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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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6 Held:

7 Thursday, September 15, 2005

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11 Time:

12 7:00 p.m.

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16 Location:

17 Council Chambers

18 Scranton City Hall

19 340 North Washington Avenue

20 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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24 Lisa M. Graff, RPR

25 Court Reporter

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1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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3 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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5 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

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7 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

8

9 MR. JOHN POCIUS

10

11 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

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13 MR. MARK WALSH, ESQ., SOLICITOR (arrived where noted.)

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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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1 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Please stand for  
2 the Pledge Of Allegiance. Please remain standing for a  
3 short prayer. Kay, can we have a roll call, please?

4 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

5 MR. McTIERNAN: Here.

6 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

7 MS. EVANS: Here.

8 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

9 MR. POCIUS: Here.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Here. If we can dispense  
14 with the reading of the minutes, please, Mr. Saunders.

15 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, third

16 order, we have clerk's notes only tonight, and I will

17 go through a couple things I have. 6-C tonight that we  
18 discussed last week, it's a master lease agreement with  
19 Deere, I talked to Bill Fiorini any about that, he said  
20 that this is OECD money that was allocated to him last  
21 year from the CDBG money and it will be paid for out of  
22 that.

23 This is from the CDBG funds, and he  
24 said that it's under state contract and that it wasn't  
25 bid out, but it was under state contract, and under  
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1 state contract, they work all of those problems before  
2 that, so it's all in a certain number range, so that is  
3 a state contract on that.

4 The other thing I have is, Jim  
5 Wintermantle called me back, a letter that we sent to  
6 Mayor Doherty asking him or a representative from the  
7 mayor's office to come up and discuss the Medallion  
8 Garage and the Casey Garage.

9 He sent a letter back saying that Jim  
10 Wintermantle will be the representative coming and he  
11 will be here September 29 at six o'clock.

12 Also, next week our caucus will be at  
13 six o'clock and it will be with North Scranton

14 Neighborhood Association. That's all I have, Mr.

15 President. Fourth order, citizens participation.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a sign-in

17 sheet. First I'd like to welcome all members of the

18 audience here, we appreciate your being here, and we

19 welcome all speakers.

20 I'd like to remind speakers to please

21 refrain from any comments of a personal nature, and I'd

22 like to ask our solicitor, Mark Walsh, who is not here

23 yet, but he's going to be coming in a little bit.

24 MR. POCIUS: That's what he said, Mr.

25 President. He said he'd be about 10, 15 minutes late,

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1 because he was here earlier.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Oh, good. I'd like to

3 ask him to try to aid me in determining when the fine

4 line between free speech and somewhat restricted speech

5 is crossed, and I'd like to ask a speakers to please

6 keep your comments to no more than five minutes.

7 And with that said, the first speaker

8 on the list is Dave Gervasi.

9 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, ladies and

10 gentlemen. My name is Dave Gervasi, city resident,

11 homeowner.

12 MR. POCIUS: Dave, you're first

13 tonight. You kind of threw me out of whack here.

14 MR. GERVASI: Yeah, I jumped Andy

15 Sbaraglia on the list today. I'd just like to make a

16 few comments tonight, things I've read in the paper and

17 things I've heard, and I think there's some not exactly

18 proper information coming out there.

19 But reading the newspaper the other

20 day, I noticed in it that there was a picture of the

21 head of OECD, and, Mrs. Evans, I'm sure you're

22 interested in that article, it baffles my mind that

23 they would actually spend \$3,000 of tax dollars money

24 to make copies of information that you requested.

25 I believe there's copy machines all

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1 over the place here in city hall, and what was really

2 ironic was how a Times photographer happened to be

3 right on the scene as she was walking through the door

4 with the boxes. It makes you wonder a little bit,

5 doesn't it?

6 I was reading another article today, I

7 thought it was completely ironic, because Mr. DiBileo

8 and Mr. Courtright, I think you can verify this,  
9 because I made a phone call to both of you, I believe,  
10 a week and a half, two weeks ago about someone  
11 mentioned from the Doherty campaign that they were  
12 going to -- there was going to be an article coming out  
13 about you harboring gang members.

14 I saw the article, and it's -- that  
15 sort of baffled my mind, too, because I think I called  
16 you a week and a half, two weeks ago, and this child,  
17 supposed gang member, which, by the way, there's not  
18 supposed to be any gangs in Scranton, I think the  
19 police chief mentioned that, but now I guess there are  
20 gangs, he just testified on this Tuesday, a few days  
21 ago. It's amazing that we knew about that two weeks  
22 ago that that was coming down the pike. Kind of  
23 ironic.

24 Another thing that I brought up I  
25 believe last week, and I sat in on an interview with

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7

1 yourself and Nancy Krake, Chris Kelly was doing an  
2 article about, you know, shutting down these cameras  
3 and politicians, certain politicians, who have a  
4 problem with Channel 61, and he told me that that

5 article was supposed to be done and in, not this past  
6 Tuesday, but the Tuesday before after the interview,  
7 and then I found out that same Tuesday when it was  
8 supposed to be in that there was an ad in the paper  
9 asking for opinions from people, call in with your  
10 opinions on Channel 61.

11 I don't know, could it be that

12 Mr. Kelly didn't get the opinions that he wanted?

13 Could blasting Channel 61 be the political third rail  
14 in Scranton that politicians don't want to touch?

15 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Gervasi, excuse me,

16 do you know what the status of that article is?

17 MR. GERVASI: No, I don't. No, I do

18 not.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

20 MR. GERVASI: I haven't heard a thing

21 about it. I remember Mr. Pocius mentioned something

22 about our State Senator, that he's all for Channel 61,

23 are you aware that there was a meeting a few weeks back

24 in South Side and the State Senator was there, I guess,

25 to make an announcement about building a medical

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1 school, and he did say, people watching Channel 61 will



2 get a bad opinion of Northeastern Pennsylvania, I'm  
3 just curious if you knew that. And that's factual.  
4 That same, getting back to the Scranton  
5 Times, that same meeting, there was a bunch of union  
6 members, leadership of unions, that were invited to  
7 that meeting, it was an informational meeting just to  
8 hear what the mayor had to say and hear the  
9 announcement that the State Senator had to make, and it  
10 was kind of funny, because there was a photographer at  
11 that meeting, and those same pictures ended up on Mayor  
12 Doherty's campaign web site, which they're no longer  
13 there, but they were for a few weeks, and actually one  
14 of those pictures actually ended up. I think the day  
15 before Labor Day, in a political ad, some of these  
16 union leaders, and what's ironic to me is the only  
17 photographer that was in that room was a Scranton Times  
18 photographer. So, I'm just curious if the newspaper is  
19 supplying photographers for Doherty's campaign.  
20 Maybe the Republican Party was  
21 investigating on inkind services given to another  
22 campaign, maybe they should look into this, too.  
23 But I guess after publishers donate  
24 several thousands of dollars to the mayor's campaign,  
25 they want to try to protect their investment, but I

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1 would like to give some advice, because the people that  
2 were -- that actually voted to endorse the mayor from  
3 the trade unions, not all trade unions were there, as a  
4 matter of fact, it was a small minority of trade union  
5 people that actually voted, most of them wanted to stay  
6 out of it, and I understand why.

7 So, my advice to them would be, if  
8 you're in the presence of the mayor and your picture is  
9 taken with him, don't be surprised if it ends up in a  
10 campaign ad, whether you want it there or not.

11 And then I read another article today  
12 about the hotel, I guess the mayor called you a  
13 flip-flopper, Mr. DiBileo, I believe that's what he  
14 said, you flip-flop.

15 MR. DIBILEO: I think so, yeah.

16 MR. GERVASI: Well, maybe that's to  
17 deflect the attention to the person who actually caused  
18 the possibility of us losing \$3 million.

19 Well, as far as flip-flopping goes,  
20 maybe I can bring to light a few things that he  
21 flip-flopped on, maybe, like, pool fees he was against,  
22 but then he instituted it; the wage tax, he was for

23 lowering it and he didn't; he wanted to be the sixth  
24 councilman, I haven't seen him here yet; he was going  
25 to negotiate fair contracts with the unions, I met with  
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1 him a week and a half ago, I didn't see any urgency in  
2 negotiating any contracts; he was going to remove the  
3 distressed status, he didn't; he said he wouldn't  
4 violate contracts that cause arbitrations, he did, more  
5 than any mayor in history; he was against the golf  
6 course sale, I believe, he sold it; he was against  
7 selling other assets, he sold them.

8 I think if the mayor wants to see a  
9 flip-flopper, he should look in the mirror. Thank you  
10 for the opportunity to speak.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Andy Sbaraglia.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, citizen  
13 of Scranton, Main Avenue. Fellow Scrantonians, I heard  
14 Jay's remarks on this John Deere lease deal, but I  
15 would like an explanation of one part of this, I don't  
16 quite understand it.

17 Under lease payments, we're obligated  
18 for \$264,976.40 over approximately -- I guess it's 20  
19 payments, so for a month I would put it four years or

20 so, but underneath -- over there they have sales use  
21 tax that I don't understand.  
22 I can understand leasing the equipment,  
23 but what is the sale use tax that they have tacked on  
24 here?

25 MR. SAUNDERS: Sales use tax?

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1 MR. SBARAGLIA: That's what it says.

2 MR. SAUNDERS: I'd have to look into  
3 that, Mr. Sbaraglia.

4 MR. MCTIERNAN: Mr. Sbaraglia, on any  
5 lease deal of a vehicle in Pennsylvania, whether it's  
6 an automobile, you don't pay sales tax on because  
7 you're not buying the vehicle, and if I'm not mistaken,  
8 sales use tax is 9 percent, at least on automobiles it  
9 is, so your sales tax is 6 percent, and several years  
10 ago, since the government was losing a lot of money on  
11 leases when they became popular and they were losing  
12 the sales tax on vehicles, they implemented a use tax,  
13 which I believe now is 9 percent, but I might be wrong  
14 on the figure, but that's what a use tax is with  
15 regards to a lease.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: I understand that, but

17 why is a municipality subject to it?

18 MR. MCTIERNAN: I don't know that

19 answer.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, that's why I'm

21 asking, why are we paying this, because we pay it every

22 month, I mean, every quarter for 20 quarters. I'd like

23 to know what it actually means, because it comes out to

24 be \$15,000,898.60, coming out of, of course, coming out

25 of -- well, it's coming out of our pockets. I don't

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1 care how you say, it's coming out of HUD or this guy

2 down the street or that guy down the street. It all

3 comes out of the taxpayers, whether it's the taxpayers

4 in Scranton or the taxpayers of the state or the

5 taxpayers anywhere in the United States, it still comes

6 out of our pockets, and as such, we got to watch.

7 One man said, If you watch your

8 pennies, the dollars will take care of themselves, and

9 this is a position that may be perfectly good.

10 I understand you said it didn't go out

11 for bids, but maybe that's how the state does things.

12 It came from John Deere, which of course makes good

13 equipment, you can't knock the equipment, don't know

14 much about the dump truck, all I know is they claim  
15 that somewhere after we pay these 20 payments, if we so  
16 desired, possibly we can buy them with city funds, this  
17 equipment back, the truck will cost us a dollar, but  
18 the pave loader will cost us \$56,765,50.

19 So, really it's very, very substantial  
20 the money that's being spent on this equipment. But I  
21 just read in the paper today, they're looking for bids  
22 to tear down homes. Are we going to supply the  
23 equipment for them to tear down the homes, or the  
24 people bidding to tear down these homes has to supply  
25 their own equipment? That's the problem. That's the

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1 quirks.

2 We have to find out these things. You  
3 can pass anything you will, but you should know every  
4 aspect of it when you're going to pass it.

5 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. Sbaraglia --

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: You passed many things

7 -- go ahead.

8 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. Sbaraglia, it says  
9 in the backup here that the lease is for five years for  
10 20 payments at \$14,040.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: I understand that. You  
12 add them out, that's \$280,000, but out of that they  
13 have that sales use tax.

14 MR. SAUNDERS: No. The total amount is  
15 for \$14,000.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: No, no, it's 20  
17 payments of \$14,000 such and such. I mean, if you can  
18 get that, you would be the richest man in the world to  
19 got that kind of equipment for that. I couldn't even  
20 get that for my mother. Okay. You're clicking me out  
21 there, okay.

22 Mr. DiBileo, let me get on to your -- I  
23 grew up in West Side, any student growing up that grew  
24 up in West Side knows there's somewhere by your shop  
25 where your office is and so forth, there's a gas  
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1 station that sells soda and so forth and so on, and  
2 it's common practice up in West Side that on hot nights  
3 you would go there and buy a soda, take it outside,  
4 because usually them places don't have anyplace to sit,  
5 sit on the wall and talk to your friends and do it.  
6 Now, we did that for the last -- all  
7 the time I grew up. I never said we were a gang.

8 Maybe some people may be a gang, but if they're not  
9 causing trouble like we didn't, we just were a group  
10 that sat there and had our sodas and talked about  
11 things.

12 How they can ever condone and say that  
13 anybody condones things just because somebody sits  
14 there and has a soda.

15 Now, if they're throwing soda bottles  
16 at people, throwing popcorn, wrappers or anything like  
17 that, then you can say a little something, but if  
18 people are orderly and do what they're supposed to do,  
19 I don't see how they can ever attack anyone for having  
20 somebody close to their property having a soda or  
21 something. I thank you.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Sbaraglia.

23 Elizabeth Scanlon.

24 MS. SCANLON: Good evening.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

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1 MS. SCANLON: My name is Liz Scanlon,  
2 and I am a lifelong city resident. And I would first  
3 like to thank the members of Council for the  
4 opportunity that they provide all of the citizens every



5 week to bring issues of concern to the public  
6 forefront.  
7 Many positive outcomes have resulted  
8 from this public forum, and I commend Council for  
9 respectfully listening to anyone who feels that they  
10 have a concern to bring to the public eye.  
11 One of the people who routinely  
12 utilizes this opportunity is Joanne Williams; however,  
13 she use this forum on a regular basis, not to bring  
14 issues to the public forefront, but to personally  
15 attack and insult Gary DiBileo at every opportunity she  
16 can find.  
17 Gary DiBileo is my brother-in-law. Up  
18 to this point, our family has treated these tirades as  
19 you would a housefly that has gotten into your house  
20 that you can't get rid of. It's very annoying, but  
21 it's harmless, that is up until last week when she  
22 brought Gary's role and performance as a father to this  
23 podium.  
24 By accusing him of using his son for  
25 political purposes, she stepped over the line and this  
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1 needed to be addressed publicly.

2 If Ms. Williams knew anything about  
3 Gary DiBileo, she would know that his family, and  
4 especially his children, mean more to him than any  
5 political race, or for that matter, they mean more to  
6 him than anything.

7 She knows nothing about him, she knows  
8 nothing about my sister, and she knows nothing about  
9 their children, and she owes them a public apology.

10 This issue behind this entire incident  
11 is a ludicrous accusation that Mr. DiBileo is  
12 exploiting the Veterans with his wristband fundraiser.

13 I suggest Ms. Williams use the same misguided  
14 microscope that she uses to examine Mr. DiBileo's every  
15 move to measure the behavior of her own candidate, and  
16 she can start with the mayor's cupcakes for Katrina  
17 bake sale that he held last week at his West Scranton  
18 campaign headquarters.

19 Was this blatant exploitation of the  
20 victims of this terrible tragedy or the mayor using his  
21 position to call attention to and raise money for a  
22 worthy cause?

23 Put them side by side, Ms. Williams,  
24 and they look pretty similar to me; however, the rules  
25 are apparently different depending on what side of the

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1 street you're standing on.

2 Ms. Williams, the next time you get

3 your script whispered in your ear and take off like one

4 of Mr. Doherty's flying monkeys to speak at this venue,

5 make sure you and your candidate can stand up against

6 the same scrutiny you hold everyone else to. Remember

7 what they say about people in glass houses. And thank

8 you for the opportunity to address that.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Liz. Lis is

10 my sister-in-law, and she called me today and asked me

11 if it would be okay to come to the meeting today, and

12 of course I said it would be, but she did ask my

13 permission, and it's nothing that I wouldn't have said

14 myself, but appreciate the opportunity to have Liz here

15 tonight. Thanks for your support. Appreciate that.

16 Matt Barrett.

17 MR. BARRETT: Good evening, Mr.

18 President.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

20 MR. BARRETT: Members of council, my

21 name is Matt Barrett, I'm a resident of Scranton, the

22 Hill Section of Scranton.

23 Mr. President, if you'll allow me, I  
24 have a question for Mr. Courtright and the same  
25 question for Mrs. Evans tonight, and that is whether or  
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1 not either of you intend to make a motion to revisit  
2 the CRF loan that you had voted against back in August.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: At this present time,

4 no, I don't.

5 MR. BARRETT: Mrs. Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: No.

7 MR. BARRETT: This issue seems to be an  
8 important issue, because week after week citizens of  
9 Scranton have come to this podium, as well as union  
10 workers urging this council to revisit an important  
11 legislative issue.

12 We've heard from speakers tonight  
13 regarding actions of private citizens and we've heard  
14 from speakers tonight regarding newspaper articles that  
15 are written, but we're talking about important  
16 legislation that came before this council, was voted  
17 on, was voted down by two of you, and it has not been  
18 revisited, despite the urging of Mr. Pocius and Mr.  
19 McTiernan, and in fact you, Mr. DiBileo.

20 And I think the frustration from the  
21 citizens' standpoint is that you're the president of  
22 council, you were elected to lead this council, you  
23 agree with the legislation that was sent down by the  
24 mayor.

25 You've indicated in your comments on

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1 August 1, that you support economic opportunities. On  
2 August 18, you, yourself, attempted to offer some  
3 suggestions as to a possible line of credit that would  
4 allow some fund for economic development, ultimately  
5 that was discussed.

6 Then efforts were made to reintroduce  
7 the legislation, to suspend Council's rules to allow  
8 that to happen, and despite being the leader of  
9 Council, despite being the President of Council,  
10 despite having voted in the affirmative, and despite  
11 having voted for economic opportunity, you voted in the  
12 negative on that issue.

13 Now, I think that's difficult, because  
14 in part of your comments you said that maybe this issue  
15 isn't dead, and I think last week, if I'm quoting you  
16 correctly, I think you said, I, for one, hope that Mrs.

17 Evans and Mr. Courtright bring this issue again, so you  
18 want it, and so my question is, What have you done this  
19 week to convince Mrs. Evans and Mr. Courtright to bring  
20 this motion so that this issue can be revisited for the  
21 betterment of the citizens of Scranton and the trade  
22 union members who have spoken here? What have you done  
23 this week as President of Council to bring that to the  
24 forefront?

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Can I answer?

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1 MR. BARRETT: You can. I asked Mr.

2 DiBileo, but --

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, I just -- what

4 he discussed with me, he's asked me on more than one

5 occasion if I would reconsider this, and I told him I

6 would in the future if I thought it was warranted, and

7 at this particular time, I just don't think so, and

8 obviously you disagree with me, and that's your right,

9 but he has asked me. I don't think he's going to try

10 to strong arm me, if that's what you want him to do,

11 but he has asked me.

12 MR. DIBILEO: And for the record, I

13 have asked Mrs. Evans, also, Mr. Barrett, and I would

14 -- if they do make that motion, I think we're all in  
15 favor of economic development, if they make the motion,  
16 then we will revote the issue. It's as simple as that.

17 MR. BARRETT: It is as simple as that.

18 MR. DIBILEO: It is.

19 MR. BARRETT: But respectfully, what I  
20 take from that is that you as President of Council have  
21 spoken to the two people that have made you President  
22 of Council. They appreciated your judgment, you went  
23 to them, I suspect you spoken eloquently when you spoke  
24 to Mr. Courtright trying to convince him to revisit an  
25 issue that you believe is important, I believe when you

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1 spoke to Mrs. Evans, you probably spoke eloquently  
2 putting forth your position as to why you should do it.  
3 Why won't they follow your lead? Why  
4 don't they respect your judgement on this issue so that  
5 this issue could be revisited and addressed? I don't  
6 understand where it's falling apart.  
7 We know that you are for it, because  
8 you've indicated, the only person -- the only elected  
9 official so far that agrees with Mrs. Evans is Mr.  
10 Courtright. The only elected official who agrees with

11 Mr. Courtright is Mrs. Evans. That's two people that  
12 are holding this up.  
13 I believe you have avenues available to  
14 you that were discussed last week, you as the leader of  
15 Council, President of Council, should be doing  
16 everything you can to convince Mrs. Evans and Mr.  
17 Courtright to address this issue, not for you, not for  
18 the Council, not for any political campaign, for nobody  
19 except the citizens of Scranton and the trade unions  
20 who would benefit and anyone else who would benefit  
21 through economic development in the city.

