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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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5 Held:

6 Thursday, October 27, 2005

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9 Time:

10 7:00 p.m.

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13 Location:

14 Council Chambers

15 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

17 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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23 Lisa M. Graff, RPR

24 Court Reporter

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1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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3 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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5 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

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7 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

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9 MR. JOHN POCIUS

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11 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

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13 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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15 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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18 ALSO PRESENT:

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20 FRANK BLASI, ESQUIRE

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1 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Please stand for

2 the Pledge Of Allegiance. Please remain standing for a

3 short prayer. Roll call, please, Kay.

4 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

5 MR. McTIERNAN: Here.

6 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

7 MS. EVANS: Here.

8 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

9 MR. POCIUS: Here.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Here. Okay. Before I

14 would dispense with the reading of the minutes, I want

15 to acknowledge the fact that we have with us tonight

16 Troop 16 from the Hickory Street Presbyterian Church

17 with us this evening, and Troop 16 is working on their  
18 citizenship merit badges, and we welcome them here  
19 tonight. Thank you very much for coming.  
20 Scout Masters Paul Strunk and  
21 Senior Patrol Leader D.J. Wagner brought about 15 troop  
22 members here this evening, and by the way, Troop 16  
23 from the Hickory Street Presbyterian Church is  
24 celebrating their 90th anniversary this year, so  
25 welcome, Troop 16. We should have a seat for you  
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1 shortly.

2 MS. EVANS: President DiBileo, if I  
3 may, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that we  
4 lost an influential American this week, Rosa Parks, and  
5 I, like millions of Americans, can't help but feel  
6 admiration for a citizen who by taking her seat stood  
7 up in the face of adversity for all of us. That's all.  
8 Thank you.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much,  
10 Mrs. Evans. Mr. Saunders.

11 MR. SAUNDERS: Third order. 3-A,

12 AGENDA FOR THE NON UNIFORM PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD  
13 ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2005.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments on

15 3-A? If not, received and filed.

16 MR. SAUNDERS: 3-B, MINUTES FROM THE

17 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY,

18 SEPTEMBER 28, 2005.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments on

20 3-B? If not, received and filed.

21 MR. SAUNDERS: 3-C, MINUTES FROM THE

22 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY

23 SEPTEMBER 28, 2005.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments on

25 3-C? If not, received and filed.

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1 MR. SAUNDERS: 3-D, MINUTES FROM THE

2 POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY,

3 SEPTEMBER 28, 2005.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments on

5 3-D? If not, received and filed.

6 MR. SAUNDERS: 3-E, MINUTES FROM THE

7 NON-UNIFORM PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY,

8 OCTOBER 26, 2005.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments on

10 3-E? If not, received and filed.

11 MR. SAUNDERS: Clerk's notes.

12 Mr. President, clerks notes tonight, I don't have  
13 anything. We have researched many things this week,  
14 and we will answer them during the meeting, the only  
15 thing I do have is that I have to throw out an apology  
16 to Councilwoman Evans and to Lisa Moran, the human  
17 resource director, for a letter that we said last week  
18 was sent out to Lisa Moran, and that we did not get a  
19 response from. That letter was never sent out after  
20 checking this week on it, so I apologize to you,  
21 Councilwoman, and also to Mrs. Moran.

22 MS. EVANS: I see that it was sent now,  
23 though.

24 MR. SAUNDERS: We did eventually send  
25 it out.

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1 MS. EVANS: So all is right with the  
2 world. Thank you.

3 MR. SAUNDERS: Everything is right.

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

5 MR. DIBILEO: That's all you have?

6 Okay. Before citizens participation, we're going to  
7 bring the ladder in and then we'll call up the first

8 speaker.

9 (Brief recess taken.)

10 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. That's an example

11 of Scranton's finest IN action. Okay.

12 MR. SAUNDERS: Fourth order,

13 Mr. President.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, before I call up

15 the first speaker, I just would like to make a comment

16 that, you know, we are approaching very near to a very

17 important election, and that is going to be November

18 the 8th.

19 I know that spirits and emotions are

20 running very high, and people often are thinking about

21 this election, and I would appreciate it very much if

22 your remarks could stay to city business matters, and

23 also if, you know, you would not make any remarks of a

24 personal nature and if you would keep your remarks to

25 no more than five minutes, and also while someone is at

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1 the podium, if everyone would be considerate enough not

2 to make any noise or talk in the audience while someone

3 has the podium, so we greatly appreciate your

4 cooperation with those items, and thank you very much,

5 and thanks for being here.

6 And the first speaker on the list is

7 Mike Dudek.

8 MR. DUDEK: Good evening, Council. My

9 name is Mike Dudek, 608 Depot Street, Scranton, PA.

10 That's the Plot Section, and I am not one of the true

11 taxpayers of the City of Scranton.

12 I just found out just listening here

13 that the Boy Scout Troop from Hickory Presbyterian is

14 celebrating their 90th birthday, I've spoken to enough

15 Boy Scout groups to know that 1915 was the year the Boy

16 Scouts were founded in the United States, and that

17 Hickory Presbyterian is the oldest continuous Boy Scout

18 troop in Pennsylvania, if not in the United States of

19 America. Give them a hand.

20 And to you young men and women up

21 there, Attobon Bismark (phonetic) once said that a

22 person who watches Democracy must have an awfully

23 strong stomach, because watching democracy is like

24 watching sausage being made.

25 With that in mind, I'm welcoming all of

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1 you to the Scranton political sausage factory.



