lied to me, I don't know.

10 The other issue I wanted to bring
11 up was there's this big movement that's going on trying
12 to shut off these cameras and not televise these
13 things, it kind of all ties together, because I wanted
14 to mention this last week, but I ran out of time, and
15 it was an article by Chris Kelly, who, by the way, is
16 doing another article shortly about Channel 61 and the
17 so-called problems we're having with Channel 61, and
18 getting back to the newspaper, I think a lot of these
19 speakers that come up here tonight were absolutely
20 correct, that this is where you hear the other side of
21 the story. It's the only place you hear other factual
22 information that you will not read in the paper.

23 And I have to kind of congratulate
24 Mr. Kelly, because he did say, I do agree, however,
25 with the Wilkes-Barre newspaper's concern over

0103

01 newspaper people make contributions to political
02 candidates, but then he goes on to say, They go on to
03 beat up the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader employing its
04 usual false journalistic false piety and cowardly
05 innuendo and editorial plumbers, warned that it looks
06 like the Times Tribune is in Casey's corner, blah,
07 blah, blah.

08 I mean, for this newspaper, our
09 hometown newspaper here, to talk about the Wilkes-Barre
10 Times Leader about their journalistic piety, the
11 Wilkes-Barre -- I actually called the Wilkes-Barre

12 Times Leader and I asked them if they donate to
13 people's campaigns, and they said, Absolutely not. We
14 would not even want to give the impression that we are
15 one-sided or biased to any certain candidates that are
16 our favorite people.

17 And he went on to say, this was an
18 editor, the big editor, I forget -- Matt, I think his
19 name was, and he also told me that they have a policy
20 at their newspaper every year all of the management
21 staff have to sign a document saying that they will not
22 contribute to any political candidates.

23 So, this newspaper, who gives
24 money to certain people, and obviously they get better
25 press and they beat up the people that are opposing the
0104

01 people that they give money to, and they expect us to
02 believe anything that's in this paper?

03 I mean, come on. I don't think I
04 even have to come up here and tell anyone with any
05 different political philosophy, whether they're
06 Republicans, Democrats, love Chris Doherty, love
07 Gary DiBileo, that this newspaper is going to make a
08 commentary about another newspaper that has a policy
09 where they don't give money to certain candidates.

10 And I'm going to read you one more
11 thing that one of our guys wrote to the mailbag that
12 didn't quite make it into the mailbag, and it says,
13 Dear Editor, It never ceases to amaze me individuals
14 are complaining that City Council is continuing their
15 weekly meetings through August.
16 According to the City Charter,
17 they are following the law. These politicians are
18 being paid to be exactly where they are; however, it is
19 not surprising that this raises the ire of those who
20 want to continue the political status quo in Scranton.
21 These individuals should not be
22 fearful of the one uncensored public forum, which is
23 this. There are many forums for the one-sided flow of
24 information.

25 Just look around. We have what
0105

01 seems to be campaign signs on public work projects all
02 over town. One could argue that these projects are the
03 job of city government and should not be open to
04 political gain. Not paving streets or pursuing
05 building projects would be a campaign issue.
06 Those who are truly troubled over
07 what open forum need only wait until after this meeting

08 is over, right afterwards there's a program more to
09 their liking. This program allows no public debate,
10 it's free and it's on the same channel starring
11 Mayor Doherty.
12 If all else fails, these people
13 who are complaining can read the editorialized news
14 stories in the Scranton Times Tribune.
15 They may not know what happened at
16 these public meetings, however, they will be happy with
17 the content of the story.
18 Trying to silence all voices of
19 opposition has been done in many countries throughout
20 the world. Thankfully most of the regimes have been
21 thrown into the ash heap of history. This should not
22 happen in our beautiful town, signed. Don Kershner,
23 he's one of our captains in our fire department. Thank
24 you for letting me speak.

25 MR. SLEDZINSKI: Only me, Gar. May
0106

01 I approach, Gar?

02 MR. DIBILEO: Sure, Chris.

03 MR. SLEDZINSKI: The new schedule
04 this year, Gar. You'll notice our first game is
05 tomorrow.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

07 MR. SLEDZINSKI: Gar, a little
08 lower, Gar?

09 MR. DIBILEO: Sure. Bring it
10 down, Chris.

11 MR. SLEDZINSKI: I want to say one
12 thing tonight, gentlemen, I want to see our boys win
13 tomorrow night. Good luck. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Hey, Chris, what about
15 Scranton High, they're playing tomorrow night.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks for that
17 information, Chris.

18 MS. KRAKE: Good evening,
19 Council. My name is Nancy Krake, and I am a resident
20 of the City of Scranton. I believe possibly some --
21 one or some of the speakers that were here tonight were
22 not residents of the city, but that's something maybe
23 we can look in at another time. I don't know the issue
24 about if they're allowed to speak here or not.

25 Personally I don't mind anyone's
0107

01 point of view, but I think that should be known that
02 they give their address and it's possibly not their
03 home address. It might make some sense to look into

04 that. I think they gave the address of an office, one
05 of the speakers earlier, Mr. Mazza.
06 But I'd also like to say that this
07 mayor cut two positions from the traffic maintenance
08 department in his first two years of office.
09 Now it has become apparent just
10 how ridiculous that discussion was. Even the
11 Scranton Times is reporting on the need for crosswalks
12 and the heavy workload faced by the three remaining
13 traffic maintenance workers.
14 Perhaps the mayor will consider
15 public safety issues instead of management salaries.
16 If you remember, when clerical worker jobs were
17 eliminated, the mayor didn't pass any savings onto
18 taxpayers, instead he rewarded his cabinet with raises
19 and increased the number of administrative positions.
20 This is how this administration
21 works. We will have traffic maintenance workers
22 install Summer In The City banners as a mayoral
23 priority, but hold off on crosswalks for school
24 children.
25 I am amazed to think the
0108
01 administration feels people will fall for the obvious
02 political tactics they use when they're addressing the
03 needs of this city.
04 Cutting back on public safety
05 employees to fund their salaries eventually came back
06 to bite them. Even the Scranton Times, as I said
07 earlier, can't ignore the problems that this has
08 caused.
09 And I also have something to ask
10 Councilman Courtright, if you wouldn't mind doing, I
11 know the city's flag is there behind you, could you
12 possibly open it up, if it's okay with
13 Councilman DiBileo?
14 MR. DIBILEO: Certainly.
15 MS. KRAKE: Because on that flag
16 is the city seal, and on that there's three symbols.
17 The city seal symbolizes Scranton's past, present and
18 future. The fern portrays the past, representing coal,
19 the wheel portrays the present, depicting a reference
20 to this city as the transportation hub of the
21 northeast, and also as a reference to the wheels of
22 progress now in motion in Scranton. The atomic symbol
23 depicts the future representing new industry and
24 challenges that we face.
25 Thank you very, very much for

0109

01 doing that. You'll notice that nowhere on there is
02 Restoring The Pride. That, in fact, is this
03 mayor's campaign slogan. That would be as if
04 Mr. DiBileo used city and federal funds to put, Vote
05 for Gary DiBileo on a flag and put it throughout the
06 city.

