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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL

2 PUBLIC HEARING

3

4 IN RE: FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 146, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE -  
5 ESTABLISHING PERMIT PARKING IN CERTAIN  
6 PORTIONS OF THE 500 BLOCK OF MONROE AVENUE  
7 FROM VINE STREET TO OLIVE STREET ON THE  
8 WESTERLY SIDE AND FROM 514 MONROE AVENUE SOUTH  
9 TO VINE STREET ON THE EASTERLY SIDE.

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9 Held:

10 Thursday, September 29, 2005

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13 Time:

14 6:45 p.m.

15

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17 Location:

18 Council Chambers

19 Scranton City Hall

20 340 North Washington Avenue

21 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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MR. JOHN POCIUS

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9

MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

10

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MR. MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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1 MR.DIBILEO: We have a short public

2 hearing to conduct, and I'd like to call your attention

3 to that, please. And before we have it, Kay, if we can

4 do a roll call, please.

5 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

6 MR. McTIERNAN: Here.

7 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Here.

9 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

10 MR. POCIUS: Here.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

12 Mr. DiBileo.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Here. The purpose of

14 said hearing is to hear testimony and discuss the

15 following: FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 146, 2005 - AN

16 ORDINANCE -ESTABLISHING PERMIT PARKING IN CERTAIN

17 PORTIONS OF THE 500 BLOCK OF MONROE AVENUE FROM VINE  
18 STREET TO OLIVE STREET ON THE WESTERLY SIDE AND FROM  
19 514 MONROE AVENUE SOUTH TO VINE STREET ON THE EASTERLY  
20 SIDE.

21 Now, we have a sign-in sheet for this  
22 public hearing, and there's nobody signed in to speak  
23 on this topic. Is there anyone in the audience that  
24 would like to speak on this public hearing? Okay. If  
25 not, what we'll do is I'll call this public hearing to

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1 a close and we'll be back in about ten minutes for our  
2 regularly scheduled seven o'clock meeting.

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4 (HEARING WAS CONCLUDED.)

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# 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

5 notes taken by me on the hearing of the above cause and

6 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same

7 to the best of my ability.

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LISA M. GRAFF, RPR  
11 Official Court Reporter

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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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5 Held:

6 Thursday, September 29, 2005

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9 Time:

10 7:00 p.m.

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12

13 Location:

14 Council Chambers

15 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

17 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. JOHN POCIUS

8

9 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

10

11 MR. MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

12

13 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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15 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, if we can 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 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Here. For the record,

13 Mr. Courtright is unable to be with us tonight due to

14 a prior family commitment.

15 And now if we can dispense with the

16 reading of the minutes, please, Mr. Walsh.

17 MR. WALSH: Third order. 3-A, PETITION

18 FOR A STREET LIGHT AT THE REAR OF THE 400 BLOCK OF 17TH

19 AVENUE AT FITCH COURT.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Any there any comments on

21 3-A?

22 MR. POCIUS: We need a make to send

23 this -- or make a motion we forward it to MEM.

24 MR. WALSH: Maybe what we should do is

25 just see if there's any comments on this first, and

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4

1 then after that, then make the motion.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Is there any

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

4 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, at this

5 time I'll make a motion that we forward this street

6 light petition to MEM for evaluation and report back to

7 council.

8 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We've a motion on

10 the floor and a second. On the question? All those in

11 favor, signify by saying aye.

12 MS. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

14 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

16 have it and so moved.

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

18 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY,

19 AUGUST 24, 2005.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments on

21 3-B? If not, received and filed.

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

23 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE AUTHORITY MEETING

24 HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2005.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments on

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1 3-C? If not, received and filed.

2 MR. WALSH: 3-D, CITY OF SCRANTON

3 POLICE PENSION PLAN ACTUARIAL VALUATION AS OF JANUARY

4 1, 2005.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments on

6 3-D? If not, received and filed.

7 MR. WALSH: 3-E, MINUTES OF THE

8 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD

9 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2005.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Comments on 3-E? If not,

11 received and filed.

12 MR. WALSH: 3-F, MINUTES OF THE

13 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY,

14 AUGUST 24, 2005.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments on

16 3-F? If not, received and filed.

17 MR. WALSH: 3-G, CITY OF SCRANTON

18 NON-UNIFORM PENSION PLAN ACTUARIAL VALUATION AS OF

19 JANUARY 1, 2005.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Comments on 3-G? If not,

21 received and filed.

22 MR. WALSH: 3-H, Clerk's notes.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Saunders, please.

24 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, we had a

25 petition that passed through Council a couple weeks ago

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1 on a streetlight, I'm just going to update that, Mr.

2 Parker, the city engineer, MEM, they approved the new

3 streetlight on the 200 block of North Sumner Avenue. I

4 will continue to do that, to update the petitions that

5 come through, because we get a lot of phone calls on

6 that, so I will update it during clerk's notes.

7 The other thing I have is Price Rite,

8 the drainage problem on Luzerne Street, we got a letter

9 from Don McKeon from the license and inspection office

10 saying that they do have a contractor to do the work at

11 Price Rite, and that work shall be starting as early as

12 the early part of next week.

13 MS. EVANS: Mr. Saunders, were you able

14 to ascertain whether or not Price Rite is going to be

15 taking care of the grounds on a daily basis in the

16 meantime, because, once again, even during my absence,

17 I've received complaints from the neighbors, and, you  
18 know, it's reached a point now where this is happening  
19 far too many times.

20 It's not the first time, the second  
21 time, the third time, this is probably the fifth time  
22 that I've had to revisit that issue on the exact same  
23 complaint, so there really isn't any excuse for it.

24 MR. SAUNDERS: I'll reach out to Price  
25 Rite and discuss that problem with them.

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1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. SAUNDERS: That's all I have, Mr.  
3 President.

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

5 MR. WALSH: Fourth order, citizens  
6 participation.

7 MR. DIBILEO: I have a sign-in sheet.

8 Before I call up the first speaker, I would like to  
9 make mention of the fact that in case there was anyone  
10 wondering, we had scheduled a caucus meeting this  
11 evening with Jim Wintermantle, the chairman of the  
12 Parking Authority, and we asked him to talk with us  
13 regarding the timeline involved of the Medallion Garage

14 unavailability of parking for the Hilton Hotel And  
15 Conference Center, because we get questioned on that, I  
16 know I do.

17 There was some miscommunication  
18 regarding the openness of the caucus. It was my  
19 intention that we would have an open public caucus  
20 meeting regarding that topic, but apparently that was  
21 not the case of Mr. Wintermantle, he assumed that it  
22 was going to be private, because of litigation possibly  
23 being involved with the Hilton, so we are trying to  
24 determine whether that caucus meeting needs to be  
25 private or if it can be public. Mr. Walsh --

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1 MR. WALSH: And I believe, also,  
2 DiBileo, I had the privilege of speaking with Mr.  
3 Wintermantle this evening, as well as his attorney, and  
4 I think that they're amenable to an open public  
5 setting, but in the back room, rather than on TV, and I  
6 think the Council had believed it was going to be on  
7 TV, and I believe that they had authority to have it  
8 open but public, but in the back room, so I think it's  
9 public either way as to certain issues, but certain  
10 other issues might not be, so I think there was a

11 miscommunication as to the nature of the forum.

12 So, that being said, I don't think it

13 was anybody's fault either way, and we're going to be

14 speaking about resetting that up.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Terrific. And

16 we'll keep you posted on that. And I'd like to welcome

17 all members of the audience, all speakers, and I'd like

18 to remind speakers to please refrain from making

19 comments of a personal nature, and I'll ask our

20 solicitor, Mark Walsh, to help me in making that

21 determination when speech becomes -- should become

22 restricted.

23 Also would like to ask speakers to have

24 your comments be no more than five minutes, if you

25 would, for the benefit of other speakers and those at

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9

1 home.

2 So, with that said, the first speaker

3 is George Parker.

4 MR. PARKER: My name is George W.

5 Parker, I'm the City Engineer for Scranton, I'm the

6 director of The Department of Public Works for

7 Scranton, and a taxpayer in the City of Scranton.

8 My purpose for coming here tonight was  
9 to address a matter having to do with a property at  
10 1066 Hollow Avenue.  
11 Over the last four weeks, I have  
12 received allegations and accusations regarding this  
13 property, I have received them verbally to my face, I  
14 have received them via telephone, I have received them  
15 by mail, one letter being certified mail ordering me to  
16 answer questions under penalty of law and the Right To  
17 Know Act, I received it in another letter advising me  
18 to answer these accusations, not allegations, I have  
19 viewed correspondence over the Internet regarding the  
20 matter, and more recently been apprised of a speaker at  
21 the last Council meeting who also addressed the matter.  
22 Most of the information directed to me  
23 I found to be inaccurate, insightful and inflammatory.  
24 Some of the other information directed at me is pure  
25 slander. I was also apprised that Council has

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1 questions for me regarding this matter, and I would  
2 like to turn it over to Council now for anyone who has  
3 a question for me regarding this subject.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Well, Mr. Parker, I



5 appreciate your being here, first of all. And as you  
6 know, I did give you a phone call this week. I was  
7 unaware of what you just said regarding being contacted  
8 prior to my phone call to you, but as you know, there  
9 was a speaker here last week who had photographs of the  
10 property in question apparently, I wasn't sure what the  
11 address was, and that there appeared to be DPW trucks  
12 on the property.

13 The speaker last week was explaining  
14 that that was private property, a home had just been  
15 built, and that it appeared as though the DPW trucks  
16 were aiding the person who built the home in clearing  
17 the lot, and I simply wanted to ask you if you could  
18 comment on that, and actually I would have shown you  
19 the pictures, but I didn't have an opportunity.

20 MR. PARKER: Firstly, I did not see  
21 those photographs. The comments to me were not  
22 allegations, they were accusations that a DPW truck was  
23 on that property. I don't know how anyone would arrive  
24 at that decision looking at a photograph.

25 Does anyone else from Council have a

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11

1 question?

2 MR. DIBILEO: Kay, do you have the  
3 photographs in -- not that we're going to do this here,  
4 George --

5 MS. GARVEY: No, I don't. He took them  
6 with him.

7 MR. DIBILEO: He took them? Okay. We  
8 don't have those photographs. Does anyone else have  
9 any questions for Mr. Parker?

10 MS. EVANS: I wasn't even aware of this  
11 situation until this moment, so I'm not quite sure  
12 about what you're speaking.

13 MR. DIBILEO: We'll try to get a hold  
14 of those photographs, George, since it was brought up  
15 publicly last week.

16 I'll have you look at them and you  
17 could possibly comment on them, if you would And we're  
18 not insinuating anything, because as far as I know,  
19 that may not even be a private piece of property, I  
20 don't know.

21 I don't know where it is, I have an  
22 idea where it is, but I don't know exactly where it is.

23 And if nobody has any further questions, again, we  
24 appreciate you coming tonight and addressing --

25 MR. PARKER: I have more to address on

12

1 this matter, Mr. Chairman.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Go right ahead, Mr.

3 Parker.

4 MR. PARKER: I intend to address this

5 matter tonight, not in the future. Fact, I have a copy

6 of a survey map conducted by a registered land surveyor

7 in Pennsylvania that outlines the borders of the,

8 quote, private property.

9 It also illustrates where the front

10 line of that property is, which is coincidental with

11 the right of way line for the public right of way for

12 the street in front of it.

13 Fact, the right of way of that street

14 is 50 feet in width, and along the frontage is

15 140 feet. And if you multiply the numbers, that gives

16 you 7000 square feet of land where trees were cleared

17 by the Department of Public Works employees in the

18 course of their duties. The work was entirely done in

19 the right of way. It was not done on private property.

20 Fact, I have two receipts from the

21 property owner, one totalling \$325, one totalling

22 \$3,500, that he paid for the clearing of his private

23 property.

24 When you consider all the

25 correspondence and accusations I have received on this

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13

1 matter, I consider it an orchestrated campaign to

2 discredit this administration and the supervisors and

3 administrators who work for it.

4 I also find it particularly disgusting

5 that people have tried to use union employees of the

6 Department Of Public Works as pawns to advance their

7 political agenda.

8 Finally, there's a saying that photos

9 can be deceiving, I have another version of that,

10 deceivers can take photographs. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Mr. Parker, Mr. Parker,

12 just one question, on what date were the trees removed

13 by the DPW?

14 MR. PARKER: I don't have a date.

15 MS. EVANS: Approximately. I mean, did

16 this happen recently?

17 MR. PARKER: One allegation was August

18 the 16th.

19 MS. EVANS: Of 2005?

20 MR. PARKER: Yes.

21 MS. EVANS: And when did the request

22 come in to remove those trees?

23 MR. PARKER: Sometime prior to that. I

24 do not have an exact date.

25 MS. EVANS: I'm only wondering, because

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14

1 I know from sending you and Mr. Santoli many, many

2 requests about tree trimming and tree removal, that,

3 first of all, the budget is very, very limited, and

4 according to Mr. Santoli, only so many per year can be

5 done, and then, you know, I was also informed that

6 there is almost a waiting list, and it goes according

7 to basically when the requests were made or when the

8 inspections were done, and that's why it takes so very

9 long for all of these cases to be satisfactorily

10 addressed.

11 So, I was just wondering, you know, at

12 what time that originally would have come before you,

13 because, you know, my only concern, I honestly don't

14 know the property you're speaking of the, location, I

15 wasn't here last week, but, you know, on the other

16 hand, unless this were a situation where these trees

17 were falling on -- is there a house on that property?

18 MR. PARKER: There is now.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, I think there's a

20 house now.

21 MS. EVANS: Okay --- that they're

22 falling on that home or falling into the street or

23 whatever, I don't know why that would take precedence

24 over tree removal that would be on the list prior to

25 the entry of this particular location.

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15

1 MR. PARKER: The priority was the

2 property owner got a building permit from the City of

3 Scranton, could not get the building materials into the

4 property.

5 MS. EVANS: Well, I can understand that

6 certainly, because I had a case that was a very similar

7 situation in Green Ridge, where they were enable to do

8 the renovations to a home satisfactorily until trees

9 were removed in front of that property that, you know,

10 the city had planted many, many years ago, but I think

11 they waited about eight or nine months at least.

12 MR. PARKER: I believe you're talking

13 about a developed city street, not an undeveloped city

14 street.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Parker --

16 MS. EVANS: Well, that's probably

17 true, because, like, I can't answer that, because I

18 don't know the location of this property, but, you

19 know, I am concerned that things are done in such a

20 manner that everyone who's making a request, if the

21 request is deemed appropriate by you or Mr. Santoli,

22 that everyone is getting equal treatment.

23 MR. PARKER: I deemed it appropriate,

24 yes.

25 MS. EVANS: Well, that's all I needed

.

16

1 to know. Thank you.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Parker, just quickly,

3 as you know, you and I always got along, and I

4 appreciate your professionalism in your position, and I

5 have to be honest, I'm a little taken aback by the

6 comment you just made regarding politics being involved

7 in this issue.

8 I would like to say that this issue has

9 nothing to do with DPW workers or implying that they

10 did anything illegal.

11 The fact that you're bringing that up  
12 almost makes me wonder if you're not becoming political  
13 with your comments. It has come to --  
14 MR. PARKE: Mr. DiBileo, you need to  
15 understand that the charges that were directed to me  
16 both by correspondence and voice were clearly  
17 political, charging me with political activity.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Let me say that it's come  
19 to my attention that there's all kinds of hell going on  
20 up in that neighborhood involving this issue, I have  
21 not been up there, but the person who took the  
22 photographs is being, from what I'm understanding and  
23 hearing, abused by a relative of the person involved in  
24 this building of the home.

25 I have nothing to do with that. I

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17

1 simply wanted to ask you about the photographs that  
2 were shown to me last week, and that's why I called  
3 you.

4 You didn't need to come here tonight.

5 We can talk about it further, and at this point I  
6 absolutely would like to talk about it further, if the  
7 photographs come before me again. But thank you very



8 much.

9 MR. PARKER: I felt I needed to address  
10 it, because I was charged and accused of illegal and  
11 improper and inappropriate activity.

12 MR. DIBILEO: But not by this Council.

13 You're not saying by this Council.

14 MR. PARKER: Many sources, Mr. --

15 MS. EVANS: Mr. Parker, this isn't on  
16 this topic at all, but I did have two individuals ask  
17 me questions just today that I'm not -- I don't feel  
18 that I am comfortable answering, because I'm unsure of  
19 the response, but perhaps you would know, I know that  
20 you're not with licensing and inspection, but if any  
21 resident wanted to put up a fence around their  
22 property, do they need a permit, and if you need a  
23 permit for anything at all, whether it's, you know,  
24 roofing, siding, etc., painting, does that permit have  
25 to be displayed publicly at all times, even if, you

.

18

1 know, if a project might be ongoing for many, many,  
2 many months?

3 MR. PARKER: That question by that

4 person needs to be addressed to The Department of

5 Permits and Licensing. I do not know the answer.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

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

8 MR. DIBILEO: Reverend Cathryn Simmons.

9 MS. SIMMONS: Good evening, Council

10 members. My name is Reverend Cathryn Simmons, and I'm

11 a lifelong Scranton resident.

12 Peace onto each of you from My Lord

13 Jesus Christ. Last week I spent six days in Erie,

14 Pennsylvania attending an AME conference at Saint James

15 AME Church.

16 While there, I was informed that there

17 was about to be 60 city layoffs, policemen, firemen,

18 city workers, sad, and departments that truly need our

19 prayers.

20 But what I saw and what amazed me the

21 most was that in all of the meetings that were aired on

22 the news stations at night, there was no name-calling,

23 no hatred seared from the audience. Yes, there were

24 words of sorrow about what was to take place, and of

25 course description of whether it was Council's fault or

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19

1 the mayor's fault, but no abuse, no ripping apart of

2 personality, no childlike attacks on persons just to  
3 take a podium and be heard.  
4 I say all this this week to say that  
5 the last Thursday that I was here was the most darken  
6 day. As I sat in this room, you could feel the hatred  
7 and the vindictiveness hovering above this audience.  
8 That should never be allowed to happen  
9 within these historic walls. Persons should come here,  
10 state what is wrong and/or right within their  
11 neighborhoods and this blessed city and then leave the  
12 podium.  
13 If it is felt that someone is not doing  
14 their job, vote them out of office. If you feel  
15 someone is not capable of holding a position they are  
16 running for, don't vote for them. Do not come here and  
17 scream out bold and darkened hatred.  
18 And, President DiBileo, I'm going to  
19 talk to you directly now. I talk to you because you  
20 open each Council with a prayer, words from Father God  
21 himself.  
22 My farther would not want this blessed  
23 house opened and then used for hatred, instead I would  
24 ask all of those to go to Matthew 5, Love your enemies,  
25 bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate

1 you and pray for those who spitefully use you and  
2 persecute you, that you may be the sons of your Father  
3 in Heaven, for he makes the sun rise on both the evil  
4 and the good and sends rain on the just and the unjust.  
5 Amen.

6 Each of you have been given a seat to  
7 lead this city. Do not allow those seats to be used to  
8 yell out imperfections. Use Matthew as your personal  
9 mission statement. Live by it here.

10 Each and every one of you I can  
11 honestly say standing here I have the upmost admiration  
12 and respect for. There's not one person who does not  
13 give of themselves to city work that you cannot say you  
14 at least don't respect. You might not always agree,  
15 but you respect.

16 Respect must come into this hall. This  
17 hatred must stop. This vengeance that we have to  
18 attack you, the administration, whoever is out here  
19 doing work for us, this must end.

20 It does not look good away from here,  
21 and it certainly doesn't look good here. Thank you.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Reverend

23 Simmons. Andy Sbaraglia.

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, citizen

25 of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I wore my Christmas

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21

1 shirt, because Christmas came early this year, at least

2 to the Hilton.

3 Never in my life have I seen a contract

4 given out that was so anti-taxpayers, but even for you

5 to take a portion of the tax on the land and give it to

6 the school is ridiculous.

7 If you're going to come before us and

8 ask for a tax increase, you should be ashamed of

9 yourself. Before you come before the people of

10 Scranton and answer any kind of an increase in taxes,

11 you got to look into your own conscience.

12 You gave away the city, the mayor

13 didn't do it alone. Council and the mayor is

14 responsible for all the giveaways.

15 The trouble we're in now is caused by

16 Council and the Mayor, maybe not this Council, maybe

17 not all of this Council, maybe part of this Council,

18 but it's still there.

19 And for you to continue the giveaways

20 is beyond me how you can even think of it, and then  
21 come before the citizens of Scranton and say, We need  
22 more money.

23 I have come before you on tax issues  
24 probably all the time I came before you, because really  
25 I told you before, there's only two things I'm

.

22

1 interested in, honest and efficient government, nothing  
2 else.

3 I don't like personalities, I don't use  
4 personalities, I don't attack any member of the  
5 Council, I don't attack the Mayor, I attack only  
6 policies, and that's where I stand.

7 I told you before, I'm a black and  
8 white person. Somewhere in our perspective budget  
9 we're going to spend \$65 million, what the Mayor  
10 figures we're going to spend. Where is that \$65  
11 million going to come from?

12 If you gave away this tax incentive,  
13 that tax incentive, the county got their assessors in  
14 there on the homes and reevaluated the homes and gave  
15 away \$1.7 million in lower assessments, that's not in  
16 this budget.

17 We're going to be short tremendously on  
18 this budget, and you are continuing giveaways. You  
19 cannot do that. You should have done what people told  
20 you to do, you should have made a deal with maybe for  
21 only three or four years, because the taxes you're  
22 imposing on us are breaking our backs, it really is.  
23 People are leaving this area, not  
24 because they don't like Scranton, they don't want to  
25 paw the taxes in Scranton. You got businessmen leaving  
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23

1 this area. That was the reason they left, because of  
2 the tax structure inside the city.  
3 You look at the mall, that mall, that  
4 beautiful mall, Boscov's sold the leases for \$40  
5 million out of that mall, because he knew enough to try  
6 to get his money out, and you pour more money into the  
7 ball park, the ski slope, didn't show you a darn thing.  
8 They're drains, and this Hilton is going to be a drain.  
9 There's many things that could have  
10 been done if you needed a convention center, but you  
11 certainly didn't need a hotel to go with it.  
12 When Casey gave you that money, he  
13 assumed you were going to fix the Hotel Casey. If he

14 had known you were going to tear it down and tear down  
15 this garage, you would have never saw a penny of it,  
16 but it's done, it's done, but you've got to stop the  
17 giveaways.