2 MR. DIBILEO: Mike, if you could have  
3 your comments directed towards City Council, we'd  
4 appreciate that.

5 MR. DUDEK: The Scranton Times October  
6 the 12th of this year made a statement very plain that  
7 the city debt was in the neighborhood of \$210 million,  
8 and that the finance council chair, Janet Evans, was  
9 correct in her interpretation of the figures, but they  
10 tried to shade it a bit by trying to say that only  
11 63 percent of that debt belonged to the Doherty  
12 Administration.

13 If that is true, then each man, woman  
14 and child who lives in the City of Scranton owes  
15 Mr. Doherty \$1,764. That has just been run up in the  
16 last three years using the numbers supplied by The  
17 Scranton Times Tribune as interpreted through the Rossi  
18 document that has been discussed so many times here.  
19 I prepared these three charts for people here to  
20 observe and for City Council to observe.

21 This last chart speaks for itself. The  
22 municipal debt of the City of Scranton right now is  
23 approximately \$210 million, obligates each and every  
24 one of us to the tune of \$2,888, debt plus retirement.  
25 Mr. Osborne of the fire department has

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1 been here speaking about the retirement, lack of  
2 funding of the retirement. By adding the funding to  
3 the retirement plan to bring it up to snuff, we were  
4 now obligated for \$3,819 per person.

5 The Doherty debt alone is \$132,300,000.

6 That is an awful lot of debt to run up in three years.

7 If this were New York City, I don't know which  
8 newspaper would be first to jump all over all of it,

9 The Times, The Post, News Day, the Daily News.

10 The only time this was printed in the

11 Scranton papers was once on Page 3 in small print.

12 This debt is here to stay, unless we do something about  
13 it.

14 Now, there has been a banker who had

15 been coming forth, a Mr. -- I believe his name is

16 Mr. Keeler from the Dunmore Fidelity Bank trying to

17 say, Oh, it's only \$40 million and so forth, I don't

18 know where he gets his figures from, but I've been

19 using audited figures, and I believe Councilperson

20 Evans has been using audited figures; am I not correct?

21 MS. EVANS: You're correct.

22 MR. DUDEK: Then I think I stand on the

23 figures provided by the Council's finance chairperson.

24 Thank you very much.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Dudek.

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1 Don Hart.

2 MR. HART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and

3 thank you Council for the opportunity to be here

4 tonight. My name is Don Hart, I live at 1810 Delaware

5 Street in Dunmore, I'm the regional director for the

6 International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craft

7 Workers.

8 Before I get into my prepared remarks,

9 I'd like to address an issue from the last time I was

10 here, Gary, you had mentioned after I concluded that

11 you had received a call from another bricklayer union

12 leader saying that the mayor had been calling people to

13 come down here, and I didn't have the proper way to let

14 you know my feelings on that, and I would like to do

15 that right now, nobody has ever called me do come down

16 here. I'm here on behalf of the 100 and some members

17 and their families that reside within the city that I

18 represent.

19 I do have better places to be tonight,

20 to be honest with you, although I do enjoy being here  
21 with you people. And like Mr. Pocius mentioned one  
22 meeting several months ago, he had a grandchild, I had  
23 my first grandchild three weeks ago, and I'd much  
24 rather be holding her tonight, Gabrielle, to be honest  
25 with you.

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1 MS. EVANS: Congratulations.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Congratulations.

3 MR. HART: And I'd also like to mention

4 I was at part of the debate last night, Gary, and you  
5 had your rebuttal to a question that Mayor Doherty  
6 addressed regarding the CRF issue, and you said that it  
7 doesn't make any sense to keep revisiting an issue that  
8 had already been defeated, and I agree with that  
9 totally, because I run meetings, too, union meetings,  
10 and they're a little more raucous than what we see  
11 here, believe it or not, and I totally agree with that,  
12 but the fact is that the majority, as I understand, the  
13 majority of this Council agrees with this resolution,  
14 so I'd like to ask you again to look at it, if you can.  
15 Week after week the majority members of  
16 this Council supported by certain members of the

17 audience carry on a campaign of negativism towards the  
18 City of Scranton. I'm here to refute them and to lay  
19 out a picture of real hope for the working people of  
20 Scranton.

21 As a representative of the bricklayers  
22 union, I'm proud to say that our members have enjoyed  
23 high levels of employment in the City of Scranton in  
24 the last three and a half years.

25 Despite the constant denial of progress

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1 heard in this room every Thursday night, our members  
2 are busy because of the city's progress.

3 A new police headquarters, a new DPW  
4 garage, the new Casey Parking Garage, the medallion  
5 garage, all these projects employ local bricklayers,  
6 carpenters, electricians, plumbers and other unionized  
7 construction works.

8 With \$40 million being invested in the  
9 old Anemostat plant on Keyser Avenue is providing work  
10 for unionized construction workers.

11 The money being spent by DiMare Foods  
12 to rebuild the old Notarianni Warehouse in South Side  
13 will help construction workers feed their families.

14 Scranton's progress is not just about  
15 providing jobs for construction workers, our jobs,  
16 after all, are temporary.  
17 When we walk out of -- when we walked  
18 out of the old Woolworth Building on Lackawanna Avenue,  
19 we left behind a modern office space for 100 new  
20 workers in the City of Scranton, and when we leave the  
21 Southern Union building after construction ends there,  
22 we will leave behind a beautiful building that will  
23 provide good jobs for the people of Scranton.  
24 Members of City Council have been  
25 critical of that project, but the fact is Southern

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1 Union is the only major national company with  
2 headquarters in our city.  
3 Every project created by the building  
4 boom in Scranton provides good jobs close to home for  
5 construction workers, but these projects also provide  
6 good places for people to work and permanent jobs.  
7 It has been popular among the majority  
8 members of Council to scoff at the new jobs created in  
9 Scranton in the last four years.  
10 They voted down job creation programs