07 But I have an even better
08 suggestion, I think the mayor's new campaign slogan
09 should be, and this indeed would be truth in
10 advertising, Restoring The Deficit.
11 Millions and millions in loans
12 have been incumbered for future generations to bear the
13 burden of. And if you think about it, where else can
14 this mayor go but to raise taxes? Thank you.

15 MR. DIBILEO: If there's no
16 further speakers.

17 MR. WALSH: 5-A, Motions.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. McTiernan, any
19 motions or comments?

20 MR. McTIERNAN: Nothing at this
21 time, Mr. President. I'll wait to defer to
22 Mr. Pocius' motion when he is called.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Thank you.

24 Mrs. Evans, motions or comments?

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good

0110

01 evening. Although Council has been trying to schedule
02 a public caucus for a little over a month now with
03 Robert Rossi & Company CPA to discuss the independent
04 audit of 2004, that caucus as yet has not occurred;
05 however, I don't feel that the facts contained within
06 this audit can be postponed any longer, and most likely
07 these are facts that you won't read in the newspaper.

08 Furthermore, over the past months
09 city residents appeared at the podium and asked if they
10 could be told a dollar figure that is Scranton's
11 deficit, that is its long-term debt.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Go right ahead,
13 Mrs. Evans.

14 MS. EVANS: Right on cue. Now,
15 according to Scranton's independent audit for 2004, and
16 I stress, this is only until December 31, 2004, I can't
17 give you an accurate figure as to where we stand
18 today.

19 I'm sure we would have to add to
20 these figures, so, again, this only applies to as far
21 as December 31, 2004.

22 The principal of Scranton's
23 long-term debt was \$121,062,303. And remember, that's
24 only the principal. You must add to that the interest
25 which must also be paid off on this debt.

0111

01 The debt principal of more than
02 \$120 million is a staggering amount, which the
03 independent audit shows was all created on
04 Mayor Doherty's watch.
05 It is also a staggering amount of
06 money owed for a City of Scranton's size and
07 population, which contains so many senior citizens and
08 residents living on fixed incomes.
09 When Mr. Doherty became mayor in
10 2002, Scranton was \$2.9 million in the black. Since
11 then, he spent the \$2.9 million, sold city assets and
12 drove the city deeply into debt.
13 Now, please bear with me and keep
14 the numbers in mind. The independent audit report
15 breaks down Scranton's debt into two categories, the
16 debt incurred by Scranton's government activities; in
17 other words, the debt originating from the mayor's
18 office, and the debt and incurred by Scranton's
19 business-type activities, such as the debt incurred by
20 the Municipal Parking Authority and the Sewer
21 Authority.
22 In the first category, the debt
23 originating from the mayor's office is comprised of,
24 first, money the mayor borrowed, for which Scranton
25 issued general obligation bonds.

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01 For everyone's information, if the
02 city does not make its required payments on the general
03 obligation bonds, then the bondholders have the right
04 to go into court and have the court order the city to
05 increase taxes on all residents in order to raise the
06 money and make the required payments on the bonds;
07 second, the government debt also includes lease
08 obligations for such items as the lease of city motor
09 vehicles, the city's lease of buildings, etc., and
10 third, the debt incurred by the Scranton Redevelopment
11 Authority.
12 The second category of debt is
13 from Scranton's business-type activities. It consists
14 of revenue bonds issued by the Parking Authority,
15 Sewer Authority, and notes issues by the Scranton Sewer
16 Authority.
17 But before I continue, I must

18 emphasize that it wasn't the current Council who helped
19 the mayor create these financial numbers, rather, it
20 was the mayor's previous rubberstamp Council who
21 dutifully passed his requested ordinances to clear the
22 way for him to incur Scranton's long-term debt.
23 And this statement can be proved
24 by examination of the independent auditor's report and
25 notes which show the years in which the mayor borrowed
0113

01 all the money.

02 Now that we know Scranton's debt
03 principal is \$121.1 million, the questions you should
04 ask are, first, When will all the debt be paid in full?
05 According to the audit, it should
06 be paid off in the year 2033, 28 more years, assuming
07 the city doesn't miss a payment on interest and
08 principal and that the mayor does not further increase
09 the debt total.

10 Second, as the debt stands now,
11 how much will it cost to pay off the debt principal
12 plus interest?

13 Answer, a total of \$198,181,593.

14 We will be paying \$77 million in interest alone. Now,
15 this means Scranton must pay, on the average,
16 \$7 million each year for the next 28 years of our debt
17 service.

18 Now, oddly the general obligation
19 bonds that I'm talking about, those payments average
20 roughly \$6 million per year from the years 2005 to
21 2009.

22 But listen carefully, in 2010 to
23 2014, it jumps to \$30.5 million per year in this
24 category alone. That's creative financing,
25 how you can keep it so low for the next four years and
0114

01 then we're going to be hit just on the general
02 obligation bond with a repayment of \$30.5 million for
03 "X" amount of years.

04 Our budget right now is
05 \$60-some million. That's half the budget. Now,
06 granted, five years from now, that budget will most
07 likely be up to \$70 million, but you still think about
08 that.

09 You take that, plus what could be
10 owed on the other categories, and you're looking at
11 about \$32 million out of \$70 million.

12 Now you can see where a large
13 portion of your tax dollars will go every year from now

14 until 2033, and when the city pays millions of dollars
15 in principal and interest to reduce its debt, you can
16 just imagine how those millions of dollars could have
17 otherwise been used each year to improve the people's
18 quality of life, or for police protection, or for
19 neighborhood improvements, or for paved streets.

20 The people can't sustain this size
21 of debt payments, which will surely increase, if the
22 mayor's spend and borrow policies are allowed to
23 continue over the next four years.

24 I must bring to everyone's
25 attention two more items in the auditor's report which
0115

01 relate to his job performance. First is that as of
02 December 31, 2004, the city owes millions of dollars to
03 the pension funds for the police, firemen and
04 non-uniformed employees. That, of course, was driven
05 up by nearly 100 forced retirements.

06 The second item is the audit
07 report on Page 70, that for the year 2004, the mayor's
08 spend and borrow job performance added \$3,349,425
09 more.