18 Everything that comes before you,  
19 you've got to look at it with a magnifying glass. When  
20 I asked -- when you bought the tractor, the pave loader  
21 and the dump truck, I asked you what was that added on  
22 bill that was there, because they said the lease was so  
23 much and then they had a tax -- tax service added onto  
24 that, I asked you what that was. I never got an  
25 answer, and I probably never will get an answer.

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24

1 For all I know, that goes to the dealer  
2 who wrote the contract. And if \$18,000 went to a  
3 dealer who wrote the contract, there's something wrong,  
4 because this contract went out with non-bidding. But I  
5 don't know.

6 But I asked, and I didn't get an  
7 answer, and I'm quite used to that. I was used to that  
8 under the old Council, and I'm used to that under this  
9 Council, you don't get answers.

10 Yeah, I got a lot of questions, but I



11 don't get answers and probably never will. And I thank  
12 you.

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

14 Ozzie Quinn.

15 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, resident of

16 Scranton. Mr. President, Honorable Council and staff,

17 I'm here tonight because I'm confused. I'm the

18 President of The Scranton Lackawanna County Taxpayers

19 and Citizens Association, we had a meeting Tuesday, and

20 they asked me to come here, okay, because of the fact

21 that I attended and several other members of the

22 association attended a meeting on Monday night of the

23 school board, it was a special meeting regarding the

24 tax abatement, and the agreement that was ratified that

25 night, the last section of it, may I read it to you?

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25

1 MS. EVANS: Uh-huh.

2 MR. QUINN: It says, Section I,

3 Purchaser, that would be the Scranton Electric, okay,

4 agrees to the extent that any year between 2006 and

5 2013, the City of Scranton does not allocate to the

6 school district in the city annual budget under the

7 line item Scranton School District as part of the

8 Scranton budgeting process, not less than the sum of  
9 \$21,930.68 per annum, and such amount is not to be  
10 received by the school district on or before  
11 December 31 of each year.

12 Then purchaser shall pay the shortfall  
13 to the school district within 60 days after written  
14 notification to the purchaser.

15 The school district and the purchaser  
16 both expect the City of Scranton to introduce  
17 legislation to form arrangement and the school district  
18 will cooperate with the purchaser in furtherance of  
19 that legislation.

20 Are you aware of any legislation like  
21 this in regards to the agreement that was signed last  
22 week?

23 MR. DIBILEO: Allow me, Mr. Quinn, to  
24 respond to that. Let me say that I was aware of it,  
25 I'm not certain if my fellow Council members were aware

26

1 of this agreement, but I will say that that offer of  
2 passing along the city's portion of the land tax to the  
3 school district was made by Mayor Doherty unilaterally.  
4 I was made aware of it after the

5 arrangements had been made. I spoke with the school  
6 district, and quite frankly, they did not want to give  
7 up what had already been promised to them. They were  
8 in acceptance of the city's portion the land tax.

9 I had been accused previously of  
10 negotiating unilaterally with the developer involving  
11 the payback of the \$3 million loan; however, Mayor  
12 Doherty did not inform me or anyone else -- well, did  
13 not inform me, let me leave it at that, that he was  
14 negotiating in his attempt to get the school district  
15 to go along with this agreement. He offered the city's  
16 portion of the land tax, and they accepted.

17 MR. QUINN: Well, not only accept it,  
18 okay, I think that they circumvented the Council, okay,  
19 and now he's going to come with legislation, after he  
20 already has told the school district that they're going  
21 to get that money, they're going to get that money, and  
22 I don't think I -- I believe that the agreement was  
23 signed last Thursday, okay, and there shouldn't be any  
24 amendments to that agreement or any other legislation  
25 that would come that's taxpayer's money.

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1 There are also other things mentioned

2 verbally at the meeting of the solicitor of the school  
3 district, that Mr. Doherty is also going to put  
4 sidewalks around the schools, and also that he's going  
5 to waive all permits for any remodeling in the schools.  
6 The school district plans to do a --  
7 they're doing a feasible study now of neighborhood  
8 schools where they plan to close some neighborhood  
9 schools and where the students go into the school that  
10 stays, they plan to remodel, and that's going to be  
11 lots of money, okay?  
12 Now, I don't understand it, okay, that  
13 the Council acts, the legislation comes down from the  
14 mayor and the law department, you people act on it, and  
15 then he goes up there and makes another presentation  
16 and another agreement.  
17 I really think that he should be  
18 reprimanded on it. That isn't the right procedure, and  
19 he's circumventing Council. And we're taxpayers and  
20 we're very much concerned about it, because that's  
21 going to cost lots of money, even if it's OECD, it's  
22 taxpayer's money.  
23 You know, I want to tell you something,  
24 there was a gentleman here last week that tried to  
25 vindicate the mayor because of the debt that the city

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1 is in, okay, saying that he did this and did that.

2 The bottom line is that, there's \$198

3 million we're in debt, okay, for 30 years, \$121

4 principal, \$71 interest.

5 And I want to tell you, the school

6 district is in debt \$131 million, so that's \$328

7 million that the citizens of Scranton, property owners,

8 are in debt.

9 If you add on the county, it goes up to

10 almost a half a billion dollars. So, I don't think

11 that the mayor or anybody else after legislation is

12 approved should go anywhere and should not be -- they

13 should not ratify the situation to give away money at a

14 whim.

15 That's why we're in debt all this

16 money, because it's carte blanche, he's going and doing

17 what he wants to do, and it's a shame, because we have

18 a lot of senior citizens, a lot of elderly, a lot of

19 disabled, a lot of displaced workers, the home fuel is

20 going up, gasoline is going up. People can't afford to

21 pay these taxes, and he can't be giving away this

22 moony.

23 You know, as a matter of fact, and I  
24 don't want to -- we're impartial, he knew back in late  
25 fall that the hotel was falling, okay, that it wasn't  
. .  
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1 making its payments, and he didn't say until after the  
2 primary.  
3 If he had said something back in the  
4 fall, maybe the Council could have negotiated something  
5 with the hotel, okay, with Spectrum, but, no, he just  
6 waited until after the primary when it was too late to  
7 do anything, when it was already in foreclosure, so as  
8 a result we're suffering from this, and I urge you,  
9 don't pass any legislation that it comes down in  
10 relation to what he has given to the school district.  
11 I appreciate that very much.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.

13 Mark Phillips.

14 MR. PHILLIPS: Good evening, Council.

15 My name is Mark Phillips, I'm a Hill Section resident.

16 My wife and I purchased our house in the Hill Section

17 20 years ago.

18 I came here with no real agenda, just

19 to express a different view of the city than is

20 generally expressed here.

21 We sold our house four years ago and we  
22 decided to buy another house in the Hill Section and  
23 raise our family here. We had every opportunity to  
24 leave, but we believed in -- the City of Scranton is  
25 becoming a better place to live, the parks are

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1 beautiful, there's -- I'm a union carpenter, there's  
2 work in the city, I've worked on many projects here,  
3 and I just feel it's a wonderful place to live.

4 And everybody talks about the lousy \$3  
5 fee at Nay Aug Park to go swimming, that's the best  
6 deal in town.

7 I mean, you say it's for rich people,  
8 rich people have their own swimming pools in their  
9 backyard, they're members of Scranton Country Club.  
10 That's a swimming pool for everybody. Everybody can  
11 afford \$3.

12 A gallon of gas now is \$3, a pack of  
13 smokes is \$4. \$3 is the best deal in town. They're  
14 now building water parks everywhere, there's one being  
15 built down at Great Wolf Lodge. That's \$400 a night  
16 for someone to go swimming there. You know, for

17 someone to use Nay Aug Park for \$3 a day, that's a  
18 deal.

19 I just want to say I like living in the  
20 city, I feel safe, I think the police are doing an  
21 excellent job, the fire department, the Department of  
22 Public Works, and I have no complaints. Thank you.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Phillips.

24 Bill Jackowitz.

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening, City

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1 Council, Bill Jackowitz, city resident and taxpayer,  
2 the independent registered voter.

3 Bear with me this evening, I will be

4 changing topics. Well, it seems that the Hilton

5 controversy has been resolved, a new deal has been

6 accepted and the hotel will stay open.

7 My question is, has anyone ever heard

8 of the Mohican Sun or the Mt. Airy Lodge projects?

9 With the new gambling laws, these two organizations are

10 building expensive modern hotels, plus gambling

11 casinos.

12 Mohican Sun is building on the current

13 Pocono Downs property in Plains. The casino alone will



14 have five or six lounges and restaurants to chose from,  
15 their hotel will be built to hold conventions, also  
16 will provide live entertainment, national live  
17 entertainment.

18 Mt. Airy Lodge is doing the same. Both  
19 properties are located outside the city limits. Where  
20 do you think the customers and conventioners will be  
21 going? Table games, not far behind. They will be  
22 going to the casinos for their conventions.

23 I was never in favor of the Hilton  
24 Convention Center. Scranton is not large enough to  
25 hold conventions. It has very little to offer the  
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1 guests; for example, there really are no nightclubs or  
2 restaurants located in the downtown area.  
3 We have many clubs that cater to the  
4 young college crowd, but there is no place in town that  
5 caters to the middle-aged or older crowd. Also, most  
6 of your activities are located outside the city limits.  
7 Examples, Red Barons Baseball, Montage  
8 Ski Resort, Montage Concert Center, Wachovia Area; all  
9 the national chain restaurants, the Penguins Hockey  
10 Team are all located outside Scranton City limits,

11 that's where their entertainment will be outside the  
12 city limits.  
13 I see the surrounding community is  
14 making a profit, not Scranton businesses. I feel in a  
15 few years we will have two vacant hotels one block away  
16 from each other.

17 What plans have the city elected  
18 officials put into place to compete for the almighty  
19 dollar? Scranton has their work cut out for them, to  
20 help the hotel survive.

21 The casinos and hotels should not have  
22 come as a surprise. They have been in the planning  
23 stages for many years. They are only waiting for the  
24 law to be passed. Well, we are there now.

25 City leaders and elected officials, we  
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1 have to work together now. The taxpayer deserves a  
2 break. We cannot afford to lose any more badly planned  
3 deals.

4 I see where the Hilton will not compete  
5 for large conventions. Of course not, they know they  
6 will not get them.

7 I read a cartoon this week, You milk

8 cows, not taxpayers. Funny, but also very serious and

9 truthful.

10 With the election coming up, we will

11 have a mayor starting a new four years, whoever that

12 mayor will be, also two new City Council members. Good

13 time to start fresh, set aside personal agendas and

14 political agendas.

15 Also I feel that there's nothing wrong

16 with elected officials listening to what private

17 citizens, taxpayers, say.

18 Sometimes changing your mind or opinion

19 is the right thing to do. If the elected officials are

20 really serious about getting Scranton out from under

21 distressed city status, they need to do a better job of

22 promoting the city.

23 I feel that you do not do this from

24 within the city limits. People who live in the city

25 know where the parks and theaters are located.

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1 You advertise local events in the

2 newspaper, TV, radio and placing posters in the windows

3 of business.

4 If you really want non-residents in the

5 city to know about your city, you place your billboards  
6 and signs outside the city limits using the interstate  
7 highway system and other roads that bring visitors into  
8 the city, this way the travelers will become aware of  
9 what have Scranton has to offer.

10 Just maybe a traveler will see the  
11 billboards and signs and elect to spend a night in the  
12 town or check it out.

13 Question, how much revenue and tax  
14 money was generated by the current advertising  
15 campaign? I hope we made more than we spent.

16 Our next mayor's top priority should be  
17 getting Scranton removed from the distressed city  
18 rolls. I moved back to Scranton ten years ago. It was  
19 a distressed city then and still is now.

20 Distressed city and restoring the pride  
21 do not belong in the same sentence, but pride has been  
22 restored, Scranton no longer distressed city, that  
23 sounds great.

24 How many parents would like to see  
25 their children remain in Scranton, get a good-paying

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1 job, raise their children in the city? I'm not talking

2 about a job in a neighboring city or community, I'm  
3 talking about a job in Scranton. Would that not be  
4 nice? For the people who are in the best position to  
5 see that this can happen are the Scranton city elected  
6 officials.

7 I would like to know why none of the  
8 major restaurant chains and retail outfits never built  
9 in Scranton. A lot of Scranton money is leaving this  
10 city every single day. We need to keep it in this  
11 city, not in other cities and surrounding communities.

12 And I thank you for your time.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Jackowitz.

14 Bob Griffiths.

15 MR. GRIFFITHS: Good evening, Council.

16 I'm bob Griffiths, I'm the business agent for the  
17 painters union and allied trades. That's the painters,  
18 drywall finishers, paper hangers and glazers, they're  
19 the glass installers, and I'm here tonight to hope  
20 you'll reconsider voting on CRF loan program.

21 CRF loan program spawns economic  
22 development, which means construction in the city. The  
23 Mayor's done a wonderful job at economic development in  
24 the city. We have many construction -- I have -- I  
25 have full employment right now for the last nine

1 months. That hasn't happened in years, and we don't  
2 see it stopping, we see it going right through the  
3 winter and then right around to next spring.

4 Why you're not for construction, I'll  
5 never understand this, especially, Gary, you're running  
6 for Mayor, why you would be against unionized  
7 construction workers, I have no idea.

8 MR. DIBILEO: I'm not, Mr. Griffiths.

9 MR. GRIFFITHS: But when you vote  
10 against these loans that create construction, that's  
11 basically what you're doing.

12 And I've told my members to watch these  
13 meetings and see who -- see how they vote, and the  
14 people that vote against construction, well, then in  
15 November vote against them.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Let me stop you just one  
17 quick second.

18 MR. GRIFFITH: Sure, sure.

19 MR. DIBILEO: I hope they are watching,  
20 because I voted in favor of it.

21 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay.

22 MS. EVANS: Could I ask you, setting

23 aside what I understand is what you consider to be the

24 greatest advantage of this deal, construction jobs,

25 jobs for trades --

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1 MR. GRIFFITHS: For my members.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes. Well, setting that

3 aside, what else in the contract do you find that's a

4 positive? I mean, I've read the contract cover to

5 cover, it has negatives, it has positives, can you tell

6 me what --

7 MR. GRIFFITHS: No. I don't -- I'm not

8 here to say I know every -- you probably may know more

9 about it than I do, but --

10 MS. EVANS: So, you're not aware of

11 anything else, whether negative or positive on the

12 issue?

13 MR. GRIFFITHS: Well, it just seems

14 that you're voting against economic development in the

15 city, and you want to continue to build it in the

16 downtown, especially in the downtown. That's your

17 nucleus to the city.

18 Forget the suburbs. When people come

19 to the City of Scranton, when they leave, they go back

20 home, they either go back home saying Scranton is on  
21 the outs, it's a dump or it's a city on the move, and  
22 right now I see it as a city on the move.  
23 I mean, everywhere you go there's a  
24 crane in the air and there's construction and why would  
25 you want to stop it now?

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1 MS. EVANS: Well, I don't want to stop  
2 it at all, I'm very much in favor of economic  
3 development, but not at the cost of the taxpayers. And  
4 --

5 MR. GRIFFITHS: My union workers are  
6 also taxpayers. These unionized workers are also  
7 taxpayers now.

8 MS. EVANS: Absolutely, those who  
9 reside in Scranton, yes.

10 MR. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

11 MS. EVANS: But I would have to say  
12 it's far too complicated an issue to be painting it  
13 with such a broad brush that it's good for economic  
14 development in terms of it's good for giving --

15 MR. GRIFFITHS: Well, what type of  
16 economic development has happened before Chris Doherty



17 came?

18 MS. EVANS: -- in labor jobs. Pardon?

19 MR. GRIFFITHS: What type of economic

20 development in the city has happened before Chris

21 Doherty?

22 MS. EVANS: And what --

23 MR. GRIFFITH: You keep bashing the

24 Hilton, would you rather see the old Casey Hotel that

25 you couldn't even walk around because bricks were

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1 falling, is that what you would rather see?

2 MS. EVANS: You said that you've been

3 working for nine months now, or was that the other job?

4 MR. GRIFFITH: Oh, we've --

5 MS. EVANS: You've been working

6 constantly for the last four years in the City of

7 Scranton?

8 MR. GRIFFITH: I have had workers in

9 the city, absolutely. I've had some workers. I've had

10 some workers.

11 MS. EVANS: I'm very glad to hear that,

12 because --

13 MR. GRIFFITH: I've worked here. I

14 painted -- with my own two hands I painted this room  
15 that we're standing in.

16 MS. EVANS: It was only two years ago  
17 when I ran for this office initially that many labor  
18 leaders told me about the treatment they had received  
19 from this administration, they were very unhappy.

20 MR. GRIFFITHS: Well, I don't think  
21 you're getting that from local building trades, I think  
22 you're getting that --

23 MS. EVANS: Yes.

24 MR. GRIFFITHS: Well, I would have to  
25 disagree with that, I do. I just really hope --

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1 MS. EVANS: I know we haven't spoken,  
2 but --

3 MR. GRIFFITH: Nothing against you,  
4 Gary, nothing against you, I just really hope you  
5 really consider revoting for this loan program.

6 MS. EVANS: And I thank you for coming  
7 and I respect your opinion, but I, too, hope that you  
8 can investigate this contract and this deal much more  
9 closely than you have and weigh the pros and cons of  
10 it.

11 I can certainly understand that you're  
12 representing a special interest group, and, you know,  
13 that's your job, you're to be admired for that,  
14 certainly, but, you know, do a closer investigation  
15 before you form an absolute opinion.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Mr.

17 Griffiths, Mr. Griffiths -- Mr. Ancherani, could you  
18 ask him if he could come back for one second?

19 Okay. I'll make my comment anyhow. I

20 was in a mayoral debate last Friday, and this exact  
21 subject came up. Under the rules of the debate, the  
22 candidates were able to question the other candidate,  
23 so a question came from the Doherty campaign asking me  
24 about this issue, it's becoming a real hot political  
25 potato, and my answer to this question was, I turned  
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1 and I looked at the Mayor and I said, Mayor, come to  
2 City Council, tell my colleagues what you want the  
3 money for and I'll get you those votes, and I will  
4 absolutely get Mr. Courtright and Mrs. Evans' vote,  
5 because I know, they've told me, if he'll come to City  
6 Council and tell us what he wants the money for,  
7 they'll vote in favor of it, and I will once again vote

8 in favor of it.

9 That's it in a nutshell. And I'm happy

10 that these union members are coming, but it's

11 unfortunate that the Mayor hasn't come one time, at

12 least on this topic, to tell Mrs. Evans and Mr.

13 Courtright what he would like the money for, because I

14 think they'll jump on the chance to vote for it, and

15 I'll jump on the chance to once again vote in favor of

16 it. Pretty simple.

17 MS. EVANS: I'll just add one remark to

18 that, yes, I will jump on it, if it's a worthy project

19 and if it is in the best interest of the taxpayers of

20 this city.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Very well said, Mrs.

22 Evans. Henry Sallusti.

23 MR. SALLUSTI: Thank you. My name is

24 Henry Sallusti, I'm a citizen of Scranton and also a

25 taxpayer of Scranton.

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1 I was here last week and addressed

2 Council talking about the amount of debt that was

3 alleged that the City of Scranton has, and with Jay

4 ringing the bell, I wasn't able to formulate all my

5 thoughts, and I just want to come back and finish what  
6 I said.

7 The \$198 million is grossly  
8 overexaggerated. And I looked at the city's financials  
9 and information that was sent to the Department of  
10 Community and Economic Development, and I think maybe  
11 where some of this money is coming from is what is  
12 called self-liquidating debt, and in order for an issue  
13 to be called self-liquidating debt, it has to go  
14 through a three-prong test, it has to be -- and I'm  
15 going to read from the Local Government Unit Debt Act  
16 what it states, A statement by the property officials  
17 of the local government unit certifying the amount of  
18 the debt, the project for which it's incurred and the  
19 nature of the revenues.

20 The second part of that is a  
21 certificate from a qualified professional engineer or  
22 architect or another person qualified by experience  
23 appropriate to the project estimating the revenues and  
24 operating expenses of the project and showing that the  
25 net revenue so estimated will be sufficient to pay the

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1 annual debt service as it falls due.

2 And the third part of this is an  
3 opinion of bond Council approving the issue to the  
4 effect that the holders of the bonds or the notes have  
5 no claim upon the taxing power or tax revenues of the  
6 local government unit issuing the bonds or notes.

7 So, I went back and looked at the debt  
8 that maybe that they're considering, and it looks like  
9 it might be the Scranton Sewer Authority and the  
10 Scranton Parking Authority and the Scranton  
11 Redevelopment Authority.

12 I know of two of those three have been  
13 around -- the Scranton Parking Authority has been  
14 around since 1968, the Scranton Sewer Authority has  
15 been around since 1969.

16 There has been many mayors that have  
17 come and have gone that have called upon the city's  
18 guarantee to insure better rates for those issuing  
19 entities.

20 Since that time, none of those -- not  
21 any of those three authorities have ever had to call  
22 upon the city's guarantee to make payments on those  
23 issues.

24 So, as I stated last week, the number,  
25 and we heard it again tonight from somebody with

1 another \$198 million number, that number again, as I  
2 state, for the City of Scranton, the direct obligation  
3 of the city is \$79,015,000, and it will stand by that  
4 number.

5 And I also wanted to point out, last  
6 week Mr. DiBileo asked me a question about any of the  
7 debt being extended, and I thought that Gary was  
8 talking about the bonds. Not one of the bonds were  
9 extended, but the Provident loan was extended, and I  
10 just wanted to clarify that issue. So, if anybody has  
11 any questions, I --

12 MS. EVANS: Yes, I do.

13 MR. SALLUSTI: Sure.

14 MS. EVANS: First of all, Mr. Sallusti,  
15 have you read the independent audit?

16 MR. SALLUSTI: Yes, I have.

17 MS. EVANS: And have you read the  
18 beginning of the audit where it states the auditor's  
19 complied with current accepted accounting practices and  
20 procedures?

21 MR. SALLUSTI: Yes, I have.

22 MS. EVANS: And so you're aware the

23 independent auditor did include the municipality  
24 authorities debts and the Doherty \$198 million  
25 long-term debt.

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1 MR. SALLUSTI: I understand that.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes. So, they're not my  
3 figures, they are the auditor's figures.