11 like the Grow Scranton Fund and the CRF loan sale  
12 because they don't make progress in the city their  
13 first priority.  
14 We've come a long way in the last four  
15 years, not only are our union tradesmen working, but  
16 the look of Scranton is improving, streets are being  
17 paved, neighborhoods are being strengthened. Just look  
18 at the beautiful results up in North Scranton and  
19 Providence Square.  
20 I'm here as a man who spent his life  
21 trying to secure jobs for people to tell you that City  
22 Council should focus on job creation.  
23 Jobs are coming for members of my union  
24 on a \$20 million project top restore the 500-block of  
25 Lackawanna Avenue, and when we pick up our toolboxes at

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1 the completion of that job, we will be replaced by  
2 people working there at good paying jobs, and we will  
3 leave behind an exciting new area that will bring  
4 people downtown to shop and dine, and we'll add to the  
5 quality of life in our area.  
6 I'm fortunate to have two out of my  
7 three children still living and working in our area,

8 unfortunate that one of them is in the Washington, D.C.

9 area. I would like to see my granddaughter, Gabrielle,

10 be able to stay here after her education is completed.

11 So, I ask members of Council, please

12 put aside their political agendas and stop looking

13 under rocks for all the negative things you can find in

14 Scranton. This city is growing bigger and getting

15 better. That's a fact you cannot deny. Thank you.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Hart, and

17 appreciate you being here, appreciate your comments.

18 One thing that I addressed a little bit

19 last week was, you know, the word negativism keeps

20 coming up, and I just think that many people are

21 confusing negativism with frustration.

22 You know, there's a level of

23 frustration with many people within our community that

24 they don't seem to be getting satisfaction that they're

25 looking for with the city government, and they come

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1 here and they blow off steam.

2 Now, being frustrated and blowing off steam

3 should not be confused with negativism. I can't tell

4 anyone to not be frustrated. If you're frustrated, go



5 ahead and blow off your steam, we're here every week  
6 and we're open, and it's the only venue that people  
7 have an opportunity to do that at, because apparently,  
8 you know, we hear people go to the mayor's office and  
9 they don't get answers, and oftentimes even the  
10 individual departments are not able to help them, so I  
11 say it's frustration, not negativism, and that's all I  
12 wanted to say on that.

13 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to add,  
14 Mr. Hart, if you could help me on something, I'd really  
15 appreciate it, I'm wondering when Southern Union will  
16 be completed, and I assume from your presentation that  
17 you and your men would have done a tremendous amount of  
18 work on that building, but in the meantime, I am  
19 overwhelmed with E-mails from residents who tell me  
20 they're very weary of that block of Lackawanna Avenue  
21 being tied up endlessly and they want a completion,  
22 when can they expect for the lines of traffic to expand  
23 and move smoothly again.

24 So, if you can either E-Mail me that  
25 information or if you wanted to speak with me after

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1 this evening's meeting, I'd really appreciate knowing

2 that information so I could pass it along.

3 MR. HART: If I may, I don't really

4 know the answer to that, but I do know it is

5 frustrating, and I also know there has been a lot of

6 delay with steel because it's very hard to get and very

7 expensive, and I know on our end of it, the bricklayers

8 and stone masons have had a problem obtaining the stone

9 for the front of the building, so the supplies is, what

10 I understand, is causing most of the delays, and it

11 frustrating, I agree with you.

12 MS. EVANS: And do you have any idea

13 how much longer we'll be tied up?

14 MR. HART: I have no idea. I'm sorry.

15 I wish I could.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Hart.

17 Thanks, Mrs. Evans. Joe Direnzo.

18 MR. DIRENZO: Good evening, everybody.

19 I'm Joe Direnzo from the Boys and Girls Club, I'm a

20 resident of Dunmore, but the club's address is

21 609 Ash Street in Scranton.

22 I'm here tonight to ask for Council's

23 support in reprogramming some of our OECD funds,

24 specifically the money that you granted us last year

25 for our roof, which is \$7,000 left, I believe, and also

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1 for our park and summer program. We are going to turn

2 that around use it for our Reach Out after school

3 program.

4 For those of you that aren't familiar

5 with Reach Out, two nights a week this after school

6 program year on Mondays and Wednesdays, we go into the

7 following city housing developments, Valley View,

8 Sky View, Hill Top, Village Park and Bangor Heights and

9 we bring the children to the club for roughly about

10 three hours.

11 The buses leave at four o'clock, come

12 back about 4:30, they're there until 7:30, quarter to

13 eight. While they're at the club, they get dinner,

14 homework help and tutoring, they can use our computer

15 room, our teen center, participate in arts and crafts,

16 basketball leagues, and also now -- actually tonight is

17 the Halloween party, but upcoming will be Thanksgiving

18 Dinner and Christmas part and a lot of other things as

19 the school year goes on.

20 We take them twice a week by bus, but

21 as part of this program they get a free membership, so

22 if they can get transportation to the club on any of

23 the other nights and Saturdays, they can certainly use  
24 their membership.

25 Last year as a point of reference,

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1 because we just started this program the day after

2 Columbus Holiday, that Tuesday was our first time, last

3 year we served 156 of the kids in those developments.

4 So, basically I'm just asking for your

5 support on that piece of legislation. If you can

6 reprogram -- we've already started busing, we have --

7 we can use that money, plus some other grant money that

8 we have. Any questions?

9 MS. EVANS: Yes. I was, for one, very,

10 very shocked and saddened by the closing of the West

11 Scranton Boys and Girls Club, it was a fixture, as you

12 might know, in that neighborhood for many, many years,

13 and many successful individuals came out of that

14 program, and I had worked very hard at the time to

15 prevent that from happening, but it seemed that other

16 plans or other visions were in the pipes, and so it

17 basically fell on deaf ears, but I was told at the time

18 a new center was on the drawing board, a very nice new

19 centrally located Boys and Girls Club, do you have any

20 time line on that for us?