10 I believe that when the people
11 fully understand the impact of the ticking time bomb
12 we're under here, there might be a ground swell
13 movement that would be heard in every block and every
14 neighborhood of this city. Either that, or there's
15 going to be a massive exodus from this town.

16 The Mayor's deficit spending and
17 long-term borrowing is now before you to see and hear
18 and arrive at your own conclusions on Scranton's
19 financial condition, and I also venture to guess.

20 And I know I'm often called
21 negative, and I'm not, those who know me know, I am not
22 a negative or confrontational person, but the truth has
23 to be told.

24 And, you know, if this continues,
25 you're looking at tax increases that are going to rival
0116

01 what you saw in the county this year, if not surpass
02 it, or else, you're going to see at least a 10 percent
03 tax increase every year for many, many, many years to
04 come starting in 2010, and it just isn't right.

05 And if anyone questions my figures
06 and conclusions, they should read this independent
07 auditor's report all the facts and figures are there.

08 And as a resident of Scranton, I'm
09 outraged by this, that for 28 more years, on the backs

10 of Scranton's residents and their children and their
11 children, the mayor's created all that debt in only
12 three years.

13 Well, I think it goes to show what
14 happens if a rubberstamp Council gives an elected
15 official unchecked political power.

16 And finally with regard to the
17 audit, there's two issues regarding the findings of the
18 audit, which I would like to discuss with Mr. Rossi
19 when he is able to meet with us.

20 Also, I'd like the people to be
21 aware that depositions are being taken on the American
22 Water Services case. They, of course, American Water
23 Services, wants the return of their \$6 million, and I
24 don't see any plans to come up with that amount of
25 money. We're to make any adjustments to take care of
0117

01 what well may hit us next.

02 But on a much lighter note, I do
03 want to publicly thank the Scranton Fire Department for
04 their assistance.

05 Two weeks ago at a Council meeting
06 I mentioned about pigeon droppings on Spruce Street
07 next to the U of S athletic field that leads into
08 Downtown Scranton, and the very next morning the fire
09 department responded by hosing down the sidewalks so
10 that students and residents from South Side would not
11 have to walk through such filth, or worse yet, walk in
12 a lane of the Expressway to avoid that.

13 And I have to tell you, that is what I like to see,
14 immediate action. It's not hard.

15 Also, I reported the problems with
16 new sidewalks down at the senior citizens center in the
17 downtown area to Mr. Joe Mullen of Cloe Harbor about
18 three and a half weeks ago, and he was out to inspect
19 that situation the very next day, and yesterday I took
20 a trip by there, and I saw the trucks there and the men
21 working, according to the punch list, and making all
22 the proper corrections, so I want to thank Mr. Mullen,
23 as well, for taking immediate action.

24 Jay, do we have any word on
25 cleaning those catch basins over in East Mountain that
0118

01 I talked about two weeks ago?

02 MR. SAUNDERS: I didn't get
03 anything back on that.

04 MS. EVANS: Okay. Thank you.

05 Well, unfortunately --

06 MR. SAUNDERS: Although I do have
07 to tell you that every time we send something out to
08 Jack Lennox on that, he calls the next day. So,
09 usually when he gets it done, he calls me the next day
10 and tells us. So, as soon as I get --
11 MS. EVANS: He's been -- he has
12 been very, very helpful.
13 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah. So, I do
14 have to give him credit.
15 MS. EVANS: I do, too. And even in
16 cases where it is not the responsibility of the
17 Sewer Authority, they have stepped in and done what the
18 city should have been doing.
19 I do have a list of requests
20 tonight. 517-519 Pittston Avenue, there's a blighted
21 property. There have been two fires at that location,
22 and the neighbors have called city offices for
23 assistance, and to date, nothing has been done.
24 Ward Place, again, for the third
25 time, the DPW came out to fill the potholes. They
0119
01 filled one and they left the rest of them open, similar
02 to Mrs. Jones' anecdote earlier this evening.
03 I would like them to go back and finish their work,
04 please.
05 Also, the basement of police
06 headquarters needs replacement of either lightbulbs or
07 lights, because the police are forced to work in very
08 little light.
09 I would hope we can get that done.
10 And the police brought it to the attention of
11 maintenance, they tell me, months ago. I don't know.
12 Maybe they're waiting for them to move into the new
13 building.
14 Greenbush Street, Rockwell Avenue
15 and Reece Street are damaged from pave cuts performed
16 by utility companies, and these companies must restore
17 the streets to a proper condition.
18 And I'd like a written report
19 about these streets and when they will be paved. I
20 also want a letter to Mark Sietzinger, with a copy to
21 Bill Fiorini. I want a report on all condemned houses
22 and properties in the City of Scranton since
23 January 2004.
24 List each structure by specific
25 address, date of condemnation, action taken, date of
0120
01 demolition or extended demolition.

02 Also, I'm still waiting for the
03 follow-up on the letters he sent to me over the
04 summer.
05 I mentioned at this evening's
06 meeting began when Mr. Walsh, a Green Ridge resident,
07 spoke, water and sewer problems at Park Gardens,
08 specifically in front of Buildings 1, 2 and 4. Heavy
09 rain causes the manhole cover to lift right off. The
10 water gushes out with such excessive speed and strength
11 that it's covering the properties and has actually
12 pushed basement windows in and the water pours into the
13 basement, as well. So, I would ask Mr. Lennox, please,
14 would inspect that and maybe he would help us out.
15 And a letter to Mr. Santolli to
16 remove the tree at 835 West Market Street, because the
17 roofs are blocking up the sewer pipes and the resident
18 has been going back and forth between Mr. Santoli and
19 Mr. Luciani and a number of others, and in the
20 meantime, the Sewer Authority wants to be able to
21 address their end of the problem, but they can't do it
22 until the tree comes down.
23 And also, the neighbors of
24 Price Rite, and this is very important, because I know
25 how upset you all are, and I have been working on this,
0121
01 and Mr. Fiorini has been diligently working on this,
02 the store has 30 days, until September 20, I believe,
03 to fix a plumbing and sewer problem and a leakage
04 problem; otherwise, Mr. Fiorini has told me that he
05 will cite them at the conclusion of the 30-day period.
06 And he told that to me on August 20.
07 Just one last thing, many of you
08 have brought this up tonight, and I want to just add my
09 two cents to it, and I know you're saying, make it a
10 penny, because you've already talked too long, I'm
11 hearing rumors that Channel 61 may no longer broadcast
12 City Council meetings, and I was hoping that someone
13 from Channel 61 would sit down with me or contact me
14 about this, because I'd really like to know if this is
15 truth or rumor.
16 I don't think it can be due to a
17 demand for new programming, because I've been informed
18 that the channel has recently been showing five-month
19 old tape from the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Dinner
20 in place of Council meetings.
21 And I am not in any way casting
22 aspersions at that wonderful group of gentlemen, they
23 do tremendous work in this city, my father was a member

24 of that organization, but I don't know how pertinent
25 the dinner is five months later, so I don't think it's,
0122

01 you know, some type of scheduling problem.