22 I ask you, Mr. DiBileo, to take the  
23 lead on that, convince your fellow Council members to  
24 follow your lead. Thank you.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

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1 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to add  
2 something, for as long as I sit on Council, I just  
3 wanted to indicate that no one, frankly, has the right  
4 to pledge my vote for me in any direction or the other.  
5 I alone control my vote, and my vote represents the  
6 people.

7 Now, I think as Council members we have



8 a fiduciary duty to treat the people's money as we  
9 would treat our own, and so, you know, as for me, if I  
10 owned a very safe and profitable asset worth \$5.2  
11 million and someone suggested that I sell it at a loss  
12 of half a million dollars, you know I would reject the  
13 suggested sale, and even if I posed that to you, would  
14 you sell me your asset worth \$5.2 million and take a  
15 half million loss on it, and in addition to that, not  
16 knowing what I intended to do with the money.

17 MR. BARRETT: Mrs. Evans, I didn't ask  
18 that Mr. DiBileo pledge your vote, I asked him to  
19 convince you to take in the information that he has  
20 that led him to vote in a certain manner, and you as  
21 Councilpersons sit there and take all the information  
22 from the trade unions, from everybody, and then you  
23 cast your vote.

24 And I disagree with your vote, and  
25 others do, as well, but Mr. DiBileo doesn't disagree

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1 with your vote, he's made that clear, and I've asked  
2 him to urge you to come around and take more  
3 information.

4 You said maybe if something changes,

5 I'd consider that. Since you cast your vote, union  
6 persons have come here urging you to change your vote.  
7 That's new information you didn't have in August.  
8 There's no shame in going back and revisiting an issue  
9 based upon new information.

10 I was never suggesting that Mr. DiBileo  
11 controls your vote, I was suggesting that he lead on  
12 the issue, talk to you, convince you that he knows, in  
13 this situation, what the best route is and to trust his  
14 judgement, and apparently you don't. I understand  
15 that, but I don't agree with it.

16 MS. EVANS: I don't think you should  
17 insinuate that I don't trust his judgment, nor was I  
18 saying that he controls my vote, what I was saying is  
19 that neither President DiBileo, nor anyone else, should  
20 ever pledge my vote in any direction.

21 MR. BARRETT: And no one has asked him  
22 to do that.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Barrett, just rest  
24 assured that we do -- we have spoken about this on  
25 several occasions, and I am one of five, although I am  
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1 President, but each one of these people up here were

2 elected by the people of Scranton, and I respect that.

3 And we --

4 MR. BARRETT: I respect that, as well.

5 MR. DIBILEO: And we've talked about

6 this issue, we've talked about it on several occasions,

7 and when they decide to make that motion, we will

8 revisit that issue.

9 MR. BARRETT: And I would just urge you

10 to not wait until next week or next month when economic

11 opportunities are available now. Opportunity knocks -

12 MR. DIBILEO: I've already done it.

13 I'm not waiting until next week.

14 MR. BARRETT: I want you to do a better

15 job at it so they do bring the motion, that's my

16 request.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. I'll try to do a

18 better job. Thank you. Bob Bolus.

19 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council. Bob

20 Bolus, Scranton.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

22 MR. BOLUS: Gary, I don't think Liz

23 needed any permission; in fact, I don't think any woman

24 coming here needs permission, trust me. We're going to

25 find that out in the future when we have three on the

25

1 Council.

2 What I would like to do is really thank

3 the volunteers and the people that helped us get our

4 trailers loaded.

5 Ken Santarelli -- I had asked some

6 people, FEMA, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Kanjorski's

7 Office, Santorum, we went down the list, anybody that

8 can get a debit card for fuel because of the high cost

9 of fuel, and no one came forward.

10 The only one that came forward was Ken

11 Santarelli and donated some fuel for one of the trucks

12 to go down, and I'd like to personally thank him for

13 that.

14 Our trucks did get down, the loads have

15 been delivered, and people are eating and they're

16 drinking the water.

17 I'm a person who believes that if you

18 sit around and wait on something, it will never get

19 done. And just read this morning -- I was out in

20 Cleveland this morning and I came back here, because

21 this meeting is important, but it has, Help Is On The

22 Way, But It's Unclear Where.

23 It's a mix-up. Here is 100 trucks  
24 siting loaded with food, water and everywhere out in  
25 Alabama and nowhere to go, and the government is paying  
. .  
26

1 \$600 a day per truck, they've been there all week  
2 already.

3 Well, keep sending the checks to the  
4 government and these agencies, rather than people who  
5 want to take charge and do the job.

6 We contacted the individual agencies  
7 down in the area and Gulfport, Mississippi, had the  
8 escort of the State Police from Mississippi. We didn't  
9 have the proper license plates, and no one said a word  
10 to us on the way down.

11 So, that was the most feeble excuse I  
12 heard from anybody that we couldn't ship food, water or  
13 anything else because we didn't have the plates to go.

14 So, if you can do something, get up and do it.

15 (WHEREUPON, Attorney Walsh entered the meeting.)

16 MR. BOLUS: What I really want to get  
17 into here is, this sounded like a union meeting that  
18 started here tonight, and I'm sorry that the unions are  
19 upset about the CRF, but remember when it comes to

20 building, they add significant cost to a building,  
21 that's why we put building out for trade that we're  
22 building, we allow everybody to take a bid on it.  
23 And if they really want to cry about  
24 making money, don't come here to the city and ask us  
25 for 5 million bucks that you don't know where it's  
.  
27

1 going. Head down south, guys, there's a lot of money  
2 to be made; in fact, there's \$40 billion down there  
3 right now. It's all for the taking.  
4 You know, Sara Hailstone, I came back,  
5 I saw where she's walking out carrying a box of papers  
6 and wants to criticize Council, well, she's the one who  
7 didn't perform the job that she was hired to do.  
8 She cost us \$3,000, but more  
9 importantly, Chris Doherty cost \$3,000, because he  
10 didn't tell them to do their job. They're on salary,  
11 they could have come Saturday, Sunday or whatever and  
12 did the copying.  
13 With a the millions he spent in the  
14 city for a the technology, to go out and farm this out  
15 is an absolute disgrace. That's why he's got the  
16 nickname Deficit Spender. That's why the city's where

17 it is.

18 You know, accountability, starts right

19 there, and that's a perfect example what's happened to

20 this city. He points the finger, passes the buck, and

21 then wants to blame everybody.

22 And then the most interesting thing I

23 saw tonight that I had a minute to grab the paper, is

24 the Hilton placed on hold.

25 We shouldn't even be discussing the

.

28

1 Hilton. They want to give us \$35 million, but if they

2 sell it for \$38, we get our \$3 million back. How

3 stupid are we?

4 If they sell it for \$30 million, we

5 don't see our \$3 million. We either get our 3 million

6 bucks upfront, the \$10 million that they took from the

7 state, or they could pack up and go home.

8 This city wants \$5 million -- here's a

9 guy that already blew \$3 million and the \$10 million to

10 the state and wants to blame Gary DiBileo for placing

11 it on hold. I hope it stays on hold, because they're a

12 business.

13 We don't owe them a thing. They built

14 it, they take risks, just like everybody else did.

15 Delta went bankrupt, you saw that. That's their  
16 problem. Take your mortar, take your bricks and go  
17 home.

18 The citizens that are struggling to pay  
19 the high gas costs and the fuel costs coming are not  
20 going to pay for the Hilton Hotel and Chris Doherty's  
21 squandering and just ridiculous way he's doing  
22 business.

23 Hickey came here last week questioning  
24 my five minutes, how long did he spend here last week  
25 going on and on and on? Way over five minutes, and  
.  
29

1 he's a hired gun. And you're right, Janet, you  
2 represent us, he represents Chris Doherty, and it was  
3 wrong for him to criticize the rules here.  
4 You know, it's a joke when people like  
5 that come here that receive a salary. Maybe they want  
6 the CRF because they need a raise, maybe Carl Greco  
7 didn't get enough last year, maybe Chris Doherty's got  
8 something else to squander the money on.  
9 He spent \$700,000 from South Side.  
10 Question him about his campaign finances, we want



11 credibility. Ask him why he took money from a  
12 corporation and he hasn't been held accountable. Those  
13 are the questions we want asked in this city.  
14 No more blaming and pointing the finger  
15 around here and asking these unions and people to come  
16 here and demand that we, the taxpayers, support this  
17 ridiculous attitude that we should give you money.  
18 And, Mr. Pocius, one thing I heard you  
19 saw is that you're going to keep bringing up CRF, I'm  
20 going to keep bringing up about the pension, why you're  
21 entitled to it, you and Mr. Hazzouri. You bring that  
22 up, I'll continue. Thank you.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

24 MR. POCIUS: Mr. Bolus, you have a  
25 right to speak about anything you want, and I always  
.

30

1 said that, and I'm not going to argue with you on the  
2 point, so, again, this is America, it's free speech,  
3 thank you.

4 MR. BOLUS: And I like it, when it  
5 comes to The Home Rule Charter, that's what you people  
6 are here to enforce, ask Chris Doherty to pay it back  
7 what his father took when he received a pension and

8 benefitted from the city. Thank you.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

10 Thank you. I would ask that speakers please do not

11 bring up family members of other elected officials,

12 please. Next speaker is Arlene Brack.

13 MS. BRACK: Hi, my name is Arlene

14 Brack, and I'm here representing the Scranton

15 Lackawanna County Taxpayers and Citizens Association,

16 and our debt was brought up at our last meeting on

17 Tuesday evening.

18 We are extremely concerned that this

19 debt can lead to higher taxes, more taxes. I just want

20 to remind the people, the Council, everyone in this

21 room, everyone watching, a the citizens of Scranton

22 that according to the business administrator of

23 Doherty's office, I believe his name is Mr. Kresefski,

24 there is \$121 million debt.

25 Added to this is \$77 million in

.

31

1 interest, that's \$198 million, and I want to thank

2 Janet Evans for bringing this to our attention.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Ms. Brack.

4 Reverend Cathryn Simmons.

5 MS. SIMMONS: Good evening. My name is  
6 Reverend Cathryn Simmons, and I'm a lifelong Scranton  
7 resident.

8 As you are aware, I had been going  
9 around this past month to various neighborhoods talking  
10 about crime and various incidences happening, and one  
11 of the greatest voices that we heard came from West  
12 Scranton, they couldn't wait for this meeting to get  
13 over to the West Scranton neighborhood.

14 I was at a meeting last week at West  
15 Scranton High School auditorium concerning youth  
16 groups, I will refrain from using the word gangs, youth  
17 groups and activities.

18 Of course the attendance was terrible  
19 because it was the first night of the school's football  
20 game. How exciting.

21 On September the 9th, there was a fight  
22 among eight young people in Kressler Court. On  
23 September the 10th, there was a mugging in front of  
24 Northeastern Intermediate School, but it's all right  
25 because the young people are still free to go to the

.

32

1 football games.

2 I've come here tonight to say to you  
3 and to the sport jocks of Scranton, if you want to see  
4 a true World Series game, could out and follow your  
5 police officers as they go from first to second to  
6 third base and then home protecting and serving the  
7 residents of this city.  
8 Watch them make a slamming home run as  
9 they did the other night at the West side standoff with  
10 no one hurt or killed during a resident's foolish foul  
11 swing.  
12 If you want to attend a true Super Bowl  
13 game, come to a blazing fire and watch the quarterback  
14 get his team out of their huddle and go straight into a  
15 true touchdown saving all family members and pets.  
16 The crowd of Scranton very rarely does  
17 a grand wave for either home team, but they will scream  
18 out when a penalty is due.  
19 I say to each and every person  
20 listening to me tonight, stop blaming the problems in  
21 your neighborhoods on everyone but yourself.  
22 Come out and support your true sport  
23 jocks, known as the Scranton Police department and the  
24 Scranton Fire Department.  
25 When there is a meeting to discuss the

1 problems in your neighborhood, attend and don't call us  
2 the next day to say the blame falls on administration  
3 or City Council members and/or unions.

4 Take it upon your own shoulders and  
5 help crime watches, end criminal justice programs.

6 Anyone else who is trying to guide the neighborhood  
7 back to peace, prosperity and security.

8 A man long ago who was much wiser than  
9 I said, and I quote, My child, how I will rejoice if  
10 you become wise. Yes, my heart will thrill when you  
11 speak what is right and just. Don't envy sinners, but  
12 always continue to fear the lord, for surely you have a  
13 future ahead of you. Your hope will not be  
14 disappointed.

15 Proverbs 15 through 18 tells all of us  
16 the joy of true guidance and leadership. Support your  
17 blue team through voice and respect. Support your red  
18 team. At the sight of smoke and alarms, stop and say a  
19 prayer for the safety and security of these brave men  
20 and women we so like to forget until the time of need  
21 arises.

22 If the Lord allows me, I will continue

23 to speak out for those which it took so long to  
24 appreciate and respect. You are my favorite teams,  
25 blue and red. God 's blessing to each of you on this  
.

34

1 night.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Reverend

3 Simmons. Les Spindler.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.

5 Less Spindler, Scranton resident. I wish when people

6 came up here, they'd have their facts straight.

7 Mr. Barrett got up here and said union

8 members of Scranton come up here every week, well, I

9 have to correct him on that, two weeks ago Mr. Mazza

10 was here, he lives in Clifford.

11 Last week there was a Mr. Hart here, he

12 lives in Dunmore. So, it's not people from Scranton

13 coming up to talk, it's people from out of the area

14 that shouldn't be here talking.

15 I also want to speak about these

16 bracelets, last week the speaker said Mr. DiBileo

17 blamed the bracelets on his son, well, he didn't blame

18 the bracelets on his son, he gave his son credit for a

19 great idea, which is to try to help the families of the

20 soldiers that came home from Iraq.

21 You blame somebody that did something

22 wrong. You give somebody credit that did something

23 right. What Gary DiBileo, Jr., did was right. He

24 deserves credit.

25 Again, Mr. Pocius said he's going to

.

35

1 make the same motion every week to change Council's

2 rules, well, Mr. DiBileo, I have to disagree with you,

3 you said that was petty, I don't think it's petty, I

4 think it's childish. That's all I'm going to say on

5 that matter.

6 Last week, Mr. DiBileo, you read part

7 of an E-mail that Mrs. Evans got from the mayor, and

8 the mayor said that in the August meetings, they failed

9 to move the city forward, well, at least the meetings

10 tried to help save the city \$3 million.

11 And that was only one month. In three

12 and a half years, what has Chris Doherty done to move

13 the city forward? All he's done is get us \$198 million

14 in long-term debt.

15 I have a little story to read here,

16 it's called The Tale of the Cash Cow. There's a cash

17 cow wandering the streets of Scranton with a pack of  
18 Philadelphia lawyers and a couple of lucky locals  
19 regularly milking it with the blessing of Mayor Chris  
20 Doherty.

21 So far they've gotten over \$500,000,  
22 and guess whose money it is, yours, the Scranton  
23 taxpayers.

24 But that's not the end of the story.

25 They were paid to defend Mayor Doherty and five

36

1 arbitrations. Guess what their record is? 0-5. So,

2 you, the taxpayers, could lose hundreds of thousands of

3 dollars in arbitration awards because of Chris Doherty,

4 who then paid his lawyers over \$500,000, only to lose

5 early case, and that's not the end of the story,

6 because some of the money has come back to Scranton,

7 just not in your pockets.

8 No, it's come back in the pockets of

9 Chris Doherty. That's right. Some of these same

10 Philadelphia lawyers have contributed to Mayor

11 Doherty's mayoral campaign so he can pay for expensive

12 television commercials and billboards to tell you what

13 a great job he's doing for you.



14 So, if you see a cash cow wandering the  
15 streets of Scranton with a gaggle of Philadelphia  
16 lawyers chasing after it, don't be alarmed. Eventually  
17 some of your money will come back home, just not in  
18 your pockets.

19 By the way, people of Scranton, aren't  
20 these Philadelphia lawyers rich enough? Does Chris  
21 Doherty really need to take what little money you have  
22 left and give it to them? They don't really need it,  
23 you do.

24 Well, I have a little more time, I just  
25 want to say something that that had a little comic note  
.  
37

1 to it, but it's really sad that Chris Doherty is  
2 spending taxpayers' money and losing \$500,000. Thank  
3 you.

4 MR. DIBILEO: John Francis Brzycki, Jr.

5 MR. BRZYCKI: Good evening, Council.

6 John Francis Brzycki, Jr., taxpayer, homeowner in the  
7 City of Scranton, South Side section.

8 I came to the Council on August 18,  
9 2005 at 7 p.m. It was supposed to be the Council  
10 vacation time, but Gary DiBileo said it was important

11 that we had this meeting.

12 Mr. Pocius was absent, okay, and Mr.

13 McTiernan did hear me tell the Council about our

14 deplorable conditions which we live in on East Locust

15 Street in the South Side section of the city, and I was

16 allowed to tell the public of our deteriorating

17 conditions on our block. No thanks to you, Mayor Chris

18 Doherty.

19 Evidently the voters are tuning in on

20 Channel 61, because a gentleman by the name of Will

21 Samski came forward on Sunday and approached me at my

22 house to tell me that the abandon vehicles on the

23 Family Garment parking lot, which he owns, will be

24 taken out. Well, there's one left now. There's still

25 one left there as of this week.

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38

1 Also, the Family Garment building has

2 been condemned, a notice was placed on the door,

3 however, the fire hazard still has not gone away from

4 the Family Garment.

5 The property is still covered with

6 trees and weeds, and with the building now boarded up,

7 the potential is there for a towering inferno, which

8 might take half our block. Okay.

9 Now, this is a thing I have to pick

10 with the Times paper. Last week I was interrupted by

11 Gary, I had too much time, and also I gave this to one

12 of the TV personalities, but I guess that went on deaf

13 ears, too.

14 I, The AIDS epidemic has caused great

15 expense to our government so they can have a decent

16 quality of life.

17 J, Abortions are being performed on

18 babies at all stages of development right up until nine

19 months of pregnancy.

20 K, Sex education taught on the very

21 young in the inept hands in schools, rob the beauty of

22 the facts by taking away from the parents. Planned

23 Parent organizations that were funded by taxpayer

24 dollars and the Carter Administration still have their

25 dirty paws on the very young and vulnerable minds on

.

39

1 our future generations polluting common sense values

2 for future generations that are being stopped to come

3 through the guise of abortion.

4 L, Break up of family life fewer and

5 fewer good marriages left through a massive amount of  
6 divorces and separations. The mentality is warped  
7 because couples are living together first before they  
8 enter into a commitment.

9 M, Over 35 years of smutty soap operas  
10 on television, which glamorize the sexual revolution in  
11 our country through the entertainment industry. Sex is  
12 prevalent in our books, magazines, movies and even on  
13 the radio waves with low-life's like Howard Stern and  
14 his demonic friends.

15 N, Over a million teenage pregnancies a  
16 year which perplexes parents, especially the single  
17 parent.

18 O, Alcohol and drugs abused at home and  
19 in the workplace.

20 P, Pornographic material and live sex  
21 shows on the cable TV and the internet watched by the  
22 very young.

23 Q, Illicit music sung by the very young  
24 with disgusting lyrics, nothing but heartache and  
25 despair.

.

40

1 R, The Japanese with their strong hold in

2 the automobile industry causing Americans no other  
3 alternative to invest in their autos.

4 S, Japan heavily has a strong grip on the  
5 electronic revolution in our country which is causing  
6 markets to eliminate the small companies in our land.

7 T, Medias given up too much publicity to the  
8 occults.

9 U, Tainted blood supply which through so  
10 many precautions by the American Red Cross still have  
11 shown of the disregard we have for each other's lives  
12 because there are thousands of people still getting  
13 sick over these social diseases.

14 V, The government by certain Liberals, I  
15 won't say who they are, but they're trying to change  
16 the church and state laws. They have a grander scale  
17 which will take In God We Trust off our money.

18 W, We can no longer pay our bills in our  
19 budgets we have given away our money to credit cards  
20 which cost families into bankruptcy.