21 MR. DIRENZO: Not on that, but just one

22 thing to hopefully address some of the things you're

23 concerned about, we are still serving the West Side

24 kids.

25 One of the things that we said we would

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1 do is provide them with transportation, and we have.

2 We've contracted with, for a small fee that the parents

3 would pay, we have contracted with a company called

4 Kids Shuttle, and they pick up the kids at the West

5 Scranton -- well, actually at basically every school

6 throughout North, South, East and West Scranton.

7 Just to let you know, the parents of

8 the West Side children, we were basically serving on

9 average 42 kids a day, and it was costing us about

10 \$200,000 to operate that. We just could not afford to

11 do that, because at the Central Club, we were serving

12 roughly 110, 120 kids a day on the same budget, a;

13 little bit bigger, because it is a bigger building, we

14 have increased our census up to roughly about 165 kids

15 a day now, 24 of which use the Kids Shuttle Program,

16 others are dropped off by parents, grandparents or

17 whatever.

18 It was not an easy decision, it is not

19 something we wanted to do, but the main thing you have

20 to remember, if we didn't do that, then perhaps there

21 wouldn't be the Central Boys and Girls Club, that's all

22 I have on that.

23 MS. EVANS: What is the building

24 capacity there?

25 MR. DIRENZO: We can hold, if we have

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1 kids wall to wall, we can hold roughly 239 kids, so

2 we're not far away from that.

3 Winter is coming, a lot of the special

4 events that I mentioned, we will see more kids, once

5 midget football is over.

6 So, right now we're running at 150. In

7 the dead of winter we can up as high as 175, 180. We

8 turn no one away either. Anybody else have any other

9 questions on that? Thanks.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Drenzo.

11 Doug Miller.

12 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

13 Doug Miller, Scranton. A couple issues tonight, the

14 first one is regarding the speed bump issue, I brought  
15 it up before and I would like to ask Jay if he has any  
16 update on that.

17 MR. SAUNDERS: I didn't get anything  
18 back on that yet.

19 MR. MILLER: Okay. Thank you.

20 Unfortunately last night I was unable to attend the  
21 debate at Scranton High School, and I would like to  
22 know if Channel 61 will be airing that debate at any  
23 time this weekend or if anybody knew.

24 MR. DIBILEO: I think that the answer  
25 to that is yes, Doug. Someone told me today that they  
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1 actually -- was it you, Mr. Saunders, that you actually  
2 saw the rebroadcast of it.

3 MR. SAUNDERS: They are rebroadcasting  
4 it. I don't know their schedule.

5 MR. MILLER: Okay. Thank you. Last  
6 week we had a young speaker come up here, and it looks  
7 like he's here tonight, and it just goes to show you  
8 that Channel 61 is keeping all the kids in the city  
9 informed and we're all learning, so I encourage more  
10 kids to come here and speak.

11 You know, Channel 61 is called a sitcom  
12 and mocked by people, Channel 61 is the information  
13 highway of Scranton, it's live unedited where kids like  
14 myself can come here and learn about our government,  
15 our city, and the people who come here, where some give  
16 wisdom and guidance and direction, and others give  
17 superficial direction, and we can take what's  
18 information and what is not in helping us understand  
19 how things work.

20 For example, because of Channel 61  
21 tonight, Mr. Murray and some high school students from  
22 West Scranton are here, and I thank Channel 61 and its  
23 efforts in programs in helping educate the people of  
24 this area. Thank you.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Doug. Doug, I

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1 have to agree with you, what you said about the fact  
2 that Channel 61 is having young people interested in  
3 city government, and the more I think about the West  
4 Scranton High School debate I attended, the mayoral  
5 debate at West Scranton High School, that was so  
6 impressive, because everybody from that school was in  
7 that auditorium and you could hear a pin drop.



8 Young people were very interested, and  
9 I think that without Channel 61, that debate would not  
10 even have been held, because I don't think the interest  
11 would be there that was there.

12 And look at all the kids up in the  
13 balcony tonight I, don't think they'd be here tonight  
14 if it wasn't for Channel 61.

15 So, we appreciate you guys coming, and  
16 thanks for watching and being interested. Thanks a  
17 lot. Bob Bolus.

18 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.

19 Bob Bolus, Scranton. It's nice to see all the kids  
20 coming here, and Doug didn't know it, he also brought  
21 all the Boy Scouts, too.

22 And, you know, maybe more and more  
23 parents will be encouraged to not only come themselves,  
24 but bring their children here and let them experience  
25 what's going on here. I think they're the future

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1 leaders, and it's great that they can do that.

2 Last week I directed, as Mr. DiBileo  
3 has requested that we direct our questions to Council,  
4 my question to Council, and you were out, Mr. DiBileo,

5 but Mrs. Evans handled it, was a question regarding  
6 Mr. Doherty's campaign finances that I had directed to  
7 The Scranton Times, and I asked that that question be  
8 directed to Council on my behalf to direct to The  
9 Scranton Times reporters that are here today to give us  
10 that answer.

11 No, it's not a question from Council,  
12 but since you've set the format, I'd like to follow  
13 that format. And I know it's not the reporter's  
14 responsibility to do that, they can only report what we  
15 give here.

16 We all know the power of the editorial  
17 staff of The Scranton Times and how they decide what  
18 goes in the newspaper, and it's unfortunate, because  
19 I've known many reporters over the years, and in the  
20 past some of them could really write what they needed  
21 to write, and that seems to have been curtailed quite a  
22 bit, in this campaign especially, since there are the  
23 leaders, The Scranton Times, the owners, that are  
24 supporting not only politically, but financially Mr.  
25 Doherty's campaign.