02 So, I'm just very much hoping that

03 we're not going to see the end of these televised

04 meetings, because if and when that happens, sadly the

05 people of Scranton, and those outside the city who

06 watch these meetings, will not know the truth, they

07 will not witness government in action live uncensored

08 for the good, bad and ugly of it.

09 I think it's raised everyone's

10 awareness on the issues, whether you're ally or whether

11 you're an opponent of these meetings. You do know the

12 issues now, and this is a significant achievement. And

13 it is my great hope that that will never, never be

14 taken away from you. That's all.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

16 Mrs. Evans. Mr. Pocius, motions or comments?

17 MR. POCIUS: No comments. Just

18 one motion. Mark, is it okay to make the motion right

19 now? Am I within my right section of the meeting?

20 MR. WALSH: Absolutely. And just

21 so the record is clear, as well, although you made the

22 motion during the public participation part, after a

23 motion has been made and withdrawn, the situation is as

24 if the motion had never been made at all, which allows

25 you to make the same motion again at the same meeting.

0123

01 I just want to clarify that.

02 MR. POCIUS: Thank you, sir.

03 Thank you, counselor.

04 At this time I make a motion the

05 Scranton City Council suspend their rules allowing

06 us to place back on the agenda the pieces of

07 legislation, I don't have the specific numbers, that

08 deal directly with the CRF loans.

09 MR. WALSH: And just so I'm clear,

10 the motion is referring to suspending the rules which

11 would have precluded you from putting it on.

12 MR. POCIUS: Correct.

13 MR. McTIERNAN: Second.

14 MR. DIBILEO: There's a motion on

15 the floor and a second. On the question?

16 MR. POCIUS: Just on the question,

17 this came to me -- we suspend our rules all the time.

18 There's no reason to modify our rules, there's no

19 reason to change our rules, there's no reason to do

20 anything but to suspend them, as we've done in the
21 past.

22 We do this frequently when we move
23 rules to pass things in one night from fifth to
24 sixth -- or I guess it's seventh order now or whatever.
25 So, that's the reason for my motion.

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01 I think we have to take another
02 serious look at this, and that's my motion. And I
03 think all the concerns have been debated to the point
04 at almost ad nauseam to the fact is that this Council
05 will still have control over anything that happens.
06 This money can't go anywhere without this Council
07 approving whatever program it's going to go to,
08 whatever loan, whatever department, whatever, whatever,
09 but I think the whole reason behind this was to
10 replenish in one lump sum a vast majority of our
11 economic development funds allowing -- I took -- you
12 know, sometimes I get on a soap box, but I'm going to
13 get on it a little bit tonight here just for one
14 reason, people to say that anyone that works with their
15 hands and their back out in the cold at the top of that
16 building every day when I drive into work in the
17 morning is only some part-time job, that offends me.
18 It offends me terribly.

19 All our father's weren't educated
20 and skilled people. My father, my grandfather, my
21 father were miners. They started off in the mines.
22 And that was the hardest labor you could ever get in
23 your life, and they worked, and they worked and they
24 worked.

25 And I think that these type of
0125

01 jobs that are spurred by economic development are
02 family-sustaining jobs.
03 We owe it to these people. I've
04 said this to the point of ad nauseam again. They
05 should not have to go to Delaware, to New Jersey, to
06 New York City or to wherever, when we can provide these
07 type of jobs in their backyard.

08 MR. DIBILEO: I want to, if you're
09 through --

10 MR. POCIUS: That's all,

11 Mr. DiBileo. I really didn't want to delay this.

12 MR. DIBILEO: I just want to pick
13 up on something you just said, the union members that
14 are concerned for the good and the bad on this issue, I
15 think there's union members here that are against it, I

16 think there's union members that are for it.
17 My father was a union plumber. I
18 say it all the time, worked on his hands and knees most
19 of his life, and the job wasn't always in one spot, so,
20 yeah they're not permanent in a sense that you go from
21 project to project.
22 So, in a respect, you know, yeah,
23 those jobs that were mentioned at the podium are not
24 permanent, yet they're very important jobs, no question
25 about that.

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01 So, I think you can really count
02 those into any new positions that may have been created
03 over the last three and a half years, so I do want to
04 say that.

05 MS. EVANS: On the question,
06 Mr. President, this is nothing short of an end run.

07 MR. POCIUS: Oh.

08 MS. EVANS: Now, the majority
09 voted this down, and now we're going to suspend the
10 rules so that we can push something through.

11 And you know what, if you get --
12 if it goes through and you get this money, and let's
13 say this motion to usurp the rules of Council, which is
14 basically what it's doing, let's say it gets challenged
15 legally, and you just never know who might do that, and
16 it loses in court and the money has already been spent,
17 well, I guess it doesn't matter, when you owe as much
18 money as we do now, you might as well just keep adding
19 to it, maybe that's how some people see it, but I know
20 one thing, as finance chair of this Council, I haven't
21 been wrong on one financial issue since I've sat here,
22 and I've had to a lot of times disagree with everybody
23 seated here.

24 I didn't agree with the TAN, and
25 the big rush for that was they had to have that

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01 immediately, couldn't waste any time, have to have that
02 for January, well, it came out months later, it wasn't
03 until months later, that that money was actually
04 utilized.

05 Gasby, we have to have all this
06 money, it's a state mandate. Low and behold shortly
07 after, transfer of funds right out of Gasby into
08 something else.

09 And I could go on and on. And
10 when I am telling you, Mr. President, that after a
11 \$3 million loss on the Hilton Hotel, and I know we're

12 working very hard to effect a good deal there, but
13 let's think about it, too, we know what issues are
14 involved here just from what you've read in the paper,
15 and it's more than a \$3 million issue now, and I'll
16 tell you, I don't have great hopes of ever seeing, even
17 if it were the caboose on the deal, I don't see us ever
18 getting that \$3 million back.

19 Well, now you're going to ask me
20 to give somebody \$5 million more. You know what, he
21 treats government money like it's his petty cash
22 drawer.

23 And it's not his money. And I'm
24 not against the Hilton Hotel, I want them to survive,
25 and I'm not against union labor, I'm a union member all
0128

01 my life, and I believe in project labor agreements and
02 I believe you should have been treated fairly years
03 back, and remember that, and I'm not saying that this
04 deal goes down forever, but you -- this time I've
05 learned, fool me once, shame on me, although I haven't
06 been fooled even once, but fool -- or shame on you, or
07 fool me twice, shame on me. And, you know, until I see
08 that project, no money.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes,
10 Mr. President, just briefly, I know we've suspended the
11 rules before and somebody getting appointed to a board
12 or for some type of an emergency, but we voted on this
13 and it got voted down.