21 X, Vast number of Americans find it  
22 difficult to pray to God anymore. No longer accept one  
23 man for one woman concept till death do us part.

24 Churches are closing down for lack of faith in its  
25 congregations. They're too tired to go to church, and

.

41

1 excuse. That's why there's so many churches being  
2 closed down, because they don't support their churches.  
3 Z, A disrespect for the Ten Commandments, if  
4 you do not know them by now, it is time you learn them.  
5 They're the blueprint of life.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Brzycki.

7 Paul Casparo.

8 MR. CASPARO: Thank you, Mr. President.

9 My name is Paul Casparo, I'm a citizen of Scranton, PA  
10 all of my life, a proud member of the International  
11 Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for the past  
12 29 years, and I'm here to support the CRF loan program,  
13 and here are some the reasons why.  
14 Economic development loans mean jobs  
15 for union construction workers. Construction jobs in  
16 Scranton keep union workers close to home.  
17 Economic development in Scranton in the  
18 last four years has meant good paying construction jobs  
19 for hundreds of carpenters, electricians, plumbers,  
20 bricklayers, steel workers and other construction  
21 workers. Good jobs for union workers means money spent  
22 in the community.

23 Before Scranton became a hot bed of  
24 construction projects, union construction workers had

25 to travel to other areas for work. The cost of

.

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1 gasoline now is making working out of town in

2 Allentown, New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia difficult

3 and less rewarding.

4 In 2005, City Council has voted to

5 strip the city of \$9.2 million that could be used for

6 economic development, \$4 million from the Grow Scranton

7 Fund and \$5.2 million from the Community Reinvestment

8 Fund. \$9.2 million in city loans creates at least \$24

9 million in development.

10 City loans creates permanent jobs, one

11 new job for every \$35,000 loaned. \$5.2 million would

12 create 148 new permanent jobs.

13 \$9.2 million would create 263 new

14 permanent jobs. In the last four years, city economic

15 development efforts have produced \$250 million in new

16 development and have created 3,300 new jobs.

17 Scranton is recognized around

18 Pennsylvania as a progressive city. Don't kill the

19 engine that has produced real progress in the city.

20 Approve the CRF loan.

21 It's simple to say that a lot of our

22 college graduates today are leaving the area because

23 they cannot get good jobs. They're going to places

24 like Philadelphia, New York, New Jersey, Washington,

25 DC., Virginia, California.

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43

1 We need to be able to keep these

2 college graduates home. Let's support the CRF loan

3 program. Thank you very much.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Casparo.

5 Sharon Lesniak. Okay. Sharon's not here. Okay.

6 Warren Norton. Okay. Joanne Williams.

7 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening, Council,

8 Joanne Williams.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

10 MS. WILLIAMS: Taxpayer and homeowner.

11 Jeez, Mr. Spindler, I never thought I'd feel sorry for

12 you, but a few weeks ago you were unable to use my name

13 --

14 MR. DIBILEO: Mrs. Williams, would you

15 please address City Council, rather than audience

16 members.



17 MS. WILLIAMS: All right, Mr. DiBileo,

18 I'll do that.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Mr. Spindler was unable

21 to use my name a few weeks ago, but yet your

22 sister-in-law came here tonight and spoke my name

23 several times, which is okay, but, you know, when

24 you're in the public life, you do need to take

25 constructive criticism, you know, and if you can't take

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44

1 it and have to have a family member come down --

2 MR. DIBILEO: Oh, no, I can take it,

3 Mrs. Williams. I can take it.

4 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, it's my turn to

5 speak, Mr. DiBileo.

6 MR. DIBILEO: I can take it. I didn't

7 ask her to come down here.

8 MS. WILLIAMS: Mr. DiBileo, it's my

9 turn to speak.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Go right ahead.

11 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. So, I don't know

12 what you'll do if you ever become mayor and you're

13 taking constructive criticism, will you have your

14 family members waiting outside for you?

15 MR. DIBILEO: I don't know what you'll

16 do if I become mayor.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: Mr. DiBileo -- you know

18 what, it just --

19 MR. DIBILEO: Excuse me. Excuse me.

20 Would everyone keep their voices down in the audience

21 while Mrs. Williams is speaking, please?

22 MS. WILLIAMS: It just goes to show

23 what kind of leadership you would have. You're showing

24 that.

25 Okay. Mr. DiBileo, last week you

.

45

1 called me a liar. You said all a long you had planned

2 on giving the full proceeds from the sale of your

3 Support Our Troops Gary DiBileo bracelets to local

4 military families. Well, tonight I have two E-mails

5 from you that prove the contrary.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Can I respond?

7 MS. WILLIAMS: No. It's my turn to

8 speak.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Thank you for

10 following the rules, Mr. DiBileo.

11 MR. DIBILEO: I'm sorry.

12 MS. WILLIAMS: Is your E-mail, I want

13 to make sure that I'm correct, is it

14 [\[email protected\]](#)?

15 MR. DIBILEO: That's right.

16 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Good. The first

17 E-mail you sent out to your campaign supporters on

18 August 23 said that Gary DiBileo bracelets are being

19 sold for \$3 each or two for \$5 with 50 cents of each

20 bracelet sold going to the families of the National

21 Guard troops who are deployed.

22 The second E-mail by you says, All of

23 the bracelet money is going to the families, but

24 originally before the Veterans picket, a portion was

25 going.

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1 Here in my hand, once again, is the

2 proof that I did not lie last week. Would you like to

3 see your E-mails to refresh your memory?

4 MR. DIBILEO: No. I'd like to, once

5 again, explain.

6 MS. WILLIAMS: No, I'd like to

7 continue. It's my time. It's my time, Mr. DiBileo.

8 MR. DIBILEO: I think you're  
9 misunderstanding that, but go right ahead.

10 MS. WILLIAMS: Mr. DiBileo, it's my  
11 time. Let's show some leadership, okay?

12 MR. DIBILEO: I'm sorry.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: I would also like to  
14 point out that two weeks ago you did blame the bracelet  
15 controversy on your little son, and this week you  
16 blamed your secretary for allowing gang members meeting  
17 up on your office steps. A true leader takes  
18 responsibility for his actions and the actions of those  
19 working on the -- oh, I'm used to it, Mr. DiBileo.

20 MR. DIBILEO: I'm sorry.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: It goes on all the time,  
22 and you let it. Like I said, a true leader takes  
23 responsibility for his actions and the actions of those  
24 working under him.

25 I brought copies of the E-mails, if

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1 anybody would like to see them.

2 MR. DIBILEO: That's fine. Leave them  
3 with anybody in the audience or here, and I'm going to  
4 explain what they say.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: No, I'm not -- Mr.

6 DiBileo, you know what, I pay your salary, I said what

7 I had to say. Thank you.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Joanne -- I

9 don't think she'd like very much if I walked out of the

10 room when I tried to -- when she addresses me, but let

11 me respond, please, quickly.

12 Not to beat a dead horse, but what I

13 said regarding the bracelets that originally a portion

14 of the proceeds were going to the families, and two

15 days prior to the so-called picket, a decision was made

16 for all the money to go to the families prior to the

17 picket, that's all I said, and that's what the E-mails

18 state, too.

19 I don't know what she's trying to say,

20 but prior to the picket. The picket did not make us

21 change our mind. That's all I want to people to know.

22 Bill Jackowitz.

23 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening, Council.

24 My name is Bill Jackowitz.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

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1 MR. JACKOWITZ: This is the first time

2 I'm going to speak in front of Council, so bear with  
3 me.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

5 MR. JACKOWITZ: I'm a resident of  
6 Scranton and I'm a taxpayer.

7 I grew up in Scranton, I grew up in

8 South Side. I was born in the State General Hospital.

9 I graduated from South Catholic High School in 1966.

10 In October of 1966, I joined the

11 United States Air Force. I went on and made a career

12 out of the Air Force and retiring as a senior

13 non-commission officer.

14 During that period of time while I was

15 learning to become a leader, a senior NCO once told me

16 that you can only be as good as the people who surround

17 you, and I believe that that is a very, very true

18 statement.

19 And how I'm trying to tie that in is

20 the fact that during my career in the Airforce, I had

21 the opportunity to live in five foreign countries.

22 When I say five -- or when I say live in a country, I

23 mean for one year or more.

24 I also had the opportunity to live in

25 the Midwest, the Southwest and the Northeast. So, I

1 lived in different communities, I saw different local  
2 governments in action, and quite honestly, the  
3 successful cities had strong local leaders, local  
4 governments who got along together, who worked  
5 together, irregardless of what their party affiliation  
6 was, and I strongly believe that that is the only way  
7 any government can operate, whether it be local  
8 government, state government, or federal government.

9 And again, I state, you're only as good  
10 as the people you surround yourself with. I believe  
11 that is a true statement.

12 Also, at this time I would like to read  
13 a definition, and when I'm finished with the  
14 definition, hopefully somebody can tell me what the  
15 word is.

16 A person experienced in the art of  
17 service of government, especially one actively engaged  
18 in conducting the business of a government. There's a  
19 second part to the definition, A person engaged in  
20 party politics as a professional.

21 And the third one which really caught  
22 my attention, A person primarily interested in

23 political office for selfish or other narrow, usually

24 short-sided reasons.

25 Can anybody tell me what word that

.

50

1 definition is? I got this definition out of the

2 Merriam Onsite Webster Dictionary. Can anybody tell me

3 what that word is?

4 MR. POCIUS: I'll take a guess,

5 politician.

6 MR. JACKOWITZ: Exactly. That defines

7 a politician. Would I be correct in saying that a

8 politician and an elected official are one in the same?

9 MR. DIBILEO: I hope not.

10 MR. POCIUS: Yes, to certain aspects of

11 the definition. You'd have to quantify it. It would

12 be based on the actions of the elected official.

13 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay. I got one I hope

14 not and I got one yes, so we'll take it at that.

15 Personally I hope that we don't have

16 any politicians in the United States, especially in the

17 State of Pennsylvania or in the City of Scranton who

18 fall under 2-B, a person primarily interested in

19 political office for selfish or other narrow



20 short-sided reasons. I really hope we don't have  
21 anybody that falls into that category.  
22 And, again, to successful cities that I  
23 have been in, either in this country or in another  
24 country, they were successful because the politicians  
25 worked together, stuck together, irregardless of

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1 whether they had personal difficulties, personality  
2 conflicts or whatever, and I really think that it's  
3 time that this city take charge -- the politicians take  
4 charge of this city -- the elected officials take  
5 charge of this city and start doing things the right  
6 way.

7 And I'm going to close on the saying, a  
8 very famous saying, Rodney King once said this, Why  
9 can't we all just get along? And I really mean that,  
10 Why can't we all just get along, put aside personal  
11 differences, political differences and let's work for  
12 the people of the City of Scranton. And I thank you  
13 for giving me the opportunity to speak.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Thank you,  
15 Mr. Jackowitz. They're very true words, and hopefully  
16 people will pay attention. Charlie Newcomb, Sr.

17 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Good evening,

18 Council.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

20 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Just one question

21 for Mr. Saunders, did anybody get back to you on that

22 problem on our street over there yet?

23 MR. SAUNDERS: What street is it?

24 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: The one on North

25 Grant and Jackson -- or South Grant and Jackson, I'm

.

52

1 sorry, with the lid that's sticking up.

2 MR. SAUNDERS: I don't believe so.

3 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Okay. Because a

4 child did hit it the other night on a bicycle and

5 caused him to roll over a couple times on his bicycle

6 and he got scraped up, so it is a problem over there.

7 MR. SAUNDERS: We'll send a second

8 request out on that.

9 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Okay. Thank you.

10 I'd just like to speak on two other topics this

11 evening. I've been sitting back every week taking

12 notes about the loan and all these trade unions coming

13 here, well, I'll tell you what I would like to say, I'm

14 also a proud member of a union, international  
15 brotherhood of teamsters for 29 years, very, very  
16 strong union, and the magic word there is brotherhood,  
17 and all I have to say is to all these speakers that  
18 I've been hearing coming up here every week, you're not  
19 talking about brotherhood, you're talking about your  
20 own self greed.

21 Brotherhood simply means this, as union  
22 members, we stick, I don't care what trade we're in, we  
23 stick together. If some unions are on strike, we bring  
24 them coffee, if it's in the wintertime, we bring them  
25 coffee, blankets, whatever we have to do to help them

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1 out.

2 Several occasions, our union, we filed  
3 petitions, we brought them here over the recovery plan  
4 because we thought it was an unfair process, we donate  
5 money to family -- other union family members that have  
6 problems, but all I have to say is we would never  
7 support -- first of all, when you're going to take  
8 these big paychecks and run and take it home, a lot  
9 those checks are coming from people that aren't even  
10 going to pay taxes, but that's not the main thing.

11 I'll tell you what, as a union member,  
12 proud union member, we would never support -- do you  
13 people realize when you say the mayor asked us to come  
14 here, one gentleman did two weeks ago, do you realize  
15 that the mayor has never voted in the affirmative for  
16 any contracts in the City of Scranton for the union  
17 members?

18 They haven't gotten a raise, they're in  
19 arbitration constantly. He is definitely a union  
20 buster. So, when you guys get up here talking about  
21 you don't want to drive to Philadelphia and everything  
22 else, just remember how hypocritical your statements  
23 really are. Thank you.

24 On the other issue, Mr. Pocius  
25 mentioned last week that he's going to keep bringing up  
.

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1 the motion every week, that's like the little kid who  
2 can't get money for candy and he keeps, I want it, I  
3 want it, I want it.

4 Well, the only thing I have to say in  
5 closing is this, like Mr. Bolus said, Mr. Pocius, I  
6 don't hear him bringing up any motions about our Home  
7 Rule Charter that says you people are not entitled to

8 anything but your pay, which means no pension, which I  
9 believe that is in the courts right now, because he  
10 made it very clear at a meeting that when he does be  
11 able to get his retirement, he will take his pension,  
12 and I'm going to use the word an illegal pension.  
13 And I'd also like to say, With the  
14 attitude that we've been seeing on those type of  
15 issues, Mr. Pocius, you have been the number one  
16 cheerleader for this mayor since you've been on  
17 Council, and I think with the last election and your  
18 attitude towards this loan and everything else, when  
19 the new mayor and Councilpeople are sworn in, because  
20 of your attitude towards this mayor, because no matter  
21 what he does, he does no wrong, and all your other  
22 opinions, your disagreements with Mr. DiBileo, and  
23 everybody is fine with disagreements, but all I can say  
24 is because of your attitude and your blatant disregard  
25 and basically self-concerns for yourself, when all  
. . .  
55

1 these people are getting sworn in, the new Council  
2 members are, that's why you'll be home watching the  
3 Flintstones. Thank you.

4 MR. DIBILEO: That wasn't for you, Mr.

5 Pocius.

6 MR. POCIUS: I got a kick out of that

7 one myself.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Erik Johnson.

9 MR. JOHNSON: Erik Johnson, taxpayer.

10 Good evening City Council and staff. The Channel 61

11 schedule meeting for City Council viewing 7 p.m. Monday

12 night on Channel 61 was postponed. Why?

13 Cutbacks of City Council viewing on

14 Channel 61, it is obvious that there appear lately less

15 scheduling viewing time of the City Council meetings on

16 Channel 61, that used to be scheduled live viewing at 7

17 p.m. Thursday to the recording of the meeting until the

18 following Tuesday.

19 The time of the recording were at least

20 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily and nightly. It was cut back

21 to Monday, a day short, following the Thursday live

22 viewing. I noticed the change was through Monday,

23 instead of Tuesday, and scheduled 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

24 Channel 61 eliminated the 7 p.m.

25 scheduled City Council meeting of September 8 for some

.

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1 undisputed reason on Monday night, September the 13th.

2 It possibly could be political or due to unfavorable  
3 and dislike of certain speakers being viewed.  
4 Sure, there are some crazy off the wall  
5 accusations and unorthodox mental remarks that are  
6 distasteful to the viewers eyes and ears.  
7 It still is not a good reason to cut  
8 back scheduled Monday night 7 p.m. viewing that was  
9 already shortened from Tuesday night.  
10 The majority of the speakers who make  
11 sense of what they're saying and regular viewers who  
12 see the City Council meetings day and supposed evenings  
13 are being robbed of their opportunity; in fact, there  
14 was nothing being viewed at all this past Monday night,  
15 which was scheduled for the City Council meeting, when  
16 61 took off the scheduled City Council meeting of  
17 September 8 -- of September 13.  
18 So, Monday night was a total waste of  
19 three hours of operated written to be events and opera  
20 music.  
21 I really believe there's some truth to  
22 the remarks of someday of eliminating City Council  
23 meetings altogether. I heard a particular past City  
24 Councilman made a remark that it should have been  
25 eliminated a year ago.

1 The bottom line is I had about 100  
2 people ask me in the city, what happened to Monday  
3 night seven o'clock p.m. City Council meeting?  
4 It was scheduled for 7 p.m., and it was  
5 deliberately taken off Channel 61 for a reason.  
6 I told them all, I'll speak on their  
7 behalf of their complaint. It looks to me from Tuesday  
8 and now Monday nights -- next week it will be Sunday  
9 nights that will be taken off and maybe possibly  
10 Saturdays will be eliminated.  
11 Taking 7 p.m. Mondays off is a very  
12 popular time when television is being viewed after  
13 supertime.  
14 Yes, I think Council meetings viewing  
15 on 61 will be phased out someday, maybe soon. We must  
16 not let what's going on now to continue of cutbacks of  
17 Council meetings to eventually be phased out to a one  
18 evening event of a live Thursday night only.  
19 Also in the news, Scranton police did a  
20 terrific highly professional job over the course of a  
21 nine-hour standoff Tuesday morning after a man  
22 threatening an AK47 weapon that was hold-up in a West



23 Scranton house where he fired as many as 30 shots in  
24 the direction of the police, where the police would  
25 have been justified in returning fire.

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1 It was good work by the police  
2 officers and a credit to the city department for the  
3 patience of their good work. Thank you for letting me  
4 speak.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

6 Gunner Nole.

7 MR. NOLE: Good evening. My name is

8 Gunner Nole. I'm from West Side, the best side.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

10 MR. NOLE: I'm a homeowner, a taxpayer,

11 I'm also a retired US Army officer and a personal

12 income tax preparation specialist and a former agent of

13 the Social Security Administration.

14 I want to talk about taxation again

15 tonight, if I may. I noticed something in common with

16 City Council and the mayor, and I'm going to point that

17 out to you right now, the elected officials in this

18 city have been amazingly quiet on the 48.4 percent

19 increase in the county tax es.

20 Maybe I missed something in the paper  
21 or something, but I don't think so. The silence is  
22 deafening. This is a wonderful time of the year. And  
23 as long as we brought up fiduciary responsibility,  
24 maybe we could talk about that.  
25 I'm still deciding whose signs to put  
.

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1 in my front yard this year, as well as several other  
2 taxpayers and voters, and I think maybe this would be a  
3 wonderful opportunity in the next couple of weeks to  
4 hear from you both as elected officials if you could  
5 weigh in on that issue, and also as candidates, maybe  
6 at some of your private functions.  
7 But I'm going to be out and about, as  
8 well as the other taxpayers. To be fair, I failed to  
9 disclose, I'm a member of a newly formed taxpayer  
10 association, The Scranton Lackawanna County Taxpayers  
11 and Citizens Association, but tonight I'm not speaking  
12 on their behalf, I'm speaking as a private citizen.  
13 So, we're going to be looking for some  
14 remarks and comments and see how people running for  
15 office weigh in on this, as well as the people who are  
16 not running for office that are just doing their job.

17 So, we're going to be looking at that very carefully

18 and making up our minds.

19 I you just want to -- also if I could

20 mention the business -- the business tax and the

21 mercantile tax, I notice, you know, I've been talking

22 about this for a couple of years with people, and they

23 only seem to tax the gross receipts or the gross sales.

24 So, like, if I had a pizza shop and I

25 sold a million bucks worth of pizzas and my operating

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1 expenses were \$950,000, I end up with \$50,000 a year,

2 which isn't a whole lot of money for working, like,

3 14 hours a day, yet I'm paying taxes on the million

4 dollars of pizzas.

5 So, I'm just wondering -- I mean,

6 sometimes you do things because they're fair and

7 sometimes we do things because they're right. This tax

8 doesn't seem to be fair or right, so I thought maybe in

9 the next coming session after the election, maybe we

10 could look at that and see if there's a better or more

11 fair equitable way to collect revenue without being so

12 oppressive, especially to small business, because as

13 everybody knows, small business is the machine, okay?