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1 So, maybe our plea tonight, if Council

2 would, I would greatly appreciate that question be  
3 answered, that maybe the editors have nothing to hide  
4 on his behalf, and this question can be answered.

5 This information I gave to Council and  
6 The Times in the past right from his personal campaign  
7 finance reports, so I'd like that question answered if  
8 you can direct that tonight while I'm still at the  
9 podium, please.

10 MR. DIBILEO: So, you're asking -- I  
11 don't think that's our responsibility, Mr. Bolus, to be  
12 looking into campaign finances of candidates. You're  
13 asking The Scranton Times to look into it?

14 MR. BOLUS: I'm asking The Scranton  
15 Times to do that if you would direct my question, since  
16 you have directed us to ask you directly.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Scranton Times,  
18 would you look into Mr. Doherty's campaign finance  
19 report? I don't see them writing anything, it's not  
20 going over too good.

21 MR. BOLUS: Well, it's there. Maybe  
22 the editors will see it. You know, we didn't get that  
23 answer, and maybe we can.

24 And the reason I brought it up here at  
25 Council, because if you don't tell the truth about

1 everything, then we can't expect you to tell the truth

2 or give us the true facts of a lot of things.

3 Mr. McTiernan, a question I have for

4 you, and I brought this up, and you were missing at the

5 one meeting, you were late and I had to leave, is how

6 did Mr. Doherty's son get the information from Scranton

7 High on all the kids that were sent out his flyer to

8 vote for his dad?

9 MR. MCTIERNAN: I have no idea.

10 MR. BOLUS: Is there a way any person

11 could come in and just get personal records from the

12 school on any student?

13 MR. MCTIERNAN: Not from our high

14 school, no.

15 MR. BOLUS: Okay. Well, I think that's

16 something that should be checked into as to how this

17 information was given and put out in public. You know,

18 the records are personal, you know, I don't think it

19 should be information that was given to part of a

20 campaign. I think that should be looked into.

21 They're calling this a negative

22 campaign, well, I don't know how Mr. Doherty could call

23 it negative when it's about his record.

24 And if you misrepresent stuff or lie to

25 the people, then you could expect to be challenged by

.

26

1 the people, the golf course, money in trust from it,

2 won't sell city assets, South Side Complex.

3 Another disturbing thing that I see in

4 the campaign is that a lot of signs are destroyed in

5 campaigns, candidates pay a lot of money, I for one

6 know that, and Mr. DiBileo's signs, Mr. Doherty's

7 signs, and interesting in Throop right now a

8 Mr. Snell is running for Council and he's asked women

9 to vote for him based on an issue that a Mr. Barnick

10 has raised because of his actions at City Council up

11 there where he's attacked the three women on Council,

12 and these signs are being desecrated and they're being

13 torn down, and it's sad because there's a great deal of

14 expense.

15 What I'm going to ask one or two things

16 quickly, because I'm not going to be here next week,

17 unfortunately I have to be out of town, I'm asking that

18 all citizens to get out and vote, and I can say as a

19 Republican, I am voting for Gary DiBileo because I want

20 to see accountability, that's something we didn't get

21 in this administration. Thank you.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Bolus, just a couple

23 quick comments, you know, I would ask that people at

24 the podium don't give their personal preference of

25 candidates, and also I did ask The Scranton Times

.

27

1 factitiously about the first question that you had, so

2 I did not -- I really wasn't serious about that.

3 If they wish to write about it, I'm

4 sure they will, but they might chose not to, but lastly

5 you asked about Scranton High graduates that were sent

6 letters, and all I want to say about that is there are

7 a lot of people in the community asking questions about

8 that, knowing that that occurred, and they asked me,

9 and I of course don't know where that information could

10 be gotten from, but people are interested in it, and

11 they are surprised that The Scranton Times did not pick

12 up on that ad campaign of the Scranton High graduates,

13 they are surprised by that.

14 MR. BOLUS: I'm sure, because they're

15 records of the children of this community, and I don't

16 think that any personnel records should be accessible,

17 and I do know and believe that they should get to the  
18 bottom of it. Mr. DiBileo, as far as preference goes,  
19 it is city business, who we believe we want to support  
20 and what we think. Thank you.

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

22 MR. DIBILEO: Terry Osborne.

23 MR. OSBORNE: Good evening, Council.

24 My name is Terry Osborne, I reside at 2644 Birney  
25 Avenue, and I've been coming here the last couple of  
26  
27  
28

1 weeks as a fire department representative to the city  
2 pension fund.

3 I did see where you guys voted last  
4 week, and we were introduced, I guess, in the second  
5 order by a vote of 3-2.

6 I'm here tonight to say I was a little  
7 disappointed with that. I have spent some time with, I  
8 think, most of you and I've had some conversation, and  
9 in all honestly I was hoping for a 5-0 vote backing us  
10 city employees, those of us that are on the pension  
11 board as far as a removal of the people on the board.

12 If there are any questions, and, you  
13 know, I prefer not here tonight at the mic, I guess, I

14 will be happy to, again, sit down with anybody over the  
15 next couple of weeks.

16 You know, I thought I had given out  
17 enough information, but I'll take the blame for that  
18 and say apparently I didn't, and, again, I'd be more  
19 than happy to meet off camera any time at all with  
20 anybody who may still have some remaining questions,  
21 because, again, I think it was perfectly clear, the  
22 arbitration decision which we're speaking about has  
23 three basic remedies and says the city shall, the word  
24 being shall, immediately advise the union that the six  
25 members of the fire board and the additional members on  
29

1 the joint board are removed, cease and desist from any  
2 further unilateral modification of these boards, and,  
3 again, most damaging to the city, to the city taxpayers  
4 is that the arbitrator is holding his jurisdiction, and  
5 if this was not done within 30 days, he has already  
6 ordered all court fees, all attorney fees be paid by  
7 the city, and after that 30-day mark, he is starting to  
8 add interest to that penalty.