14 So, I think we'll be setting a
15 precedent, every time we vote on something, if somebody
16 doesn't like the way it goes, we're going to suspend
17 the rules and vote on it again?

18 MS. EVANS: Exactly.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: I just don't
20 agree with that.

21 MR. McTIERNAN: Mr. President, if
22 I may.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Absolutely.

24 MR. McTIERNAN: Just a few
25 comments on some of the things we saw tonight.

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01 Mr. Figured wanted to know some of the details
02 regarding the other proposals, and just a few excerpts
03 from the communication from Kevin Wilson regarding the
04 collateralization of the loan, and I won't read it in
05 its entirety, but he indicates, I contacted
06 representatives of three local banks to acquire about
07 entering into a transaction, like that which was

08 proposed by Mr. DiBileo.
09 Each of these representatives
10 indicated that they would consider such a deal, only if
11 the city were to guarantee any borrowing by pledging
12 its full faith and taxing credit as a taxing body.
13 Such a pledge would mean that the city would be liable
14 for any failure on the part of the loans to produce an
15 appropriate amount of cash to cover debt service
16 requirements.
17 In this case, the city would be
18 forced to raise taxes or borrow additional funds to
19 fulfill its obligation to these financial
20 institutions.
21 It does talk about looking at
22 further alternatives, but that's a communication for
23 Mr. Wilson.
24 And just a comment regarding a
25 speaker earlier, I am certainly not an accountant, but
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01 looking at the charts that were referred to, and when
02 you look at some of those percentage multiplication and
03 division problems, there are differences, because the
04 decimal points are only carried out in two places, so
05 there are slight inconsistencies, I guess you would
06 say, with Column C and Column D, which would lead the
07 numbers not to be exact.
08 If you were to extend those
09 decimal places further, it becomes more of an exact
10 number.
11 But I was trying to do some very
12 quick figuring, and the numbers are very close. And,
13 boy, I have to confess, you know a lot more about that
14 stuff than I do. I was confused about par value and
15 all of that, and I applaud your handling and the grasp
16 of those issues. I think that's fantastic, and I
17 appreciate you pointing that out.
18 In addition when I went through
19 the legislation from 156 and 155 of 2005, we're looking
20 at about \$36,000 a month, ballpark, if you add up items
21 one through fourteen, which would be about \$400,000 a
22 year.
23 So, back to that statement
24 Mr. Wilson had, I didn't have an opportunity to talk
25 with him again regarding what we could generate, but it
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01 would take literally months, six months, to get half
02 way there, \$200,000, and about \$36,000 a month in
03 returns. It's very difficult to write new loans.

04 And just as a final note regarding
05 all of the issues here, I take Mr. Keeler's comments
06 very seriously with his financial experience.
07 The trade unions that are
08 represented by multiple trade unions standing in the
09 rear of the gallery, I certainly sympathize with their
10 plight, and I can mention one person whose wife I work
11 with who had to travel to New Jersey weekly over the
12 past two years, and then he suffered a layoff after
13 traveling to New Jersey for four to five days out of
14 the week staying in New Jersey to return home on
15 weekends so that he could have an electrical trade
16 union job.
17 So, I would be in favor of this
18 proposal with regard to creating these jobs. And
19 surely we can argue whether or not they can be -- where
20 the money will go.
21 We should also point out that the
22 federal funding that comes for CDBG grants, that comes
23 prior to knowing what the projects are, and then we
24 make decisions as a Council which projects we feel are
25 worthy or in the best interest of the city or in the
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01 interest of the programming of the city to fund.
02 So, there are a lot of places
03 where we don't know what projects are coming down the
04 pike until after the money is allocated.
05 And I think that's all, other than
06 looking at -- emphasizing Mr. Pocius' position about
07 oversight of the loans and the fact that if it was
08 legislation to be sent down by the mayor, I think one
09 of the other speakers mentioned is there any control
10 regarding legislation sent down, I think we all have
11 seen on a number of occasions where legislation is sent
12 from the mayor to the Council can be vetoed and it's
13 essentially finished, as we're debating today.
14 So, I will be in favor of
15 suspending Council's rules and hopefully the passing
16 with three votes present of this CRF legislation
17 No. 155 and 156 of '05.
18 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to
19 respond quickly. Mr. McTiernan, the city has pledged
20 its full faith and trust in other issues, specifically,
21 I believe, concerning both new garages. We are
22 ultimately responsible for those debt payments and must
23 raise taxes to cover those costs in the event that the
24 Parking Authority fails its financial obligation.
25 So, I don't think that, you know,

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01 pledging full faith and trust here has to be the
02 negative it's portrayed to be, but then again, we have
03 to consider the source, and the employee is, after all,
04 part of this administration, and his job also entails
05 taking orders from superiors of this administration.
06 As for Council control over these
07 projects, very often, and under any administration,
08 it's very possible to present a project to this body at
09 the eleventh hour, and at that point up against a
10 deadline say, Here is my project.
11 And it appears to be a fine
12 meritorious project, but there, A, isn't enough time to
13 investigate that sufficiently, and, B, how then is a
14 Councilperson to say no to a project that's placed
15 right in front of you? I call that painting somebody
16 into a corner.
17 And, so, I think, you know, unless
18 there's people who know something we don't know, you
19 know the project, we don't know the project, you know,
20 just tell us the a project.
21 And if there's no project, then
22 you really -- I don't see the rush, because the
23 deadline has been changed four different times since
24 June.
25 I think they'll be willing to work

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01 with us again as soon as you show me the project. And,
02 again, I just want to emphasize, this is in no way to
03 say to our trade unions, our labor unions, that, you
04 know, this is a prevention of your obtaining work.
05 It's not.
06 But like Mr. McTiernan said he
07 knew someone that had to drive five days a week to
08 New Jersey, I know plenty, too. Think about that. How
09 many years did that go on? It just stopped, didn't it,
10 in the last year? That's it.
11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.
12 MR. POCIUS: Could I have another
13 comment, Mr. DiBileo?
14 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.
15 MR. POCIUS: Speaking about being
16 painted in a corner, when we developed the
17 Steamtown Mall in 1990 and 1991, I felt like I was on a
18 checkerboard.
19 We basically had to make a lot of
20 basically one-night decisions on certain things. We
21 would be presented with legislation that had to be

22 passed in one evening with emergency declaration.