4 MR. SALLUSTI: That's correct, they're  
5 in the audit.

6 MS. EVANS: And he has included this in  
7 the audit.

8 MR. SALLUSTI: I understand that, but  
9 did you hear what I said earlier?

10 MS. EVANS: Yes, I heard what you said.

11 I'm --

12 MR. SALLUSTI: Did you understand The  
13 Local Government Unit Debt Act --

14 MS. EVANS: Yes.

15 MR. SALLUSTI: -- that that is taken  
16 out?

17 MS. EVANS: On what -- but it's in,  
18 excuse me, but it is in an audit that we're paying  
19 \$35,000 for the completion.



20 On what, Mr. Sallusti, on what bond  
21 issues or refinancing did you or your firm work?

22 MR. SALLUSTI: As I stated last week at  
23 the meeting --

24 MS. EVANS: I wasn't here.

25 MR. SALLUSTI: I understand that,

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1 that's why I'm back tonight.

2 MS. EVANS: That was very gracious.

3 MR. SALLUSTI: Sure, I'm glad to be  
4 back.

5 MS. EVANS: Jay, will you hold the  
6 clock, because I asked several questions.

7 MR. SALLUSTI: Do we have a timeout,  
8 Jay? Do we have a time out? Okay. I served, as I  
9 stated last week, as the senior manager on the city's  
10 2003 bond issue, along with Janney Montgomery Scott and  
11 Commerce Capital Markets. JB Kelly and Jerry  
12 Stanavitch were also the co-bankers on that issue.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Quick question.

14 MR. SALLUSTI: Sure.

15 MR. DIBILEO: What are the percentages  
16 involved with those three companies involved in that

17 matter? I'm sorry, Mrs. Evans.

18 MR. SALLUSTI: Sure. RBC received

19 65 percent of the issue, Commerce Capital received

20 30 percent, and Janney Montgomery Scott received five

21 percent, and I'd just also like to point out that RBC

22 did 100 percent of the work.

23 MS. EVANS: Now, did your firm secure

24 the work because you were the low bidder.

25 MR. SALLUSTI: It's a professional

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1 service.

2 MS. EVANS: So, it was never put out

3 for bid?

4 MR. SALLUSTI: That's correct.

5 MS. EVANS: In other words, you just

6 received the work without bidding for it. Now, please

7 --

8 MR. DIBILEO: Let me stop. The

9 audience members, please, have to hold their comments

10 down and any noise while Mrs. Evans speaks with Mr.

11 Sallusti, please.

12 MS. EVANS: How much money was your

13 firm paid for the work it did?

14 MR. SALLUSTI: Mrs. Evans, that's a  
15 good question. That was in The Times-Tribune dated  
16 July 12, 2003, it was also addressed at Council, and I  
17 believe --

18 MS. EVANS: I wasn't on Council in  
19 2003.

20 MR. SALLUSTI: Okay, I understand that,  
21 but you're been reading the papers, I assume, since  
22 that time.

23 MS. EVANS: I don't often read the  
24 newspaper, to tell you the truth.

25 MR. SALLUSTI: All right. Well, I will

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1 say this, that it was discussed at Council when I was  
2 making the presentation in locking in interest rates,  
3 and I believe at the time it was with Mr. DiBileo and  
4 Mr. Murphy.

5 It was in the paper, I'll gladly talk  
6 about it. The underwriter's discount for our bond  
7 issue in 2003 was \$614,550.

8 The 2001 bond issue, which was only  
9 \$22 million, \$22,630,000, that underwriter's discount  
10 at that time was \$678,900.

11 MS. EVANS: Did you work on that, also?

12 MR. SALLUSTI: Pardon me? No, I did

13 not. I worked on the less expensive more profitable to

14 the city bond issue.

15 MS. EVANS: I'll tell you, though, the

16 only thing that stuck with me, I think, from the

17 transactions of that time -- well, actually, no, I

18 should correct myself, because this didn't reveal

19 itself until long, long afterwards, was that the

20 insurance to obtain the bond rating was a million

21 dollars, and that was never disclosed at the time of

22 the vote, nor was that in the newspaper.

23 Now, did your firm do --

24 MR. SALLUSTI: That's -- that is --

25 MS. EVANS: Excuse me.

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1 MR. SALLUSTI: Wait a minute, now. You

2 stated something, and I'd like to --

3 MS. EVANS: Mr. Sallusti, I'm speaking,

4 so I'd appreciate it if you don't interrupt.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Please allow Mrs. Evans

6 to speak.

7 MR. SALLUSTI: Sure.

8 MS. EVANS: Did your firm do any other

9 work for the Doherty Administration?

10 MR. SALLUSTI: As I stated last week --

11 MS. EVANS: Well, I wasn't here, so --

12 MR. SALLUSTI: Okay. That's fine. As

13 I stated last week, we served as the financial advisor

14 for the city's Scranton Sewer Authority lease back that

15 we came before Council and received approval.

16 MS. EVANS: And then how much money

17 were you paid for that work?

18 MR. SALLUSTI: Our firm was paid

19 \$25,000.

20 MS. EVANS: All right. And who

21 directed you to appear at this podium to speak on

22 behalf of the Mayor?

23 MR. SALLUSTI: You know what, Mrs.

24 Evans, I'm a city resident, and that question you just

25 asked -- this is the United States. I can come here

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1 and speak.

2 MS. EVANS: You absolutely can, yes.

3 MR. SALLUSTI: Thank you very much.

4 MS. EVANS: But Mr. Sallusti --

5 MR. SALLUSTI: I'm here to clarify a

6 misstatement that you made.

7 MS. EVANS: I didn't make a

8 misstatement.

9 MR. SALLUSTI: Well, who did make the

10 statement that the city was \$198 million in debt, who

11 on Council did say that?

12 MS. EVANS: I said that according to

13 independent audit of Rossi & Sons.

14 MR. SALLUSTI: Did you read --

15 MS. EVANS: Now, what I can do for you,

16 though, if you'd like, let the debate begin, I can

17 bring in Mr. Rossi, would you like to sit down with him

18 and tell him his figures are incorrect?

19 MR. SALLUSTI: As we said last week,

20 Mrs. Evans, we're going to have a caucus -- I believe

21 Mr. DiBileo did state that, but I just wanted to come

22 in. There was a couple things I want to talk about to

23 clarify. I will gladly sit down with Mr. -- the

24 auditor for the city, gladly do that, I'll sit down

25 with Mr. DiBileo, Mr. Pocius, Mr. Courtright, Mr.

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1 McTiernan, yourself, Jay, Mr. Walsh, anybody who wants,

2 we'll sit down and gladly go over these numbers.

3 MS. EVANS: And just for the record

4 here, I'm very glad that you're here, and certainly as

5 you so eloquently stated, you have every right to come

6 as a citizen and taxpayer of the City of Scranton,

7 however, I've not seen you at the podium during the two

8 years or nearly two years in which I've been seated

9 here, and I just -- I think most likely I've touched a

10 nerve here with that figure. And I think --

11 MR. SALLUSTI: Well, when you misstate

12 --

13 MS. EVANS: I'm not misstating

14 anything, I'm merely adding the total principal to the

15 total interest reported in the audit by a highly

16 reputable firm.

17 MR. SALLUSTI: I understand that.

18 Again, the city's direct debt -- you're counting the

19 parking authority, the Redevelopment Authority and the

20 sewer authority, right?

21 MS. EVANS: Which I'm assuming we must

22 have pledged full faith and credit for.

23 MR. SALLUSTI: Which is correct, and

24 I've stated tonight and I've stated that before.

25 MS. EVANS: Yes.

1 MR. SALLUSTI: Again, they've never had

2 to draw upon the city's guarantee.

3 MS. EVANS: They've never had \$198

4 million worth of debt before either. Thank you,

5 Mr. Sallusti.

6 MR. SALLUSTI: Those authorities have

7 been around since Mayor Walsh and Mayor Peters, and

8 President Linden Johnson and President Nixon.

9 Nothing's gone wrong since then. And for you --

10 MS. EVANS: But they've never quite

11 been as active and empowered as they have been in the

12 last four years. They've been doing business almost

13 daily.

14 MR. SALLUSTI: You're not going to just

15 sit here and pick a number out of the sky and have

16 people believe it. I'm here to correct it.

17 MS. EVANS: Mr. Rossi picked the number

18 out of the sky, Mr. Sallusti, maybe you should --

19 MR. SALLUSTI: -- debt act states what

20 the city's direct obligation debt is.

21 MS. EVANS: Maybe you should come in

22 and defend Council then so we wouldn't have to pay the



23 \$35,000 for the audit.

24 MR. SALLUSTI: Thank you.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much.

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1 Thank you. Nothing wrong with a little heated debate

2 once in a while. Doug Miller.

3 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,

4 Doug Miller. I think the audience needs to cool it

5 down a little bit, it's getting a little much back

6 there, but I won't spend too much time on that, it's a

7 waste of time anyway.

8 I just want to start off, I want to

9 thank Council for giving me the opportunity to speak

10 here every week. Like I said when I first came here, I

11 really think that it's important that the young kids

12 get involved in this election.

13 And as you know, we are the future of

14 the city, so that's important that kids come out and

15 get involved and help out in any way to help make a

16 difference.

17 Channel 61, I have a couple of

18 complaints about that. They want to start cutting back

19 on the air time of the City Council meetings. I don't

20 understand why they're doing this, because there's so  
21 many people out there that look to this channel to see  
22 what's going on in our local government, and to see  
23 them do this, I don't think it's right.

24 So, I want to ask Channel 61 tonight if  
25 they could please go back to the original schedule the  
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1 way it used to be where they would air the meetings  
2 live on Thursday night until Wednesday, and that's the  
3 way it should be.

4 I think now they go Thursday night  
5 live and then all the way until Sunday night or Monday,  
6 but I think it should be until Wednesday.

7 Today I was on the computer and I was  
8 on visiting different web sites, and I came across  
9 Chris Doherty's campaign website, and he has a link on  
10 there, you can click on there, and he has these  
11 different letters that he has written to his  
12 supporters, and I'll tell you one thing, not one of  
13 those letters was a positive letter, they're all  
14 negative, and I want to read a little bit of one that  
15 he has on here.

16 As expected, my opponent and his

17 supporters continue to spread false claims about my  
18 administration and the City of Scranton using City  
19 Council meetings as their forum.

20 Here are some of the issues being  
21 discussed there and my analysis of what they really  
22 mean. You can help me by knowing the facts about  
23 issues facing our city.

24 And he has here, Council  
25 agenda/politics. I'm not going to read all of it, but

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1 I'll just read some bits and pieces of it.

2 He has here, Last week -- what this

3 meeting is about is he's upset that the City Council

4 had the August meetings, that's normally the recess, so

5 he has here, with nothing on their minds but politics,

6 City Council members, Mr. DiBileo, Mrs. Evans and Mr.

7 Courtright have decided to meet in the month of August,

8 traditional Council summer recess.

9 If last week's meeting is an example

10 what we can expect from them, it will be another month

11 of Doherty bashing, and then I won't read anything --

12 I'll read this here.

13 He has, The agenda is hours of free

14 exposure on Channel 61. He has, Among the Council and  
15 their handpicked speakers, there seems to be a desire  
16 to let Scranton fail, rather than see me get any credit  
17 for its success.

18 Well, I want to ask this Mayor, why  
19 can't he come here? He has time to write this on his  
20 website, why can't he come here and speak to us in  
21 front of everybody here, instead of writing and putting  
22 this on his website. Come here and say it to our  
23 faces, don't put it on the website.

24 And the last thing I have here is, this  
25 is from Mr. DiBileo, Stipp Court, there was some issues  
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1 over there, a light had to be fixed and there was some  
2 potholes that had to be filled in, well, this citizen  
3 told me that you would recognize her e-mail address,  
4 [\[email protected\]](#), and she wanted me to thank you again  
5 for taking action and showing true leadership in  
6 getting this done. Thank you, Mr. DiBileo. Thank you.

7 MR. DIBILEO: She's very welcome. Bob  
8 Bolus.

9 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council. Bob  
10 Bolus, Scranton.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

12 MR. BOLUS: One thing I would like to  
13 start off with tonight is, you know, we've all seen  
14 about Katrina and Rita, you know, I couldn't be a  
15 prouder individual of this area to know that the  
16 volunteers that came forward when we took the first  
17 trailer load of food into Gulfport, Mississippi.

18 We have seen millions and millions of  
19 dollars for cruise ships and millions squandered all  
20 over the place, trucks sitting everywhere.

21 Our people in Northeastern PA came out.  
22 They didn't worry about writing a check, they actually  
23 took their time, went to the stores, bought product for  
24 people down there.

25 And I was -- I'm just here tonight to

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1 say after seeing all that in the news and where people  
2 are not getting supplies or anything, how these people  
3 came together, how our drivers got the load through and  
4 did the job, and I think that's just one heck of a  
5 comment and credit to our people in Northeastern PA to  
6 know what we did. I really want to put my sincere  
7 thanks to them.

8 Next, and this has nothing to do with  
9 Scranton City business, but I'm on a mission to  
10 retrieve the Sergeant William Genaust, the Marine, who  
11 actually did the filming of the flag raising on Iwo  
12 Jima.  
13 I'm just simply asking here tonight  
14 that nay Marine that may have been on the island at  
15 that time and would have any information that would  
16 help me to further this mission along, I would  
17 appreciate it if they can call me. If I may, Mr.  
18 DiBileo, I'd like to give our office number, if I can.  
19 MR. DIBILEO: Certainly.  
20 MR. BOLUS: It's 570-346-7659. And if  
21 they would, I would really appreciate anything that  
22 came out. A Marine a couple weeks ago gave me a map of  
23 the island, and it's been extremely helpful.  
24 Next, a quick thing, Lee Morgan isn't  
25 here, but on Saturday, October 1 at Nay Aug Park,

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1 there's a Support the Lung Walk, Lung Health and Walk.  
2 The walk begins at 10 a.m., and it's at Nay Aug Park.  
3 A lot people can come out and support Lee and  
4 everybody, because we all know what he went through.

5 Next, I have a letter here that is  
6 re-elect Chris Doherty campaign signed by Chris  
7 Doherty, Jr., Class of 2005.  
8 It's as a member of the Scranton High  
9 School Class of 2005, he's basically asking to support  
10 his dad's campaign.

11 I have a problem with this, in that  
12 this letter went out to students from roughly 2000 to  
13 the present, and I believe a lot of this information  
14 should be kept confidential, as the students' names,  
15 addresses, et cetera, and I really question whether or  
16 not there was authorization or how he got this  
17 information to send it to people and use the mail to  
18 mail this information to these people.

19 I'm just wondering if it's a violation  
20 of someone's privacy that someone has a list of their  
21 confidential addresses and places, to be able to send  
22 this type of political mailing out, and I would ask  
23 Council to look into this and possibly ask the school  
24 board how confidential information from the school  
25 district was given out to an individual per se that

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1 should have access to those records.

2 On the issues that we've been listening  
3 here tonight, Scranton is a great place to live. I  
4 live here and so do a lot of other people, we've made  
5 our businesses here and we raised our families, but  
6 it's not as safe as it used to be and you can't leave  
7 your car unlocked anywhere. So, maybe in some spots in  
8 The Hill they don't have the drugs, but other places we  
9 have problems.

10 But, you know, the bottom line is,  
11 Scranton is a great place, but it's made that way  
12 because of the residents that are paying the bills, not  
13 the administration.

14 So, when the unions come in here and,  
15 you know, quite frankly I'm getting tired of hearing  
16 them badgering everybody to strong arm a couple  
17 councilmen here to do things their way.

18 This isn't a union hall, it's not a  
19 union strike and it's not a place for unions to come in  
20 and demand that Mrs. Courtright, not Mrs. Courtright,  
21 Mrs. Evans and Mr. Courtright, I guess you two are  
22 getting together on this thing, have to be badgered.

23 I understand -- I was given a comment  
24 today, Oh, Gary just made a turnaround to say that if  
25 this was right, he would vote for it and see that he



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1 I tried to get the votes.

2 I agree with that. If it's a project

3 that's deserving in this city and it's not all big

4 secret, then put it on the table and tell us what it

5 is. We all want to know, but don't ask us to shoot in

6 the dark.

7 Maybe they like it, maybe it's security

8 for them, maybe they like the no-bid process in the

9 city, too, and all the other issues.

10 If they're so supportive, ask Chris

11 Doherty what he did with his campaign finances when he

12 ran for Mayor if they're that interested in questions

13 and also ask whether there were other bids anywhere

14 else in this city, other than what he does.

15 And Chris Doherty has made some

16 statements in the past that go on and on and on about

17 crazy things in the city. If they're interested in

18 that, tell them to tell Chris Doherty to put a fee in

19 place in the city on KOZs and non-profits, like the

20 University and other places, if the unions are so

21 concerned.

22 You know, Chris Doherty made a couple

23 statements regarding the Hilton, you know, that there  
24 he is, if you build it -- these were made by other  
25 people, they will come. It turns out not to be the  
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61

1 case. It was overfunded, overbuilt.  
2 Doherty's comments were, As a business,  
3 you keep going. Just push ahead and you'll be  
4 successful, Mr. Doherty said.  
5 I think it has been a great asset, the  
6 spinoff has been great restaurants and business growth  
7 and it will continue to grow.  
8 We saw Bella Notte, they closed, so I  
9 don't know who's growing. But one thing he's doing  
10 here, it's, you know, full speed ahead on the Titanic.  
11 We saw the captain that ran that ship and we saw where  
12 that went.  
13 Well, I think Captain Chris is about  
14 ready to run the city into the same circumstances that  
15 the Titanic went, and the passengers this time are his  
16 residents of the City of Scranton.  
17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.  
18 MR. BOLUS: Thank you very much.  
19 Bye-bye.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Jim Stucker.

21 MR. STUCKER: My name is Jim Stucker, I  
22 live on Main Avenue. My landlord told me to tell you,  
23 all of you, we have a building for sale, the building I  
24 live in. They want to -- they're putting up a sign for  
25 sale, they want to sell it. Anybody that wants to buy

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1 it, they can come over and look at it, go through it.

2 Frank, his name is. Frank told me to tell you he wants  
3 to talk to you.

4 MR. DIBILEO: All right, Jim. Thank  
5 you.

6 MR. STUCKER: He wants you to call him  
7 tomorrow.

8 MR. DIBILEO: All right. Thank you  
9 very much.

10 MR. STUCKER: In the morning about nine  
11 o'clock tomorrow.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

13 MR. STUCKER: Now, right around the  
14 corner across from the parking lot and the church, we  
15 need a bus sign there.

16 MR. DIBILEO: You need a bus sign

17 there, Jim?

18 MR. STUCKER: Yeah, we need a bus sign

19 there to pick up the people.

20 MR. DIBILEO: All right. I see Mr.

21 Saunders already making notes. All right, Jim.

22 MR. STUCKER: You know where that big

23 bank used to be on Main Avenue?

24 MR. DIBILEO: Uh-huh.

25 MR. STUCKER: Well, we need a sign

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1 right around the corner.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Around the corner from

3 the bank.

4 MR. STUCKER: Yeah.

5 MR. DIBILEO: All right. He's writing

6 away over there.

7 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, I'll talk to the

8 county about that. That's a county issue, but I'll

9 talk to them about that.

10 MR. STUCKER: Oh, Jay.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Jim.

12 Appreciate that.

13 MR. STUCKER: And I'll be there

14 tomorrow.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Thanks, Jim.

16 Okay. Les Spindler.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council,

18 Les Spindler, Scranton resident.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

20 MR. SPINDLER: I wasn't going to say

21 anything about this, but I have one quick comment about

22 something Mr. Griffiths said, he said what economic

23 development was there downtown before Chris Doherty,

24 well, I have three words to say, Mall at Steamtown

25 under Jim Connors.

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1 Now, in last Saturday's paper the Mayor

2 called the promotions justified, all his signs and

3 billboards and this and that, he spent \$46,000, well,

4 what did we think he was going to say?

5 That money could have been better well

6 served for many other reasons, and one good reason it

7 could have been well served as for something Mr.

8 Ancherani has been asking for months and months and

9 months, to give the city workers that served in Iraq

10 risking their lives the money that he has been asking

11 that they should get. That would be a much better  
12 reason to spend \$46,000, than Chris Doherty's self  
13 promotion.  
14 I have a couple of things to read here.  
15 Mayor Doherty, how do we get on the A List? Here's  
16 something for Mayor Doherty's \$46,000 taxpayer funded  
17 public relations re-election machine of billboards,  
18 banners, newspaper ads and TV commercials.  
19 DPW performs work on private property.  
20 The only question is, Mayor, how do we get on the list?  
21 Who do we call? What do we have to do? Who do we have  
22 to know?  
23 There are 80,000 people in Scranton and  
24 30,000 properties, and only about 100 DPW workers, so  
25 someone is going to be left out. Do we have to make a  
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1 campaign contribution, put up a sign? Just let us know  
2 the ground rules.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Spindler, as Mr.

4 Parker stated earlier, he is claiming that that is not  
5 private property, that --

6 MR. SPINDLER: Well, the gentleman with  
7 the pictures is here, so that's the proof, he came

8 purposely for that reason.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

10 MR. SPINDLER: I am going to continue,

11 because Mr. Parker says whatever Chris Doherty wants

12 him to say.

13 Remember, a DPW director in the

14 Connor's Administration being involved in similar

15 activity, he resigned the next day. Recall a

16 supervisor doing work on private property, he was

17 fired. With Mayor Doherty, what do we hear? The sound

18 of silence.

19 Here's a question for the people of Scranton, Will you

20 be fooled again?

21 Something else to read here, the

22 Scranton Times, a fall from grace, where is the

23 Pulitzer Surprise winning investigating reporting of

24 the Scranton Times on the Chris Doherty Administration?

25 Absent, silent, nowhere to be found, heaven as saying,

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1 hoping against hope that the people are too dumb to

2 notice that they are protecting one of their own, that

3 their journalistic values and standards are on hold,

4 that they can hold their nose for one more month, then

5 forget that they consistently use a double standard  
6 when it came to Chris Doherty.  
7 Do they really think that the people of  
8 Scranton are that stupid? Publishers, editors,  
9 reporters, where is your integrity? Is this what you  
10 learned in school? Is this why you chose this career?  
11 You heard long ago that the ends do not  
12 justify the means, but in this case, you had made an  
13 exception.  
14 To be accurate, the editors and  
15 reporters are doing a bidding of the owners who pay the  
16 salaries, but that is another issue.  
17 If a newspaper is not fair, it is  
18 nothing, Scranton Times. Show some backbone. Are you  
19 journalists or too-bit politicians? Your reputation is  
20 in shambles. Your credibility has fallen. But people  
21 are not dumb.  
22 Have you seeded your moral authority  
23 through the people of Channel 61? Thank God someone  
24 has courage and intelligence.  
25 A couple other things, I was hoping

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1 Mr. Parker would stay here, for three years now before



2 this Council even was here, well, some of this Council,  
3 I commented about my sidewalks being flooded every time  
4 it rains, to this date, so far nothing has been done.