14 So, if I could just shift gears for a  
15 minute. I'd like to thank the taxpayers for the air  
16 conditioning in this room tonight, because it's very  
17 hot in here tonight, and I mean that in more ways than  
18 one.

19 And also as a Veteran, I would like you  
20 to know, Mr. DiBileo, that I don't find anything  
21 scandal ist in the least but regarding those bracelets.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

23 MR. NOLE: Veterans are normally very  
24 thick-skinned people and we can take a lot of heat and  
25 we fear no one but God, and the bracelet, you have the  
.

61

1 right to raise campaign funds, and to see that as any  
2 other way as disrespectful or dishonorable, that is not  
3 accurate.

4 So, as a combat Veteran I would say to  
5 you, sir, there's no offense taken by that, and you  
6 should have no need to apologize to anyone.

7 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Nole.

8 MR. NOLE: On one other note, I did  
9 drive by some your property the other day, and I saw  
10 some senior citizens standing there. After reading

11 that article in the paper today, I was ready to call  
12 the police, I thought perhaps there was some gray  
13 panthers out there forming, so maybe there's going to  
14 be some problems with that.

15 All right. I said what I said, and I'm  
16 going to be looking for some comments on that  
17 outrageous -- and incidentally, if you want to watch  
18 Channel 61 at the taxpayer meeting, we had someone in  
19 here explain that, and that is coming to -- has a court  
20 date of September 29, to have the law explained to us  
21 to see if the county commissioners can actually enact  
22 that tax without a referendum for approval of the  
23 voters.

24 So, I would ask everyone to pay  
25 attention to that and follow that, and thank you and  
.

62

1 good evening.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Thank you for  
3 those comments, Mr. Nole. I greatly appreciate that  
4 regarding the bracelets. And I haven't been accused of  
5 harboring senior citizens, so I'm happy for that, too.  
6 Wane Beck.

7 MR. BECK: Good evening, Council.

8 Wayne Beck, city resident, East Mountain Section. As  
9 you know, my presentations here have been few and far  
10 between, and there's many topics I'd love to discuss  
11 that I'd much carefully pick and choose from but the  
12 article in this morning's paper that was already  
13 alluded to by a few, especially Dave Gervasi, just  
14 prompted me to come here this evening, because I had  
15 personal experience in this matter.

16 I found it very interesting that this  
17 article, not only appeared in the paper, but more  
18 interesting enough that it appeared on Page 3 with a  
19 heading mentioning Mr. DiBileo's name.

20 And I'll just read a couple of brief  
21 parts of it, it says, DiBileo disputes teenager's  
22 testimony. The boy said the council president allows  
23 gang members to hang out on his property.

24 Further in the article it says, During  
25 his testimony, the youth said Mr. DiBileo allows

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1 members of a gang to hang out next to his 302 South  
2 Main Avenue insurance agency and was kind enough to put  
3 a map in indicating exactly where that was.

4 It further goes on to say, Authorities

5 consider, and I assume these are Lackawanna County  
6 authorities, authorities consider the teen a member of  
7 JRB, a loosely knit group of fans of the rap group  
8 Insane Clown Posse.

9 District Attorney Andy Jarbola labelled  
10 JRB a gang, quote, That do create problems, graffiti,  
11 harassment.

12 Now, what bothered me so much about  
13 this, and I thought about it all the way home, and  
14 that's why I decided to come over, is that when  
15 residents express concern over crime, crime is only a  
16 perception; when residents express concern over gangs,  
17 they don't exist, now, this is coming from our city  
18 officials, but when there's a chance to drag Mr.  
19 DiBileo through the mud, not only do gangs exist, but  
20 the names of the gang appear in the newspaper.

21 Why does it bother me so much, because  
22 I was in attendance at a meeting at Mr. DiBileo's  
23 office back in early or mid-July and there was a  
24 situation outside of the office between his office and  
25 the gas station across the street, and while the

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1 meeting was being conducted, there was a phone call

2 placed, which I witnessed, to the Scranton Police  
3 asking for the car that covers the West Side section to  
4 please go up and do something about it.  
5 So, I personally witnessed Mr. DiBileo  
6 trying to do something about that situation. I will  
7 admit, he was concerned, as we all are, about  
8 retaliation, but what's the offset?  
9 So, I just wanted to say that there  
10 were other people in attendance at that meeting, names  
11 that I will not mention. If they want to come forward  
12 and support my explanation as truth, and I guarantee  
13 you it is, nothing I ever said from this podium was  
14 anything but the truth, and that's what bothers people,  
15 and that's why -- one of the reasons why I'm not here  
16 as much as I used to be, but there were other people at  
17 those meetings, and if anyone wishes to come forth  
18 themselves and acknowledge witness to that event, I ask  
19 them to do so. Thank you.  
20 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Beck, and  
21 I appreciate your support on that. I didn't realize  
22 that people were going to come to my defense this  
23 evening, but thanks a lot, I appreciate that.  
24 That's it for the sign-in sheet. Are  
25 there any other speakers?



1 MR. DAVIS: It seems that we're talking  
2 about gangs again. I meet with a gang every other  
3 night down at the Progressive Center, but they're there  
4 to learn computers and stuff like that. I don't know  
5 if they're a gang or not. They're there to be helped  
6 with their homework and stuff like that and talk about  
7 their problems in the school, out of the school, in  
8 their homes, out of their homes.  
9 I think perhaps, and I'm not getting on  
10 anybody's side, I try not to take sides, and at this  
11 time our kids are being pushed and pulled apart,  
12 because they don't really think -- they would like to  
13 become in politics, they would like to understand the  
14 politics of our city is all about, but it's kind of  
15 hard when there's so much negativity being spread, and  
16 they seem to find themselves right in the middle of  
17 that whole thing because they're the gangs they're  
18 talking about.  
19 So, I brought you some information from  
20 Diane Boone. Diane Boone is the editor and chief and  
21 chief bottle washer of the Mellanium News, and I think  
22 it would enhance your ability to know something about

23 the good people of Mellania, of color, within our  
24 communities, and perhaps it would help you in making  
25 your decisions in the future, because you're talking  
.

66

1 about the future.

2 We're not talking about just today,

3 what happened yesterday, but we're talking about a

4 future for all of us. But I do have a question about

5 yesterday. Jay was given the -- or Mr. Saunders was

6 given from Mrs. Evans a request for information about

7 Scranton Housing Authority, about the summer program, I

8 missed it, was it ever given back? Did you ever

9 receive that report?

10 MS. EVANS: Actually, yes, we did

11 receive a response.

12 MR. DAVIS: It wasn't -- was it spoken

13 on, it wasn't talked about -- I didn't know it was --

14 may I get a copy of it?

15 MS. EVANS: It would have been, I

16 think, in July that I received the response.

17 MR. DAVIS: May I get a copy of that,

18 please?

19 MS. EVANS: Most definitely.

20 MR. DAVIS: Because I understand

21 they're hiring.

22 MS. EVANS: Currently?

23 MR. DAVIS: They're either hiring in

24 and they're hiring minorities, from what I hear.

25 That's what I've heard.

.

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1 MS. EVANS: Well, they may well be, I

2 really have no knowledge of that, but what I had

3 questioned at the time was the hiring policy regarding,

4 yes, the temporary summer workers.

5 MR. DAVIS: Well, that's number one.

6 Number two, Mr. Morgan, I came to you and I asked you

7 to cite him for his long service with the children at

8 Prescott, I never heard anything more about that.

9 Now, you said, I remember, that there

10 was someone else that was in there just as long as he

11 and you were going to try to bring them together and

12 give them proclamations at the same time.

13 MR. DIBILEO: You're right, you're

14 right, Mr. Davis.

15 MR. DAVIS: That was two months ago.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, Mr. Morgan is the

17 80-plus-year-old crossing guard who recently retired.

18 Is he retired now?

19 MR. DAVIS: Yes.

20 MR. DIBILEO: And then I got an E-mail

21 that informed me that there was also an

22 80-plus-year-old crossing guard that has been doing

23 crossing for a number of years, and I think that person

24 retired, so I thought it would be appropriate to

25 acknowledge and recognize all the work and dedication

.

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1 to the young people in making them -- keeping them save

2 as they get to school, so we're going to have to get to

3 that.

4 MR. DAVIS: Before he dies, please.

5 MR. DIBILEO: It keeps slipping my

6 mind. Please look into that.

7 MR. SAUNDERS: What's the name again?

8 MR. DIBILEO: We'll get it. Let's talk

9 after the meeting.

10 MR. DAVIS: What's his name, he's

11 asking me.

12 MR. SAUNDERS: I'll get it afterwards.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Make sure you leave Mr.

14 Morgan, what's his first name, Mr. Morgan's name?

15 What's Mr. Morgan's first name?

16 MR. DAVIS: He's too old for me to call

17 him anything but Mr. Morgan.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We'll get it.

19 MR. SAUNDERS: Jim, do you have an

20 address or a number that you can possibly leave with

21 Kay?

22 MR. DAVIS: It's in the telephone book.

23 MR. SAUNDERS: Oh --

24 MR. DIBILEO: We'll find him. It's

25 good to hear some levity, it's nice to break the chain

.

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1 that binds us, but at the same time we have some

2 serious problems in the city, we do have serious

3 problems and we definitely are about curing them or

4 trying to cure them.

5 My last thing was about the Pine Street

6 recreation yard, Mr. Blue, Mr. Paul Blue, who did so,

7 much for our community in so many different ways. And

8 when I say our community, I mean the whole Scranton,

9 because he worked for the museum all the way down.

10 And I brought it up, oh, it was several

11 years ago, everybody on the -- everybody on the dais  
12 there said, Oh, yes, we know of him, he's a great  
13 person. It died. It died a horrible death.  
14 So, I say, please, revisit these  
15 things, if you possibly will. We're watching, we're  
16 listening, the kids are listening. And now I have for  
17 you your own subscription to Mellanium News. I do hope  
18 that you'll enjoy it.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

20 MS. O'BOYLE: Good evening, City  
21 Council. My name is Dorothy O'Boyle. I'm a West  
22 Scranton, a proud West Scranton resident. I'm also a  
23 widow and a taxpayer, and you can imagine I don't get  
24 much money to pay my taxes.

25 First of all I would like to thank the

.

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1 City of Scranton for the police effort that they did --  
2 the work that they did down on Acker Avenue this past  
3 week.

4 I personally know that family, and very  
5 sad. It's not a drug deal that went down. Just pray  
6 for this person, because he does need help.

7 I think that that was -- you know, if

8 it was New York City, he would be dead, police would be  
9 dead, but not here in Scranton. We have something in  
10 our hearts.

11 Another thing I wanted, a big issue of  
12 mine is, John, maybe you can help me since we were --  
13 lived on the same street, you know my dad, Jackson  
14 Street, Mr. Courtright, you all are West Siders, I hope  
15 proud West Siders, from Jackson Street to Hyde Park  
16 Avenue is a disgrace. My 83-year-old father who  
17 volunteered at St. Ann's Novena faithfully for ten days  
18 broke his struts in his car on that part of the road.  
19 So, everybody kind of avoids that part of Jackson  
20 Street.

21 I also would like to know if there's an  
22 ordinance with the City of Scranton about people  
23 putting out their garbage 24 hours before time, before  
24 it's to be picked up.

25 You know what, West Side , South Side,

.

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1 Minooka, it's disgusting. The Hill Section, you know  
2 what, there is a fine. My late husband told me that  
3 there is an ordinance and there is a fine.  
4 I think since all the hot weather that

5 we had, I think we need to, like, re-enforce that,

6 because it looks like Harlem.

7 Also there is the ordinance about the

8 sidewalks in the wintertime. You don't clean your

9 sidewalks, you're fined. So, I think if you put your

10 garbage out, you should be fined, too. It's sad.

11 Also I'd like to talk about the West

12 Side Neighborhood Association. Unfortunately I was

13 unable to attend both meetings, I did attend all

14 meeting years ago after my husband died, and what

15 happened was what I thought, it's all one sided.

16 New people are out, the old people are

17 in. Nobody has a say that if you're new, and that's

18 sad. That is really sad. Look at what East Scranton

19 has done, look at Providence, what happens up there.

20 Come on. Come back to West Side. Give us something.

21 Listen to us.

22 I suggest maybe all of you, all you

23 people here, take a ride. Go from Tripp Street down to

24 the Taylor line. Don't you drive, though, you have

25 someone drive you. Check the flags, the American

.

72

1 flags, what a disgrace hanging by a thread.



2 We support our troops, that's

3 disgusting.

4 At one time they wanted to put, like, a

5 banner, like, Welcome to West Scranton or something,

6 but that was gone with the wind.

7 I also would like you to look at the

8 benches. Benches were brought up last week by Fred. I

9 think we need benches in West Side.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think you brought up

11 -- were you the one that brought up last time?

12 MS. O'BOYLE: Powderly Park.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: We got two. We got

14 one there, and there was a gentleman sitting there

15 yesterday, I saw him.

16 MS. O'BOYLE: Yes, they are.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: And we also got one

18 down at Price and Main Avenue, so we got two. And they

19 were donated by the West Side Neighborhood Association,

20 I'm not quite sure.

21 MS. O'BOYLE: How about West Side

22 businessmen, can you donate something?

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, I don't know if

24 they have the association anymore. And could I just,

25 if I could, Mr. President .

1 MR. DIBILEO: Sure.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: The flags, I believe  
3 those flags were put up by a private citizen at  
4 probably, I think, at his own expense, and so maybe  
5 that's why they are in disrepair.

6 MS. O'BOYLE: It's disgusting.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: I would think that  
8 maybe we can ask the DPW if we can have them taken  
9 down, because it's disrespectful, but I think out of  
10 how's own time and his own expense, he put them up on  
11 his own, so I would like to give him credit for that,  
12 but they are in very bad shape.

13 And, Jay, maybe we can talk to the DPW,  
14 maybe they can have them taken down, because you're  
15 correct.

16 MS. O'BOYLE: I just want to tell you  
17 another story, I had the privilege of meeting an  
18 elderly man, would reminded me of my father, and I  
19 began to talk to him, and I said to him, Where do you  
20 live? He said, Down Jackson Heights. I said to him,  
21 Well, why do you come to Main Avenue to sit? He said,  
22 Because you know what, it's sad when you live alone in

23 a one-room place and there's just so many people you

24 can talk to. He loves to come up on West Side on

25 Jackson and Main, and he sits across the street from

.

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1 the Liberty, he has a blue hat on. You'll see him

2 there in the morning, and in the afternoon he's over

3 there sitting on the concrete steps at the Liberty.

4 You know what, we're going to be there one of these

5 days, and I think it's terrible.

6 Also one other thing if I really can

7 bring up real quick, the gangs in West Side, do we all

8 think there's gangs in West Side?

9 Up on a corner where I live, there is a

10 gang; in fact, the mother sits there with them.

11 They've lit fires. The cops come, nothing is done.

12 You know, there has to be a place for

13 these kids to go. There's no Boy's Club in West Side

14 anymore. The skating park is there, the bicycle park,

15 which they're fixing now, but do you all remember going

16 to a dance at a school? What happened? What happened

17 to them?

18 I'm sure there's a policeman, a fireman

19 that have children. Open up a school, have them

20 chaperone -- let them watch their own kids have fun.

21 Because you know what, at St. Ann's when I volunteered

22 and the young kids volunteered, they asked me, Mrs.

23 O'Boyle, where are we supposed to go on Friday night

24 and Saturday night ?

25 We go to the mall, we're chased out.

.

75

1 We go down the street in a gang, and we're stopped by

2 the police. And then when we drive, our parents are a

3 nervous wreck.

4 And I'll tell you, I went to a party

5 and some of these parents walked in and they were

6 amazed at the way these kids were so well-mannered and

7 danced. And you know what, we need to bring that back

8 in the city, especially West Side.

9 And if anybody from West Side wants to

10 get in touch with me, I will be more than happy to help

11 you make money, because I've made \$36,000 at St. Ann's

12 Novena tent.

13 And with that, I want to say good luck

14 to all of you and thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Mrs. O'Boyle, what was the

16 block of Jackson Street with the severe potholes?

17 MS. O'BOYLE: It's the --

18 MR. DIBILEO: 1100 block.

19 MS. O'BOYLE: It's not potholes, it's

20 all filled in holes. It's a disgrace.

21 MS. EVANS: It need paving.

22 MS. O'BOYLE: But, John, did we say

23 last week that was going to be paved or something?

24 MR. POCIUS: I think that's one of the

25 K Route streets for next year, Jay, or this year. I'm

.

76

1 almost positive I think I read Jackson Street off. I

2 think Jackson from Main Avenue back to maybe the tracks

3 might be on that K Route list.

4 MS. O'BOYLE: And, too, you have to

5 remember, our kids are the future.

6 MR. POCIUS: Absolutely.

7 MS. O'BOYLE: We don't want them to

8 leave. My son lives in Texas, and I wish he was here

9 with me since my husband passed away. Thank you.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mrs. O'Boyle,

11 appreciate your comments. And when Mr. Pocius mentions

12 K Route, that's where the city would receive some

13 federal dollars to help with the paving, like many of

14 the streets that got it. Thank you. Go right ahead.

15 MR. MORGAN: Yes. My name is Lee

16 Morgan. And the first thing I have is, you know, today

17 I felt a little like Bob Bolus, because I went to the

18 911 communications meeting that the county

19 commissioners were having, and I'd like to ask people

20 to watch that meeting on 61 and see if my comments were

21 edited from that meeting in regards to -- I discussed

22 the county communications center's response to my

23 daughter's 911 call, and I'd also like to say that soon

24 they're going to have a meeting in Taylor, and I intend

25 to make transcripts of that, and i think it'd be

.

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1 important for everyone to know exactly what happened in

2 that call. I think I owe it to my daughter for

3 everybody to understand what the communications center

4 did and how I know that it cost my daughter her life.

5 And I'd like to say that.

6 And before anybody thinks that I'm just

7 -- I got the tape here. I was going to play it. They

8 wouldn't let me play the tape. They understand exactly

9 what they did, they don't want to discuss it, they

10 don't want anybody to know what happened.

11 And I'd just like to say that before I  
12 start, all right, I think that 911 calls are important,  
13 and I think that everybody deserves a legitimate  
14 response.  
15 The next thing I have here is, we made  
16 a request the Scranton Lackawanna County Taxpayers  
17 Association made a request for figures going back  
18 30 years for CDBG grants and UDAG grants to see where  
19 this money went, see if it was wisely spent, what  
20 organizations it went to.  
21 Basically what they said is that they  
22 refused to release this information and that if we want  
23 it, we have to go to the Court of Common Pleas or to  
24 the local magistrate, and that's signed by Sara  
25 Hailstone.

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1 And, you know, I find it troubling when  
2 a government won't release public information to people  
3 who should be able to share that information to  
4 deceiver whether funds are wisely spent or whether  
5 they're just going to political operatives, as has  
6 happened in this city for a very long time.  
7 You look at the City of Scranton's

8 financial statement, okay, I don't see anywhere in here  
9 where they're discussing whether the city's pension  
10 fund is completely funded, how short it is, whether we,  
11 you know, whether we can meet our obligations, and I  
12 think that what might be possibly going on here is they  
13 may be thinking that whatever happens, if it goes to a  
14 certain level, the state will be responsible for it. I  
15 know it's been mismanaged.

16 And another that I don't see here is  
17 the \$6 million owed to American Anglian and the sewer  
18 deal with the Scranton Sewer Authority, and there's a  
19 lot of other things I don't see here which really, you  
20 know, I have to get more information, but I think that  
21 they've talked about \$191 million, Arlene came up and  
22 spoke about that, I do believe, and I think that that  
23 figure is incorrect and I think the figure is much  
24 larger than that, and I don't know how long this city  
25 can hide its actual true financial status, but I think

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1 deception is the tool that's going to definitely run  
2 out.

3 On another issue, CRF, now, my father  
4 was a union carpenter, my uncle ran the local -- he was



5 the president of the carpenter's union in Scranton at  
6 one time, and at one time I worked for Joseph  
7 Notarianni and I negotiated their union contract off  
8 the floor as a teamster over the local -- over the  
9 business representative there.

10 And I'd like to say this, when you take  
11 a look at who this money went to, Allied Services,  
12 \$1,167,000 for one loan out of that fund, another loan  
13 for \$2,982,770 for another loan, Bon Ton \$1 million.  
14 You know, you have to see that these people are --  
15 these unions are coming here.