9 So, as we all sit here tonight and as I  
10 stand here tonight as a taxpayer, I'm paying interest



11 on this award that the mayor just refuses to listen to  
12 the arbitrator and simple implement the award.  
13 I mean, basically what the arbitrator  
14 decided was the makeup of our board. This is the page,  
15 and I believe I gave it to all you guys, but this is  
16 what it says, the law Act 205, the aggregated pension  
17 fund shall be managed by a board of trustees. The  
18 board of trustees shall include at least one  
19 representative, the active membership of these pension  
20 plan included in the aggregated pension fund, that's  
21 me, I was elected by our members, who shall be elected  
22 by the active membership of the applicable pension  
23 plan.

24 The remaining members of the board of  
25 trustees shall be drawn from the managing boards,  
.  
30

1 that's the individual, fire board, police board,  
2 non-uniform board, that's where the directors came  
3 from.

4 Several have asked, How did the mayor,  
5 how did the controller and how did City Council  
6 president get on that board then, if that's all it  
7 called for the fact of the matter was when this first

8 came about, there were fire departments, police  
9 departments, city workers all over the State of  
10 Pennsylvania challenging Act 205, the Pension Recovery  
11 Law, violated our Act 111, our negotiating law.  
12 There were challenged made. I, for  
13 one, was in contact with Local 22 of the Philadelphia  
14 Fire Department who had a case pending, and to be  
15 honest with you, how we settled this was Mr. Bill  
16 Gerrity, I think most of you are familiar with him  
17 In my estimation, Mr. Bill Gerrity was  
18 one of the most honorable people to ever serve here in  
19 the City of Scranton. At the time he was Council  
20 president. He came to us and he said, Can we sit down  
21 and see if we can settle this, pending those court  
22 cases; in fact, our attorney, Tom Jennings, came to Tom  
23 and we sat down and we settled this and we openly and  
24 honestly welcomed the president of Council, the mayor  
25 and the city controller onto our board.

31

1 The law said it only had to be those  
2 original six. That's what we negotiated and put on the  
3 board and became a board of nine. Nine was a great  
4 idea because it breaks all ties.

5 But we didn't. We sat down and we  
6 settled that, and it was largely due to Mr. Gerrity as  
7 the president of Council, and the fact was he was our  
8 first president of our board. It was not an employee  
9 representative, it was Mr. Gerrity.  
10 Over the years, your city clerk has  
11 attended always, it seems on behalf of the Council  
12 president, but I also remember Mr. Ed Walsh.  
13 When Mr. Ed Walsh was retired and he  
14 was on Council, rather than the city clerk, because he  
15 was so interested in our pension fund, Mr. Walsh served  
16 on behalf of the president of Council.  
17 So, over the years we welcomed and we  
18 looked forward to the cooperation of City Council. You  
19 know, and, again, when the mayor was running he said  
20 there's not going to be, I think he said it here at a  
21 Council meeting, there's not going to be any  
22 arbitrations in the city, he's going sit down and we're  
23 going to talk it out.  
24 I knew at the time it was hard for  
25 Mayor Doherty to say that. I don't think, Gary, I  
.

32

1 don't think you can make that statement, because over

2 the years there are going to be disagreements, there's  
3 no two ways about it. We have our version, you may  
4 have your version, and that's what happens.  
5 We mediate, and if we have to, we go to  
6 arbitration, and then a ruling is issued. That ruling  
7 is issued. It's very clear. It's not going to be  
8 overturned in the courts.  
9 You know, 13 years ago I came to these  
10 meetings before there were cameras, before it was  
11 fashionable, we used to sit here with Pete Deacon,  
12 Little Lynn, and at that time I was the union  
13 president. At that time we were declared distressed.  
14 Members of City Council implored me,  
15 and other members of our executive board, I served on a  
16 great executive board, and based on some conversation  
17 with Council members, members of our department, we sat  
18 down and we settled the first distressed contract.  
19 I'll tell you, I scaled back 50 men on  
20 the Scranton Fire Department. We gave up traditional  
21 Blue Cross Blue Shield.  
22 Our union, and I want to say me on a  
23 personal level, I have a tradition of sitting down and  
24 settling things man to man, a handshake agreement in  
25 getting that done, that's what I'm hoping we're going

1 to be able to do here.

2 When we settled in in 1993, as you all

3 know the police union did also at that time, I was

4 called personally and thanked by most members of

5 Council for being willing to do that, not staying for

6 arbitration, not going to court and not prolonging the

7 negotiations at that time.

8 I don't doubt for a minute, John was on

9 Council, he probably thanked me, also. But we did

10 that.

11 So, I'm here tonight to tell you we

12 really and truly are looking for your help. The

13 interest, it should be stopped. We should not pay any

14 more interest on this arbitration decision.

15 A vote on our ordinance would put that

16 all to an end. I know there's a few weeks left, you

17 know, and as I said, I am more than willing for anybody

18 on the Council, if there remains any questions as to

19 why we would like this done, as to why the arbitrator

20 ordered it to be done, and exactly what that state law

21 says, again, I'm more than happy. If anybody wanted to

22 give me a call, I may even take an opportunity to give

23 each of you guys a call, and, again, off camera away  
24 from the crowd so to speak.

25 I'd like to sit down with you guys, I'd

.

34

1 like to go over the reasons why, and, again, we're  
2 hoping that we can come up with a 5-0 unanimous  
3 decision because it is not unordinary over the years  
4 for us to come to City Council needing your support.

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

6 MS. EVANS: Mr. Osborne, one question,  
7 you indicated at one of your prior presentations that  
8 you had received proposals to replace the current  
9 pension?