5 Letters have been sent, and I've not gotten anything  
6 done with my problem.

7 Can we send another letter or see  
8 what's going on? Or maybe because I'm not a Chris  
9 Doherty backer, it won't get fixed.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Have you heard anything,  
11 Mr. Saunders?

12 MR. SAUNDERS: No, I've not heard  
13 anything else on that.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Can we send another  
15 letter? It's a problem the city caused.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We'll do that.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Something else, I was  
18 told three of my daughters played soccer at Weston  
19 Field for four years now, I was told three years ago  
20 that parking lot will be paved. It still has yet to be  
21 paved, it's like a mine field.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

23 MR. SPINDLER: Now, what seems to be  
24 the problem, this is three years now.

25 MR. DIBILEO: We will make that request

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1 again, Mr. Spindler.

2 MR. SPINDLER: I wish Mr. Parker was

3 here to answer these questions. Thank you.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Mike Dudek.

5 MR. DUDEK: Good evening. My name is

6 Mike Dudek, 608 Depot Street, Scranton, PA. I live in

7 The Plot.

8 Earlier this evening, the young man,

9 Mr. Miller, the very young gentleman came here and read

10 something that hit me in the back of the head like a

11 wet towel.

12 I asked him to see what he -- I wanted

13 to see it, because I thought maybe he may have had

14 handwritten notes and misread something. He didn't.

15 He gave me this piece of paper tonight. It is from the

16 hand of Mayor Chris Doherty, and it's off his website,

17 and this is what the Mayor wrote, With nothing on their

18 minds but politics, City Council members, Gary DiBileo,

19 Janet Evans and Bill Courtright have decided to meet

20 during the month of August.

21 Now, 100 percent of my remarks are

22 going to be very specific about Council business. Now,

23 if they happen to have any political overlap, that's  
24 nice and convenient, because if I remember anything  
25 about the month of August, two issues dominated that  
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69

1 month, a swimming pool and a series of loans that  
2 certain union groups have wanted to take place.  
3 Earlier this evening we heard from a  
4 member of the painters union about these loans, and  
5 we've heard ad infinitum about how Mrs. Evans decided  
6 to vote against it and Mr. Courtright decided to vote  
7 against it.

8 But as I recall, I recall two things, I  
9 recall the Gary DiBileo voted for it and that Gary  
10 DiBileo worked very hard during that month to try to  
11 get a Council majority to be here.

12 Now, the month of August is difficult,  
13 okay, we cannot assign any kind of blame at all. We  
14 all know what happens in the month of August. Mr.  
15 McTiernan is a high school principal. Does anybody  
16 know what is the busiest month of the year for a high  
17 school principal? I got news for you, it's not any of  
18 the months where the kids are in, it's preparing for  
19 the school year.

20 He is going to be tied up 16 hours a  
21 day on something critically important, and the same  
22 thing can be said for Mr. Pocius. I have no criticism  
23 of anybody, but we do know that had the Council of five  
24 been here, the Mayor would have gotten his loans  
25 because Gary DiBileo tried as hard as he could to get  
.  
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1 that passed for the Mayor, and here the Mayor is  
2 turning around and kicking hum in the head for it?  
3 What an ingrate we have for a Mayor.  
4 What an ingrate. And it's in his own hand that he  
5 writes this.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Walsh is giving me a  
7 signal here, Mr. Dudek, that's not allowed.

8 MR. DUDEK: The only reason why I'm so  
9 angry is because of his criticism of you as City  
10 Council President in terms of your actions on Council.

11 MR. DIBILEO: I can take it, Mike. I'm  
12 used to it.

13 MR. DUDEK: Okay. But I wanted to  
14 point that out and I just wanted to make sure that  
15 everyone else was aware of it.

16 And the only other part -- thing that I

17 wanted to mention is with all of these debt numbers  
18 going around, Mr. Rossi's numbers, Mr. Quinn  
19 independently coming up with \$198 million, I wonder if  
20 we shouldn't be calling him Mayor Debtery. Thank you.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Elizabeth McDyer.

22 MS. MCDYER: Good evening. My name is  
23 Liz McDyer, I'm a student at the University of  
24 Scranton, and relevant to tonight, I'm an intern at the  
25 League of Women Voters of Lackawanna County.

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1 I'm here just to tell you about an  
2 event that we're having to help spread the word. We  
3 are planning an event called The Election Connection.  
4 This is open to high school students, tenth through  
5 twelfth graders, boys and girls, I guess I should say  
6 young men and women.  
7 This event is to teach these students  
8 about the political process, what is involved in an  
9 election and just in general how our government works,  
10 as well as ways that students can get involved beyond  
11 voting, especially because most high school students  
12 are not 18 years of age, and also in keeping with the  
13 fact that this event is for The League of Women Voters,

14 there will be a sound discussion on what role women  
15 have in today's political arena.

16 This even will be November 1, and I  
17 would just encourage the people to spread the word a  
18 little bit about this, as well as if anyone would like  
19 to help out, please just let me know.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Elizabeth, where is it  
21 at?

22 MS. MCDYER: It will be held at the  
23 University of Scranton at Brennan Hall.

24 MR. DIBILEO: November 1. What day of  
25 the week is that?

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1 MS. MCDYER: That's a Tuesday.

2 MS. EVANS: At what time?

3 MS. MCDYER: At 8:30 to 1:30.

4 MR. DIBILEO: And you can just -- do  
5 you have to preregister or can you just show up?

6 MS. MCDYER: Yes. If you contact me, I  
7 can give people information. I don't know how I should  
8 give out my contact information.

9 MR. DIBILEO: That's up to you, if --

10 MS. MCDYER: I guess you can send an

11 e-mail to me. It would be my last name, which is

12 [\[email protected\]](#), and thank you for your time.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much.

14 Thank you and good luck with that program. If Warren

15 Norton.

16 MR. NORTON: Good evening. My name is

17 Warren Norton, I'm a homeowner and taxpayer in the

18 city, and I'd like to thank Council affording me this

19 opportunity to speak.

20 I have a question for Mr. DiBileo, if I

21 may. Sir, on the 8th of May, 2005, the Scranton Times

22 Tribune reported that you were in favor of raising the

23 occupational privilege tax or the emergency municipal

24 services tax, or whatever it's being called this week,

25 in the same article you were reported as being in favor

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1 of lowering the city's wage tax, I'm sure that you're

2 aware that an aggressive tax, such as the occupational

3 privilege tax impacts the poor and working class

4 citizens to a much greater extent, than the well-to-do.

5 A reduction in wage tax rates gives

6 back much more money to the affluent than it does to

7 the poor. My question is this, Since you're running on

8 a Republican ticket, is this soak the poor and give to  
9 the rich tax plan indicative of your proposed policies  
10 and leadership style, and is this right for the city?

11 MR. DIBILEO: I think it's right for  
12 the city because it's going to improve public safety,  
13 and I think public safety has diminished over the last  
14 four years, Mr. Norton, and that's what the emergency  
15 municipal service tax is for, it's for public safety  
16 and roads, and I -- it's a fair tax, all surrounding  
17 communities are doing it.

18 If you live in the city and work  
19 somewhere else, chances are you're paying that already,  
20 except if you work in the city, you're not, it hasn't  
21 been instituted.

22 It was a life preserver thrown at us by  
23 Governor Rendell, and it's a life preserver that I  
24 think that we should grab onto and help us. And I have  
25 a quick question for you.

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1 MR. NORTON: Yes, sir.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Were you a picketer at my  
3 campaign headquarters?

4 MR. NORTON: Yes, sir. I'm a Vet.



5 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Just wanted to

6 double check. You look familiar to me.

7 MR. WALSH: Mr. DiBileo, I believe also

8 it would create a cash infusion into the city that

9 otherwise the city residents wouldn't have the benefit

10 of.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah. This will -- the

12 main purpose behind my -- thank you, Mr. Walsh. The

13 main purpose behind my trying to implement that tax is

14 because it's going to generate \$1 million from

15 non-residents into the city coffers, \$1 million that

16 we're not receiving now from non-residents.

17 It's a fair tax. It's being done all

18 around us. It needs to be done in Scranton. As a

19 matter of fact, I think Mayor Doherty at this debate

20 that I referred to earlier said that he's in favor of

21 implementing it, also.

22 MR. NORTON: Actually he said he would

23 consider it, I believe, in the future.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Well, he certainly

25 should.

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1 MR. NORTON: So, that basically then a

2 regressive tax, as far as you're concerned, is

3 perfectly okay for the city?

4 MR. DIBILEO: I totally disagree with

5 your opinion on that.

6 MR. NORTON: Well, I'm sure you're

7 familiar with the concept of a regressive tax, one in

8 which everybody pays the same so that it impacts people

9 who make less money to a much larger extent than it

10 does those who are more affluent. Basically that's the

11 definition of a regressive tax, and this would fit 100

12 percent.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Are you trying to say

14 that residents should not be allowed to -- should not

15 be allowed to benefit from a million dollars from

16 non-residents?

17 MR. NORTON: That's your job as

18 Council, sir, you're elected to make the difficult

19 decisions, I'm just wondering about the regressive tax

20 versus, let's say, a more progressive tax so that

21 you're taxing those that have a greater ability to pay,

22 rather than those who have a lesser ability to pay.

23 MR. WALSH: Mr. DiBileo, if I may, and

24 I apologize, because I know you and I have discussed

25 this issue, and, sir, I'm very familiar with the issue

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1 of regressive taxes, but you have to take into  
2 consideration when you consider a regressive tax, that  
3 if you take tax everybody at the same rate, it's by  
4 definition referred to as regressive, but the --

5 MR. NORTON: We're not talking about a  
6 rate, sir, we're talking about a certain enumerated sum  
7 of dollars. That's not a rate.

8 MR. WALSH: I understand, but let me  
9 just finish, if I can. I apologize for interrupting  
10 you.

11 If you tax everybody at a certain  
12 dollar amount, \$50, obviously that \$50 has a bigger  
13 impact on somebody making less money than more money.  
14 But, sir, I think the issue here that

15 had been discussed at that time is that it's not a pure  
16 regressive tax, as you're referring to, because there's  
17 an infusion from outside of the city of a million  
18 dollars would certainly turns around any regressive  
19 effect of that tax, and also coupled with the reduction  
20 in the wage tax and an infusion of a million dollars  
21 into our economy here in the city by people who use the  
22 assets for the city seem to be a good idea at the time.

23 I know that Mr. DiBileo and I had  
24 discussed that, so when you do mention a regressive  
25 tax, I had studied taxation and I had also studied

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1 economics, and I can tell you that if you look at the  
2 entire program, it's not a pure regressive tax as  
3 you're referring to, so I just didn't want you to  
4 convey that idea. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. DiBileo.

5 MR. DIBILEO: I think what Mr. Walsh is  
6 trying to say that the benefits far outweigh the  
7 negatives.

8 MR. NORTON: Oh, well, on that, you  
9 know, I have no idea of what you're planning to do with  
10 the money, and I can't -- obviously can't comment on  
11 that. I was just curious as to the nature of the  
12 regressive taxation, the taxing the poor to a greater  
13 extent and taxing the rich to a lesser extent, that was  
14 my only question. I thank you very much for your  
15 timely response, sir. Thank you.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much.

17 Erik Johnson.

18 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, City  
19 Council and staff, Lisa. Erik Johnson, taxpayer of

20 Scranton. The pros and cons of the Scranton Hilton  
21 Conference Hotel, the Scranton Hilton had its problems  
22 before it was even completed and open for business from  
23 the beginning.

24 One outstanding fact was it was  
25 overfunded and overbuilt, and by many critics wasn't

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1 needed because Scranton already had the Radisson Hotel  
2 practically near across the street and the Clarion  
3 Hotel eight minutes away.

4 The Radisson has had problems of  
5 ownership. It has changed hands more than once, as so  
6 the Clarion Hotel, which had changed ownership, even  
7 more times.

8 The Radisson and the Clarion had its  
9 own parking to start with from the beginning, and the  
10 Scranton Hilton did not have parking of its own from  
11 the opening for business from the beginning.

12 Opening up a hotel in any city the size  
13 of Scranton or larger without access to convenient  
14 parking is not even a gamble, it was plain foolish.

15 It just didn't make sense that

16 Scranton's two other hotels had opened with parking and

17 the Hilton did not. It's like Wal-Mart opening a large  
18 store Downtown Scranton without parking promised six  
19 months after or so.

20 Even with their high profile business,  
21 they would have been in the same situation, in debt  
22 without recovery.

23 The Hilton -- no proper parking, no  
24 business, no business is failure of the operation of  
25 the hotel, and to pay its near \$22 million mortgage,

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1 which means foreclosure from its creditors.

2 This is what is supposed to happen on  
3 the pro side. The Hilton Scranton hotel is a beautiful  
4 modern piece of work structure hotel second to none of  
5 its other Scranton hotels. It can be, if operated  
6 efficiently, a resurgence to downtown business from  
7 spinoff dollars that come from the hotel guests,  
8 especially the Steamtown Mall, new restaurants, the  
9 National Steamtown Historic site and the future trolley  
10 link between Downtown Scranton to a maintenance  
11 building and passenger platform at the Moosic ballpark,  
12 which would improve business for the Scranton  
13 Wilkes-Barre Red Barons, the hotel, plus the trolley

14 link to the stadium could enhance business for the  
15 Hilton and for the Scranton Wilkes-Barre Barons.  
16 If all goes well and is managed with  
17 the right professional people without politics being  
18 favorably involved, it should be with the best  
19 professional -- with the best professionals, regardless  
20 of politics, not politically favored, none professional  
21 personnel who would definitely cause a disastrous  
22 situation, like bankruptcy, which are now hard to  
23 follow these days for complete losses.

24 I hope Scranton can pull it off to a  
25 complete success. I hope -- not only for its business,

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1 but most important the city, the residents and the  
2 taxpayers of Scranton.  
3 By the way, the election for Mayor is  
4 still too close to call. Whoever works the hardest  
5 campaigning could win, and I don't think it will be an  
6 ethnically-won election this time, like Irish and  
7 Italian and so on and so on. Thank you for letting me  
8 speak.

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

10 Sue Ryan and Shannon Carter.

11 MS. RYAN: Hello members of the,  
12 Council. My name is Sue Ryan, and this is Shannon. We  
13 live at 326 Spruce Street, The Hotel Jermyn, and we're  
14 in Downtown Scranton, and we, the residents, would like  
15 to get something done for us to be able to park near  
16 our place of residence without any hassles of the  
17 meters and moving our cars every two hours.  
18 We have to run downstairs, you know,  
19 and move our cars and everything. The weather has been  
20 getting bad, and I'm nervous, because it's the first  
21 time I've done this, I'm sorry, and also for the  
22 residents who already have monthly parking there  
23 usually can't find a spot to park there during the day,  
24 they have to go back and resort to the meters and the  
25 moving of the cars and all that.

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1 And as you know, Mr. Fred Budzinski  
2 has brought this up to you guys before, he couldn't  
3 make it tonight. Okay.  
4 I've heard from residents also that if  
5 they were aware of the lack of the parking and the  
6 difficulty that would incur with the parking, they  
7 would not have moved to the downtown area.



8 Most of the apartment facilities in  
9 Downtown Scranton have parking facilities for their  
10 apartments, Mulberry Towers, you know, all the ones  
11 down here, and we just can't afford it.  
12 A lot of the residents, they are  
13 disabled, and they are of low income, and we would just  
14 like to know if we can get some help with some kind of  
15 parking. I mean, there's a waiting list a mile long  
16 for the Electric City next door to us where we do get a  
17 discount there, but the waiting list are too long, and  
18 if we sit there and add up what we have to pay in the  
19 meters or the parking, that's -- we can't forward that.  
20 It's like \$800 a year.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Sue, so the monthly  
22 parking at the Electric City Garage is --

23 MS. RYAN: It's full.

24 MR. DIBILEO: -- it's full and you  
25 can't get in there?

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1 MS. RYAN: No, we cannot get in there,  
2 and, you know, the one right across from Abe's wants  
3 \$70 a month, and a lot of us can't afford that.  
4 I just moved here to Scranton, I'm

5 originally from California, and I lived here for, like,  
6 five or six years and then I moved to Virginia for  
7 three years, and I just decided to come back here  
8 because this is where my family is and I like it here.  
9 And I was talking to my daughter the  
10 other day and I was telling her, I can't find parking  
11 for my car. I said, I have to move from Downtown  
12 Scranton because I just can't afford it.  
13 And she's, like, she doesn't want me to  
14 move from Downtown Scranton, she wants me to stay where  
15 I'm at. But, you know, we need something done, and we  
16 are just hopeful that you guys can help us out, you  
17 know.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Well, first, we're happy  
19 that you're back here from California, and, you know,  
20 there are going to be two parking garages opening up  
21 soon, and let's hope that that will alleviate some of  
22 the pressure from the Electric City Garage that you're  
23 trying to get into, because if you can get in there for  
24 monthly parking, you're saying that that would be a  
25 solution.

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1 MS. RYAN: Right. And we live down

2 there, we can't get a discount anywhere but Electric

3 City, and it's hard for a lot of people.

4 There's a lot of people that wanted to

5 come tonight that weren't able to come because of their

6 health or some other reason or not, and they have

7 problems parking all the time, you know, and it's

8 really hard for us.

9 MR. DIBILEO: I'm going to say that,

10 you know, Mr. Saunders is always willing to help, and

11 this is something that I think he might be able to help

12 you look into other alternatives.

13 MS. RYAN: That would be great.

14 MR. SAUNDERS: If you can leave your

15 name and number with Kay, I will be happy to check with

16 the Parking Authority to see what happens avenues we

17 can take there.

18 MS. RYAN: Nobody wants to take

19 responsibility. You call anybody, nobody wants to deal

20 with the matter.

21 MR. SAUNDERS: We will.

22 MS. EVANS: Approximately how many

23 individuals reside within the Hotel Jermyn, in other

24 words, how many individuals are affected?

25 MS. RYAN: Oh, gosh, well, I have a few

1 people that signed the petition that I made, but I

2 didn't get quite enough.

3 There's quite a few people that have

4 cars. I don't know how many apartments are there all

5 total. I know there's quite a few. We have seven

6 floors, and we have quite a few residents, and

7 basically three-fourths of them have cars, and we have

8 to fight for parking, you know.

9 And we live there, we shouldn't have to

10 have a parking meter in front of where we live, you

11 know. You don't see that on the West Side or the South

12 Side. When you go home to live, you can park in your

13 parking -- driveway or in front of your house. We

14 can't do that.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Well, Sue and Shannon, I

16 think Mr. Saunders is more than happy to try to help

17 you come up with some relief.

18 MS. RYAN: Yeah, because I just got a

19 vehicle just here a week ago, and I am finding it

20 really hard.

21 MS. EVANS: Maybe we will put our heads

22 and see what options might fly.

23 MS. RYAN: I appreciate it, because I'm  
24 to the point where I'm going to sell my car next week  
25 because I can't find parking.

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1 MR. DIBILEO: Why don't you leave your  
2 phone number with Kay?

3 MS. RYAN: Okay. Thank you, everybody.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Thank you. John  
5 Francis Brzycki, Jr.

6 MR. BRZYCKI: Hi, Council. John  
7 Francis Brzycki, Jr., 333 East Locust Street, South  
8 Side section.

9 Mr. Pocius, was any paving done this  
10 week in the City of Scranton?

11 MR. POCIUS: I'm not aware of any, sir.

12 MR. BRZYCKI: I wasn't either, not in  
13 our area. As you know, Fig Street was paved, and it's  
14 only two blocks away from 333 East Locust Street.  
15 And the trucks down there from the  
16 water company that's down there keep going up the  
17 street, and I don't know if you notice, but water is  
18 very heavy, and they have a lot of those big jugs on  
19 their trucks and it's ruining our street.

20 Also, any word done about the  
21 vegetation where Scott's warehouse is on the side there  
22 across from -- it's a business section, that's why  
23 nothing has been done, I think.

24 MR. SAUNDERS: Are they the pictures  
25 you left us?

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1 MR. BRZYCKI: I have more pictures,  
2 too.

3 MR. SAUNDERS: Are they the original  
4 pictures that --

5 MR. BRZYCKI: The originals are better.  
6 These are, like, way better.

7 MR. SAUNDERS: I just got the address  
8 tonight of that. When you gave us --

9 MR. BRZYCKI: 323 East Locust Street is  
10 the Family Garment. The warehouse is the warehouse  
11 there.

12 MR. SAUNDERS: You've got to leave that  
13 address, also, too.

14 MR. BRZYCKI: 323 East Locust Street is  
15 the Family Garment Company. That is right across from  
16 my house. All right.

17 I'm not going to get my dander up, but  
18 also, another question I have is on Channel 61, I  
19 notice that there is a cut back, like Mr. Miller did  
20 say, the young boy, and I admire that kid very much.  
21 And also I heard that the residents of  
22 Pennsylvania don't know anything about a Pennsylvania  
23 Property Tax or a Rent Rebate Program, and I understood  
24 that it's for people that own their own homes and a lot  
25 of people that do own their own homes are senior  
.

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1 citizens, and they can get as much as \$500 from the  
2 state or less than \$100.  
3 And if they don't take advantage of  
4 this property tax rebate, which I heard on Channel --  
5 on radio station WNAK with Jay Christopher and Paul  
6 Degdon about a month ago, the money will just go back  
7 into the state legislature and they'll give themselves  
8 another raise. Isn't that nice?  
9 So, I urge them to also take advantage  
10 of that, because it is extended from June to December,  
11 and I heard that on Channel 61 at one of the taxpayers  
12 association meetings, and also at the school board  
13 meeting with Todd O'Malley.

14 Another question is, this outfit must  
15 have offended a lot of people today, but that's tough.

16 And thank you.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. That's it for  
18 the sign-in sheet.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening, Council.

20 Joanne Williams, homeowner and taxpayer.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Let me start with  
23 this, \$1 million generated by non-residents because of  
24 economic development under Mayor Doherty. You say jobs  
25 have been lost, but now say non-residents will generate  
.

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1 \$1 million. Another fence straddled on your part.

2 Let's to the CRF, I still can't believe

3 that you say no, three of you have -- well, Mr.