16 And you know what, everybody want to  
17 work, and there's no problem with everybody working,  
18 but I agree with what Mrs. Evans said, and I would like  
19 to applaud the two people who voted that down when Mr.  
20 McTiernan and Mr. Pocius weren't here, because it's  
21 starting to give assemblance of legitimate government  
22 here, it really is.

23 And I'd like to say one more thing,  
24 because I have a very short amount of time, please do  
25 not pass this legislation. It offers the residents

.

80

1 nothing.

2 In the next round of grants, CDBG  
3 grants or UDAG grants, any grants that can go into the  
4 neighborhoods, 40 percent of that figure should go into  
5 the neighborhoods.

6 These neighborhoods have been  
7 shortchanged for a very long time. We have to nurture  
8 the neighborhoods back to health. They're really in  
9 bad shape, and I know that I personally speaking for  
10 myself will push for that, okay, and I just find it so  
11 very, very important not to walk away from the  
12 neighborhoods.

13 And the hotel deal, they have to come  
14 up with our \$3 million first before we should agree to  
15 anything, and the \$10 million has to go back to the  
16 state.

17 If you're in business to make money,  
18 you have to spend some, and they've been spending all  
19 of ours. Thank you.

20 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,  
21 Council, Charlie Newcomb. First let me just say that I  
22 was raised on a union salary. My father's worked for  
23 Teamsters for over 29 years, and I just find it also  
24 very troubling that you have union leaders coming here  
25 and separating the unions of this city.

1 I just don't understand why they won't  
2 stick with the police and the fire unions and the  
3 clerical unions that this mayor is trying to get rid  
4 of, and I just don't understand, again, why none of  
5 these union leaders aren't able to come here and tell  
6 us what the project is or tell us why the mayor can't  
7 come here.

8 Until you can come to this podium and  
9 tell us what the project is, and I firmly believe, and  
10 I'm not speaking for you, Mrs. Evans or Mr. Courtright,  
11 but I think if somebody came here and gave you a very  
12 good project, I think you would consider it.

13 I know if somebody came forward to this  
14 podium and said we're paying \$5 million for something  
15 downtown for the children to go do, I think that's a  
16 logical statement, but if you come here and ask to give  
17 \$5 million to a city that's in \$198 million of debt and  
18 you can't back up what you're saying, to me, you have  
19 no credibility.

20 I also see that there's nothing again  
21 this week for The Summer in the City that I've been  
22 beating like a dead horse for the last four months.

23 And can I ask this Council, Why do you  
24 just keep sending letters? Why don't you take the  
25 initiative, like Mrs. Evans, and use the subpoena? I j  
.

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1 just don't understand why they couldn't throw those  
2 pieces of paper in with the 14,000 other ones that they  
3 brought forth to City Council.

4 What is it going to take for you to get  
5 an answer? I can't do anything as a citizen. They  
6 tell me to put it in writing. I put it in writing, I  
7 file with the state, they laugh at you.

8 What is this Council going to do to get  
9 an answer of something that I've been asking for for  
10 the last five months? I hope you'd use your power of  
11 subpoena again, because I think you're being made a  
12 mockery out of by this administration, I really do.

13 And I applaud you, Mrs. Evans, for  
14 using that power of subpoena and taking the criticisms  
15 that you did from the Doherty newspaper, also called  
16 The Scranton Times, and I find it very troubling that  
17 you would try to be talked away from going forward with  
18 that subpoena.

19 I find that very troubling, and I give

20 you the most ut-respect in the world for stepping  
21 forward up the plate all the time and not always having  
22 the backup to do it, because this is a prime example  
23 that I've been asking this question for five months,  
24 people on Council have asked it, and nobody takes the  
25 initiative to do anything about it.

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1 And I ask you, don't you make the  
2 motion for the power of subpoena, let somebody else do  
3 it for a change.

4 I would also like to know how come I  
5 haven't gotten a response yet from this administration  
6 on the ponding problem on the 200 block of North  
7 Cameron Avenue that I've been asking for since April,  
8 can anybody tell me why you just keep sending letters  
9 and can't get me an answer?

10 Again, I thank you, Mrs. Evans, for  
11 sending all the letters and requests, but I don't get a  
12 response from this administration.

13 MS. EVANS: I have, Mr. Newcomb, I've  
14 sent that request in two or three times, and each one  
15 is indicated by number, as our lovely Kay can tell you,  
16 and I really can't explain why nothing has been done.

17 It's certainly not for lack of --

18 MR. NEWCOMB, JR. Your effort, I

19 understand.

20 MS. EVANS: --trying.

21 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: I hope it's not

22 because it's me asking the question.

23 MS. EVANS: I hope it isn't, also.

24 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: I'd hate to see --

25 try to fight that issue in court that it's a prejudice

.

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1 issue. I'd hate to see it go that far.

2 I'd also like to know, is there a

3 skateboard park in the city? I know a couple of years

4 ago we purchased a mobile one that was supposed to go

5 all over the city, is it just stationary now or is it

6 being transported all over?

7 MS. EVANS: No, it's not transported.

8 I believe it's over at Jackson Street playground and

9 it's been there for many years now.

10 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Okay. Can we

11 attempt to ask this administration to make it mobile

12 like it was purchased for, because a couple of kids

13 came to me that live in South Scranton and said they

14 have nothing to do and they're always criticized for  
15 hanging out on the corner, but they want to know where  
16 the skateboard park is, and they can't walk across the  
17 city to go there. So, let's use what it is meant for.

18 And to sum it all up, Mr. Pocius, I'm  
19 glad that you found my father's comment very funny, and  
20 I can't see you behind the camera, but --

21 MR. POCIUS: I didn't put the camera  
22 there.

23 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Well, that's fine.

24 I found it funny, also, but I just want to say, and I  
25 say this to you because you're a public official, that  
.

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1 I find it awful funny that you got fired in May after  
2 14 years of service by the taxpayers of Scranton, and  
3 to know that every week you're going to bring up a  
4 motion that you can't come forward and tell us what the  
5 project is, I agree with Mr. DiBileo when I say that  
6 it's petty.

7 And I ask you for record, can you tell  
8 us what the project is that's downtown, the CRF issue,  
9 do you know what the project is?

10 MR. POCIUS: Charlie, I support the

11 program. I have no idea if there even is -- I don't  
12 think there is a project right now. I support the  
13 program itself, the influx of the \$5.2 million that  
14 would put us in a position that, number one, we would  
15 not have to at this point in time allocate any future  
16 OECD/CDBG grant monies for revolving loan accounts,  
17 acts because we would have the revolving loan accounts  
18 set up, and if we had to act quickly if something  
19 happened, we would have a pool of money that we could  
20 do it.

21 And I can't explain it any clearer.

22 And to my knowledge, there is no mystery project that's  
23 in the works, okay, Charlie? Have I answered your  
24 question?

25 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Thank you for

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1 answering that. And I also ask you, did you receive a  
2 copy of the thing that Mrs. Evans had that showed us  
3 the debt, the \$198 million of debt?

4 MR. POCIUS: I had a copy of the audit,  
5 yeah.

6 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Do you think that  
7 that's acceptable for over three years for somebody to



8 create \$198 million worth of debt?

9 MR. POCIUS: Well, Charlie, there was

10 kind of -- it's like when you, how do you explain this,

11 it's like when you borrow money and you put it out over

12 30 years, when you borrow \$100,000 for your home and

13 the payback is \$300,000 or something over the full

14 course of the loan, at the time you need the money, so

15 that's how you do it, and it's only if you pay it off

16 over the full extent of the loan, but there was some

17 misinterpretations on that money, Mrs. Evans clarified

18 her position on that, and I don't want to beat that to

19 death anymore, but a lot of the debt was pre-existing

20 debt and a lot of the debt that's in that specific

21 number includes the debt of the authorities, so, yes,

22 it a number that I think any city that wants to do

23 business has to borrow in order to do certain things,

24 and we cleared up some old things, and I find it in

25 line with doing city business in a municipality of this

.

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1 size and stature.

2 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Okay. I just find

3 it troubling that it's a number that is that big,

4 that's all. Thank you.

5 MR. DUDEK: My name is Mike Dudek, 608  
6 Depot Street, Scranton, PA. I live there in the Plot.  
7 And the first thing I want to bring up to City Council  
8 was something that Mrs. O'Boyle had brought up quite  
9 eloquently, and I think perhaps we can go one step  
10 further, what Chief Elliott and his men were able to do  
11 on Acker Avenue was the near impossible in doing what  
12 they did without so much as a shot fired or anybody  
13 suffering a scratch is unbelievable in this day and  
14 age.  
15 I think that perhaps we should talk to  
16 the chief to see if there could be anything in the way  
17 of accommodations or letters of praise to go into the  
18 policemen's files or whatever, because like I said,  
19 this is not something that occurs every day.  
20 In almost any other municipality in  
21 this country, they would be making -- they'd already be  
22 putting the TV movie together.  
23 What we have is a very safe situation  
24 executed by some very good professionals that no other  
25 city has but we have, the Scranton Police Department,  
.

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1 and I think we ought to do something for these men for

2 what they did. Give them a hand, guys.

3 Second of all and third of all, I'm

4 going to ask two questions, but I'm going to leave my

5 questions for both persons to answer during your period

6 of comment.

7 With Mrs. Evans, I'm quite sure you and

8 I have both read the Saturday Times, I looked at the

9 picture -- you might like this anecdote, I was sitting

10 on the front porch of the house that I live at reading

11 the paper, and it was that article that I was reading,

12 and when the woman who lives on the first floor saw the

13 picture, I was thinking of it as a mugshot and she was

14 thinking of it as you being the President of the United

15 States being on a postage stamp. So, I thought I would

16 share that little thought with you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thanks.

18 MR. DUDEK: But I do want you to know

19 exactly what your comments are in terms of what the

20 Times had to say on Saturday and I'd like you to use

21 your motions period for that.

22 Mr. DiBileo, about two months ago I

23 asked you about doing everything you could to help the

24 mayor with the Hilton problem. We read today on Page 3

25 that he doesn't have too many nice things to say about

1 you and this whole matter, and -- what I would like you  
2 to do during your period of comment would be to express  
3 what you have been trying to do in the background as  
4 far as, you know, the matter of the Hilton is  
5 concerned, okay? I'd like you to do that.

6 And also, 20 years ago, I don't know if  
7 you had that insurance agency there 20 years ago, but  
8 20 years ago when I lived in West Side, I, myself, sat  
9 on that wall and drank a Coke on occasion. I wasn't a  
10 teenager.

11 So, it's not just teenagers that do it.

12 Every now and then somebody will have a Coke, they'll  
13 sit on that wall. I just hope they're considerate and  
14 they don't liter the area.

15 So, anybody who's lived in West Side  
16 knows what Mr. Krowcenick did hurt himself more than  
17 anything else. Yellow journalism just doesn't work,  
18 just doesn't -- people don't abide by that, although I  
19 did have an interesting thought, I am picturing you in  
20 a helmet and a black jacket with spikes, blue jeans  
21 making a commercial for the DiBileo Insurance Agency,  
22 the motorcycle agent that rides (UNTRANSCRIBABLE.)

23 Thank you.

24 MR. DIBILEO: I don't know what that

25 meant, Mike, but it sounded good.

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1 MR. McANDREW: Good evening, Council.

2 My name is Larry McAndrew, I'm a Scranton taxpayer and

3 resident.

4 There was a lot of conversation here

5 tonight, and it got kind of hot in here. The first

6 comment is about the Hilton Hotel.

7 Before we have any agreements, I think

8 that this \$3 million has to be put back into the city

9 first about we agree on anything and that the State of

10 Pennsylvania get their \$10 million back, also. This is

11 important.

12 On Monday evening I had the rare

13 opportunity, because I'm a member the North Scranton

14 Neighborhood Association, to sit down with our mayor in

15 an informal meeting, and I was given the opportunity,

16 as well as plenty of other people that attended this

17 meeting, to ask this mayor informal questions.

18 What it came down to is this mayor said

19 first off, there's a reason why he hasn't attended

20 Council as the sixth member, is because he doesn't get  
21 along with certain Council members.

22 I believe tonight there was a speaker  
23 here that talked about the definition of a politician  
24 and that we need cooperation. When we have a mayor  
25 that's leading this city that refuses to cooperate, it

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1 doesn't stand good.

2 I see Mrs. Evans isn't here, I have a  
3 lot of respect for this woman. She came forward, she  
4 gave accurate figures, she produced a subpoena. I have  
5 respect for her. Thank you, Mrs. Evans. Thank you.

6 I wish the gentleman that sit at that  
7 Council would take example from her and lead in other  
8 subpoenas here. It's needed.

9 Getting back to these figures of this  
10 deficit, there's so much that's been said about this  
11 mayor, but what it comes down to is that we have KOZs,  
12 KOEZs, we have the University of Scranton, we have  
13 other universities in this area, we have hospitals here  
14 who do not contribute their fair share.

15 Everything is left -- the burden is  
16 left onto the taxpayers. This is not right. This

17 mayor on one of the questions asked to him, he did  
18 admit that there is \$80 million of debt since he  
19 took over as administrator of this city, \$80 million.  
20 Is that restoring your pride? Remember that come  
21 November 8, Election Day. Thank you.

22 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening, Council.

23 I am Nelson Ancherani, citizen, resident, taxpayer in  
24 the City of Scranton and also a member of the FOP.

25 I have a copy of a letter addressed to  
.

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1 Dear Union Member, it was signed by Chris, Chris  
2 Doherty, Mayor.

3 The first paragraph reads, On August  
4 17, 2005, Scranton Central Labor Union endorsed my  
5 opponent. I was not given an opportunity to ask for  
6 support before the August 17 meeting, so I would like  
7 to make my case to you now.

8 He's bashing City Hall unions and he's  
9 looking for union support. What a laugh, asking the  
10 union for support to break their own unions. Then he  
11 gets other unions to support him and slaps the faces of  
12 the city unions.

13 I'm asking the Bricklayers, led by Don

14 Hart, the Ironworkers, led by Kevin McHugh, the  
15 Operating Engineers led by Mike Mazza, and the Painters  
16 led by Bob Griffiths to read the recovery plan entirely  
17 and see if they can honestly say that it is a fair  
18 contract and something that they would present to their  
19 membership.

20 Second paragraph, Shortly following my  
21 election as your mayor, I presented a recovery plan to  
22 free our city from the Act 47 distressed city status  
23 which has hovered over Scranton for the past decade.

24 The police and fire unions requested  
25 that this recovery plan be presented to the citizens

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1 for a vote. Nearly 72 percent of Scrantonians voted in  
2 favor of the recovery plan referendum which required  
3 all city unions to negotiate a new contract.

4 Does he forget so easily? I know we  
5 don't. The unions sat down at the bargaining table and  
6 we are always willing to talk. It was the city that  
7 filed for arbitration and stopped the negotiating.

8 The city didn't want to talk. The  
9 mayor did present a recovery plan, an oppressive plan,  
10 that would put city workers back in the depression



11 years.

12 You only have to read the recovery plan

13 to see what I mean. And people voted for the

14 referendum because of the threat to have their taxes

15 raised if they voted against the plan. He forgot to

16 mention that, also.

17 Third paragraph, with this clear

18 mandate in mind, new contracts were enacted by the

19 clerical and Department of Public Works employees;

20 however, more than two years after this overwhelming

21 vote, the police and fire unions have still refused to

22 agree to a new contract.

23 DPW was threatened with being

24 privatized. Clerks had a contract shoved down their

25 throats, and as for the fire and police, the contract

.

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1 that he wants signed is the recovery plan. So, read

2 that one.

3 Fourth paragraph, I plan to lift

4 Scranton from the burden of Act 47 during my second

5 term as mayor. In order to accomplish this goal, I

6 must have contracts with the police and firefighters

7 that do not come at great expense to city taxpayers.

8 I want to negotiate a contract that  
9 provides our police and firefighters with a  
10 compensation they need and deserve while maintaining  
11 fiscal responsibility for city taxpayers.  
12 What did the police and fire ask for  
13 and what fiscal responsibility? If you are distressed,  
14 you don't do the following, Inherit a surplus of \$3  
15 million, spends \$ 3.4 million on raises and new hires,  
16 and I must add, none for the police, fire and clerical.  
17 He raises the budgets cumulatively \$18  
18 million over four years, borrows \$80 million plus, puts  
19 us in debt for \$198 million over the next 28 years,  
20 plus a \$4 million deficit in 2005. He spent money on  
21 too many things to mention. Where is that fiscal  
22 responsibility?  
23 We as taxpayers are in serious trouble.  
24 The population keeps decreasing and the budgets get  
25 higher. We are going to end up mortgaging our homes to  
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1 pay the taxes.

2 Number five, as you well know, the cost  
3 of health care is great. Police and firefighters'  
4 health insurance cost the city more than \$7 million in

5 2004. On average, however, the police pay only \$456  
6 per year and firefighters pay \$585 per year for their  
7 health care.

8 The City of Pittsburgh, which also  
9 operates under Act 47 and their police and fire unions  
10 have made contract agreements with concessions much  
11 greater than those requested of Scranton's police and  
12 firefighters.

13 Whose fault is it that the health care  
14 has risen? The mayor fired the health care consultant  
15 that cleaned up the health care mess and saved the city  
16 money. The increases came after they were fired.

17 Fiscal responsibility?

18 The city also forced out approximately  
19 100 city employees from their jobs. Their health care  
20 is being paid now, and also the 100 employees and their  
21 families who were hired to replace them is also being  
22 paid. Don't forget, this also increases the health  
23 care amount, and he forgot to mention that.

24 As for Pittsburgh, the recovery plan,  
25 could I just finish this?

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1 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, finish your

2 thought, Nelson.

3 MR. ANCHERANI: As for Pittsburgh, the  
4 recovery plan was a carbon copy of our recovery plan.

5 The difference is that both sides sat down and  
6 negotiated with each other, and the police and fire,  
7 along with the city, got a contract that everyone could  
8 live with.

9 If our mayor was willing to sit and  
10 talk with us, we could have a contract now that  
11 everyone could live with and the mayor could get us out  
12 of distressed status.

13 And what about over the years since  
14 this city went distressed? He forgot the raises we  
15 gave up and the manpower cuts that we took, and I  
16 emphasize we, the unions, gave up. Pittsburgh was not  
17 distressed for 13 years like we are. Thank you.

18 MS. BURKE: Good evening. My name is  
19 Ruth Burke, city resident. To begin with, I would like  
20 to say that I believe in our First Amendment Right to  
21 Freedom Of Speech, and thank you for this opportunity,  
22 but there's a problem with this evening's meeting being  
23 televised.

24 The actual purpose of the meeting is  
25 lost, specifically, the meeting's purpose is to take

1 care of city business.

2 Each week the business meeting is far

3 out shined by the public comment portion. Last week,

4 which was the first meeting I had attended, the

5 business meeting portion that was broadcast lasted ten,

6 maybe 15 minutes from 10:25 to 10:40; in fact, I went

7 home to watch it live on television, because the large

8 majority of the time is spent on public comments

9 starting at 7:10 and lasting for two hours and fifteen

10 minutes.

11 The agenda of the public comment

12 portion of the meeting is never published to the public

13 beforehand, as the City Council agenda is, but it is no

14 less scripted.

15 People come up and comment on the

16 national current events, personal problems, school

17 district problems, and maybe even some political

18 advertising.

19 There is always more than one person

20 that complains about the local newspaper, and then the

21 last speaker often seems to be the same person who then

22 summarizes the public comment segment by criticizing

23 and belittling the previous speakers, and that's not  
24 very professional.

25 I think that this forum for public

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1 comment is very precious to the weekly speakers,  
2 because though it isn't the only venue they have to get  
3 their message across to their viewing public, it is  
4 certainly the only free one, but it is at the expense  
5 the integrity of this Council. What you seem to be  
6 missing is that this makes you look a little bit  
7 foolish.

8 It makes you look like you have  
9 completely lost control of the entire concept of  
10 government. I believe that this is a representative  
11 democracy, not ruled by public comment. And why don't  
12 you get back to business and tell us what you all have  
13 been doing to move this city forward for everyone in  
14 the city. Thank you very much.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

16 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council. My  
17 name is Nancy Krake. And I guess that last person that  
18 was speaking was speaking about me. I'm sorry she  
19 doesn't like what I have to say, but I'm still going to

20 keep saying what I've been saying for the past three  
21 and a half years and in the fashion that I say it.  
22 I do have comments about the speakers  
23 that were previous. We did learn to do that because of  
24 the recovery plan, remarks were made that were not  
25 true, and the only way we could answer them was at this  
.