23 And the bottom line was, no one at

24 that time wanted to be the one to kill the mall. And I

25 look back and I think, you know, I made some pretty

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01 gutsy decisions and just kind of went with my heart,

02 rather than my head sometimes, that project is up.

03 I had an interesting thought here,

04 and it maybe sounds silly to some people, but I think

05 back, economic development, there's always a chance.

06 Just think back if Queen Isabelle

07 didn't finance those these ships to come across to

08 America in 1492, we may never have even had the chance

09 to be here tonight to debate this. So, that was a

10 pretty good investment, whatever she put up.

11 MS. EVANS: She got a lot back of

12 it, though, John.

13 MR. POCIUS: But she took the

14 chance, Mrs. Evans.

15 MS. EVANS: She didn't lose her

16 ships, she didn't lose her men, and she made out a heck

17 of a profit.

18 MR. POCIUS: And I'm sure she was

19 considered crazy. And I'm sure at the time she was

20 considered crazy.

21 MR. DIBILEO: If I could just

22 chime in a little bit, and we need -- I'm sorry, but we

23 absolutely need, you know, quiet from the audience,

24 please.

25 Mr. Pocius brings up two good

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01 points, since we're talking about this motion, No. 1,

02 you said, Mr. Pocius, that we often suspend our rules,

03 and we certainly do, but it's normally to pass things

04 through from, say, sixth order into seventh to get

05 things done more quickly.

06 Since we've been sitting here, we

07 never suspended rules to take a second vote on

08 something that has already been voted on once, so

09 that's, I think, a huge difference based on the example

10 that you used of suspending the rules.

11 The second point you made is that

12 you brought up the mall project, you knew what you were

13 voting on. Hey, you the mall in front of you, how do

14 you not vote to fund the mall and get the money for

15 it?

16 This legislation was voted on by

17 those present at that meeting, and, you know, every

18 Council member here wants economic development, every
19 Council member here wants economic development, and I
20 could appreciate the concerns of all four Council
21 members up here, but quite frankly, Mr. Pocius and
22 Mr. McTiernan missed two opportunities in a row to vote
23 on this legislation, July 24, we were going to vote on
24 it, they weren't here, neither was I; August 1, I was
25 her, along with Mr. Courtright, Mrs. Evans, and they
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01 weren't here again.

02 Now, I'm not saying, well, they
03 were out playing, you know, in the park or anything
04 like that, because there could have been great reasons
05 for them not to be here, but there were two meetings in
06 a row that they, you know were not present for.

07 But what makes little sense to me
08 is that if revoting this legislation, and revoting is a
09 big issue, if it's that important to not follow our
10 Roberts Rules of order, I'm surprised why the mayor
11 wouldn't be here this evening asking City Council to be
12 considering this.

13 You have a lot of people here,
14 here because they feel it's important to be here, yet,
15 Mr. Doherty, who said he was going to be the sixth
16 councilman, surprisingly isn't here tonight.

17 Not only isn't he here, he didn't
18 call me on the phone to say, Here is a reason why you
19 need to vote for this.

20 Now, No. 2, you know, if there's a
21 project, like it was the mall project, and it was in
22 front of us this evening, I'd be rushing to get this
23 vote passed again, but, you know, we don't have that in
24 front of us, and that's a concern of two Council
25 members, not a concern of two others.

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01 I would also like the
02 Scranton Times to stop telling untruths. I'd like them
03 to stop saying that I scheduled a meeting when people
04 couldn't be here. That's absolutely untrue, and you'll
05 probably read it again sometime soon.

06 But if we change our rules, as
07 Mr. Courtright said, if we change our rules to revote
08 this issue, we would be possibly be revoting every
09 issue that we vote on.

10 What's to stop somebody from
11 saying, Let's suspend our rules and revote, I change my
12 mind?

13 Lastly, this is not the final

14 issue here. I mean, this is not the end of the road
15 right now for this issue.
16 Mr. Courtright, Mrs. Evans next
17 week may say, well, you know what, we made the motion
18 or we voted against it, we were in the majority, they
19 may decide to make the motion next week or next month,
20 or show them a project and they'll make the motion, I'm
21 sure, you know to revote this thing. So, it's not the
22 end of the road.

23 Even if they're still against it,
24 and they'll both be here six months after the original
25 vote was taken, this thing could be revoted, but I
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01 think it would happen a lot sooner than that if they
02 felt a good reason.

03 So, you know, we have rules for a
04 reason, and I just don't think that this is good enough
05 reason to break those rules. Anyone else? If not,
06 all those in favor of suspending the rules say aye.

07 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

08 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Opposed?

10 MS. EVANS: No.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

12 MR. DIBILEO: No. By a 3-2 vote,
13 motion does not pass.

14 MR. POCIUS: That's all I have.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Courtright, any
16 motions or comments?

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes,

18 Mr. President. A good friend of mine from Green Ridge,
19 Matt, I spoke to him, Jay, about the pothole machine,
20 he has a lot of knowledge in this field, and I thought
21 maybe if it was possible that we couldn't get a part or
22 what the problem was, and he seems to think parts would
23 be readily available for this, so if you could ask one
24 more time Mr. Parker where we stand with that pothole
25 machine.

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01 One thing, Jay, West Locust

02 Street, heading west on West Locust Street where it
03 intersects with 12th Avenue, I'm getting complaints
04 about people flying through there. There's a two-way
05 stop sign and it's a one-way street. They're

06 requesting that we ask Mr. Parker to take a look at
07 that and see if we can make that a three-way stop sign,
08 if that would be possible.

09 I don't make too many neighborhood

10 meetings, because I do most of my work at night, but I
11 went this week to the South Side neighborhood meeting,
12 and an individual that was there, we walked around the
13 block, two blocks or so, looking at some blight and
14 whatnot, and he owns properties in the city, and him
15 and his wife asked me a question that I wasn't quite
16 sure, I know we have a rule on this, they have
17 properties, they maintain them, there's contact numbers
18 if they need to be gotten a hold of for any reason, and
19 they asked me, do we have an ordinance or law on the
20 books that a landlord, if they do not live in the city,
21 would have to have a contact person that's in the city,
22 and I told them I believed that we did. And they said,
23 if we do, then why aren't we enforcing that?
24 So, if we do have one, if we don't
25 have one, could you let me know? And if we do, can we
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01 ask, I would guess it would be Mr. Fiorini, why we're
02 not enforcing it. I would have to guess if we have it
03 and we're not enforcing it, it's due to manpower. But
04 if you would find that out for me, I would appreciate
05 it.