4 DiBileo, you said you said yes, but I feel you knew

5 what was going to happen that day, you knew -- you knew

6 exactly what was going to happen, that, you know, the

7 majority of the vote wouldn't go over, so, you know,

8 trying to look good by saying yes, that's my feeling,

9 I'm entitled to that.

10 Another person stated here about



11 restaurants, there's no restaurant in the city, well,  
12 let's remember Cooper's, the Ground Round, the new  
13 Bennigan's that will be coming in the parking garage,  
14 the La Trattoria, Tom and Jerry's, Carmen's in the  
15 Radisson, I don't know what he was thinking about.  
16 You know, and the citizens of this city  
17 really, you know, they know what's going on, they know  
18 what they're seeing. Four years ago a man with a  
19 vision and a dream and a love for his city took office  
20 as Mayor, in four years he has made a positive  
21 difference.  
22 All you need to do is remember what our  
23 city was like four years ago. Our parks were  
24 deplorable, a ghost town, instead of a vital downtown.  
25 Let's take South Scranton, some people  
·  
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1 speak as if South Scranton was a designation for  
2 disaster.  
3 You know, the Mayor is going to have  
4 good things happening -- is going to be renovating  
5 South Scranton, he knows that South Scranton has great  
6 people and great homes and great families, and he  
7 hasn't given up on South Scranton like some.

8 I hear especially Mrs. Evans speak  
9 about neighborhoods, can you name me one street that  
10 you think is really bad in this city? One street>

11 MS. EVANS: Olive Street.

12 MS. WILLIAMS: What block of Olive  
13 Street?

14 MS. EVANS: I don't know the number of  
15 the block, but it's right beyond where the intersection  
16 of Olive and Capouse is that they did pave and then  
17 they stopped dead and the rest of it is still a  
18 washboard.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Are you -- what are you  
20 -- okay, it's a neighborhood, it's a neighborhood. Are  
21 you saying that everything is bad in that neighborhood?

22 MS. EVANS: No.

23 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, it looked --

24 MS. EVANS: But they do have problems.

25 I've been to their neighborhood.

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90

1 MS. WILLIAMS: I've been to that  
2 neighborhood, too. It's funny that you brought that  
3 neighborhood up tonight, you know, and they are good  
4 people in that block.

5 MS. EVANS: Oh, they are.

6 MS. WILLIAMS: Absolutely. Let's take

7 the Hill Section, under Mayor Connors administration,

8 the Hill Section was doomed, it was going down the

9 tubes, okay?

10 I was born and raised in the Hill and I

11 elected to buy my home there, and thanks to Mayor

12 Doherty and the restoration he has made to Nay Aug

13 Park, property values have gone up.

14 Let's remember our downtown four years

15 ago, buildings collapsing, an eyesore for all to see.

16 Now look at our downtown, revitalization is bringing

17 great things to our city. You have to thank our mayor

18 and his administration.

19 Remember what Providence Road by the

20 new high school looked like. We had a brand new high

21 school built, and all there was a modern high school

22 with dilapidated buildings surrounded by it. Now take

23 a look at it.

24 I was at a Scranton High School

25 football game, sat in the stands and looked over there,

.

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1 and I wasn't alone, there was other people there. Look

2 how marvelous that looks. Aren't you proud to say that  
3 you live in this city?  
4 The Ice Box bomb over there, pizza  
5 shops, a coffee shop, a well-lighted compound, the  
6 Riverfront Stadium, you know. The residents and  
7 taxpayers know this city's come a long way. Is ay  
8 let's continue this four years of going.  
9 And in ending, Mr. DiBileo, I just have  
10 to say this, you know, we hear a lot about, you know,  
11 Oh, who's Mayor Doherty's contributors, you know, his  
12 campaign contributors, well, who are yours?  
13 MR. DIBILEO: Average people.  
14 MS. WILLIAMS: Oh, average people? I'm  
15 used to that. But you know what, I don't believe you.  
16 Tell the truth, Mr. Doherty (sic).  
17 And you once said to me if you became  
18 Mayor, what was I going to do, that was a threat, well,  
19 you keep wishing on becoming Mayor, because the City of  
20 Scranton needs to move along, needs to progress, and in  
21 order for us to do that, we need Mayor Doherty ini  
22 office four more years. Thank you.  
23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mrs. Williams.  
24 MS. WILLIAMS: Mr. DiBileo, I get awful  
25 comments said to me every week I leave here. This one

1 was said this evening. I am going to point them out to  
2 you.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Well, we certainly don't  
4 want that happening.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, you need to tell  
6 them and you need to run this Council meeting the right  
7 way. I think that's uncalled for.

8 MR. DIBILEO: We can't -- all right. I  
9 will, but we can't hear what's happening in the back of  
10 the room, I'm sorry.

11 MS. EVANS: No, we can't.

12 MR. DIBILEO: We apologize if anything  
13 is happening back there.

14 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Williams, just one  
15 thing, I wasn't here last week, but I understood that  
16 you --

17 MS. WILLIAMS: I won't be able to come  
18 back to the podium, so --

19 MS. EVANS: Well, I'm not asking you a  
20 question, it doesn't require a response, I understand  
21 you made some --

22 MS. WILLIAMS: It's my time, though,

23 MS. EVANS: Well, no, your time is up,

24 this is what I'm telling you.

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Well --

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1 MR. DIBILEO: Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Evans

2 has the right to --

3 MS. WILLIAMS: Yeah, unless I was one

4 of your supporters, then I would be --

5 MR. DIBILEO: Mrs. Williams, it's --

6 MS. WILLIAMS: You know, Mrs. Evans,

7 you don't like hearing the truth, do you?

8 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Williams --

9 MS. WILLIAMS: Good-bye, Mrs. Evans.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Go right ahead, Mr.

11 Davis. Sorry for that interruption.

12 MR. DAVIS: Oh, it's perfectly all

13 right. Assalaam Alaikum, peace and blessings of Allah

14 be with you. I spoke to Jay earlier, and you have the

15 figures for me?

16 MR. SAUNDERS: No, I don't, Jim, I'm

17 sorry, I got a little tied up. But I will have that.

18 If you call the office tomorrow morning, I will have

19 that for you.

20 MR. DAVIS: Thank you. Mrs. Evans, I  
21 asked you the week before last when you were here about  
22 the report from the Scranton Housing Authority, and  
23 this is what Jay gave me today, it's a great  
24 application, but that's -- there was no demographics,  
25 there was no figures at all saying how many were hired,  
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94

1 how many were fired, how many, you know --

2 MS. EVANS: Well, no, that information

3 I don't have, but we can get that for you. They simply

4 explained their policy.

5 MR. DAVIS: Yes. He said he was going

6 to get that for me tomorrow.

7 MS. EVANS: Great.

8 MR. DAVIS: So, therefore, you don't

9 have to worry about getting that report to me.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. DAVIS: My Honorable Council, I was

12 listening to a tape that I had made five years ago

13 about the City Council meeting, and in it I was saying

14 that the jobless rate for minorities in Scranton was

15 17.3 percent, where the overall jobless rate is

16 5.5 percent, that was five years ago.

17 I read in Tuesday's paper, it's still  
18 5.5 percent for the overall population, but for  
19 minorities when I called Wilkes-Barre, they tell me  
20 it's still 17.7 for the minorities.  
21 The population has changed. I  
22 understand that, and I understand there's more African  
23 Americans and Latinos within the population than we've  
24 ever had before, and it shows in the unemployment  
25 rates, but what I'm saying is, five years ago, and we  
95

1 were talking about diversity, that was the big -- we  
2 were going to change this town and there's going to be  
3 a diversity, there was going to be a change in the way  
4 things were done, there's going to be a change in the  
5 employment structure, et cetera.

6 I don't see it. Five years later, I  
7 don't see it. I would ask Mr. McTiernan, how many  
8 African Americans or Latinos do you have now in the  
9 Scranton School system that weren't there four years  
10 ago?

11 MR. MCTIERNAN: I don't know from the  
12 district, but I know from Scranton High School.

13 MR. DAVIS: Scranton High School is



14 fine.

15 MR. MCTIERNAN: The number of African

16 American students is down two percent over the last

17 four years, and the number of Hispanic students is up

18 approximately four percent over the last four years.

19 MR. DAVIS: Okay. Down and up, so it

20 evens itself off almost, right, more or less? What was

21 the number of students that you had there this year as

22 of the enrollment as of September, do you remember the

23 demographics for that?

24 MR. MCTIERNAN: The enrollment for this

25 month?

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96

1 MR. DAVIS: For this month, fine.

2 MR. MCTIERNAN: I know the number

3 exactly. We have approximately -- I shouldn't say

4 exactly, we have approximately eight percent African

5 American students, approximately 12 percent Hispanic

6 students, approximately one percent Asian American

7 students, and then the remainder would be white

8 students. That was as of -- will be the number for

9 September 30 this year.

10 MR. DAVIS: Okay. Because I've been

11 asking for that at the school board, and they tell me  
12 they can't give me demographics. For some reason, I --  
13 they said because it's confidentiality, and I can't  
14 understand that either, because I'm asking for just  
15 what you gave me in group numbers.

16 Number three, Mr. DiBileo, in your  
17 business, in your insurance business, how many  
18 minorities have you hired over the last four years?

19 MR. DIBILEO: I have to say that I  
20 don't think any, Jim, to be honest with you.

21 MR. DAVIS: You don't have any in your  
22 employ?

23 MR. DIBILEO: No.

24 MR. DAVIS: Mr. Pocius, you have in  
25 your employ or with your employer CECO, how many  
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1 employees?

2 MR. POCIUS: I think 28.

3 MR. DAVIS: Twenty-eight. How many  
4 have you either hired or subcontracted to minorities?

5 MR. WALSH: This is a private question.

6 I mean, I --

7 MR. POCIUS: I don't mind answering it,

8 Mark.

9 MR. DAVIS: He doesn't mind answering

10 it. I'm not infringing upon any of their --

11 MR. POCIUS: I'll answer in a

12 generality, okay?

13 MR. DAVIS: Sure.

14 MR. POCIUS: And I'll speak to

15 basically the transportation contracts, the PennDOT

16 contracts, there's goals set up to hire either women

17 owned or disadvantaged DVEs, WBE firms, and that goal

18 ranges around 17 percent of the total dollar amount of

19 the contract, it's mandatory.

20 We always exceed that excessively, so

21 we do, you know, we do hire -- what they're called is a

22 DVE or a WBE firm or an NBE firm, okay? That's a fair

23 answer, all right?

24 MR. DAVIS: Yes, yes. That's the

25 figures I got, too. What I'm trying to say is

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1 diversity is a nice word, but to many of us in the

2 African American community and in the Latin community,

3 it just means discrimination and it's continued on.

4 We don't have a real change, but we

5 cannot really ask those that we employ or those that we  
6 contract to to have a good EOE performance or to come  
7 up to a certain value, 17 percent of their population  
8 or 20 percent of their employee population or 2  
9 percent.

10 Consistently you must hire, you must  
11 try to hire, you must recruit minorities for this  
12 position, we don't have that. Therefore, we can't  
13 expect to see minorities in city hall, we can't expect  
14 to see minorities even working as janitors in the  
15 county, but what we do expect, we expect it from you as  
16 a Council and the pride, this great discovering the  
17 pride or rediscovering the pride or hoping that the  
18 pride would come back, we hope that we would have  
19 something we can hang our hat on and say to our kids,  
20 there's a chance for you to make it here, as well, and  
21 it hasn't happened.

22 And I'm very disappointed. I've spent  
23 a lot of hours standing at this podium and trying to do  
24 my research before I came here so I would be  
25 knowledgeable when I spoke to you out of respect, and

99

1 all I've ever gotten is the team from Tech came and got

2 their momentos.

3 I hope that we do better and I hope

4 that your promises are not as hollow for the next four

5 years, three years, two years, whatever, however long

6 you're on the podium, and I've enjoyed coming before

7 you and I think you've been very respectful to me.

8 I cannot say anything bad about any of

9 you in any of your retorts to me, nor my retorts to

10 you, and for that reason I say Assalaam Alaikum, and I

11 wish you the best in the election. I don't know which

12 way to tell the kids to go or the people to go, I

13 really don't, and it's on your heads, you know.

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

15 MR. MORAN: Good evening, Council. My

16 name is Bill Moran, I live at 1063 Hollow Avenue. I

17 came here last week to speak on the issue of leadership

18 and these pictures.

19 All of you sitting up there without

20 knowing what are on these pictures right now, because

21 they may be different ones, I'd like you to take a

22 venture at what's on these pictures. Obviously you

23 don't know until you see them.

24 The reason I say that is because I was

25 told that these pictures are possibly lies, they're not

1 true, by a person who is supposed to be in a leadership  
2 position in our government.

3 I came here last week because I saw  
4 something wrong. I came here last week to redress a  
5 grievance with my government, I didn't come here last  
6 week to defame someone. I've never talked to Mr.

7 Parker, I've waved at him several times as he's driven  
8 through my neighborhood, but I never said anything bad  
9 about him.

10 For all I know he's a great man. The  
11 only complaint I've ever had with him is that he lives  
12 in Moscow and not in Scranton, and that's not right.  
13 You don't hold other people to a certain level and yet  
14 allow your supervisors to live out of the town, that  
15 was my only complaint with him.

16 I also did not come here to defame or  
17 in any other way cause a problem with the people who  
18 own this house. We were told by a person unnamed that  
19 he could have these things done at the click of his  
20 fingers.

21 These pictures are my proof of what  
22 happened. He said it would be done, it was done. Mrs.

23 Evans had a good point, people wait a long time to have  
24 their things done. This house has been in the process  
25 since about April.

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1 In August the work was done. It wasn't  
2 done one day, it was done over a series of days, three  
3 and four hours at a time in the early morning.  
4 I didn't come here to get Mr. Parker in  
5 trouble, I came to ask Mr. Parker to take care of an  
6 issue within his department.  
7 When you're a leader, you're  
8 responsible for the people that you work for, they work  
9 for you, and also for the people that you work for,  
10 like me, taxpayer, like them, taxpayers.  
11 I'm asking these pictures be placed in  
12 the permanent record. There are more pictures to come  
13 along, also, that are from other neighbors. My mother  
14 did not take these pictures, yet she's receiving a lot  
15 of grief about them.  
16 The fact of the matter is, I know the  
17 boundaries of that property, I know what was done  
18 there. A leader would have come to me, a leader would  
19 have said, I understand you have a problem, let's talk

20 about it.

21 A leader would have went to the other

22 neighbors and said, I understand you have a problem,

23 let's talk about it, a leader would have said, maybe

24 you're wrong, let's take a look at the pictures.

25 I didn't see a leader tonight, I saw

.

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1 someone take a tantrum. I said nothing wrong to that

2 man. I have something in my hand that I perceived to

3 be a wrong, to be using my money for someone else's

4 gain.

5 You want to call it politics, you want

6 to call it whatever. I think it was wrong, maybe I'm

7 wrong. Prove me wrong. Mr. Parker is quite welcome to

8 come see me any day, we'll talk about it man to man and

9 say he's the issue, what's right, what's wrong.

10 But I do know this is a modular home.

11 Mr. Parker made the comment that they were having

12 trouble getting materials into this home to finish it,

13 the house was up and the trucks are in front of it.

14 There was no issue with materials.

15 If Mr. Parker had asked, he would have

16 found that out. This is our government, this is not a



17 government for certain people. That is what upsets me,  
18 not whether I support Mr. Doherty, I support Mr.  
19 DiBileo, whoever I support, I'm still going to follow  
20 the same pattern. If it's private property, the city  
21 has no right to be there, and that's the end of it.  
22 I never said that Mr. Parker was  
23 anything bad, Mr. Parker was quite willing to tell me  
24 how wrong I was. I'll pass these pictures up to you.  
25 Please look at them.

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1 In closing, I would like to just ask  
2 that the next time that a public official comes to this  
3 podium and denounces one of its citizens, first let him  
4 have the qualities that I'm looking for, I guess you  
5 call them leadership, whatever, to call that citizen  
6 and say, Is there an issue, can we resolve that issue,  
7 was something done wrong, was something done right,  
8 let's talk about it.  
9 The problem with this town now is a  
10 lack of communication between the mayor's office,  
11 between Council, between the people, between the  
12 unions, between everybody. It's communication.  
13 If you can't talk to somebody, you can't get things

14 done.

15 What happened here tonight never should

16 have happened. I would like an apology. I don't

17 expect it, I would like it. I did nothing wrong to

18 that man. I want that issue investigated.

19 There will be more pictures coming

20 along. I want it investigated. It's my Constitutional

21 Right to ask that. Thank you.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Moran, I take these

23 pictures as though you're raising a question as to is

24 this proper or isn't it, and I will attempt to get the

25 answer to those questions with Mr. Parker in hopefully

.

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1 the near future.

2 MR. MORAN: I appreciate that. Again,

3 I'm not against the homeowners. I'm happy to see them

4 move in, they're welcome in our neighborhood, we're

5 glad to have them. The issue is simply, you spend city

6 money on private property, that's the issue. Thank

7 you.

8 MR. OGGENS: Good evening, City of

9 Scranton, and the opportunity to come here to Council,

10 to be at Council, also want to tell everybody out

11 there, please come. A lot of people had a problem in  
12 August, but now you can come and voice your opinion.  
13 One of the reasons why I don't have --  
14 first of all, I apologize for my dress, I was watching  
15 the Council and I was quite upset as to the treatment  
16 of a certain gentleman earlier this evening, and he was  
17 voicing his opinion or he was having a discussion with  
18 Mrs. Evans as to financial matters about a certain  
19 bond, I think it was, Mrs. Evans is gone right now, but  
20 what really got me upset was it didn't seem he was  
21 given a chance to really express what he was trying to  
22 say or able to finish his point, and it was so  
23 bothering to me, I don't stand it anymore, so I came  
24 here.

25 The other thing is a lot of people are

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1 talking about the amount of police in the area, we're  
2 not using our police correctly or something, I don't  
3 think it's just police, I think it's the community.  
4 If neighbors talk to neighbors and you  
5 work together as a neighborhood, you're going to get  
6 less crime. If you don't know your neighbor and you  
7 don't care what goes around in your neighborhood, you

8 better.

9 I don't care if you got a million

10 police out there, it's not going to matter unless you

11 get involved.

12 And one way to get involved is to come

13 to this Council, express your opinion, that's what

14 they're paid for.

15 And the other thing that's really

16 bothering me is, get off this political banter about

17 DiBileo and Doherty and everything else, and let's take

18 care of the Scranton citizens. I don't mean to be so

19 emotional, but I think a lot of people get emotional

20 about it.

21 The other thing, too, is I really think

22 that Mr. DiBileo's, a couple months ago, it might have

23 been a year ago, you said, you know, why don't we get

24 the various neighborhoods together, the, you know,

25 North Scranton, West Scranton and so forth, come in,

.

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1 sit down there or whatever, have them come, a special

2 thing that they can say what they want, you know, to

3 express how things are going, we're having a big

4 problem here in this area, what happened to that?

5 MR. DIBILEO: Well, we --

6 MR. OGGENS: When I'm done. I know you

7 do the summary at the end, so I've got to go to work.

8 MR. DIBILEO: All right.

9 MR. OGGENS: But this is the first time

10 I'm here, and, you know, I'm really glad to have the

11 opportunity. Everyone get here, if you can. It's not

12 that bad, the people are very nice.

13 And the other thing about Scranton, I,

14 myself, have seen a large amount of changes, I've been

15 here about six years, if anybody has been on Main

16 Avenue going from Scranton towards Dickson City, you're

17 going to see Providence Square, I think it is, but I'll

18 tell you, it's beautiful, it's absolutely gorgeous, and

19 there's a lot of things happening, and a lot of people

20 are not recognizing the changes in Scranton.

21 If you drive around, you'll see a lot

22 of great changes. You have to open your eyes to

23 appreciate that.

24 And I really -- and the other thing is,

25 I honestly, this is out to Mayor Doherty, I don't think

.

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1 you coming to this Council would really help matters.

2 I think you're doing a great job by yourself out there,  
3 and I think, Mr. DiBileo, by saying that you would vote  
4 for the CRTR, community resource fund or resource, that  
5 if he comes here, that he might, you know, you would be  
6 more inclined to do that, I don't know, I feel very  
7 uncomfortable with that. I mean, that's your, you  
8 know, that's your political way of, you know, doing it.  
9 But anyway, the other thing is is that  
10 I really feel that this is an opportunity for  
11 everybody, get here, express yourself. These people  
12 aren't going to bite you.  
13 Also, I think it's great, everybody has  
14 their own opinion. I could be totally wrong, totally  
15 right, that's why we're here. So, everyone in  
16 Scranton, get involved. Thank you very much. I  
17 appreciate it.  
18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much,  
19 appreciate your comments, thank you for coming. Just  
20 to answer your question earlier about the  
21 neighborhoods, we made the offer to those  
22 neighborhoods, the only one that actually has been here  
23 so far that took us up on that offer is the South Side  
24 Neighborhood Association, and since then, the North  
25 Scranton Neighborhood Association scheduled a meeting

1 or two weeks ago, it had to be postponed due to the  
2 Hilton Hotel and Conference Center situation, that's  
3 going to be re -- it's going to be put together once  
4 again.

5 MR. OGGENS: So, they are going to be  
6 coming?

7 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

8 MS. RAMOS: You'll have to forgive me,  
9 I've never been here. My name is Kathy Ramos, I am a  
10 homeowner in South Scranton.

11 Forgive my appearance, as well, I was  
12 just putting my children to bed. After I put them to  
13 bed, I ran in, my husband was watching the Council  
14 meeting.

15 I've always wanted to come, but with  
16 two small children, my husband being a physician, he's  
17 never home, I really can't leave to come here. I watch  
18 religiously, though.

19 And I will tell you, I was absolutely  
20 appalled, and I drove down here in my wonderful attire,  
21 my hair like this, because a woman had spoke about  
22 South Side and is Scranton better four years from now,

23 absolutely not. Please come sit in front on my front

24 porch.

25 Unfortunately my father died four years

.

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1 ago, and my dad bought a house in South Scranton when

2 he started having his children, he grew up in South

3 Side.

4 When my dad died, my husband and I took

5 care of him right before, and to me, I didn't have to

6 let go of my farther 100 percent by being in his house.