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1 podium, because the Scranton Times would not print the  
2 truth.

3 The first comment that I have is on Mr.  
4 Barrett, he is urging Council to revisit the CRF,  
5 that's certainly his opinion and he's entitled to it;  
6 however, he didn't come here with the one fact that  
7 everyone wants to hear, where will the money go?  
8 I don't think anyone is going to  
9 convince Mrs. Said or Mr. Courtright with bullying like  
10 the mayor used to do with the last Council. I don't  
11 think Mr. DiBileo would try that, and I think he  
12 respects all people, not just the special interest  
13 groups that have been coming here week after week  
14 asking for CRF.

15 I'd also like to comment on Mr.  
16 Casparo. The mayor has created lots of permanent jobs,

17 and not just those phantom 3000 that we keep hearing  
18 about; in fact, that gentleman never returned, Mr.  
19 DiBileo, with the exact jobs that you asked him to  
20 bring back.

21 He created the jobs, Mr. Doherty, for  
22 his administration and non-union management, and, in  
23 fact, when Mr. Newcomb mentioned how unions stick  
24 together, I have walked the picket line with Mr.  
25 Casparo.

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1 My other comment is on Joanne Williams.  
2 She feels a leader should take responsibility, perhaps  
3 she can convince Mayor Doherty to take responsibility  
4 for the \$198 million debt he has burdened the citizens  
5 of Scranton with for generations to come.  
6 And I do have something else to speak  
7 about this evening. This is actually an inner-office  
8 memo that I'm bringing out because of a meeting I was  
9 at Weston Park on Monday night, where the mayor  
10 gleefully told people how he got rid of clerical  
11 workers to fund his positions.  
12 This is to Len Kresefski from Doug  
13 Heim, who is now permanently employed, originally a



14 consultant, it's the subject, 2003 Budget Funding, and  
15 the date is June 26, 2002, right in the midst of all  
16 the recovery plan back and forth that was going on.  
17 This is Doug Heim speaking, This  
18 morning Jerry and I spoke to Harry Miller, who is from  
19 Pennsylvania Economy League, in regards to the payroll  
20 budget for 2003. In particular, Jerry, he's no longer  
21 with the city, asked him about adding a position to the  
22 business administration, this would be a job for Doug,  
23 He said it could be done if we can justify it in  
24 conjunction with the accounting restructuring plan that  
25 must be developed according to the recovery plan;

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1 however, he said, Adding a position will most likely be  
2 very politically problematic and the mayor needs to  
3 decide if he wants to add it. My, my, I guess they  
4 were all playing together even that early.  
5 As an alternative to adding a position,  
6 Harry, that's the gentleman from the Pennsylvania  
7 Economy League, said that there's money available from  
8 DCED, that's the state, as a one or two year grant to  
9 fund accounting, human resources and IT positions.

10

11 It goes on to say, Mayor must apply to  
12 DCED to get this funding, tying it to necessary  
13 upgrades, etc., in the BA's office, HR or IT  
14 departments.  
15 In this regards, you can bring me on as  
16 a consultant for the next year or two if a grant was  
17 received. Isn't that great news for them?  
18 Harry also said, We must develop a  
19 realistic budget, even if it is not in conformity with  
20 the recovery plan, as we may be called on to testify on  
21 the feasibility of this budget.  
22 If the budget does not conform to the  
23 plan, we must get Council to pass legislation to amend  
24 the plan. They're amending it for themselves. They  
25 won't amend it to sit down for negotiations, as Nelson

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1 just spoke about, but as far as getting themselves more  
2 jobs and more money, absolutely positively.  
3 Again, the mayor may not be willing to  
4 do this given the current political climate. The most  
5 important thing, according to Harry, is that our budget  
6 be balanced and realistic.  
7 Right. Cross off two clerical workers,

8 that equals one administrative person. That's, to  
9 them, what balanced and realistic is.  
10 And according to the mayor on Monday  
11 night, Just lop-off \$4 million in the police and fire  
12 and that will balance us for the next year, never mind  
13 public safety.  
14 And then he goes on to say, Harry will  
15 send us the payroll information that he used to create  
16 the plan, I'm sure it's very creative, within the next  
17 couple of days. Once I get it, I will be able to  
18 finalize the budget worksheets for you to review.  
19 And by the way, Doug Heim did get a  
20 full-time job in 2003, and he currently makes \$39,999.  
21 And actually, he's a very nice young man, before anyone  
22 gets the wrong idea that I'm criticizing anyone. And  
23 to be honest, he learned a lot from us, the staff in  
24 the BA office.  
25 In fact, when they learned enough,

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1 that's when they laid off the other physicians there,  
2 as the mayor also gleefully said he hired two  
3 accountants, after we taught them what they needed to  
4 do. And, in fact, our previous BA never needed

5 accountants to help him.

6 So, I just wanted to shed some light to

7 end the collusion and the untruths that the mayor is

8 speaking around the city. And this is our only forum

9 to do it, and I apologize if it offends anyone, but I

10 am not going to stop. Thank you.

11 MR. DIBILEO: If there's no further

12 speakers.

13 MR. WALSH: 5-A, Motions.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. McTiernan, do you

15 have any motions or comments this evening?

16 MR. McTIERNAN: Nothing at this time,

17 Mr. President.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Mrs. Evans,

19 do you have any motions or comments?

20 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you. Last week

21 I reported to the people on the amount of Scranton's

22 long-term debt created on this mayor's watch. When I

23 said as of December 31, 2004, Scranton's long-term debt

24 was \$121,062,303, I didn't dream up those millions of

25 dollars, I just reported what the independent audit is

.

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1 stating within.

2 At the same time, I also said the \$121  
3 million is only the principle. You must add to that  
4 the interest which also must be paid to pay off the  
5 debt.

6 When I said it will take until 2033 or  
7 28 more years to pay off the debt, assuming, that is,  
8 that the city does not miss a payment and the mayor  
9 does not increase the debt total any further, I didn't  
10 fabricate the year 2033, I just reported what the  
11 independent audit said.

12 When I said it will cost Scranton's  
13 taxpayers \$77,119,290 additional for interest alone or  
14 that the entire long-term debt of principle and  
15 interest totals \$198,181,593, I didn't pull those  
16 numbers out of the air, I took them from the  
17 independent auditor's report and told the people.

18 Last week I made two other statements;  
19 first, I said the information comes directly from Pages  
20 50 and 56 of the independent audit report, and second,  
21 anyone who questions my figures and conclusions should  
22 read the independent auditor's report as of December  
23 31, 2004.

24 The local newspaper who campaigns for  
25 this mayor was quick to reply to my report that same

1 weekend, with both an editorial and a news story.  
2 It's an old axiom that when one submits  
3 facts and figures in support of a position which the  
4 other side disputes, there are generally three  
5 approaches the opposition may take; first, the  
6 opposition could argue that the figures and dollars I  
7 used are not accurate or that my calculations are in  
8 error, but neither the mayor, nor his newspaper, nor  
9 its reporter said any of this, because all figures,  
10 dollars and calculations were taken directly from the  
11 auditor's report; second, the opposition admits  
12 directly or impliedly that my figures are accurate, but  
13 they think they made an argument against the figures by  
14 trying to explain away why the long-term debt was  
15 created; number three, if the opposition feels its  
16 argument on numbers one and two may not be convincing,  
17 then the usual thing for them to do is to attack me  
18 personally.  
19 Let me discuss number one. Anyone who  
20 will read both the editorial and news story will see  
21 that nowhere in the newspaper's editorial did the  
22 author state he read the independent audit. Neither

23 did -- that would be the news story, and neither did  
24 the editorial.

25 And both never challenged the \$121

.

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1 million in long-term principle debt, neither said it  
2 was not correct. They never said I was not accurate  
3 when I reported that the long-term debt will be paid  
4 off in 28 years, the year 2033. And, again, that's if  
5 no payment is missed or the mayor doesn't further  
6 increase the debt.

7 The editorial and the news story never  
8 claimed I was wrong when I reported that the interest  
9 alone on the debt principle is \$77 million, and that  
10 when you add the principle to the interest, the total  
11 is \$198 million.

12 As a result, I think I can safely say  
13 all three, the newspaper, the mayor and the newspaper's  
14 reporter admit the figures I reported on the long-term  
15 debt, interest, length of time to pay off the debt and  
16 interest are accurate.

17 I stand by what I said last Thursday  
18 about the debt, its service and its cost for 28 years.  
19 This debt is insane and impossible for the people to

20 pay this amount every year; further, the newspaper and  
21 its reporter do not dispute and therefore agree with  
22 the long-term debt dollar numbers I took from the  
23 auditor's report, but let me digress for a moment to  
24 Mr. Kresefski's statement in the reporter's news  
25 article.

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1 In order to soften the debt's magnitude  
2 and impact on the people, Mr. Kresefski tried to say if  
3 one purchased a house for \$250,000 with a 30-year  
4 mortgage, and I quote, you don't say, My God, my  
5 mortgage is \$500,000. Frankly, I am not concerned with  
6 what Mr. Kresefski might say, but I'd like to see him  
7 buy a house for \$250,000 with a 30-year mortgage and  
8 get by without paying a total of \$500,000 which  
9 includes the principle of \$250,000 and the interest of  
10 \$250,000, and I ask him toward what the bulk of his  
11 first perhaps five years worth of payments goes toward,  
12 interest or principle?

13 Both the editorial and the news story  
14 labored to explain where this mayor spent all the  
15 millions he borrowed to create the long-term debt,  
16 neither the editorial, nor the news story mentioned



17 even one word about the fact that this mayor sold city  
18 assets to plug holes in his inflated budgets or the  
19 debt, no doubt, would be larger, but my presentation  
20 was to tell the people, here are the figures and its  
21 effect on the people, no more, no less.

22 The Times tried to explain away where  
23 this mayor did spend all the millions he borrowed. My  
24 position is that the taxpayers can't afford the debt  
25 service cost of his spending, not to mention all of his

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1 tax giveaways and other money losses.

2 The newspaper's and mayor's number  
3 three argument, if you can't defeat the accuracy of the  
4 dollar debt figure or interest, which they do not, then  
5 attack the other individual personally, and that this  
6 mayor did by calling me irresponsible.

7 I shall not lower myself to engage in a  
8 dispute with this mayor on his level, but I shall  
9 continue to report to the people the accurate facts on  
10 this mayor's job performance, his sell, spend and  
11 borrow policies, and if he remained true to the average  
12 Security recipient and person on a fixed income who  
13 voted for him.

14 Finally, to the newspaper I say, That  
15 poisonous editorial is not the result of objectivity,  
16 it springs from a commitment by the owners and  
17 editorial board of The Scranton Times to emphasize half  
18 truths and mayoral spin in pursuit of political  
19 objectives, rather than independence and objectivity.  
20 It's as transparent as it is pathetic, and it should  
21 stop.

22 Also, I have requests this evening.

23 At 724 Electric Street, a large oak tree is growing  
24 into utility wires. I'd like Mr. Santoli to take a  
25 look at that.

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1 At 318 to 320 North Filmore Avenue, a  
2 house was condemned three years ago and neighbors were  
3 promised at that time the structure would be torn down  
4 by the end of the summer of 2005, and I have included a  
5 copy of that letter of complaint for Mr. Fiorini.

6 Also, I'm looking for PEL summaries  
7 again. I'd like to have the summer months up to the  
8 current. I don't know if PEL fails to meet with the  
9 mayor over the last period of months and months and  
10 months that I ask for these summaries. They're very

11 sporadic and they seem to be -- they appear to be  
12 edited.  
13 And again I'll say, I don't understand  
14 why I cannot have access, timely access, to these  
15 reports, when Mr. Doherty, Councilman Doherty, finance  
16 chair, had them weekly.  
17 The corner of Birch Street and Pittston  
18 Avenue near Our Tom & Jerry's Restaurant, there's a  
19 large broken sidewalk directly over a large drain. The  
20 DPW placed a large wooden horse across a portion of the  
21 hole approximately six weeks ago, and residents  
22 complain this is a safety hazard.  
23 I would also like a written request --  
24 or, excuse me, an update from Mr. Parker regarding  
25 solutions to the Parker Street flooding, the catch  
.

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1 basins on East Mountain, which I reported in August,  
2 and flooding problems at Park Gardens, which I reported  
3 two weeks ago.  
4 I'm also requesting an update on the  
5 tree on Fisk Street that was reported by Mr. Doug Walsh  
6 at a recent Scranton City Council meeting.  
7 Further, I have received two letters

8 from residents of Park Gardens, and I just wanted them  
9 to know I'm having great difficulty understanding their  
10 handwriting, and these letters are not signed, other  
11 than residents of Park Gardens and their families, and  
12 I'm asking if they could please send these letters to  
13 me again and ask that someone can assist you in writing  
14 these so that I'm able to read. I can't help you  
15 unless I can understand what you're trying to tell me  
16 about.

17 Also, I received an E-mail, I wouldn't  
18 be surprised if everyone else on Council has as well,  
19 since it's addressed to City Council, it says, and if  
20 you'll pardon me for a moment, I'm writing at this time  
21 with an urgent plea for assistance.

22 Our neighborhood surrounding the  
23 University of Scranton has steadily deteriorated to a  
24 most dangerous level. Classes at this University have  
25 resumed and the noise, filth, destruction and blight

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1 have multiplied, even over last year's levels.  
2 We see few police patrols, but now feel  
3 that the University students have acquired an inferred  
4 sense of diplomatic immunity in this area and with the

5 city's blessing.

6 Another year has gone by, and both the

7 City of Scranton and the University refuse to address

8 this quality of life issue. There are over 100

9 off-campus blighted properties overcrowded with

10 hundreds of lewd and noisy University students bent on

11 destroying this part of town. It's becoming

12 increasingly more clear that we are actually considered

13 as third class citizens by our city and viewed only as

14 collateral damage to this University's booming economic

15 progress.

16 We have been in contact with the

17 University of Scranton many times with numerous

18 representatives and have received nothing but public

19 relations spins and somewhat pompous responses.

20 The number of underage party goers in

21 this fifteen-block area swells into the high hundreds

22 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and the noise

23 and vandalism goes on until three and 4 a.m.

24 These parties are now attended by more

25 and more high school boys and girls each weekend. We

.

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1 are requesting first that the city wake up and

2 immediately consider saturation and blight patrols to  
3 clean up this part of town that they have neglected for  
4 so many years.

5 And I provided Kay with a copy of this.

6 I would like this letter, please, sent to Director

7 Hayes in the hopes that maybe he can address that

8 situation more satisfactorily than it has been by the

9 University of Scranton.

10 Also, I was asked by the owners of a

11 home on the corner of Green Ridge Street and Capouse

12 Avenue to make the following announcement, in the last

13 year there have been two cars at different times that

14 wound up in their front yard because as people are

15 passing, they're looking at and admiring the house,

16 which has been undergoing extensive renovations, and

17 they realize there have been many changes and people

18 are interested so they slow down to take a look, but

19 the homeowners are asking that everyone be more

20 careful, they don't want anyone seriously injured in an

21 accident because they were looking at their newly

22 restored home instead of watching lights and traffic.

23 And they did also indicate that one of

24 those accidents took out a 100-year-old iron fence off

25 the property that can't be restored, so I promised that

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1 I would make that announcement for them.

2 Finally, this Saturday, September 17,

3 is the annual Race For the Cure in Downtown Scranton.

4 Registration opens at 6:30 a.m. at the Courthouse

5 Square. Please come out and help this worthy cause.

6 And on the same day at 10 a.m. at the

7 Scranton Hilton Hotel, the Lackawanna County Federation

8 of Democratic Women will sponsor a political institute,

9 the cost of which is \$20, and I hope to see you there.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mrs. Evans.

12 Mr. Pocius, any motions or comments?

13 MR. POCIUS: Yes, Mr. President. I

14 think I have -- Mr. Nole brought up an interesting

15 point when he said about the tax on the gross rather

16 than the net.

17 We had discussions under a previous

18 Council, and I'd have to say I'm 99.99 percent sure

19 that that's the way the state enabling legislation sets

20 up the taxing powers for cities of our class, so really

21 it would take a change at the state level.

22 Mark, I see you're shaking your head,

23 I'm almost positive, so --

24 MR. WALSH: That's my understanding, as

25 well.

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1 MR. POCIUS: We don't have the option

2 as the city or the school district to say, Okay, we

3 want to make it on the net, we don't have that option.

4 MR. WALSH: No. We can't change the

5 income on which we base the tax, we can simply change

6 whether we impose or not impose the tax.

7 MR. POCIUS: Correct, or the rate or

8 whatever.

9 MR. WALSH: Right.

10 MR. POCIUS: But that's the answer why

11 it's not on the net and not the gross.

12 MR. DIBILEO: And I think that's the

13 mercantile tax, which is one of the two business taxes,

14 the other being the business privilege tax, which is

15 imposed on the net.

16 MR. WALSH: That's absolutely accurate.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Is that also state driven

18 or local driven?

19 MR. WALSH: Well, both the mercantile



20 and the business privilege I think probably come from  
21 the same enabling legislation.

22 MR. POCIUS: Right, Mark? Okay.

23 That's just a point I thought maybe would clear it up,

24 because it sounded like something so easy to do.

25 Every once in a great while, tonight

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1 was one of those nights, and I have to say that Mr.

2 Jackowitz's comments were something that I really -- it

3 really perked up my attention up here.

4 I personally never considered

5 politician a bad title. I never knew there was that

6 one line in the definition that kind of said if you use

7 it for your own personal gains or for selfish reasons

8 or whatever, which kind of tied into some other

9 comments tonight made about myself here.

10 More than likely they were very true,

11 because I never compromised how I believed on an issue

12 or my beliefs for this city. It may very well have

13 caused me, let's say, to transition out again into

14 private life again after January, but that's fine,

15 because every time you put your name on the ballot,

16 that can happen to anybody at any point in time.

17 But what I'm trying to get at is here  
18 is that sometimes you get, like I said, you get  
19 something that just hits home, and we're all  
20 politicians, because I think we all fall under that guise  
21 that we're here as legislators and we're trying to help  
22 out in the best case we have, and to be a politician,  
23 you have to be political, because that's the nature of  
24 the game, but I think the true test of a politician is  
25 one that can stand the test of time, and when people

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1 look back on his record and say, or her record and say,  
2 well, they always -- we always knew where they stood or  
3 we always had a position that was clear, I think that's  
4 important.

5 We've had -- like tonight, I note the  
6 speakers every week, and there was 25 speakers, and  
7 actually two names were called that didn't show up or  
8 maybe left or maybe they were just fictitious names, I  
9 don't know, sometimes names are put in and people don't  
10 speak, and that's fine.

11 I agree wholeheartedly with that First  
12 Amendment Right, but I also agree that we as elected  
13 officials have a First Amendment Right, and that brings

14 me to my closing statement on this thought is that if I  
15 can still get a rise of out of some people, even being  
16 a so-called transitional councilman, and my name is  
17 still brought up every week, I must be hitting some  
18 nerves out there, so I'm going to continue to do what I  
19 have to do until someone -- until January 3 or 4th or  
20 whenever sine de meeting is or whatever, but I will  
21 never compromise myself on how I react up here.

22 And it's funny that you picked that  
23 show, Mr. Newcomb, because I just talked to somebody  
24 the other day, giving my age away, we were talking  
25 about old television shows, and I said, Do you remember

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1 when the first Flintstones came on, it was actually on  
2 a Friday night, and I think it was somewhere around  
3 1959 or 1961, so I guess I'm giving my age away.

4 I've always enjoyed the Flintstones,  
5 but I can't find them on reruns anywhere, so I guess  
6 I'll have to find something else to watch next year,  
7 which will be fine with me.

8 And lastly, I'm going to do this again,  
9 I'm going to do it without comment, I'm just going to  
10 make the motion that we suspend the rules again

11 allowing for the CRF legislation to be put back.

12 MR. McTIERNAN: Second.

13 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on the

14 floor and a second, on the question?

15 MS. EVANS: Yes. I took at Mr. Pocius

16 at his word that he will continue to repeat the motion,

17 and so, I prepared a response.