10 MR. OSBORNE: Yeah. I guess last week  
11 I gave you a quick update. What we did, and it was at  
12 the request and the suggestion of Roseanne Novembrino,  
13 who serves on our board, we originally thought we were  
14 going to pair that down to about five and have her come  
15 back and give a presentation, Roseanne requested, and  
16 our board then voted unanimously to agree with  
17 Roseanne, yesterday we sat here for about three hours  
18 and we had all 12, I believe, of the people who had  
19 submitted an RFP, they came in and gave oral

20 presentations. There were a lot of good oral  
21 presentations that were given here yesterday.  
22 Now, each of our board members, you  
23 know, will take all of that into consideration and we  
24 will be voting in the future on the new company --  
25 whatever company will be doing the investments.

35

1 And, again, I'm not going to lie to  
2 you, our position as the employees with Act 205 feel  
3 that our board should be purified, I think is the word  
4 I used a couple of weeks ago, it should go back to  
5 those original nine members as the law stated, as we  
6 negotiated at that time and as an arbitrator has ruled.  
7 So, again, that's our hopes. I hope  
8 we're not being overly optimistic, but, again, what I'm  
9 here basically for tonight is if I can explain anything  
10 else to any of the Council people, I'm more than  
11 willing to meet with you and I would appreciate you --  
12 MS. EVANS: My question, though, was  
13 regarding these companies that submitted the proposals,  
14 are there any among them who have provided campaign  
15 contributions?  
16 MR. OSBORNE: Those campaign

17 contributions that I spoke of earlier here were based  
18 on the 2001 --

19 MS. EVANS: Yes, that I know, but --

20 MR. OSBORNE: To be honest with you, I  
21 haven't seen any of the 2005. I would hope there  
22 hasn't been. To be honest, I gave some consideration  
23 of asking the people when they were in the room, but I  
24 didn't think it was fair to ask them blindly anything  
25 like that.

36

1 So, again, that was information that  
2 came to us after the fact when that was done in 2001.

3 So, again, I hope there is no political pressure on  
4 anybody, as far as this.

5 Again, I stated here over 21 years I've  
6 served on this board, there hasn't been, there just has  
7 not been. I can tell you in my 21 years, I never  
8 received a call from any previous elected officials  
9 steering towards any particular company.

10 MS. EVANS: I think you may want to  
11 check into that, though, if indeed your intent is to  
12 eliminate pay to play politics.

13 MR. OSBORNE: Again, and the only thing



14 I guess I can leave you with this, we do have --

15 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Osborne, I am going

16 to have to ask you if you can come back next week.

17 MR. OSBORNE: I know. There is a

18 non-collusion clause, and Frank would be more familiar

19 with that. There are some clauses in there that people

20 do sign off on, so, again, our hopes would be no, but I

21 haven't even really bothered to check. Thanks.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Phyllis.

23 Phyllis, I'm going to ask you if you would, please not

24 pray from the podium.

25 MS. MATTISKO: This isn't going to be a

.

37

1 prayer, this is --

2 MR. DIBILEO: And also keep it to city

3 business, please.

4 MS. MATTISKO: It is city business.

5 May peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. This

6 is like d♦j♦ vu. I feel like I'm the pack mother, the

7 mother of the den.

8 I desire to bay all officials and the

9 rule of law that they have been entrusted with. They

10 have been called and chosen to carry the laws here on

11 earth and see that all abide by the laws of my son and  
12 the Ten Commandments and the Eleventh Commandment of  
13 love and forgiveness.

14 The laws of justice honor them, and for  
15 all of taking their political, magisterial,  
16 presidential and church vows here upon earth that we  
17 ask them not to tarnish, degrade or live in a  
18 scandalous way.

19 They are to be an example to all  
20 nations and all my children in the world. Too much sin  
21 has been committed through aiding and abetting,  
22 gambling, sin and corruption, police brutality, street  
23 gangs, suicide bombings and destruction of the land.

24 I seek organizations not connected to  
25 our homeland coming down to some, not all, but some  
.

38

1 lawyers, judges and political powers in high offices.  
2 It's time to stop serving Satan and the  
3 materialism of the world. It's time to give the demon  
4 of greed a lesson from the almighty father and us of  
5 the City of Scranton to be an example and send him back  
6 to hell.

7 Honor your father office, put your

8 trust in the Almighty Father and My Son, then not in

9 monetary greed and pride of Satan.

10 This, my children, is the land of the

11 free, but Satan has been honored and freedom has been

12 disgraced and perverted by taking --

13 MR. DIBILEO: Phyllis, I'm going to

14 have to stop you. It sounds like we're getting into

15 religion there, and that's something that we're not

16 supposed to be doing.

17 MS. MATTISKO: Is this City Council?

18 This is the City Council?

19 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

20 MR. MATTISKO: I don't hear anything

21 there regarding business matters.

22 MR. MATTISKO: This is the mother of

23 Council. (WHEREUPON, the microphone was shut off. )

24 A lot of things our Boy Scouts and our children do, and

25 if we are to be an example, our military are fighting

.

39

1 over there to bring freedom and democracy, so,

2 therefore, as I, as a United States of American citizen

3 in God we trust, I want this message, and I ask you and

4 I plead with you, you go to church, they're

5 Presbyterian, they believe that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
6 body, flesh, soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus  
7 Christ.  
8 So, all I ask right now that all the  
9 politicians and everyone when they go into take their  
10 vote, the mother of the Lord Jesus Christ wants to -- -  
11 when they place their hands on that Bible, whether your  
12 vocation is medical, science or political, honor what  
13 you do when you put it on there, and honor in love,  
14 peace and upholding of justice.  
15 And thank you. And, Bishop Martino, I  
16 try to do it as best as I could, so this is the letter  
17 from the mother of good Council and justice from  
18 heaven. Thank you and God Bless. I'm an ambassador of  
19 Peace.  
20 Just one more thing, I ask that whoever  
21 the mayor is, would they send a letter to Patriarch  
22 Alexis in Moscow and Bartholomew and the Polish  
23 Patriarch of Poland and invite them to come here to St.  
24 Ann's Basilica in our town so we could be an example to  
25 all nations. My mission is for -- there will not be  
.