7 He was a carpenter, he did all the work in his house.

8 He didn't have to completely die by me being there.

9 I have a strong tie to Scranton. My

10 husband's from Long Island, he came here because of me

11 because those Italian girls and their dads, you know,

12 you just can't let go, but the idea that South Scranton

13 is in a better position is disgusting to me, because

14 right now we're discussing selling my farther's home,

15 which kills me, because it is not safe.

16 We've been talking about Hurricane

17 Katrina recently. When you -- when those people had

18 everything, everything taken away from them, of course

19 the food and water became number one priority, after



20 that need was fulfilled, basic need, basic human need

21 is safety.

22 The problem with South Side is it's no

23 longer safe. And I do not say that, meaning the cops

24 are not doing their jobs. They can't do any more.

25 These men, these women have thing after thing after

.

110

1 thing taken away from them, they're told that they're

2 not important, because, hey, we can cut here, we can

3 cut here by solving this problem.

4 And am I biased, yes, there's a

5 Scranton police officer who I love dearly, dearly, my

6 brother, and it's not because of him that I say this, I

7 say this because I don't feel my children are safe

8 where we live any longer.

9 There was a multi-family apartment

10 complex across the street from us that had constant,

11 constant drug activity that I could -- we've complained

12 and we talked and we called and we tried to do

13 everything we could, there's -- how much do you expect

14 these cops to do? They can't do everything when

15 there's only two or three of them there. They can't be

16 everywhere.

17 We need to back up our cops, we need to  
18 help our public safety. They're the men and the women  
19 that are going to make South Scranton a place that I  
20 want to stay in, they're the men and the women that  
21 make me feel that it's safe enough to drive -- to ride  
22 around the block with my son, who's only four -- I  
23 mean, five, I'm sorry, he just turned five. This is  
24 what we need to do. We need to make Scranton safe  
25 again.

111

1 Does downtown look wonderful? Yeah, it  
2 looks nice. You know what, what attracts people my  
3 age, what attracts the young workforce that's going to  
4 be the taxpayers, the home buyers to this area or any  
5 other area is, Do I feel that I want to raise my  
6 children, the things that are the most important things  
7 in my life, do I want to go and buy a home in this  
8 area? What's going to attract them to this? You know,  
9 the downtown where you don't raise your family? No.  
10 That's nice to visit on a Saturday afternoon,  
11 wonderful. Nay Aug looks wonderful, not really  
12 impacting my family life.  
13 The neighborhood, and time and time

14 again people will say this at this podium, but I am a  
15 new voice to say it to you tonight. Will I be able to  
16 come back? I hope. Probably not. I hope I will, but,  
17 you know.

18 That is what is going to change our  
19 neighborhood, empowering our police department to do  
20 their job, to do what they're doing now, but they're  
21 just -- they can't possibly do everything, making our  
22 neighborhoods safe so people like me want to raise our  
23 children. I don't want to leave my dad's house,  
24 please, you know, I want to stay there.

25 And I know I only have a minute, and I

.

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1 will say this that, Mr. DiBileo, I pray for you,  
2 because you know what, I'm a Republican, and I'm  
3 rooting for you, I don't know if I'm allowed to say  
4 that or not.

5 Mrs. Evans, I will quickly say, Mrs.

6 Evans, if only I had a figure like you when I was  
7 growing up, you are phenomenal. I appreciate you. You  
8 stick up for all of us, and you are such a force for  
9 young women to watch, and I applaud all of your work  
10 tremendously.

11 Mr. DiBileo, I remember you said your  
12 little boy was kicking those signs, whether you win or  
13 not, that little boy is going to think you're the  
14 greatest man on the face of the earth. So, good luck.

15 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,  
16 Council. A little hot in here. First I'd like to say  
17 real quick that there's a new paper coming to town that  
18 I received a copy of, and it's called The Scranton  
19 Plain Speaker, let me tell you, it's a plain speaker  
20 okay. I agree with the thing 150 percent, and I'm so  
21 glad competition is coming to this town.

22 You know, somebody came up here before  
23 and they -- I don't know if they tried to give the  
24 impression that the people that come to this podium  
25 that don't agree 100 percent with this administration

.

113

1 don't like this city, and it has been said over and  
2 over and over again, and it was said here tonight, I  
3 had a choice whether I wanted to stay in Scranton. My  
4 wife is from New York. I had a choice to either stay  
5 in the city, buy a house and raise a family or move  
6 somewhere else. I chose to stay in this city because I  
7 love this city. The only problem that I have with this

8 city is that I'm lied to on a daily and weekly basis,  
9 that's what I don't like.  
10 So, I, and probably the speaker here  
11 before me and the other people of my age that decided  
12 to stay in Scranton because we want to, those people  
13 are disgusting to me that say we don't have respect for  
14 this city and we don't like to live here.  
15 I would also encourage to everybody  
16 that can hear my voice, and it's been brought up here  
17 before, Channel 61, I believe, and I don't know how or  
18 what, but it seems that these meetings are slowly being  
19 evaporated away, they're slowly being taken away and  
20 you're lucky if you can catch them.  
21 Channel 61 was designed as a government  
22 access channel. Now they have two channels. I flip  
23 through that station, and I don't see a lot of  
24 government access on there.  
25 I encourage people to call 348-3000,

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1 ask for Mr. Jack Finnerty and ask him why these  
2 meetings are being evaporated, is it coincidence or is  
3 it a scheduling problem or what is the problem, because  
4 coincidence lately they're being evaporated in an

5 election year, I just don't understand.

6 Last year we found out that OECD spent

7 over \$45,000 on the Summer in the City ads, plus the

8 Lamar billboards that have to add the insult to injury.

9 Well, I did some -- a little phone

10 research this week, and a pet peeve that I have of mine

11 with this city is the emergency -- the lack of the

12 emergency response system that we can have with the

13 fire department.

14 I did some research and I found out for

15 \$45,000, this city could have purchased ten AEDs, which

16 would total approximately \$12,000, that would have

17 given us an AED for every police car in the city, plus

18 the three backups or the three that we have now we

19 could had as a backup.

20 On top of that, we could have got an

21 additional beat officer, which I was told is

22 approximately, don't quote me, but approximately

23 \$32,000 through OECD.

24 So, for what we spent to advertise the

25 Mayor, in my opinion, the mayor's face all over the

.

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1 city, we could have got a police officer in our

2 neighborhood and an AED in every police car that could  
3 possibly save our lives, instead, this Mayor decided to  
4 put his face all over town.

5 So, you tell me where the priorities  
6 are in this city. I know they're not looking out for  
7 me, maybe they're looking out for some people that come  
8 here, but they're not looking out for me.

9 I got here after Mr. Parker was here,  
10 because I know he watches the meetings, obviously, and  
11 I would like to ask him, What is being done about the  
12 problem in front of my house, when I came out today an  
13 there's water all over the place?

14 And I'm going to say this publicly, if  
15 I do not get a response by next week, I will contact a  
16 lawyer, and I feel that I've been coming to this podium  
17 and I've been asking this question since April, and I  
18 can't even have the respect from a so-called leader to  
19 get a two-sentence response on a piece of paper.

20 You tell me if I'm not being  
21 discriminated against. Since April, you can't have  
22 somebody write me a letter with two sentences on it  
23 explaining to me what you're trying to do to fix the  
24 situation? I think it's a shame.

25 So, I only have a minute left, but I'd

1 like to -- it was brought here before about how this  
2 Mayor had a vision four years ago, well, let me bring  
3 you back on his so-called vision that he had four years  
4 ago, I being a Republican my whole life changed my  
5 party last election because I was forced to do so.

6 I am now a Republican again.

7 On June 12 of 2001, I want to say this  
8 real quick, this was an article from Mr. Doherty, it  
9 seemed funny at the time, but Councilman and Democratic  
10 Mayoral Candidate Chris Doherty ended up apologizing  
11 for a remark he made about Republicans in the recent  
12 edition of the Scranton Times Saturday.

13 Mr. Doherty gave his remark as an  
14 answer to one of the questions posed to him in five  
15 questions, a regular humor column. In it respondents  
16 are asked to answer five irrelevant questions, the  
17 question asked of Mr. Doherty was, Republicans aren't  
18 very bright, are they? And Mr. Doherty's response was,  
19 It's not a felony to be stupid.

20 He said it was meant to be tongue and  
21 cheek. Well, as a Republican for the majority of my  
22 life, I took insult to that comment.



23 Hopefully the Republicans of Scranton,  
24 and I'm referring to the real Republicans of Scranton,  
25 will know truly what that means.

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1 And every week I just, as I finish  
2 here, I just want to take you back four years ago for  
3 comments that this Mayor said, and I want these people  
4 to come up to this podium and tell me why none of this  
5 is true and where the vision is.

6 And finally, Mr. Pocius, I'd like to  
7 ask you, are you going to make that motion again this  
8 week on the CRF?

9 MR. DIBILEO: I'm sorry, Mr. Newcomb.

10 I mean, Mr. Pocius could answer if he wants to, but --

11 MR. POCIUS: Yeah.

12 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Well, now I have a  
13 question for you, when do you entail, and I only have  
14 eleven more times to ask you, when do you plan on  
15 pulling out of your pension fund that according to the  
16 Home Rule Charter --

17 MR. POCIUS: I have no comment on that.

18 Mr. Newcomb, I have no comment on that.

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

20 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Needless to say, I  
21 know why you're not there in January. Thank you.  
22 MR. POCIUS: Thank you, Mr. Newcomb.  
23 Thank you for your warm thoughts.  
24 MS. STULGIS: My name is Ann Marie  
25 Stulgis, and I'm a resident of the City of Scranton.

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1 Mr. Parker left so quickly, I didn't  
2 have the chance to ask him, but perhaps if anyone sees  
3 him, he can tell me if in fact I get a discount on my  
4 garbage fee, since it seems that DPW can't find my  
5 house, recycles can, but we now have three weeks of  
6 garbage not picked up. I'm sure that's a coincidence,  
7 also.  
8 A few weeks ago, well, several weeks  
9 ago, Mr. Gervasi mentioned a poll being conducted by  
10 the current administration, and I believe it was the  
11 last question asked, named five people, and you were  
12 asked to rank them either by believability or  
13 credibility or something like that, the Mayor was one  
14 of them, and was also one of the people mentioned in  
15 that poll.  
16 Well, lucky or unluckily for me,

17 depending upon how you look at it, I came out many  
18 times more believable or credible, whatever the  
19 question was, than our current Mayor.  
20 Consequently, I have now become a  
21 target of this administration. There have been several  
22 anonymous mails done, Sunday the arm of the -- the  
23 publicity arm of the mayor's campaign is going to run a  
24 big article under the guise of being about Channel 61,  
25 just so you can all know, I happen to be a major target

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1 of that article.

2 I didn't speak last week, because I  
3 really didn't feel as if I wanted to make it that easy  
4 for the photographer that they had here to take my  
5 picture.

6 I find it odd as I'm just a citizen in  
7 this city. I don't get paid for what I do, I don't get  
8 a salary for being the president of the police union, I  
9 waived that a few years ago.

10 I do what I do because I live here, I  
11 want my children to live here, I want them to be able  
12 to move back and I want to see them more often.  
13 Instead, this Mayor has decided to make me a target.

14 I got a whole page dedicated to me in  
15 his last week's newsletter. One of the things he  
16 stated that I said was that what I say in The Scranton  
17 Times is either never true or rarely true, I don't  
18 know, they're making -- they're quoting something I  
19 said about four or five years ago.  
20 That's true. We all know if we've  
21 spoken to The Scranton Times, we're misquoted a whole  
22 lot more than we are quoted correctly.  
23 I find it interesting that The  
24 Scranton Times and that our Mayor finds me so  
25 important. I'm not important. I had nothing to do

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1 with \$198 million deficit. And anybody who knows me  
2 can assure you that if it were up to me, we'd never  
3 have \$198 million deficit, because I don't believe in  
4 paying retail for anything. If it's not 75 percent  
5 off, I don't need it. And you can ask anyone who knows  
6 me.  
7 The Mayor can't make that claim. I'm  
8 not responsible for the streets that aren't paved. And  
9 by the way, the 800 block of Olive Street, also, is a  
10 disaster. The Mayor can't say that.

11 I'm not responsible for the exorbitant  
12 no-bid contracts that have been sent out in the city.  
13 The Mayor can't say that.  
14 I'm not responsible for the legal bills  
15 that we've paid. I want to share a few of them with  
16 you, because I find them very interesting, that, and  
17 the fact that the propaganda that's being sent around  
18 about me, one piece of it, happens to have the first  
19 name of one of the lawyers. I find that interesting.  
20 I'm sure it's a coincidence.  
21 In a 22-month period, the law firm of  
22 Hourigan, Kluger, Quinn of Kingston was paid  
23 \$342,730.93. In a 22-month period, Attorney Gene  
24 Hickey was paid \$73,333.33; Attorney Butler,  
25 \$62,333.33; Attorney Kelly, \$58,666.67; Attorney

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1 Farrell, \$128,333.33. For those four in that 22-month  
2 period, it comes to \$322,666.67.  
3 The law firm of Morgan & Lewis of  
4 Philadelphia, 19-month period, \$44,155; the law firm of  
5 Ballad, Sparr, Anders and Ingersol of Philadelphia,  
6 13-month period, \$129,527,61.  
7 That means in less than 22 months,

8 we've spent \$839,080.64 on lawyers. That's not all of  
9 them, that doesn't included Attorney Greco, that  
10 doesn't include Attorney Nealon, who does work for  
11 human resources at \$80 an hour, it doesn't include  
12 commissions, it doesn't include lawyers I don't know  
13 about, and doesn't include authorities.

14 And in closing I'd like to say that I'm  
15 not responsible for this debt. The Mayor can't say  
16 that. So, if he choses to pick on a citizen, well, I  
17 think it just tells you where we stands and how much  
18 respect he has for taxpayers.

19 And secondly, I don't employ an editor  
20 who is involved in a multi-million-dollar lawsuit  
21 because -- with another newspaper because of an article  
22 that ran that was less than honest. The Scranton Times  
23 cannot say that.

24 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, ladies and  
25 gentlemen. My name is Dave Gervasi, I'm a firefighter

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1 in the City of Scranton, homeowner and taxpayer. I  
2 guess that wasn't too good of a return on their  
3 \$800,000. They lost every arbitration so far, and I  
4 guarantee you they're going to lose the rest.

5 Just a few comments I have about some  
6 of the speakers, and then I have something to say at  
7 the end.

8 Mr. Parker was here earlier and he said

9 -- I guess, correct me if I'm wrong, I came in late,  
10 that was a right of way where they were cutting the  
11 trees down?

12 I sat here, I believe, last year and  
13 there was a woman from East Mountain that said she  
14 needed some trees cleared to get to the back of her  
15 property that was a city right of way, and I think she  
16 came here every week for a year, and I don't know if  
17 she got any satisfaction. Apparently she wasn't.

18 Never mind.

19 Mr. Phillips was here, also, saying how  
20 he bought a house in the Hill Section. I should've  
21 remind Mr. Phillips that he wouldn't have bought a  
22 house in the Hill Section a few years back because back  
23 then, I believe it was the Connors administration,  
24 which everyone knows we had our problems, our union had  
25 our problems with the Connors administration, but back

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1 then there was one thing Mayor Connors did was put a

2 ton of police officers to clean up the Hill Section, so  
3 I'm glad to see that it is a lot safer now, and that  
4 was done years ago before Mayor Doherty took office,  
5 and I'm glad to see that Mr. Phillips is enjoying a  
6 nice safe neighborhood in the Hill Section because of  
7 Mayor Connors, his policies, and especially our police  
8 force who cleaned it up.

9 Mr. Sallusti was here. Mrs. Evans, you  
10 know a little bit about this, I am by no means any  
11 financial expert, but he was mentioning that you were  
12 adding up the \$198,000, you were adding in, I believe  
13 he said the Scranton Redevelopment Authority, the  
14 Parking Authority, and there was another, the Sewer  
15 Authority or --

16 MS. EVANS: Yes.

17 MR. GERVASI: Let me ask you a  
18 question, if any of these authorities default on any of  
19 these loans, are the taxpayers of the City of Scranton  
20 responsible for those debts?

21 MS. EVANS: Absolutely.

22 MR. GERVASI: And wouldn't that be  
23 prudent to say that that's why those are added to the  
24 city's debts?

25 MS. EVANS: Absolutely correct.



1 MR. GERVASI: That's what I thought.

2 Mr. Norton was up here before, and he was talking about

3 the EMS Tax, and I believe he's a supporter of the

4 Mayor, but I just wanted him to know, I don't know the

5 exact organization that the Mayor belongs to, I don't

6 know if it's The League of Cities or the Conference of

7 Mayors or whatever, but I do know as a fact that Mayor

8 Doherty absolutely, positively lobbied to have that EMS

9 Tax created.

10 He chose not to do it here, and I'll

11 tell you why he didn't implement that tax last year,

12 the reason why he didn't do it is because he would have

13 a lot harder chance of beating us in arbitration saying

14 that he's broke with an extra million dollars in the

15 bank, and I believe The Scranton Times even said that

16 in an editorial, why he's not raising revenues.

17 He's keeping us down.

18 And the last thing I have to say, I

19 believe Mr. Newcomb brought it up about Channel 61, how

20 it's on three days now, where it used to be on much

21 more, there's been many articles and cartoons in The

22 Scranton Times saying that, you know, this is just

23 terrible what's going on here at this podium and it's  
24 political and everybody is crazy and all these things,  
25 I'd like to bring The Scranton Times back to when Chris

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1 Doherty was a councilman and James Connors was the  
2 Mayor, and it's dated -- an editorial from The Scranton  
3 Times dated 3/28/01, and it says, City Council errs by  
4 limiting speech of Scranton City Council of the things  
5 Scranton City Council does not want to hear, doesn't  
6 want to hear about the problems in your neighborhood,  
7 about your ideas to fix the government systemic \$7  
8 million deficit, about the quality of municipal  
9 services, for which you pay dearly, about your view of  
10 Council's performance.

11 The latest skirmish in a running battle  
12 between Council and a group of curmudgeons who  
13 regularly take to the microphone features Council  
14 limiting residents to addressing only those matters in  
15 the printed agenda.

16 Under new business, two types of  
17 speech, that means, of course, that citizens may not  
18 respond to anything individual Council members might  
19 bring up beyond the scope of the printed agenda under

20 the vast open realm of new business; thus, Council is  
21 creating two distinct levels of speech, one  
22 open-ended-type for Council members, and another  
23 tightly-restricted-type for citizens. That's wrong.

24 Every government body has the inherent  
25 right to maintain order at public meetings, but Council

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1 has joined the swelled ranks of those local government  
2 bodies who treat public commentary as unfair burden,  
3 rather than the essence of Democratic government.

4 To be sure, many of the regulars at  
5 Council meetings try the councilmen's patience, they  
6 often beat dead horses, and they sometimes are wrong on  
7 their assertions about city business.

8 As some Council members seem to believe  
9 that the cable cast of Council meetings on Channel 61  
10 have created a monster of publicity seekers at the  
11 Council chamber's microphone, rights not qualified by  
12 motives, but the motive of star-struck speakers is not  
13 a qualifier for the citizen's right of free speech and  
14 to petition the government for the redress of  
15 grievances, both of which are guaranteed by the First  
16 Amendment.

17 Council should have learned last week  
18 when Lackawanna County Judge Terrence Nealon issued an  
19 injunction against a Council rule that precluded people  
20 seeking city office and exempt Council members of  
21 course from speaking during Council meetings, nor does  
22 the right to address the government carry a requirement  
23 to be right; otherwise, Council and the State  
24 Legislature and Congress would have to close.

25 Instead of trying to shut off public

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1 commentary, Council would better serve the public in  
2 the spirit of open government, which I believe you talk  
3 about all the time, Mr. DiBileo, by engaging speakers  
4 who raise issues during the public commentary sessions.  
5 Scranton's government has serious  
6 problems. The refusal of public officials to hear them  
7 has the potential to be the biggest one of all.

8 Amazing what a couple years will do in  
9 the opinion of The Scranton Times. Thank you for the  
10 opportunity to speak.

11 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening, Council.

12 I'm Nelson Ancherani, citizen, resident and a taxpayer  
13 in the City of Scranton, and I'm also a member of the

14 FOP.

15 I'm going to start where I left off two  
16 weeks ago when I was addressing a Dear Union Member  
17 Letter written and signed by Chris Doherty, Mayor. It  
18 says, During my first term, economic development  
19 programs resulted in over \$250 million in new  
20 investment in Scranton, including construction of the  
21 Southern Union headquarters, two new downtown parking  
22 garages, and a new police and department of public  
23 works headquarters.

24 Local trade unions were given a first  
25 priority on all of these construction project; in fact,

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1 the vast majority of this construction was done by  
2 local trade unions.

3 Oh, now it's only \$250 million. I  
4 thought it was \$300 million, as the mayor's website  
5 says it's \$300 million.

6 As for the new police building, it is  
7 impressive, but I am going to say it again, \$3.5  
8 million spent and the reason the building was built was  
9 to get the total police department under one roof.

10 Does anyone know why the entire police

11 department isn't going to be located in the new  
12 building?  
13 Juvenile and training are going to be  
14 left at City Hall. So much for the intention. Who  
15 drew up the plans that juvenile and training are left  
16 out, or is it that they don't want to spend the extra  
17 money to put everyone under one roof?  
18 I can't help but think that someone's  
19 heart must be broken that they even had to spend \$3.5  
20 million for a new building, when that money could have  
21 gone to Nay Aug.  
22 And just for information the \$3.5  
23 million came from the mayor's web site. One question I  
24 have is, if they're going to lease that building out,  
25 too, once it's finished.

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1 Next paragraph says, Our economic  
2 development policy has greatly benefited Scranton's  
3 working families, as local trade unions have enjoyed  
4 100 percent employment.  
5 My administration and local trade  
6 unions have brought more construction to Scranton than  
7 any time in recent history.

8 I am proud of what we have accomplished  
9 together and am confident that we can even surpass this  
10 unprecedented economic development during my second  
11 term as mayor of Scranton.

12 This paragraph says, As local trade  
13 unions have enjoyed 100 percent employment. What is  
14 right? The last paragraph says, In fact, the vast  
15 majority of this construction was done by local trade  
16 unions, a little contradiction.

17 And recent construction, how recent  
18 does he mean? Did he forget about the Steamtown Mall,  
19 Steamtown, the expansion near the Viewmont Mall that's  
20 in Scranton, the new high school? There's more, but I  
21 don't have the time to list them.

22 Last paragraph is, If your union  
23 membership is holding a membership meeting, please call  
24 me, as I would welcome the opportunity to discuss my  
25 plans for the future of Scranton. With your support,

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1 we can keep jobs and opportunities for union workers  
2 alive in Scranton.