18 Over the course of time, this Council

19 voted on many different items placed on our agenda, we

20 approved many and voted down a number of items.

21 After each vote, the matter was finished, but not on

22 the sale of this \$5.2 million asset.

23 The only reason this mayor gave to sell

24 this asset at such a large loss is that he can then

25 loan out the remaining money for economic development.

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1 Mind you, the mayor cannot or will not inform Council

2 or the people of what projects he intends to loan the

3 remaining money to, so his secret position on the use

4 of the money and his request for a \$4.7 million blank

5 check raises two important questions, first, Will City

6 Council act for the people's good if it knowingly

7 approves the sale of a safe and profitable \$5.2 million

8 asset at a loss of half a million?

9 Well, I told you earlier tonight that

10 if anyone suggested that I personally do this, not that

11 I have this amount of money, but that if someone

12 suggested that I personally do this with my own asset

13 or portfolio, I would not agree.

14 And if the person who suggested that I

15 sell my asset also said I could then after the half

16 million loss reinvest the remaining money in future

17 loans for economic development, I would still reject

18 the reinvestment idea because I now have a safe and

19 profitable portfolio, but I do not know if future loans

20 would be as safe and profitable.

21 And the best example of this statement

22 is the \$3 million loan made to the Hilton in which it

23 seems the city is going to lose that, plus a lot more.

24 The second question, and maybe even

25 more important is, Can Council trust the mayor? When I

.

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1 think of this mayor's past fiscal record and consider

2 the Hilton fiasco, the sale of the golf course at less

3 than its value, and about at one-half the income the

4 golf course produced for the city, with his broken

5 promise by refusing to put the money in a trust, when I  
6 consider the fact that he sold the every popular and  
7 highly-used South Side Complex, contrary to the  
8 public's loud objections at less than half its true  
9 value, when I consider the wasted money to purchase a  
10 pothole repair machine, which doesn't appear to repair  
11 potholes; in fact, it seems to do nothing at all, and  
12 then I consider this mayor's deficit spending each year  
13 and the long-term debt the mayor created, the answer to  
14 that question has to be, No.

15 Now, would my honorable opposition  
16 colleagues ever tell you, this is going back to one of  
17 my previous statements, would they ever tell you they  
18 would knowingly sell their own safe and profitable \$5.2  
19 million property with a half million loss?

20 In order to evade the question I just  
21 asked , my honorable opposition colleagues take the  
22 position that either this mayor has no duty to tell  
23 Council in advance what he will do with such a large  
24 lump of cash, or he has no current ideas in mind.

25 The dateline shows Council rejected

.

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1 this mayor's requested asset sale. After rejection,

2 the solicitor appeared before Council to urge a revote  
3 on the sale to CRF, and he was not successful, then  
4 this mayor had a number of other people appear at the  
5 podium on his behalf, they also argued for Council to  
6 reconsider and vote to sell the \$5.2 million asset,  
7 again, the revote was rejected for various reasons.

8 Not one of this mayor's people ever  
9 suggested he or she would be willing to sell their own  
10 similarly valuable and profitable property and lose  
11 \$500,000.

12 And, you know, one other thought that  
13 just occurred to me right now, Were I to do so, would I  
14 not then be called a flip-flopper?

15 Finally, my honorable colleague stated  
16 for all to hear and for the record that he will make a  
17 motion every week to suspend Council's rules until he  
18 gets a revote on the asset sale, was that a threat or a  
19 promise?

20 Either way, I have no comment on my  
21 honorable colleague's statement. With all due respect  
22 to my honorable colleague, I believe, however, that  
23 this is a departure from his usual, well-thought-out  
24 and logical conduct that I believe benefits the people.

25 And with all due respect, I say the same for my other

1 honorable colleague who follows the motion maker.

2 I applaud my honorable colleague for

3 his threatened or promised course of conduct, but I

4 don't know what the taxpayers will think of his

5 statement when he actually does make the same motion

6 week after week, and that is their decision how they

7 view him and this mayor, not mine.

8 I ask, Will the motion my honorable

9 colleague will make every week be good for the people?

10 How will the effects of the weekly motion reduce the

11 people's tax burden? Has the mayor proffered reason to

12 sell the \$5.2 million loans, his real reason, or is it

13 pretextual.

14 And most important, specifically, will

15 the impact my honorable colleague's weekly motion be to

16 heal the deep division the mayor has created among

17 Scranton's people?

18 You know, this mayor must accept

19 responsibility for protecting his constituents and be

20 held accountable if he does not. In this respect, I

21 ask all taxpayers to decide if this mayor thus far did

22 protect his constituents, and if not, how he should be



23 held accountable for this.

24 Also, I ask all taxpayers to decide if

25 this mayor's burning desire to sell a valuable and

.

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1 profitable \$5.2 million asset and take a loss of \$1.5

2 million is considered to be working for all the people

3 who elected him.

4 when any matter comes before me as a

5 member of Council, the first two questions I ask in

6 must evaluation of the matter are, Number one, is the,

7 matter good for the people, and number two, is the

8 matter good for the city?

9 And if the evidence prompts an

10 affirmative answer to both questions, then I shall

11 engage in further evaluation of the matter by asking

12 more questions indigenous to the matter at hand, but

13 under no circumstances will I abandon the people who

14 elected me.

15 And I just wanted to add that for each

16 week my honorable colleague Mr. Pocius makes the

17 motion, his honorable colleague Mrs. Evans will humbly

18 repeat those statements.

19 MR. POCIUS: Mr. DiBileo, could I have

20 a brief comment back? I was just going to basically go  
21 quietly into the night here, but I just figured I'm  
22 going to say one thing to this here, and I'm going to  
23 ask the citizens and the constituents and whatever you  
24 want to call them, voters or whatever, what are we  
25 really doing here? Are we really looking at maybe that

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1 second and let them decide? Is that second definition  
2 inside of politician being portrayed up here or not  
3 that something is being done for the wrong reasons and  
4 not for the right reasons?

5 MS. EVANS: You know, I --

6 MR. POCIUS: I knew you would respond,

7 Mrs. Evans, so go right ahead.

8 MS. EVANS: No. I --

9 MR. POCIUS: The honorable colleague

10 that you are.

11 MS. EVANS: I absolutely agree with

12 you, something is being done up here for the wrong

13 reasons, and I want to add to the definition of a

14 politician, and I have to add, I've never considered

15 myself one, I've never been one who's represented one

16 party to the negligence of another, nor have I ever

17 been a candidate who was strongly supported financially  
18 or otherwise by any party or special interest group,  
19 and I believe a politician is one who worries about the  
20 next election, a statesman or a public servant is one  
21 who worries about future generations, and that's what  
22 I'm doing.

23 MR. POCIUS: Well, not to belabor the  
24 point, but I'm just not going to sit here and take  
25 that, to use my honorable colleague's scenario here,

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1 that would mean that the \$500,000 supposedly we will  
2 lose if this transaction goes, that is basically saying  
3 in today's dollars that I will collect every penny in  
4 this loan package, every single penny, over the course  
5 of the loan, I will not -- not one loan will be, you  
6 know, not be paid, not one loan will go into default,  
7 everything is guaranteed. I don't have that kind of  
8 foresight, but maybe some people do where they could  
9 look that far in the future and assure me that this  
10 \$5.7 million is going to be all collected in the course  
11 of these ten or twelve years these loans are out.  
12 And just another thing, just to share,  
13 I was talking to a person of mine out of time who

14 basically -- we got into a conversation about selling  
15 debt and things like that, and he was associated with a  
16 transaction where basically one of your major, major  
17 credit card companies sold like \$26 of \$28 million in  
18 credit card debt for something like four cents on the  
19 dollar to this firm, because to the bank or the credit  
20 card, whoever was backing these credit cares, felt that  
21 to come out of it with a few million dollars upfront  
22 was going to weigh -- outweigh their effort to collect,  
23 which they knew they wouldn't collect totally the \$26  
24 million.

25 So, there's sometimes a decision has to

.

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1 be made, and I think I gave my reasoning to Mr.

2 Newcomb, Jr., when he asked me what I thought. I just

3 -- and I'll stand by those. And I still think it's a

4 good idea.

5 I was asked if I know the secret

6 project. No, there's no secret project, there's not

7 going to be some kind of gigantic thin that's dropped

8 on us all before the election, because I am not aware

9 of it, if that's anybody's concern.

10 I just think it's good business sense.

11 With the way that the block grants are going to be cut  
12 back in future use, we don't know what devastation --  
13 what this amount of these natural disasters are going  
14 to have on future federal fundings in any concept.

15 So, I still believe it's a good idea  
16 for the right reasons. I don't have a hidden agenda on  
17 it. You know, I don't really know what it's going to  
18 be used for, except that it's a good idea to have that  
19 kind of money in place to basically fund -- basically  
20 as fast as it would take Council to back a project to  
21 fund something and put it through. That's it.

22 MS. EVANS: Well, I agree with Mr.

23 Pocius, we don't know where this CDBG is headed. Look  
24 at the natural disasters, and you don't even have to  
25 look down as far as Louisiana or Mississippi, take a  
.

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1 look on Adams Avenue, it's called the Hilton Hotel and  
2 Conference Center. There's a natural disaster to the  
3 tune of at least \$3 million, and that is a reason to be  
4 concerned about the CDBG, because there's where your  
5 money is being lost, and maybe that's why this had to  
6 be such a rushed deal back in May or June before any of  
7 this was released. I don't know. Maybe we needed to

8 get that money back into that fund before anyone knew  
9 the difference.

10 But I think I am certainly no  
11 visionary, but I have to wonder, is CRF, they seem to  
12 want these loans very badly, and I doubt very much  
13 they'd taking on loans that they felt sure were going  
14 to go into default; in fact, they have questions about  
15 only one, and so much so that, you know, they're  
16 willing to unload it back on us within a year if it  
17 doesn't come out to their satisfaction.

18 So, I would say, you know, I can't, you  
19 know, tell the future, but obviously talented  
20 businessmen like this can. And if it's good enough for  
21 them, it's good enough for me to trust.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Can I stop my two  
23 honorable colleagues?

24 MR. POCIUS: Mr. DiBileo, I was going  
25 to say the same thing. I'm not going to counter punch

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1 back and forth here. I think we owe it to everybody,  
2 let's just get this thing moving and get on. Let's  
3 call for the vote if everybody has had their motion.  
4 We're not going anywhere with it anyway.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Who said the business

6 portion of this meeting is shorter than public

7 participation?

8 MR. POCIUS: Ever once in all while you

9 need all little good debate out here.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Debate is good.

11 MS. EVANS: See, you have me to thank.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you.

13 MR. DIBILEO: I just wanted to say

14 regarding this, and I'll be brief, that, you know, it's

15 very difficult at times to conduct these meetings, and,

16 Mr. Pocius, you've been here for a number of years, I

17 don't know if it's 12 or 14 --

18 MR. POCIUS: Fourteen.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Fourteen years. And with

20 al due respect, you know the rules of Council, and you

21 know that that's an improper motion.

22 I stated my opinion very clearly the

23 past two weeks, and in my opinion, I just think that

24 making a motion each week improperly is grandstanding,

25 and the public may not know our rules, but you, Mr.

.

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1 Pocius, should know our rules of Council, and this

2 issue -- the issue is not petty, but I think that  
3 making the same motion week after week is petty,  
4 because you should know our rules.  
5 I just want to read from our -- a  
6 section of our Home Rule Charter regarding this issue,  
7 and it's Section 10. Is this the Home Rule Charter  
8 actually or a portion of The Home Rule Charter, Mr.  
9 Walsh?

10 MR. WALSH: Are you referring to  
11 Council's local rules?

12 MR. DIBILEO: Section 10, Council local  
13 rules.

14 MR. WALSH: Yes. Section 10 would be a  
15 provision in the local rules, because the Home Rule  
16 Charter and the Administrative Code have three numbers,  
17 so it would definitely be a provision of Council's  
18 local rules.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Section 10  
20 reads, A motion to reconsider shall not be entertained  
21 at the next regular meeting of the Council and no  
22 second motion to reconsider the same subject shall be  
23 entertained.

24 A motion to reconsider must be made and  
25 seconded by members who voted in the majority, and in



1 this case, that's Mr. Courtright and Mrs. Evans.

2 MR. POCIUS: Well, I disagree there.

3 And I don't want to belabor this, but what I'm asking

4 for the motion is to suspend our rules which would

5 allow us to do it.

6 I agree, you're 100 percent right there

7 if that's Roberts Rules and you're reading from Roberts

8 Rules, it's 100 percent correct.

9 MR. DIBILEO: And that same motion was

10 made previously to suspend our rules, and it was

11 defeated, and it can't be made week after week, it's an

12 improper motion.

13 MR. POCIUS: Well, we'll just have to

14 see.

15 MR. DIBILEO: And if there's no further

16 comments, I'll ask for a roll call vote, if you don't

17 mind, Kay.

18 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

19 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

20 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

21 MS. EVANS: No.

22 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

23 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

24 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

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1 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Based on the fact that I

3 gave my point, made my point very clear the past two

4 weeks, I'll abstain. So, by a 2-2, one abstention

5 vote, motion does not pass. Thank you very much.

6 Thank you, Mr. Pocius. Mr. Courtright, motions or

7 comments?

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes, Mr. President. I

9 think I've stated at least once, maybe twice, that, you

10 know, I didn't believe that we should drag people's,

11 especially people coming to the podium, their business

12 or where they work into these meetings, and I don't

13 care what Council member up here it would be, I don't

14 think it's right for anyone to come to that podium and

15 bring somebody's child into this. I'm just -- I can't

16 believe that this lady would do that to drag Mr.

17 DiBileo's child into this. It's just not right, it's

18 way across the line, and I just had to get that off my

19 chest.

20 The second thing is, I very rarely  
21 comment on any articles in the newspaper, I don't know  
22 if I ever have, to be honest with you, since I've been  
23 here, but I took a look at the article after I got a  
24 couple calls about the gang members sitting on Mr.  
25 DiBileo's wall or steps, well, as Mrs. O'Boyle said,

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1 I'm a proud West Sider, I've lived in West Side my  
2 entire life, I'm 48-years-old, never lived anywhere but  
3 West Side, and I've watched those kids -- I've watched  
4 that gang form for the last couple of years, and  
5 they've sat there before we knew they were a gang, they  
6 sat at the church across the street. Are we going to  
7 tell the church they're harboring gang members?  
8 There's a business next to the church,  
9 I'm sure the owner doesn't see them because he's not  
10 there at night, they sit there, they sit up at Lincoln  
11 School, they walk the avenue, they sit in the very  
12 benches that this woman mentioned earlier on Jackson  
13 and Main.  
14 So, for this paper to try to insinuate  
15 that he's harboring gangs, I mean, out of all the  
16 things I've seen, that's insane. I don't know who

17 wrote that article, but I think that's a very poor,

18 poor article.

19 Shop Rite, Mrs. Evans has brought it

20 up, we've all brought it up before, I don't know, Jay,

21 if anything is getting done with that, but the smell is

22 getting so bad that driving down Luzerne Street I can

23 smell it now, so can we get an update on what's going

24 on there, unless it's not Shop Rite, but I can't -- I

25 can't find out anywhere else it's coming from, other

.

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1 than there.

2 MS. EVANS: There were supposed to have

3 had a contractor getting to work on it at some point

4 this week, and I know it's either September 20th or

5 September 28th, Mr. Fiorini indicated to me that the

6 store would be cited if they had not kept their word on

7 this. He would have provided the 30 days, so --

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: That will be coming up

9 shortly.

10 MS. EVANS: Oh, yes. So --

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. I just

12 twice this week alone I noticed the smell, and I have

13 to assume that it's coming from there, I can't detect

14 it anywhere else.

15 If you'll allow me the courteous of

16 doing this here, I sent a letter to Mr. Parker back on

17 July 23 of 2004, and it was about 1055 Blair Avenue,

18 and 354 Lowell Street, and that was July 23 of '04, and

19 he sent me back a response on September 28 of '04, and

20 the response at 1055 Blair Avenue, I'm not going to

21 read it, because it basically -- I didn't think we were

22 going to get the problem solved.

23 At the end of his answer, because I

24 don't want to read the entire thing is, the only other

25 solution I can think of is mill the entire street, and

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1 that will not be done, so I kind of figured we weren't

2 going to get that one taken care of, but his answer to

3 Lowell Street, and if I can read this, and, Jay, maybe

4 we can send this back to him and ask him why we haven't

5 gotten this done, I have also reviewed the situation at

6 354 Lowell Street regarding standing water. I think we

7 should be able to take care of this matter using the

8 Bobcat milling attachment and mill in a slight trench

9 along the curve, much as the same as we had done on

10 Grove Street.

11 We need to take elevations to make  
12 sure, and I'm returning you the photographs that you  
13 sent. So, that was on the 28th. And as of today,  
14 nothing has been done down there, so if we can ask him,  
15 did we forget about it or what happened there?  
16 I think this is the last thing. Yeah,  
17 the last thing I have is, I've been asking and other  
18 people have been asking Jay for several weeks if we can  
19 get a dollar amount on these banners and billboards and  
20 advertisements in the Times and fliers in the windows,  
21 and I'm being told, you know, by just people that it's  
22 in the thousands and thousands of dollars, but I don't  
23 take it for a fact, because it's not fact, and Ms.  
24 Hailstone, she can't seem to get us those figures, but  
25 if we need to get figures to bash Mrs. Evans, we get

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1 them right away.

2 We knew it was \$3000 for those papers  
3 that they needed to copy there, and we conveniently had  
4 a reporter there, so I would ask if we can right away  
5 the day that it's done find out the figure to bash Mrs.  
6 Evans in the paper, then why can't we get the figures  
7 on what's going on with all this advertising?

8 It's a simple question, and I'd like to  
9 have the answer by next week, and if we cannot have it  
10 by next week, could they please tell me why? I think I  
11 asked that same question last week.

12 MS. EVANS: I might add just a bit of  
13 information here, Mr. Courtright, at the North Scranton  
14 Neighborhood meeting on Monday evening, when questioned  
15 about such signs, the mayor indicated that there were  
16 all independently donated, independent donors have  
17 provided all of this for him.

18 So, I'm not quite sure, because that  
19 was his response, and yet I understand that Ms.  
20 Hailstone -- Mr. Saunders, in fact, what did Ms.  
21 Hailstone say to you about these signs and --

22 MR. SAUNDERS: I've talked to her twice  
23 about them. I asked her originally about the signs,  
24 the paper advertisement congratulating the Times.  
25 Everything that you see around the city, she said that

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1 first the local news networks or news stations, local  
2 stations, they provided the advertisement at a  
3 discounted rate, the paper at a discounted rate, and I  
4 think that's about it.

5 MS. EVANS: But did she say that --

6 MR. SAUNDERS: She's saying that they

7 were paying for it.

8 MS. EVANS: They being who?

9 MR. SAUNDERS: OECD.

10 MS. EVANS: And what was the dollar

11 figure she quoted?

12 MR. SAUNDERS: There was no dollar

13 figure on it. She had that -- the problem was was

14 Lamar and the local stations and the newspaper were

15 sending bills in for all of these advertisements, so

16 when she had them all compiled, she would get them back

17 to me.

18 MS. EVANS: Oh, I thought you had

19 mentioned to me about \$13,500 over a month ago, and

20 also --

21 MR. SAUNDERS: Maybe I did throw that

22 number, I don't --

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: I might have mentioned

24 \$13,000, because that's the number I --

25 MS. EVANS: I know you did, but I think

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1 Mr. Saunders told me that by phone. And what was her



2 response as to the need for this?

3 MR. SAUNDERS: I don't remember her

4 response. If you would just refresh my memory on the

5 conversation.

6 MS. EVANS: Promotion.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Promoting the city, I

8 thought.

9 MR. SAUNDERS: Promoting the city,

10 yeah, yes.

11 MR. SAUNDERS: I deal with hundreds of

12 phone calls a day, I don't --

13 MS. EVANS: I know. I do, too, so I'm

14 --

15 MR. SAUNDERS: -- and a hundred

16 figures, too, by the way, so people that are saying

17 that he did say that, that is not --

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, I just think if

19 the mayor's saying that we're not paying them and she's

20 saying that we are paying for it, obviously the right

21 hand doesn't know what the left's doing, so let's get

22 it squared away.