06 MR. SAUNDERS: We do have the law
07 on the books. I will ask why they are not enforcing
08 it.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. The DPW,
10 as far as painted the traffic lines, I might have been
11 misunderstood a little bit, I don't know, but I got
12 calls the very next morning on this, people that didn't
13 want to be identified for good reason, and they told
14 me, now, Mrs. Krake mentioned the number, and I'm not
15 quite what she said, but I believe they told me the
16 department was short two employees, and that's one of
17 the reasons they were behind on painting the lines, and
18 then Mrs. Shedlock told me when she called me on the
19 phone to interview me about this, that Mr. Parker said,
20 you know, we're using paint now that doesn't last as
21 long as the paint we used to use because of
22 environmental reasons.

23 And then my answer would be this,
24 if we're falling behind now, what's it going to be like
25 now when we can only use this paint and we're going to
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01 have to do it every year, as opposed to maybe every
02 other year or so.

03 So, I would suggest, and I'm
04 certainly not trying to tell Mr. Parker how to run his
05 department, but I would suggest that we need to put

06 some more people in that department in order to get
07 this accomplished, or we're going to fall further and
08 further behind.

09 MS. EVANS: Mr. Courtright, maybe
10 you can add to that, could we use the materials that
11 were used on Wyoming Avenue in front of Scranton Prep.
12 I remember, oh, it had to be about
13 a year ago, when I had asked Mr. Parker questions about
14 that, he sent me a very informative letter back saying
15 that these are materials used by the state, and I think
16 the city was in a sense experimenting with it, and it's
17 very durable, it's something that lasts for a period of
18 a number of years, you don't have to redo this annually
19 or bi-annually, so I think maybe you need more people,
20 or, you know, we're spending the money to keep
21 re-painting constantly, so why not just buy --

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Better materials,
23 yeah.

24 MS. EVANS: Yeah.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: If we can ask him
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01 that, yeah. If we can ask him that, maybe we can use
02 that material. Whatever can get the problem solved.
03 And, again, I'm certainly not trying to tell him how to
04 do his job.

05 I don't know, I guess I need to
06 thank Mayor Connors, I didn't realize, he brought a lot
07 of jobs to this city.

08 So, when the people came to the
09 podium, you know, he was here for a long time, Mayor
10 Connors, and evidently he brought a tremendous amount
11 of jobs to this city, so thank him for that.

12 And one woman, I guess we're going
13 to try not to mention names anymore, so the one woman
14 that came to the podium, I know she was a little upset
15 because she did not get answers to some of her
16 questions, and I would just repeat what I said before,
17 we could only ask.

18 I do not oversee the DPW or the
19 police department, or neither does Mr. Pocius or
20 Mr. McTiernan, Ms. Evans, Mr. DiBileo, we can ask to
21 have things done, and if their supervisors don't tell
22 them to do it, there's not much else we can do.

23 I understand this is the place
24 where you can come and talk to someone, we're very
25 easily accessible, and I welcome anybody coming asking,
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01 but I think the best we can do is ask.

02 I saw a letter, and I don't know
03 if I was supposed to see it or not, and I'm not going
04 to mention what Council member, but one Council member
05 got a letter from the administration telling him not to
06 go to any department heads with any requests, that all
07 requests must go through the Mayor's office, so that
08 even ties our hands even more.
09 So, certainly we try to help you
10 the best we could, but sometimes it falls on deaf ears
11 and there's not much we can do about that. And that's
12 all I have, Mr. President.
13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
14 Mr. Courtright. I just have a couple of quick things
15 that I wanted to go through, if I may.
16 Number one, a lot has been written
17 recently about the minorities in our community, and we
18 have more minorities currently than we've ever had, and
19 I think that that's a good thing for our community, but
20 they have challenges, minorities have challenges.
21 At one time all of us, all of us
22 native Scrantonians were minorities at one point in
23 time, but I think minorities want to be productive
24 members of the community, I think they want to be
25 active members of the community, I think they want to
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01 contribute to our community and be a part of the fabric
02 of our community, and I think that we can help them in
03 a way learn English and provide language skills and
04 help their parents -- help children's parents
05 understand the school system, and basically help with
06 the skills that they need to succeed in everyday life,
07 and that would benefit everybody. That's going to
08 benefit them, and that's going to benefit our existing
09 native Scrantonians and everybody is going to get along
10 much better.
11 And with that in mind, I'd like to
12 ask that a letter be sent to, say, the Mayor's office,
13 for example, and I recommend that we consider forming a
14 minority commission, maybe a seven-member panel of
15 minority members that speak, say, Spanish, for example,
16 which I think is the language that most of the new
17 minorities do speak, and that way people in the
18 community that are having a hard time becoming part of
19 the fabric of our community could speak to city
20 government through the commission.
21 They can have monthly meetings and
22 they can go to those commission members and say, We
23 need this. The commission members could turn around

24 and say to the city government, This is something that
25 we think is highest priority for the community, and I'm
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01 talking about for everybody's benefit.
02 So, I just think it's something
03 that is going to benefit everybody if we help them
04 become productive members of our community, and I'd
05 like to see if we could possibly consider something
06 like that for the benefit of everyone.
07 Tonight I'm wearing a -- what's
08 called an awareness bracelet, and this is a red, white
09 and blue bracelet that says, Support Our Troops,
10 Gary DiBileo.
11 And I know we're not supposed to
12 talk politics here, but my campaign headquarters was
13 picketed today, it was picketed by a few Veterans, and
14 some of the Veterans may have been supporters of, you
15 know, my opponent, I'm not sure, but I had these
16 bracelets made for one intention and one intention
17 only, and that was to help our troops, number one,
18 support our troops, and number two, to try to help them
19 out financially.
20 The idea of these bracelets was my
21 son's, Gary's. He was with me, along with my entire
22 family, back in March of this year when the troops came
23 home, The National Guard Troops, came home at the
24 Armory, and all of us were moved, and my son Gary was
25 very moved by the ceremony that day.
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01 And for a long time he wondered,
02 you know, how we can help out, you know, the troops
03 that are over in Iraq and elsewhere, and he came up
04 this idea. You know, kids love these awareness
05 bracelets that have messages on them, and he came up
06 with this idea that we have Support Our Troops
07 bracelets.
08 And we decided to sell them and
09 have a portion of the proceeds go to the families of
10 the National Guardsmen. So far to date, \$313 has been
11 raised. We're selling them for \$3 a piece, two for \$5.
12 And today I actually gave Major Steve Zarnowski, the
13 major of the 55th Brigade of the National Guard Welfare
14 Fund, we gave him the \$313.
15 There will be no connection to any
16 campaigns. Initially a portion of the proceeds were
17 going to go to the veterans, but we came to realize
18 that all the proceeds should go to the Veterans'
19 families, so all the proceeds will and have gone today