3 His plans are to bust the unions, and  
4 he want to discuss this with the other unions? Come on

5 on that one.

6 Did the Mayor ever talk to the trade

7 unions before this? The Mayor will talk to other

8 unions, and not his own unions, and that's really nice.

9 I know I sound like a broken record on

10 this, but, I am going to ask the Mayor again to give

11 the soldiers who returned from Iraq a \$200 appreciation

12 award for every month for their service that they spent

13 in Iraq.

14 That service was for our country, for

15 our city and for our state. This will total

16 approximately \$20,000. The city will still be saving

17 money because these soldiers were not paid their full

18 salaries while there were activated.

19 The unpaid budgeted money went back

20 into the budget, and then from there, who knows. How

21 can it be justified that these soldiers can't be paid,

22 when money was budgeted originally for them and was

23 never paid to them, and yet the money was found for the

24 Genesis Wildlife Center and numerous banners all over

25 the city.

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1 Come on, Mayor, these soldiers risked



2 their lives for all of us here in this country, they  
3 deserve the bonus. To deny them is hypocritical.  
4 And I'm going to say this that I said  
5 last week, too, I want to say that the Doherty  
6 Administration has not, has not cut a deal with the  
7 police and fire unions.  
8 There are all kind of rumors going  
9 around that a contract was offered with an eight  
10 percent wage increase, I assure that's rumor. I'm on  
11 the committee, so I know that. Thank you very much.  
12 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council. My  
13 name is Nancy Krake, and Ann Marie Stulgis was just  
14 reminding me, we each also got -- well, a letter, we  
15 got copies of the letter that the Mayor sent to the  
16 labor unions, and he was very anxious to speak at their  
17 union meetings, and we would just like to extend that  
18 invitation to our union meetings, also, since he  
19 doesn't seem to care to speak to us.  
20 Also, I would like to thank Mayor  
21 Doherty, I've seen the signs that say Thank You Mayor  
22 Doherty for Nay Aug Park, and tongue and cheek, I would  
23 like to say, Thank you, Mayor Doherty, for \$198 million  
24 worth of debt.  
25 In fact, there probably really are

1 people thanking him, Pennsylvania Economy League, who  
2 are our consultants, this way we can perpetually stay  
3 in debt and they can perpetually have a job and he can  
4 continue to control where all of our tax dollars are  
5 going.

6 In fact, his Recovery Plan is some  
7 people's ticket to easy street; namely, the  
8 consultants, lawyers, administrative workers and other  
9 donators to a certain mayor's campaign fund.

10 This November 8, when you vote, and I  
11 hope everyone does vote, remember, do you want to vote  
12 for \$198 million debt shadowing our future and the  
13 millions upon millions for consultants and  
14 administrators and lawyers who contribute nothing to  
15 our city, but contribute much to the mayor's campaign  
16 funds? We have a real choice for Mayor this November,  
17 a Mayor for all of the people.

18 And I do have a few comments also on  
19 people's remarks here tonight, and one gentleman spoke  
20 and said communication is lacking, and I totally agree,  
21 but I'd like lack to go a step further and say that  
22 it's lacking because this administration does not feel

23 they must be accountable to the citizens of Scranton,  
24 and I think he is extremely offended when the members  
25 of this Council try to force him to be accountable.

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1 It's a very sad situation that we have.

2 Now, the Mayor had his campaign

3 photographers here again tonight, The Scranton Times,

4 they didn't bother to stay the whole night, though.

5 It's amazing, they have yet to print

6 one thing that we've said at Council, but they needed

7 photos for an article they're going to be running on

8 Sunday, which probably will be pretty negative about

9 Channel 61, so they made sure they were here to take

10 our pictures, and I'm sure they won't be flattering,

11 but that's okay.

12 And even, in fact, I've seen The Times

13 reporter Lynn Shedlock actually run out of this Council

14 chambers after the pro-Mayor faction to make sure she

15 got every word they said. I've yet to see any of our

16 words appear in their paper.

17 And there was a gentleman here speaking

18 tonight from the painters union, Bob Griffiths, he does

19 not live in Scranton. Many of these people are coming

20 here and they're not saying where they live. He  
21 doesn't live in Scranton, he lives in Old Forge.  
22 In fact, he said he painted Council  
23 chambers, I believe he did, but I think there's a  
24 couple drips on that window there over Jay's head that  
25 maybe he didn't notice and maybe he noticed them when

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1 he was at the podium tonight.  
2 And also, I did get a phone call while  
3 he was speaking, and they wanted me to say that he does  
4 not speak for all of the painters, which is  
5 interesting. It was very interesting.  
6 He said the Mayor spawns development,  
7 well, I'd like to say that all that development is  
8 circling back to his campaign funds through  
9 contributions from the players.  
10 Mr. Sallusti spoke this evening, he  
11 said the \$198 million debt was overexaggerated. Well,  
12 Mr. Gervasi made an excellent point concerning that,  
13 but I'd also like to say this, Find a person that has a  
14 car loan and a student loan and a mortgage, wouldn't  
15 all of these be considered my personal debt? Thank  
16 you.

17 MR. DIBILEO: If there's no further

18 speakers.

19 MR. WALSH: 5-A, Motions.

20 MS. HUMPHREY: I came with a better

21 demeanor. I want to apologize for when I came here,

22 because I know you're not aware of what transpired over

23 the years and over the months and over the days, so I

24 hope you would humbly accept my apology.

25 But I was sent into this world to bring

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1 a message to the world. People think that everything

2 is supposed to be sugary, but, you are to tell and to

3 point and to try to make a person a better person.

4 First I would like to say Assalaam

5 Alaikum, Shalom, (UNTRANSCRIBABLE).

6 I am on a mission for ecumenical peace,

7 for the ending of the shedding of blood between

8 brothers and sisters throughout the world, the support

9 of life,

10 I -- - because you don't know who I am,

11 where I came from and where I am going, Jesus Christ is

12 Lord, body, blood, flesh, soul and divinity. For every

13 knee shall bend and every head shall bow and every

14 tongue profess and proclaim on the earth, in the high  
15 heaven that Jesus Christ is Lorn in honor of the  
16 eucharistic body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
17 that is presented this year in the church.

18 There is land up by the coal mining,  
19 McDade Park, and it's by St. George's cemetery. After  
20 the cemetery a little ways up there was a stream there  
21 where I am Fruity Pebbles, I pick holy rocks that have  
22 bee sent all through the United States and through the  
23 world.

24 Some of the rocks that were painted,  
25 I'm a mystical artist, some of the rocks that were

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1 painted were taken to numerous places.

2 The heart, there's a heart of stone and  
3 there's a heart a love, so that's why these hearts are  
4 coming about.

5 This land that I'm asking about, I  
6 would like to intercede for the mother of the Lord  
7 Jesus Christ, the (UNTRANSCRIBABLE), the God there, the  
8 Immaculate Conception, she desires a peace chapel.

9 Over years I collected -- I first  
10 invited people to donate flags, but because of their

11 unbelief and their loss of faith, they thought I was  
12 looking for something, which I wasn't, so me in my  
13 financial status of a supplement security, I started to  
14 collect the flags.  
15 Bishop Timlin was given most of the  
16 flags, and some of the flags I travelled to Chicago,  
17 and right now they are in Chicago with the cardinal and  
18 the bishop, which I would like to get returned back.  
19 As I travelled and as I got to see,  
20 nobody supported me, it was the support of the Lord  
21 Jesus Christ, my personal savior, I would hop on a bus  
22 with a loaf of bread, water and bread, I would sleep in  
23 every place you can think of because I did not have the  
24 support of my brothers and my sisters in this area and  
25 of their faith.

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1 But every time I would come back, I  
2 went to Denver, I went to Washington, I slept out on  
3 the streets, you name it, I did it for the Mother of  
4 God, but in the grandeur of Pennsylvania, my heart  
5 would well and swell because I love the City of  
6 Scranton truly, I love my country truly, I love my FBI,  
7 my police department, I love my priest.

8 My mission, as I says, is truly of  
9 love. I apologize the way I came on, because when this  
10 happens to you, you're abandoned by your family, you're  
11 abandoned by church members, you're looked at terrible  
12 in a lot of ways.

13 What I am bringing to you at this point  
14 is documents I would like to have honored here in the  
15 City of Scranton. Sometimes we've got to look and not  
16 look back and try to go forward.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Excuse me --

18 MS. HUMPHREY: So, these documents,  
19 yes, these documents I will give you, and I believe  
20 that after these are exposed, the City of Scranton will  
21 be very blessed, because I feel that you will be  
22 inviting a lot of scientists here, doctors and the  
23 medical field.

24 MR. DIBILEO: I have to ask just for  
25 the record, give your name, please.

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1 MS. HUMPHREY: My name is Phyllis  
2 Bernadette Humphrey. My maiden name is Mattisco. My  
3 Carmelite name is Phyllis of Jesus and Mary, but at  
4 this time I'm the hope of Israel.



5 MR. DIBILEO: Phyllis, I'm going to ask  
6 you if you would come back next week with documents.

7 MS. HUMPHREY: Well, I'm going to be  
8 going away next week, this is the document from the  
9 Vatican, and Bishop Martino has the letter from  
10 President Bush.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Would you leave that with  
12 Kay?

13 MS. HUMPHREY: Yes, I will leave them  
14 here. I know last week you were very busy and  
15 everybody scattered off, but I want to tell Mrs. Evans,  
16 I know your husband didn't understand, and I pray -- I  
17 only seen you once, and I really don't follow what's  
18 going on, I feel that you should be the Mayor, really.  
19 And it was so kind that you stopped for  
20 those few little minutes. Those few little minutes  
21 meant to me more than you will ever know in this whole  
22 world. God bless you.

23 And I want to close with one prayer,  
24 St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our  
25 safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the

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1 devil. May God rebuke him, and we humbly pray, and do

2 though, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, cast into hell  
3 Satan and all the evil spirits that roam through this  
4 world seeking to ruin us souls and may they all be  
5 casted into hell and may glory and joy and peace come  
6 to this country and this town in the United States of  
7 America. Thank you.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Phyllis, thank you so  
9 much for your comments. Thank you. And we appreciate  
10 your feelings about our community.

11 MR. WALSH: 5-A, Motions.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Kay, can you take that  
13 outside, if you don't mind? Phyllis, actually we're  
14 going to have to go out in the hallway with that, okay?  
15 And we're going to have Mr. McTiernan make any motions  
16 or comments at this time.

17 MR. MCTIERNAN: Thank you, Mr.  
18 President.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

20 MR. MCTIERNAN: Just a few things,  
21 first of all, I had a contact from a citizen who was  
22 speaking with some of the PennDOT inspectors who were  
23 working on intersections, and if I could just ask Mr.  
24 Saunders possibly, he's not here, oh, there you are,  
25 Mr. Walsh --

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1 MS. EVANS: Mr. Walsh will take notes.

2 MR. MCTIERNAN: They'll be on the

3 record, there seems to be a project going on in the

4 city where intersections are being redone and there are

5 federal funds being used for those, and as I understand

6 it, there are strobe systems that are being installed

7 on the lights, and there are federal dollars available

8 that would allow for every intersection which has been

9 redone under this program to allow for emergency

10 vehicles to be outfitted with strobe transmitters, so

11 that when they approach an intersection during an

12 emergency call, the lights turn.

13 I don't know all the details. The

14 gentleman's name is Bill Wilson, and he is a PennDOT

15 inspector, so if I could ask Mr. Saunders to make the

16 appropriate contacts to see if that indeed is a program

17 we should be engaging.

18 And I would like to thank Mr. Saunders,

19 I don't say a lot every week, but Mr. Saunders and I

20 have some contact when there are issues that need to be

21 addressed from citizens, and Mr. Saunders takes care of

22 those, and I want to thank him for that, and I also

23 want to thank Mr. Pat McMullen and the members of his  
24 crew on the DPW, because they have taken care of a  
25 large number of issues behind the scenes that need to  
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1 be taken care of, so, again, thanks to Mr. Saunders,  
2 Mr. McMullen and his crew members for taking care of a  
3 lot of citizens' concerns. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

5 And before I ask Mrs. Evans, I would like to ask Mr.

6 Walsh if he could comment on the validity of any  
7 motions that may be brought up tonight that have been  
8 brought up and voted upon several times in recent  
9 weeks.

10 MR. WALSH: Mr. President, are you  
11 asking me to comment upon a motion that was defeated  
12 and then brought up again?

13 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

14 MR. WALSH: If a motion is defeated and  
15 then it's brought up again, it can be brought up in a  
16 couple of different ways, there could be a motion to  
17 reconsider that motion, and our local rules provide  
18 that a motion to reconsider shall not be entertained  
19 after the next regular meeting of the Council, so if

20 there was a motion made two meetings ago and not in the  
21 last meeting, it will seem to go contrary to our Rule  
22 10.

23 Furthermore, the same rule says that no  
24 second motion to reconsider the same subject shall be  
25 made or entertained.

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1 I don't know what motions we're going  
2 to be referring to, but if the motion was made twice,  
3 it seems to be inappropriate.

4 Also, a motion to reconsider must be  
5 made and seconded by members who voted in the majority,  
6 so, somebody who voted in the majority; meaning,  
7 somebody who voted and won on their vote can ask to  
8 reconsider and change their mind and make a motion to  
9 change their mind.

10 You can also make a motion to renew a  
11 motion, but, again, the motion to renew the motion  
12 would not be proper in the situation where the motion  
13 to reconsider is not proper.

14 So, in order to summarize, if a motion  
15 has been made by this body and that motion has been  
16 unsuccessful, then it must be made again by someone who

17 voted in the affirmative.

18 I can probably comment better on that

19 type of issue as motions come up, but I think in

20 general, if you're talking about making multiple

21 motions, the reason why that rule is there is so that

22 the same motions aren't made week in and week out if

23 they're defeated.

24 MS. EVANS: If they are, is that

25 considered to be out of order? Is that motion out of

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1 order?

2 MR. WALSH: Well, I think it would

3 probably be considered improper.

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

5 Mrs. Evans, any motions or comments?

6 MS. EVANS: Yes. First I'd like to send

7 my prayers and best wishes for a full and rapid

8 recovery to Mr. Bill Fiorini.

9 And I also have a number of citizens'

10 complaints that I would like to emphasize this evening,

11 first of all, Hawthorne Street in Tripp Park, there is

12 a very large pothole which has been expanding for one

13 and one half years, and recently a resident fell into

14 the hole and was injured, so, I expect that this is  
15 going to be addressed immediately, and this is one of  
16 the streets in our neighborhood.

17 Also, the 3100 an 3200 blocks of  
18 Rockwell Avenue must be repaired or paved. I did  
19 receive a response from John Hazzouri regarding pave  
20 cuts created by utility companies in the 400 and 500  
21 blocks of Greenbush and Streets.

22 Now, according to File of Council No.

23 76, from September of '95, if within five years after

24 the restoration of the surface as herein provided

25 defects shall appear, the applicant shall reimburse the

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1 city for the cost of all necessary repairs to the

2 permanent paving.

3 Now, that would appear to be the good

4 news; however, Mr. Hazzouri indicates that all of the

5 pave cuts on Rockwell Avenue and Race Street are passed

6 the five-year maintenance requirement; however, he goes

7 on to say that in the 400 block of Greenbush, there was

8 a pave cut that has to be restored by the sewer

9 authority, and in the 200 block of Greenbush,

10 specifically 227, there is a water cut that will be

11 restored by the Pennsylvania American Water Company.

12 Okay. The corner of 204 Spring Street

13 and Golden Avenue, trees need to be cut back because

14 they're blocking visibility.

15 926 Rowland Avenue, a homeowner spoke

16 to Mr. Parker several months ago about cutting a tree

17 that poses a safety hazard to his home. Mr. Parker

18 indicated that the tree would be taken down shortly

19 thereafter, but to date, nothing has been done.

20 So, I'd like a written update from Mr. Parker and a

21 date that he intends to move that tree.

22 Next, I would like a letter sent to the

23 Daron plant, Daron Northeast on Dickson Avenue from

24 Scranton City Council. The neighbors there, once

25 again, have been in contact with me, and unfortunately

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1 we no longer have Mr. Fiorini functioning as a

2 go-between.

3 They are complaining that they are

4 unable to sleep at night. The noise level has become

5 intolerable, so I would like a letter requesting that

6 they would, you know, as they have addressed other

7 issues in a prompt and courteous manner, that they



8 would please do this as well.

9 Pave the 1600 block of Division Street,

10 which hasn't been paved in over 30 years. It's a small

11 block, but it's very heavily traveled to and from West

12 Scranton High School.

13 Now, there is another situation which

14 troubles me greatly, it involves Park Gardens, and I

15 mentioned this a few weeks ago because I received

16 letters that I was unable to read, there were

17 follow-ups on that.

18 There have been break-ins at Park

19 Gardens that have not been reported in the newspaper.

20 What I'd like actually is a letter to Mr. Baker on the

21 Scranton Housing Authority requesting a report on this

22 matter and what procedures have been implemented to

23 insure the safety and welfare of the Park Gardens

24 residents, and a prompt reply is appreciated.

25 It involves more than one building, and

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1 this involves senior citizens, who are probably our

2 most vulnerable members of society.

3 Further, they tell me when they call

4 the Scranton Housing Authority, they are met with a

5 very curt and sometimes even abusive response from an  
6 employee who's answering the phone, and this is no way  
7 in which to be treating the residents of a Scranton  
8 housing development, particularly not senior citizens.

9 So, I want some answers on this, and

10 I'd like to have them fast, because I want to know that  
11 these people are safe where they're living.

12 1316 South Irving, a resident applied

13 for a handicapped parking space, and all of it I

14 understand was approved, but I would like an update

15 from the highway department on their report and from

16 Mr. McMullen requesting a date of installation.

17 To the individuals who were concerned

18 with an apartment building on Providence Road, the

19 inspector will meet with the property owner/landlord

20 regarding those problems and do an on-site inspection.

21 Beaumont Street between Laurel and

22 Warren Street in North Scranton, we need to repair two

23 storm drains before the street is paved. I hope it

24 hasn't been paved yet. I know the street was milled,

25 but it seems absolutely counterproductive, less than

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1 cost-efficient and ludicrous to be paving streets just

2 to tear them up to do repairs later on.

3 Also, Jay, did we get a final total on

4 the Summer in the City ad campaign?

5 MR. SAUNDERS: The total that we have

6 is \$45,000. We have not gotten the billboard costs

7 yet.

8 MS. EVANS: Why?

9 MR. SAUNDERS: I don't know that

10 answer.

11 MS. EVANS: I think they would have the

12 billboard costs actually, because I know personally

13 I've done business with Lamar Advertising, and they're

14 very prompt with their contracts, with, you know,

15 invoices, and there are time deadlines involving

16 payments, and since that campaign has ceased, I'm sure

17 in fact those costs were presented up front, so if you

18 could please ask Ms. Hailstone to fax those over

19 tomorrow.

20 Also, Jay, I would like the invoices of

21 Attorney Greco that would have been billed to OECD, the

22 SRA or the controller's office since June 10, 2003.

23 I have a copy of his contract, which is

24 dated June 9, 2003, and it includes a \$100,000 ceiling

25 or a one-year time period, whichever is reached first.

1 Knowing the breadth of his involvement in city legal  
2 affairs, from the SRA to the South Side Complex, Hilton  
3 negotiations, health care committee, OECD, perhaps he  
4 is not, or excuse me, perhaps he has met that ceiling  
5 without anyone's awareness. It appears this contract  
6 may require a new resolution and Council approval.  
7 Also, I found it very disappointing  
8 that the Scranton Times gave no coverage to the 911  
9 commemorative service conducted at St. Ann's Basilica.  
10 How quickly they forget.  
11 And finally, I just wanted to make a  
12 few comments about CRF. In the past number of Council  
13 meetings, everyone has witnessed a well-organized  
14 campaign to achieve two goals which may be  
15 cornerstone's of the mayor's re-election bid.  
16 If anyone examines his campaign and its  
17 issues carefully, it will become clear that they deal  
18 with this mayor's insatiable desire for money to cover  
19 his deficit spending for the last four years.  
20 This mayor's first goal, and the one I  
21 want to address tonight, the other because of time  
22 constraints, I'm going to wait for next week to

23 address, but this mayor's first goal is to make Council

24 reverse itself and approve the sale of the city's safe

25 and profitable \$5.2 million loan portfolio to the CRF

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1 company and lose approximately a half a million dollars

2 on the sale.

3 A few weeks ago I asked the question if

4 anyone would sell a safe and profitable \$5.2 million

5 portfolio at a loss of half a million dollars. No one

6 ever told me they would. So, why should Scranton do

7 such a thing?

8 Apparently this Mayor began his CRF

9 campaign because he has such a burning need for the

10 million of dollars that would come to him in a lump

11 sum.

12 Here are a few facts that I think

13 provide evidence of this campaign, for at least two

14 years representatives and construction unions did not

15 appear before Council on any matter, now all of a

16 sudden union representatives, some of whom do not even

17 live in Scranton, appear every week and try to pressure

18 Council to change its mind.

19 They argue the same point, that if this

20 Mayor could get his hands on the balance of  
21 \$4.7 million, it would provide family sustaining jobs  
22 for their members.  
23 Who told the representatives to  
24 suddenly appear before Council and plead the mayor's  
25 case for millions of dollars? What did the Mayor

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1 promise the out of town union representatives to come  
2 here and do his bidding?  
3 Now, I know they will deny any promise  
4 from the Mayor, but we all know life just doesn't work  
5 so purely and naively in the political world.  
6 People don't suddenly come in out of  
7 the woodwork and support a Mayor who has a very bad  
8 reputation in the eyes of the city's unions.  
9 Almost every week for four years  
10 representatives of the police, the firefighters and  
11 clerical unions came to City Council meetings and used  
12 that podium to criticize, chastise, castigate and  
13 complain about what they describe as this mayor's  
14 anti-union conduct.  
15 The union representatives say, and the  
16 facts do bear them out, that this Mayor has refused to

17 bargain with them for almost four years to replace  
18 expired contracts.  
19 The facts show the union members did  
20 not receive any wage increases for years, while all the  
21 supervisors and department heads received regular  
22 increases.