23 MS. EVANS: That's kind of the same

24 thing on these payments, you know, on the defaulted

25 loan, one says it's CDBG and it's this much, and

1 another one says it's cash residuals and it's this

2 much, so it seems like -- I agree with you, one hand

3 doesn't know what the other one is doing.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: And I might ask Mr.

5 Walsh, and I don't want him to answer me now, because I

6 don't want to put him on the spot, but in the next

7 couple days, Mr. Walsh, could you tell me if in fact I

8 don't receive these figures by next week at our

9 meeting, what other avenue I can take to get these

10 figures.

11 And I don't need you to answer me know,

12 if you can find out for me and let me know, if you

13 don't mind. That's all I have, Mr. President. Thank

14 you.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr.

16 Courtright. They say that politicians or elected

17 officials should have thick skin, and I agree with

18 that, and I actually believe that I do, because I take

19 a lot of abuse, and I think I could take it, but, you

20 know, I was interviewed this week by two Scranton Times

21 newspaper reporters, and I thought I made myself

22 perfectly clear on two stories that were written about

23 and showed up in the newspaper today, but I read them

24 this morning, and I was quite dismayed of how the

25 articles turned out that a lot of what I said, and I

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1 gave a lot of information, a lot of what I said wasn't

2 in the article, but then certain parts of what I said

3 were in the article and it made it kind of look bad for

4 me.

5 And, you know, some people say, Hey,

6 you're never going to get a fair shake from the

7 newspaper, so just expect it, and I do, I expect not to

8 got a fair shake, and I think I can take it, but this

9 morning, you know, I was a little bit unpleased or

10 dismayed with the two articles, and, you know, I wrote

11 down some issues, and regarding the politician versus

12 elected official situation, you know, I always took it

13 as though politician -- the word politician was bad,

14 because politics is dirty, and it can be very dirty.

15 And one reason why, and I'm going to

16 mention election here, one reason why I almost didn't

17 run for mayor is because of my kids, because I knew

18 that, you know, in our neighborhood we were going to

19 have friends that have signs for the opposition, and we

20 do. You know, but kids don't understand that, and I

21 worried about that.

22 I knew that when the signs came out,

23 you know, kids were going to be hurt, and they are.

24 One of my twins, four-years-old, Robert, he's built

25 like a little Hulk, and he gets dropped off, and he

.

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1 goes to school every day at John Marshall School, and

2 he runs to school, he loves school, and he runs to

3 school, and as he's running to school, my wife tells

4 me, he's kicking my opponent's signs. You know, so you

5 think that kids don't know what's going on, he's

6 four-years-old, you know, and what am I supposed to

7 tell him? So, I always took it as though politicians

8 were bad, elected officials were good.

9 But anyway, Scranton has a lot of

10 issues, I think, and I think two of them happen to be

11 the fact that -- and I made a couple notes for myself,

12 so if I -- and I made a couple notes for myself after

13 reading those two articles, keep that in mind, maybe

14 I'll regret saying some of this stuff, but Scranton has

15 a lot of issues, and two of them happen to be the fact

16 that, Number one, we're a One-Newspaper-Town, and

17 number two, We have a professional politician as mayor.

18 Now, the two newspaper articles today,

19 as I said, were, I believe, slanted, and one issue, one

20 article was on the Hilton foreclosure. The city is in

21 this position of being sued for millions of dollars

22 possibly by the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center

23 because they weren't given something that they were

24 promised, and what they were promised by the city was,

25 number one, parking.

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1 Well, that hotel for the past two years

2 has operated with no parking, and that issue really

3 could lie squarely on shoulder of the guy in charge,

4 and that's the mayor, but I'm not going to point

5 fingers.

6 When we got into this issue, I said

7 that I'm willing to look beyond politics and work

8 together towards negotiating a deal that would prevent

9 the city from losing a lawsuit for millions of dollars,

10 and to be honest, I think that lawsuit would be a

11 slam-dunk for that hotel.

12 But I want to prevent that Hilton Hotel

13 and Convention Center from closing. I think if it

14 closed, it would be a terrible, terrible situation.

15 So, for the past two days, we; meaning,

16 me and Mark Walsh and Jay Saunders, have told the

17 mayor's office to forward the legislation for the

18 Hilton Hotel and Conference Center to City Council so

19 that we could introduce it and get working on this

20 issue, and we happened to tell the mayor's office that

21 no politics is being played, no politics is being

22 played.

23 Well, guess what happened, we never got

24 the legislation. And I think the mayor is -- well, let

25 me saw this, the mayor is claiming that I've changed my

.

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1 mind, but I think the fact is that he's afraid that I'm

2 going to vote against it and make him look bad, but I

3 don't intend on doing that.

4 I called him today and left a message,

5 and he called me back, and I told him that I did not

6 change my mind, as long as I could see in writing what

7 we had agreed upon in our meetings, and I'll vote for

8 it, but I couldn't promise him in advance of seeing

9 something in writing, in seeing actual legislation, I

10 couldn't promise him that I was going to vote in favor

11 of it until I saw it in writing, because things just

12 don't work that way. There's not supposed to be

13 backroom deals.

14 I want to see the legislation, I want

15 to look at it, I want to see if it was what we had

16 decided upon, I want to hear the public talk about it,

17 and then we'll decide.

18 But if I see it in writing and it was

19 what we agreed upon, then I'm fine with it. But please

20 give it to us before that can happen.

21 I also said I'll try to negotiate a

22 better deal, possibly up to the last minute for the

23 benefit of the city, if I have to, and I plan on doing

24 that, and I've called the developer directly.

25 Have I called the developer directly?

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1 Absolutely. I'm not going to ask the mayor if I can

2 call the developer directly. I'm going to call him up

3 and ask him if we can get a better deal for the city.

4 Right now he says, No, no better deal.

5 What you agreed upon is what it is. Now, I'd like a

6 unanimous vote on this, I think it's good if we have a

7 unanimous vote, I don't know if we will, and that's one

8 reason why I want a better deal if we could possibly  
9 get one.

10 But if we receive legislation, and  
11 we're supposed to based on this conversation, we will  
12 hold a special meeting just specifically for this  
13 topic, we decided in caucus, this Tuesday at 3:30,  
14 Tuesday at 3:30, if we get legislation to consider.

15 So, I just wanted to make that  
16 announcement. I did not change my mind. I'm not  
17 flip-flopping, as somebody might suggest.

18 Now, let me just -- I have to read  
19 this, because now today an E-mail went out to a friend  
20 of mine, and this is an E-mail from Chris Doherty. I  
21 don't have the title to it, but I think it said Fellow  
22 Democrat.

23 Gary DiBileo's leadership of City  
24 Council is more and more about his political agenda and  
25 less and less about moving the city forward.

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1 People who go to City Council meetings  
2 to speak in support of our initiatives are treated in a  
3 rude and threatening manner, while his supporters  
4 continue to bash the progress Scranton is making.



5 Here are some recent Council issues and  
6 my analysis of what they really mean. You can help me  
7 about knowing the facts about our city. I'm not going  
8 to read the whole thing.

9 First topic, DiBileo Flip-Flops Again.

10 Flip-flop, flip-flop, that's the sound of Gary DiBileo  
11 making a decision. After agreeing to a settlement with  
12 the Spectrum Organization, which intends to buy the  
13 Scranton Hilton and Conference Center, he now says that  
14 he has changed his mind. I don't remember changing my  
15 mind, but --

16 With his flip-flop, the city faces the  
17 certain loss of money. To make matters worse, he  
18 called Spectrum on his own without telling anyone and  
19 tried to negotiate a new deal. That's bad?

20 Questionable, here is just one line  
21 from another topic, Questionable Subpoena, Costly  
22 Response. Mr. DiBileo and the others decided that a  
23 subpoena would embarrass our administration. The real  
24 embarrassment is Council. That's all I'm reading out  
25 of that. That's why I say professional politician.

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1 Second article, We have a newspaper

2 whose owners politically contribute to Chris Doherty's  
3 campaign. I've said it before, The owners of the  
4 newspaper personally contributed to my opponent's  
5 campaign. Now, that's a story. According to other  
6 newspapers, that's a story, but that's something that  
7 you're not going to read about.

8 One owner lives next door to our mayor  
9 and the families go way back, I'll say 50 years, but it  
10 might be 100, I don't know, and there's nothing wrong  
11 with that, but I think that that prevents them from  
12 giving a fair shake to his opponent, which is me.

13 This article that I'm going to talk  
14 about says that a teenager's comment put me in an  
15 awkward position, and the teenager said that I allowed  
16 them; meaning, gangs, to stay at my property, my  
17 business on Main Avenue, but what you read about today,  
18 a teenager who turns out to be involved with a gang,  
19 and I never knew that those young people hanging around  
20 my neighborhood were gang members, it just goes to show  
21 you that gang members don't look like gangs, said that  
22 I told them they can hang out there at my building on  
23 Main Avenue.

24 Translation, I'm harboring gangs. But  
25 what you need to know is, and this is what was talked

1 about with the reporter, that this number one, and I  
2 told him, this acknowledges the fact that there're  
3 actually gangs in Scranton; for example, our police  
4 chief said, There's no gangs in Scranton. So, I'm glad  
5 that it's finally acknowledged, but a group of  
6 teenagers that have about a half a dozen places in the  
7 neighborhood to hang out besides my office on Main  
8 Avenue, you know, I'm only one of maybe six that they  
9 like to hang out at, but my location is a good one to  
10 them, because it's right across the street from a  
11 convenient market and there's -- they get their  
12 cigarettes, they get their sodas and candy, but my  
13 office location is only one, but they're told to move  
14 along by us and by the police, so they end up moving  
15 from place to place.

16 But they obviously spend time at my  
17 location at night, because in the morning there's some  
18 liter at the side of my building, and my secretaries  
19 get tired of cleaning it up every day, so what they did  
20 is they put a small little wastebasket, a desk  
21 wastebasket outside hoping that at night, if these kids  
22 come around, that they're going to maybe use the basket

23 instead of throwing soda cans around the side of my  
24 building. But that was a key part of the story, that  
25 meant that I really want them there.

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1 The convenient market has a lot of big  
2 garbage cans, I have a little tiny desk can, but I'm  
3 harboring gangs.  
4 So, anyway, they tell the teenagers,  
5 who don't look like gang members to us, see, I can't  
6 even read my notes now, but we, our neighbors and the  
7 police keep them moving, they like our spot next to the  
8 convenient store.

9 They've actually been cited by the  
10 police for hanging around. And when I do rarely see  
11 them, I tell them that the police won't let you stay  
12 here, I can't let you stay here, and you have to, you  
13 know, move on.

14 But what do you read? That I'm  
15 harboring gangs. And like I said, this is proof that  
16 there's gang activity, because our police chief said  
17 there's none, proof that gangs don't look like gangs,  
18 they look like teenagers.

19 And like it or not, Scrantonians, we

20 live in a political hornets nest, unfortunately,  
21 including the fact that organized had letter writings  
22 to the editor and The Scranton Times obliges them by  
23 drawing a circus tent for being City Council, you seen  
24 that one, a little circus tent?

25 I think the real circus is that a

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1 political newspaper that supports a professional  
2 politician for a mayor, that's the real circus.  
3 But competition is good, and rest  
4 assured that I'm hearing that a second newspaper may  
5 actually be on the horizon in Scranton, and competition  
6 is good, too, there's an election on the horizon.

7 I just have a couple of quick things

8 besides that, if you could be patient for a second,

9 I'll find it. Okay.

10 There's a couple of trees that are

11 marked for four years on the 1000 block of Blair

12 Avenue, and residents have asked me if I could make it

13 a point to mention that at the Council meeting, four

14 years, two trees marked on Blair Avenue, the 1000

15 block.

16 Jay, we were asked to look into making

17 Cooper Avenue at Ward Place a one-way street, and I

18 know you were looking into that, do you have any

19 information on that?

20 MR. SAUNDERS: No, I didn't get

21 anything back on that yet, but I did receive numerous

22 E-mails on that from one individual, and I haven't

23 gotten back to him yet due to the fact that I don't

24 have an answer for him.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

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1 MR. SAUNDERS: So, I will send another

2 request out.

3 MR. DIBILEO: I appreciate that. I

4 went to a great grand opening this evening, early

5 evening, and it was the celebration on the 200 block of

6 Linden Street in the Forum Plaza Building, an along the

7 200 block there, Maureen Duffy's Accessories had a

8 grand opening, and it's a great shop, but the whole

9 block, they had a band out there and they had people in

10 costumes and there were tons of people, and they were

11 celebrating the opening of Maureen Duffy's Accessories,

12 Roxy's Deli, which is new, and Chris West Hair Design,

13 and that was terrific.

14 And lastly, Saint Ann's Maronite Church  
15 at the corner of Sumner Avenue and Price Street will  
16 hold their annual picnic this Sunday from noon to  
17 seven, and they can use your support, so please come  
18 out for that.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. President, I just  
20 forgot one item, if I might real quick?

21 MR. DIBILEO: Sure, absolutely.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: When the newspaper was  
23 brought up to me this morning about the article I spoke  
24 about earlier, I started to read it, and I'm happy to  
25 see that Mary Ann Wardell is well enough to where she

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1 wrote into the newspaper, so Mary Ann, I'm just happy  
2 to see you're doing better, and that's all I have.

3 Thank you, Mr. President.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. That's all I  
5 have, Mr. Walsh.

6 MR. WALSH: Fifth order. There is no

7 fifth order business this evening. Sixth order. 6-A,

8 READING BY TITLE FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 143, 2005 - AN

9 ORDINANCE - VACATING A PORTION OF THE RIGHT OF WAY

10 KNOWN AS ANNICK COURT BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF

11 ANNICK AND CONTINENTAL ROAD (A.K.A. BALD MOUNTAIN ROAD)

12 AND PROCEEDING NORTHEASTERLY FOR A DISTANCE OF 228.27

13 FEET.

14 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading by

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

16 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move that

17 6-A pass reading by title.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

19 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? All

20 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

21 MS. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

23 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

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1 have it and so moved.

2 MR. WALSH: There is no further sixth

3 order business at this time. Seventh order. 7-A, FOR

4 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR

5 ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 144, 2005 - SALE OF TAX

6 DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 1302 MULBERRY STREET, SCRANTON,

7 PENNSYLVANIA, TO JOHN J. HARRINGTON, JR. AND CATHERINE



8 A. HARRINGTON, HIS WIFE, 102 LILAC LANE, SCRANTON,  
9 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, FOR THE SUM OF \$3,500.00.

10 MR. DIBILEO: What's the recommendation

11 for the chairperson for the committee on finance?

12 MS. EVANS: As chair for the committee

13 on finance, I recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

14 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

15 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

16 MR. McTIERNAN: Mr. President, I would

17 just like to make some comments. I had some questions

18 from some folks who have businesses on Mulberry Street,

19 and they were questioning some properly issues, as well

20 as interest in some of these properties, and I'm

21 wondering if there is -- I'd like to make a motion to

22 table this until we can have an opportunity to make

23 sure procedural issues were followed, and rather than

24 to get this tied up in a litigation, just to make sure.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a motion

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1 on the floor.

2 MR. WALSH: There's a motion to table,

3 it would require a second and then a vote.

4 MS. EVANS: I'll second it.

5 MR. WALSH: There's been a motion to

6 table and a second.

7 MR. DIBILEO: A motion on the table and

8 a second. On the question? All those in favor,

9 signify by saying aye.

10 MS. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed?

14 MR. POCIUS: No. I just don't know

15 what's going on with it, and it's too sudden, okay,

16 just too sudden. I can't hear something out here and

17 not know what's going on and I just -- I think this was

18 above board, I don't know. So, I'm going to vote no to

19 table it. It's tabled, so we'll just go forward.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. By a 4-1 vote, 7-A

21 is tabled this evening.

22 MR. WALSH: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

23 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE

24 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 145, 2005 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT

25 PROPERTY AT 1326 MULBERRY STREET, SCRANTON,

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1 PENNSYLVANIA TO LOGO-TEES, INC., D/B/A WILLIAMS

2 MARKETING & SALES, 276 EAST GROVE STREET, CLARKS  
3 SUMMIT, PENNSYLVANIA, 18411, FOR THE SUM OF \$4,500.00.

4 MR. DIBILEO: What is the  
5 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on  
6 finance?

7 MS. EVANS: As chair for the committee  
8 on finance, I recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

9 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

10 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? Roll  
11 call please, Kay.

12 MR. McTIERNAN: Mr. President.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. We have all  
14 question.

15 MR. MCTIERNAN: The same concern, and  
16 maybe I can flesh it out for Mr. Pocius.

17 MR. POCIUS: Well, if it's pending  
18 litigation, I don't --

19 MR. MCTIERNAN: No, no, it's not  
20 pending litigation. There were some folks that said  
21 that they contacted offices of the city expressing  
22 interest in this property, and apparently there was a  
23 miscommunication, at least that's the way it has been  
24 described to me, and asking Mr. Saunders, when we took  
25 a break a few minutes ago during the public comment,

1 what the procedure was and what would happen if there  
2 were some irregularities in the procedure, not  
3 suggesting that there's anything below board, that some  
4 folks did express interest and said they indicated they  
5 were interested in the property and may not have had an  
6 opportunity to look at that, so that came very late in  
7 the day today, a few minutes prior to this meeting  
8 where I was contacted.

9 So, just in the erring on the side of  
10 caution, I voted yes two weeks prior, and I'll, without  
11 any changes to the procedure, I'll probably vote yes a  
12 second time after we -- this will give the folks that  
13 contacted me an opportunity to go through the  
14 procedures and make sure that they had an adequate  
15 opportunity to do this.

16 Mr. Saunders indicates that there  
17 would be a review upon sale of this and there would be  
18 an appeal process, so if we can avoid that appeal  
19 process if there was an error in communications, then  
20 one week wouldn't hurt.

21 So, just to fill that in, and I  
22 apologize, because I'm not in favor necessarily of

23 motions that I'm not aware of, but I got this

24 information very late in the day today.

25 MS. EVANS: I'll second that.

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1 MR. DIBILEO: Did you make a motion?

2 MS. EVANS: Yes, he did.

3 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes, a motion to table

4 Item 7-B.

5 MR. WALSH: A motion to place the

6 matter on the table.

7 MS. Said: And I seconded it.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. There's a motion

9 on the floor and a second. On the question?

10 MR. MCTIERNAN: Just finally, and I

11 would just add, if we don't hear anything from these

12 folks informally, then I would happily vote in favor of

13 this. I have no other knowledge of this property sale,

14 other than what's in front of me in the backup and the

15 phone call I received late this afternoon.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

17 MR. POCIUS: Just on question, just the

18 way these tax sales go, Mr. Walsh, you can back me up,

19 basically once we pass this, there's a petition that

20 the new owners have to go through, they have to bring  
21 clear title to the city, do a title search, then this  
22 is taken to the Court of Common Pleas here in  
23 Lackawanna County, they have to publish it in the local  
24 Jurist, a hearing is set before a judge to approve the  
25 sale, at that time any party go in and actually bid on

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1 the property at that time. Nobody has given up their  
2 rights.

3 When it's got this far, it's basically  
4 been reviewed by all the city agencies, from the  
5 planner to the law department, the engineer and so on  
6 and so forth, so you're -- I just have a feeling we --  
7 I'm going to vote in the negative on the table, and  
8 let's just get on with it. There's no sense going any  
9 farther here.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. All those in favor  
11 of tabling, saying aye.

12 MS. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed?

16 MR. POCIUS: No.

17 MR. DIBILEO: By a 4-1 vote, 7-B is

18 tabled this evening.

19 MR. WALSH: 7-C, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

20 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

21 163, 2005, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

22 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A MASTER LEASE

23 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND DEERE

24 CREDIT, INC. FOR THE LEASE OF EQUIPMENT TO AID IN THE

25 DEMOLITION OF BLIGHTED PROPERTY.

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1 MR. DIBILEO: As chairperson for the

2 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of Item

3 7-C.

4 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

5 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? Roll

6 call please, Kay.

7 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

8 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

9 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

12 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

13 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

15 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby declare

17 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted. Seeing no

18 further business on the agenda, I'll entertain a motion

19 we adjourn.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

21 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

22 MR. POCIUS: We're adjourned.

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24 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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4 C E R T I F I C A T E

5

6 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

7 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

8 notes taken by me on the hearing of the above cause and

9 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same

10 to the best of my ability.



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12

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LISA M. GRAFF, RPR  
14 Official Court Reporter

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