20 so far to the families of veterans.
21 They will be sold at my business,
22 and we're going to ask VFW posts if they'd like to sell
23 them for the benefit of the families.
24 But they're not going to have any
25 connection to any campaign, like mine, and this is just
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01 my family's way, my son's way, his idea, of coming up
02 with a reason to support our troops, number one, and to
03 help them out financially.
04 And if I offended anyone by
05 initially proposing a portion of the proceeds go to the
06 families, I'm sorry.
07 And those soldiers and their
08 families need as much help as they can get, and there
09 absolutely was no ulterior motive behind these
10 bracelets. I just wanted to mention that.
11 And, also, I spoke with the
12 Red Cross yesterday, and they said that people should
13 donate monetarily to the Red Cross to help victims of
14 Hurricane Katrina. I don't know the phone number or
15 the address, but if you want to call the Red Cross,
16 they're accepting donations.
17 Also, the American Lung
18 Association is inviting the community to participate in
19 the Breathe Of Life Walk in Nay Aug Park on October 1,
20 and that's in memory of Miranda Morgan, and
21 Miranda Morgan was the daughter of Lee Morgan, a
22 regular speaker at our Council meetings, and her
23 mother, Terry Morgan of Ransom, is chairing the walk to
24 raise funds for research for a cure for asthma and
25 other lung diseases. Miranda was ten when she died
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01 during a severe asthma attack last summer. So,
02 October 1, please try to get out to Nay Aug Park and
03 benefit that cause.
04 And lastly, this weekend,
05 Saturday, Sunday and Monday, September 3, 4 and 5 is
06 the Italian Festival at Courthouse Square, better known
07 as La Festa, and that's just a tremendous thing that
08 occurs once a year in the community, and I think
09 everybody should get out there and support all the
10 vendors that will be down there and have a good time
11 this weekend.
12 MR. DUDEK: Gary, the United Way
13 and Salvation Army are accepting donations.
14 MR. DIBILEO: Mike,
15 normally I would stop you there, but because it's such

16 a good thing that you're bringing up, the
17 United Way is accepting money for Hurricane Katrina
18 victims, Red Cross, and who's the last one?
19 MR. DUDEK: Salvation Army.
20 MR. DIBILEO: The Salvation Army.
21 So, all three of those organizations. And that's all I
22 have.
23 MR. WALSH: Fifth order. 5-B, FOR
24 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT
25 PROPERTY AT 1302 MULBERRY STREET, SCRANTON,
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01 PENNSYLVANIA, TO JOHN J. HARRINGTON, JR. AND
02 CATHERINE A. HARRINGTON, HIS WIFE, 102 LILAC LANE,
03 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, FOR THE SUM OF
04 \$3,500.00.
05 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll
06 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into its
07 proper committee.
08 MR. POCIUS: So moved.
09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.
10 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?
11 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.
12 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.
13 MS. EVANS: Aye.
14 MR. POCIUS: Aye.
15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.
16 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
17 ayes have it and so moved.
18 MR. WALSH: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION
19 - AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT
20 1326 MULBERRY STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO
21 LOGO-TEES, INC., D/B/A WILLIAMS MARKETING & SALES,
22 276 EAST GROVE STREET, CLARKS SUMMIT, PENNSYLVANIA,
23 18411, FOR THE SUM OF \$4,500.00.
24 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be introduced into its
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01 proper committee.
02 MR. POCIUS: So moved.
03 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.
04 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?
05 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.
06 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.
07 MS. EVANS: Aye.
08 MR. POCIUS: Aye.
09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.
10 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
11 ayes have it and so moved.

12 MR. WALSH: 5-D, FOR INTRODUCTION
13 - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
14 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
15 SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT NO. 040809-C WITH
16 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
17 TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE LACKAWANNA AVENUE BRIDGE
18 PROJECT TO ALLOW FOR AN INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM FEDERAL
19 REIMBURSEMENT.

20 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll
21 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced into its
22 proper committee.

23 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

25 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

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01 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

02 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

03 MS. EVANS: Aye.

04 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

07 ayes have it and so moved.

08 MR. WALSH: 5-E, FOR INTRODUCTION

09 - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

10 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A

11 REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT 048748 WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF

12 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO

13 PARTICIPATE IN THE 2005 K ROUTES PROJECT AND THEREBY

14 BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR \$544,800 IN FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT

15 FOR CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

16 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

17 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be introduced into its

18 proper committee.

19 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

21 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

22 MR. POCIUS: Just on the

23 question, the list of the streets are in here.

24 They're Olive Street, Ash, Jackson, Olyphant Avenue,

25 Boulevard Avenue, and Ferdinand Street.

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01 These are streets that were

02 designated as federal aid highways years ago. It's the

03 first time last year and this year that we've ever

04 sought K route funding, and it should be a plus to the

05 city engineer and his assistant, Mr. Luciani, because,

06 like you can see, we're getting almost \$550,000 in

07 federal funds, 80 percent to pave these streets.

08 MR. COURTRIGHT: A job well done
09 by Mr. Parker there, I have to say.
10 MR. POCIUS: Because last year we
11 saw Luzerne Street get done and Hickory Street and some
12 other streets that, you know. It's a good program that
13 was not utilized for years and years and years.
14 MR. DIBILEO: Excellent job by
15 Mr. Parker. If there's no further questions, all those
16 in favor, signify by saying aye.
17 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.
18 MS. EVANS: Aye.
19 MR. POCIUS: Aye.
20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.
21 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
22 ayes have it and so moved.
23 MR. WALSH: 5-F, FOR
24 INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
25 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER
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01 INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH
02 PETERS DESIGN GROUP, INC. FOR RENOVATIONS TO CITY HALL
03 FOR THE BASEMENT, THIRD AND FOURTH FLOORS OF CITY HALL
04 AND THE SECOND AND THIRD FLOOR OF FIRE HEADQUARTERS.
05 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll
06 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be introduced into its
07 proper committee.
08 MR. POCIUS: So moved.
09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.
10 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?
11 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.
12 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.
13 MS. EVANS: Aye.
14 MR. POCIUS: Aye.
15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.
16 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
17 ayes have it and so moved.
18 MR. WALSH: Sixth order, there is
19 no sixth order business at this time. Seventh order,
20 there is no seventh order business at this time.
21 MR. DIBILEO: Seeing no further
22 business on the agenda, I'll entertain a motion we
23 adjourn.
24 MR. POCIUS: So moved.
25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.
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01 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.
02 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)
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01 C E R T I F I C A T E
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02
02 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
03 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
03 notes taken by me on the hearing of the above cause and
04 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to
04 the best of my ability.
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08 LISA M. GRAFF, RPR
08 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
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