23 The facts show this Mayor lost  
24 high-cost arbitrations, together with Council fees for  
25 the city and for the union's lawyers, while ignoring  
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1 the collective bargaining process.  
2 As a matter of fact, if I recall, it  
3 reached the point where city union representatives gave  
4 this Mayor the despised title of union buster.  
5 The labor movement came as far as it  
6 did in the 20th Century because unions of all types  
7 stuck together. In unity, as they say, there is  
8 strength.  
9 Has the labor movement in this area  
10 become so splintered that this Mayor has the power to  
11 cause a part of the labor movement to sell out their  
12 fellow unionists and do the bidding of a Mayor who has  
13 treated unionized public employees so shabbily for four

14 years?

15 Well, I don't know if individual

16 taxpayers are pro or anti-union, but either way, when

17 it comes to treatment of the men and women who protect

18 our homes from theft and fire and provide our safety

19 and security, the least this Mayor can do is treat them

20 fairly without discrimination, but he did not.

21 I'm informed that the union

22 representatives will be at every Council meeting until

23 Council reverses itself to give this Mayor \$4.7 million

24 with a blank check to spend as he alone desires, or

25 until November 8.

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1 To me, this reflects a terrible need

2 for money to feed his deficit spending. Well, not with

3 my vote. That's it.

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

5 Mr. Pocius, motions or comments?

6 MR. POCIUS: I have a motion, Mr.

7 President. As I have previously stated, I will once

8 again make the motion that Scranton City Council

9 suspend its rules and reintroduce the CRF legislation.

10 Accordingly, I once again move that the



11 City Council suspend its rules and allow for the  
12 reintroduction of the CRF legislation at Scranton's  
13 next regularly scheduled Council meeting, I so move.

14 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a motion  
16 on the floor and a second on the question?

17 MS. EVANS: Okay. Give me a minute,  
18 please.

19 MR. DIBILEO: While you're looking for  
20 that, is this the type of motion you might have been  
21 referring to earlier, Mr. Walsh, that would be  
22 considered improper based upon our previous week's  
23 work?

24 MR. WALSH: Yes, it is, Mr. President.

25 I believe Mr. Pocius' motion, I think he said it within  
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1 the motion, I'm going to make this motion again, and I  
2 think it's the same motion that he may have made two  
3 weeks ago simply saying that he wants to, again, make  
4 the motion to suspend rules in order to relist the CRF  
5 legislation, which I believe is the exact same motion  
6 that he had made, and I'm not sure, Mr. Pocius, I know  
7 it was two weeks ago, was it the week before that, as

8 well? I'm not positive of that.

9 MR. POCIUS: Mr. Walsh, just in

10 general, it's approximately the same motion --

11 MR. WALSH: Okay.

12 MR. POCIUS: -- that I will continue to

13 make, even in spite of this whatever you're trying to

14 advise us of right now.

15 See, I believe that, you know, you did

16 mention this to me a couple of weeks ago and I told you

17 my concerns basically I'm not asking -- I'm putting the

18 motion in the form that we suspend our rules to

19 reintroduce it. Council rules allow for the suspension

20 of rules, and I'll stop right there.

21 MR. WALSH: They do, and I believe --

22 MR. POCIUS: Yes, they do.

23 MR. WALSH: -- and I believe that your

24 initial motion to suspend rules was very proper, and

25 you made a motion to suspend rules --

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1 MR. POCIUS: So, you're saying I can't

2 suspend rules twice? I can't?

3 MR. WALSH: Well, what happened was --

4 I'll reply to that, I think your initial motion was to

5 suspend rules in order to relist CRF, and you were

6 voted down on that motion to suspend rules.

7 MR. POCIUS: I was voted down more than

8 once on that issue.

9 MR. WALSH: Right, voted down more than

10 once on that particular issue. What you're doing now

11 is bringing back or reconsidering the exact same motion

12 that you made before to suspend rules again, it's the

13 same motion, so it seems to be a reconsideration, and

14 under our --

15 MR. POCIUS: No, Mark.

16 MR. WALSH: -- Rule 10, a motion to

17 reconsider.

18 MR. POCIUS: I beg to differ, Dear

19 Counselor. I'm making a motion to suspend the rules.

20 If we suspend the rules, then basically then we're not

21 going to follow our regular rules.

22 And this has been upheld in the courts

23 and everywhere else, and you know it. I think this is

24 a circumvention to get me to stop making this motion.

25 MR. WALSH: Let me say this --

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1 MR. POCIUS: Mr. Walsh, what I'd like

2 you to do is, you know, why don't you put this in  
3 writing so we have it memorialized for all of us here,  
4 so in case this gets that far, we'll have your legal  
5 opinion in writing that can be taken to the next level,  
6 if need be.

7 MR. WALSH: Mr. Pocius, respectfully I  
8 have absolutely no problem doing that, but I would  
9 point out, sir, that this evening my words are being  
10 stenographically recorded they're being electronically  
11 recorded and they're being recorded on television, so I  
12 do believe that my opinion here today is not only very  
13 public, but also is being recorded.

14 But if you wish for me to reduce it to  
15 writing, I will. It is proper to suspend rules to take  
16 action, but the problem is you made the motion to  
17 suspend rules to take action now you're bring up the  
18 exact same motion again without ever having had the  
19 rules suspended to bring up that motion again, so what  
20 you're essentially doing is --

21 MR. POCIUS: I'm asking to suspend the  
22 rules again, Mr. Walsh. You're telling me I can't ask  
23 the same question -- I can't suspend the rules twice.  
24 I'm not going to beat this to death. Why don't we get  
25 onto the comment? I mean, you made your point known.

1 MR. WALSH: Okay.

2 MR. POCIUS: Let Mrs. Evans rear her

3 statement, and we'll get on with it.

4 I guess this only becomes an issue if

5 it ever passes, right? Right?

6 MR. WALSH: Well, let me say this, I

7 think you've asked me for my thoughts on it, and Mr. --

8 MR. POCIUS: I never asked you for your

9 thoughts on it, you button-holed me one time in the

10 Council chambers in between the bookshelves back there

11 and gave me your opinion without me asking for it, and

12 I don't who asked you to ask me, but I don't really

13 like it.

14 MR. WALSH: Well, let me say this, Mr.

15 Pocius, and, again, I do --

16 MR. POCIUS: And as far as these

17 written opinions, Mark, in the two years I've been

18 here, two and a half years, I've only seen one, you

19 give me one written opinion. I haven't seen one. I

20 have one, and I saved it.

21 MR. WALSH: I understand that, Mr.

22 Pocius, and, again, respectfully --

23 MR. POCIUS: We always got written  
24 opinions in the past when we asked for them.

25 MR. WALSH: And, again, Mr. Pocius,

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1 respectfully --

2 MR. POCIUS: Did you ever get one, Mrs.

3 Evans, Mr. DiBileo?

4 MS. EVANS: I never asked for one.

5 MR. POCIUS: Oh, yes, we did, we asked

6 for a lot of written opinions.

7 MR. WALSH: Let me say this, because,

8 again --

9 MS. EVANS: From the administration. I

10 didn't recall --

11 MR. POCIUS: I can go back to one

12 motion Mr. DiBileo made quite a while ago when my --

13 when a conflict of interest came up on my part and he

14 asked for an opinion from Mr. Walsh as to the conflicts

15 of interests of anyone here on Council, and that was

16 never given, was it, Mr. Walsh?

17 MR. WALSH: Let me reply, if I may, Mr.

18 Pocius, because I believe you're asking me a question,

19 again, that was a question asked whether or not we

20 could get an opinion based on a conflict of interest,  
21 but the proper mechanism to do that, and I believe you  
22 know this, Mr. Pocius, because we spoke about it --

23 MR. POCIUS: You all voted on it.

24 MR. WALSH: -- and I did speak to the  
25 president, the proper mechanism to use to do that would

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1 be for the individual to request his own conflict of  
2 interest check, and I believe that that was well  
3 documented.

4 In terms of being asked to give a  
5 written opinion, I believe whenever I'm asked to give a  
6 written opinion, I've given that written opinion, and  
7 if you wish for a written opinion on this, I would  
8 certainly give it.

9 MR. POCIUS: If I got to ask Mr.  
10 Saunders to go back and check every meeting minutes for  
11 the last two years, I'll ask him to do it, and we'll  
12 dig that motion out.

13 MR. WALSH: Again --

14 MR. POCIUS: Let's just drop it right  
15 here. You're telling me I can't do it, I think I can  
16 do it, let's get on to the question and let's vote and

17 let's see where we're going.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Let me say this, too,  
19 that I don't think anybody, Mr. Pocius, is trying to  
20 tell you you can't make the motion. I think you've  
21 made it quite clear that you're going to make that  
22 motion every week.

23 The reason I asked for Mr. Walsh's  
24 opinion is to make it perfectly clear that what you're  
25 doing is improper.

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1 MR. POCIUS: Well, I'll tell you what,

2 Mr. DiBileo --

3 MR. DIBILEO: -- and a violation of the  
4 rules.

5 MR. POCIUS: I'll bet you a dollar to a  
6 doughnut right now, that if this ever gets to the next  
7 level, and I'll tell you who's going to win.

8 MR. DIBILEO: We don't suspend rules to  
9 revote issues, only unless somebody who voted in the  
10 majority makes the motion to reintroduce --

11 MR. POCIUS: That's why I asked to  
12 suspend the rules.

13 MS. EVANS: Mr. Pocius, why are you



14 doing this week after week?

15 MR. POCIUS: Because I think it's that

16 important of an issue.

17 MS. EVANS: Why?

18 MR. POCIUS: Because I do. Because,

19 again, I really think it's an important issue. Mrs.

20 Evans, I listen intently to your comments at the prior

21 week's meeting, I'd like you to know that I do not take

22 issue with you, my honorable colleague, or your

23 position.

24 You have stated from the beginning that

25 you are against this particular piece of legislation,

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1 in spite out an outcry from the public, and in

2 particular, the trade unions, who have come to City

3 Council in support of the legislation.

4 I do, in fact, respect your opinion,

5 although I do not agree with it. My problem is not

6 with your negative vote on the legislation or Mr.

7 Courtright's supposed anti-union vote, rather my

8 problem is with the president himself, as you can see

9 tonight.

10 Mr. DiBileo had previously voted in

11 favor of the CRF legislation. The problem I have is  
12 that he voted in favor of the legislation, when he knew  
13 that you and Mr. Courtright were going to vote against  
14 it.

15 Accordingly, he was certainly aware of  
16 the fact that the legislation would be defeated by a  
17 2-1 vote. Mr. DiBileo has taken the position that he  
18 is definitely in favor of this legislation, but he will  
19 not vote to suspend rules, unless you or Mr. Courtright  
20 puts the motion on the table.

21 Mr. DiBileo was certainly attempting to  
22 have his cake and eat it, too. He wants to state that  
23 he's in favor of this legislation, which he did again  
24 tonight, in an effort to gain the vote of the trade  
25 unions, but by the same token insists he cannot place

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1 the legislation back on the agenda because you and Mr.  
2 Courtright will not vote to do so.

3 As a Council president, Mr. DiBileo has  
4 the obligation to the residents of the city to do what  
5 is in their best interest. He has already publicly  
6 stated that this legislation is in the city's best  
7 interest, an he ought to vote to suspend rules and put

8 the legislation back on the agenda.

9 I find it quite ironic that Mr. DiBileo

10 is intending to hide behind you so he doesn't have to

11 vote on this issue.

12 With that said, you raised several

13 points a few weeks ago, number one, you used the Hilton

14 Hotel's \$3 million loan as a prime example why you are

15 against this legislation.

16 Quite frankly, had the city been able

17 to sell that lone on a prior occasion, we would not

18 have been in that predicament of attempting to collect

19 on it, as such, your use of the Hilton loan is a prime

20 example of your vote against this legislation is

21 totally inappropriate.

22 You likewise stated you would not sell

23 these loans if you owned them, and therefore, why would

24 you vote to allow the city to do so?

25 You made an analogy to a

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1 well-performing portfolio. Like any portfolio, there

2 was risk involved, and the CRF legislation eliminates

3 any risk.

4 You likewise indicated that the

5 \$500,000 cost is too expensive.

6 The city will recoup much of that, if

7 not more of the half a million dollars in the permit

8 fees that will be generated by any projects funded

9 through the program.

10 Additionally, you will be putting the

11 dollars into the trade union member's pockets through

12 good paying jobs that they will have here, rather than

13 traveling to obtain work at a significant suggest due

14 to escalating gas prices.

15 You know the old saying about a bird n

16 the hand. To use your own criteria, simply put, the

17 CRF legislation is good for the residents of the City

18 of Scranton, and it's good for the city.

19 There can be no doubt that Mr.

20 DiBileo's refusal to place this legislation back on

21 Council's agenda is strictly motivated by politics.

22 If Mr. DiBileo's position is that is

23 good for the city, why isn't he the one asking to

24 suspend the rules to place it back on Council's agenda?

25 Moreover, Mr. DiBileo has now attempted

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1 to hide behind the rules of Council as a reason that

2 the matter cannot be placed back on the agenda.

3 The rule that Mr. DiBileo cites is a

4 rule that can be suspended by this body by a

5 three-fifths vote. The whole purpose of placing a

6 suspension of rules provision in Council rules was to

7 alleviate the very rule that Mr. DiBileo stands behind

8 right now.

9 MR. DIBILEO: I think we should --

10 MR. POCIUS: Now, I had that prepared

11 for last week, and you weren't here, and I wanted to

12 wait for you.

13 MS. EVANS: That was so kind of you.

14 MR. POCIUS: Yes, I did.

15 MS. EVANS: Now, I'm just sorry that

16 Mr. Courtright has to miss this. It was so good of you

17 to hold your vote while I was absent, though -- or your

18 motion, I'm sorry.

19 But, you know, Mr. Pocius, my honorable

20 opposition colleague, you brought up a very significant

21 point about political motivations, and I think there

22 could be nothing that wrecks more of politics than to

23 suggest that this Mayor has no duty to tell the people

24 and this Council, particularly in light of his track

25 record, which is at the very best questionable --

1 MR. POCIUS: That's your opinion.

2 MS. EVANS: He has no duty to inform

3 anyone what he intends to do with a large lump sum of

4 cash, or else he has nothing in mind, which negates

5 this situation completely.

6 But, you know, I think the purpose of

7 this repetition in futility is to create a voting

8 record. I think we do this nonsensical exercise week

9 after week because there's a political motivation

10 behind it to create a voting record that can be

11 completely misconstrued in political advertisements,

12 and I wouldn't be a bit surprised should they appear

13 miraculously in the next few weeks, and I would have to

14 say, thanks to you, Mr. Pocius, since you are the one

15 who will have brought it up week after week after week

16 thereby being the enabler of such, you know, a

17 misguided performance.

18 MR. POCIUS: Well, Mrs. Evans, just

19 quickly, we all have a voting record that's established

20 up here. And like I said, you can go back and check

21 the minutes back to whenever, and you can see what each

22 one of us voted on, and the bottom line is every minute

23 we step up here, our whole reputation and our  
24 credibility and everything else comes on line.

25 You're saying this wrecks of politics,

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1 well, I think these whole meetings wrecks of politics  
2 anymore. I've never in my 14 and a half years up here  
3 -- and to tell you the God's truth, God gave me a  
4 blessing by letting me get defeated in this election.

5 To tell you the truth is, God really gave me a  
6 blessing, because I don't know if I could have stood  
7 four more years up here with the likes of what goes on  
8 here.

9 MR. DIBILEO: I say we skip Mr. Pocius'  
10 political gamesmanship and get to a vote.

11 So, we have a motion on the floor and a second. All  
12 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

13 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

14 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Opposed?

16 MS. EVANS: No.

17 MR. DIBILEO: No. By a 2-2 vote, Mr.

18 Walsh, what does that do to the motion?

19 MR. WALSH: Motion does not pass.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Is that it, Mr. Pocius?

21 MR. POCIUS: That's it, sir, Mr.

22 President.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. I have a

24 couple of comments. Recently I became aware that the

25 proposed shops at Montage are courting existing tenants

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1 at local malls, and you may have read about the Shops

2 At Montage that are proposed.

3 I'm very concerned to hear that the

4 Shops At Montage are attempting to lure 30 percent of

5 the retail shops -- of the retail space from the

6 Steamtown Mall to Moosic.

7 I spoke with James Walsh this past

8 week, who is the Steamtown Mall manager, and he said

9 that this move would devastate the Steamtown Mall, and

10 in my mind, devastate downtown in general.

11 Mr. Walsh told me that he's very

12 concerned and perturbed that our elected officials

13 and/or The Scranton Chamber of Commerce is silent over

14 the situation.

15 I have to be concerned about an

16 occurrence which would hurt our downtown, not only the



17 Steamtown Mall, but every business downtown would be  
18 hurt if the Steamtown Mall were to suffer a 30 percent  
19 loss of its retail space.

20 So, I think Scrantonians need to  
21 frequent Scranton businesses first, because in doing  
22 so, you're supporting each other, and that philosophy  
23 of buying in Scranton first can do wonders for our  
24 city.

25 Competition is a good thing, but

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1 especially when taxpaying Scranton businesses are  
2 competing for your business.

3 So, I'm not really sure at this point  
4 in time what can be done regarding the fact that the  
5 Shops At Montage, from what I understand, according to  
6 Mr. Walsh, just a matter of time until they leave the  
7 mall, the Steamtown Mall, and go up to Moosic, but all  
8 I'm asking at this point is for Scranton, it purchasers  
9 and buyers to consider buying Scranton first.

10 And I'll research the issue further to  
11 see if we can do anything as elected officials to stop  
12 what could be something devastating occurring to  
13 downtown.

14 A couple quick things, I visited  
15 Bill Fiorini at the hospital this week, and bill looks  
16 and sounds very good. I was happy to hear that -- to  
17 see that he's doing well, and I think he's going to be  
18 leaving the hospital soon.

19 It was a real touch and go for a few  
20 days in the beginning, and he was a sick man in the  
21 beginning, and now he's doing well, so happy to hear  
22 that Bill is doing better.

23 And he is going to be getting back home  
24 soon, not back to work anytime soon, but getting home  
25 soon, so I look forward to that.

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1 The Holy Name Church up on East  
2 Mountain is having a roast beef dinner this Sunday,  
3 October 2, from twelve to five, and they have an  
4 excellent roast beef dinner and they can certainly use  
5 your support on East Mountain Sunday from twelve to  
6 five. And that's all I have under motions.

7 MR. WALSH: Fifth order. 5-B, FOR

8 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL  
9 NO. 82, 2004, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED GENERAL CITY  
10 OPERATING BUDGET 2005 BY TRANSFERRING \$35,000.00 FROM

11 ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.13090.4299 (CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT  
12 NO. 01.020.00000.4201 (CITY COUNCIL PROFESSIONAL  
13 SERVICES) TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR AUDIT FEES.

14 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll  
15 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into  
16 it's proper committee.

17 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

18 MS. EVANS: Second.

19 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

20 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

21 MS. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

23 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

25 have it and so moved.

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1 MR. WALSH: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN  
2 ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN  
3 RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION TO COMPLY WITH VISITABILITY  
4 GUIDELINES AS SET FORTH HEREIN TO ALLOW FOR  
5 ACCESSIBILITY AND OCCUPANCY FOR DISABLED PERSONS.

6 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll  
7 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be introduced into

8 it's proper committee.

9 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

10 MS. EVANS: Second.

11 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

12 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

15 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

17 have it and so moved.

18 MR. WALSH: 5-D, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

19 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

20 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO

21 ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCES

22 CONSERVATION SERVICE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF

23 AGRICULTURE (NRCS) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$43,500.00 TO

24 INSTALL EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION MEASURES ON

25 STAFFORD MEADOW BROOK.

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1 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

2 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced into

3 it's proper committee.

4 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

5 MS. EVANS: Second.

6 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

7 All those in favor of introduction, signify by saying

8 aye.

9 MS. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

11 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

13 have it and so moved.

14 MR. WALSH: 5-E, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

15 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF MARIO SAVINELLI, 500 NORTH

16 CAMERON AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18504, TO THE

17 BOARD OF THE SCRANTON HOUSING AUTHORITY, EFFECTIVE

18 SEPTEMBER 27, 2005. MR. SAVINELLI WILL BE REPLACING

19 JAMES FRYE, WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2005.

20 MR. SAVINELLI'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2010.

21 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

22 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be introduced into

23 it's proper committee.

24 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

25 MR, MCTIERNAN: Second.

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1 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

2 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

5 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

7 have it and so moved.

8 MR. WALSH: Sixth order. 6-A, READING

9 BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 146, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE

10 - ESTABLISHING PERMIT PARKING IN CERTAIN PORTIONS OF

11 THE 500 BLOCK OF MONROE AVENUE FROM VINE STREET TO

12 OLIVE STREET ON THE WESTERLY SIDE AND FROM 514 MONROE

13 AVENUE SOUTH TO VINE STREET ON THE EASTERLY SIDE.

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. MCTIERNAN: 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. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

25 have it and so moved.

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1 MR. WALSH: 6-B, READING BY TITLE -  
2 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 147, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF  
3 TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT REAR 817-819 QUINCY AVENUE,  
4 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO PATRICK J. AND WINIFRED M.  
5 O'SHEA, R.R. 2, BOX 2200, MOUNT COBB, PA 18436, FOR THE  
6 SUM OF \$2,000.00.

7 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading by  
8 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

9 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move that  
10 6-B pass reading by title.

11 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

12 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? All  
13 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

16 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
18 have it and so moved.

19 MR. WALSH: Seventh order. 7-A, FOR  
20 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION  
21 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 134, 2005 - AMENDING THE ZONING  
22 ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ALTER THE USES

23 TABLE FOUND AT PAGE 3-6 OF THE ORDINANCE, SPECIFICALLY  
24 MISCELLANEOUS USES, TO REQUIRE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR  
25 THE CREATION OF SURFACE PARKING LOTS FOR INSTITUTIONAL

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1 USES ON LOTS ON WHICH A PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE DID NOT  
2 STAND AS OF JANUARY 1, 1993.

3 MR. DIBILEO: As chairperson for the  
4 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of Item  
5 7-A.

6 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

7 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? Roll  
8 call please, Kay.

9 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

10 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

14 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

15 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

16 Mr. DiBileo.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. By a 4-0 vote, I  
18 hereby declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

19 Seeing no further business on the agenda, I'll



20 entertain a motion we adjourn.

21 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

22 MS. EVANS: Second.

23 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.

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25 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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

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4 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

5 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

6 notes taken by me on the hearing of the above cause and

7 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same

8 to the best of my ability.

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LISA M. GRAFF, RPR

12 Official Court Reporter

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