40

1 the real true peace, but if we start here in the City

2 of Scranton, we will reclaim the world. Thank you and

3 God Bless you.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Write that

5 down. Okay. Andy Sbaraglia.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, citizen

7 of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, it's good to see all

8 the interest they have, I'm glad they all came here, I

9 wish more would come, but you would have to listen to a

10 lot more, so somewhere along the way I guess you have

11 to compromise.

12 I asked the question about the block

13 grants, there was a little article in there, something

14 about a million dollars, is there a million dollars

15 left over somewhere in them block grants from prior

16 uses that wasn't spoken to?

17 MS. EVANS: I don't believe it's so

18 much a million dollars left as \$2 million in 2000, was

19 it in 2003 or 2004, was allocated or was rather given

20 to the Jefferson Pointe Project, and it has not

21 obviously come to fruition, but I believe that the

22 owner or developer, the owner, I assume, is repaying

23 the city \$1 million in 2006, and that money goes into a

24 revolving fund so that it is, you know, it's available;

25 in other words, Andy, when allocations are made, the

41

1 money isn't always immediately used or -- sometimes  
2 it's in this revolving fund for a year or two prior to  
3 its actual implementation, but this particular issue, I  
4 think, involves Jefferson Pointe, and as I said, that  
5 individual is going to be repaying the city a million  
6 dollars because of an arrangement whereby there's a  
7 very low interest rate, and so as far as I understand,  
8 that is where this flexible fund enters the picture.

9 I would also like, though,

10 Kevin Wilson to come to Council to a public caucus  
11 meeting so that he can explain in detail the function  
12 of this revolving program, and more specifically define  
13 for Council and the public these flexible funds.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. But it's not in  
15 block grants -- or was it in a block grant originally?

16 MS. EVANS: No.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. So, it's out of  
18 a loan.

19 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, it was dedicated  
20 block grant money. Councilwoman Evans explained it  
21 perfectly, but the only thing that --

22 MS. EVANS: It went through, though,

23 we're connected to a bank.

24 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, it's backed by

25 Penn Security Bank, but also it was approved in 2003 by

.

42

1 a Council for that to happen, so it was --

2 MS. EVANS: It was approved by the

3 previous Council, the Jefferson Pointe project.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: I figured that point.

5 I was just wondering where that million dollars was

6 coming from and just wondered if it was going into the

7 block grants to be blockaded out or you have nothing to

8 do with it and they're going to do what they want with

9 it later.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Perhaps we can have

11 Kevin Wilson discuss that when he comes.

12 MS. EVANS: Right. It is going back

13 into the program, Andy.

14 MR. SAUNDERS: That's dedicated money,

15 it's already been dedicated to projects throughout the

16 year, so it is dedicated money. It will go back in --

17 it's already dedicated to a certain project.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. Now we're saying

19 that it's already being given away to somebody else, is

20 that what we're saying? Not to the project that it was  
21 originally set for, but projects that he so desires to  
22 do now; is that correct?

23 MR. DIBILEO: Well, if that project  
24 isn't started and maybe considered dead, the Jefferson  
25 Pointe project, and there's money allocated for it, I  
.  
43

1 don't know what the procedures is as far as having that  
2 money go to other project accounts. How long will it  
3 sit there before a project is considered not to be --

4 MR. SAUNDERS: No, that money is backed  
5 by a bank. The city gives that money out to Jefferson  
6 Pointe for two years, it's a two-year loan, that's  
7 backed by a bank.

8 After two years, the bank pays the city  
9 back, and then the developer, which is, I don't know  
10 his name, has a traditional loan through the bank at  
11 that point, and the money is already allocated in the  
12 previous year's CDBG money that it's already set out  
13 for other projects. That money is spoken for.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: True, but not by  
15 Council. I don't think you voted on any of that money,  
16 did you?



17 MR. SAUNDERS: By Council. No, by

18 Council.

19 MS. EVANS: Not this Council, but a

20 prior Council. But as I said, Andy, a lot of that

21 money sits for quite a while before it's actually

22 dispersed.

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: Oh, I remember North

24 Scranton money taken away, they took that money away

25 from the project and gave it somewhere else, I remember

.

44

1 that being done, okay, now you in turn are putting it

2 back in, okay, but I saw you take money away from a

3 project.

4 We send it somewhere else, but it was

5 done by Council. It came before Council and it was

6 acted on by Council. So, you have that power to cancel

7 out whatever that was, and then reallocate this money,

8 but it didn't really matter. In a few months there

9 will be a different situation anyway.

10 Now, I want to speak a few words on the

11 people that aren't on drugs, aren't alcoholics or

12 aren't homeless, in your projects for these block

13 grants, you put nothing in there for street, sidewalks

14 or paving, so in turn when them things are being done,  
15 it comes out of our pocket again, you know darn well  
16 you can use block grants to do these project, every  
17 other municipality does it, but Scranton doesn't.

18 Every bit of money that we put out for  
19 this big loan that you keep saying because you would  
20 not use block grants for any of them. We could've used  
21 block grants for our DPW, we could have used block  
22 grants for our police station, we could have used our  
23 block grants for a lot of things, but we borrowed the  
24 money instead, and now we got to pay it back.

25 This administration has actually put us

.

45

1 into, the best word to say about it, we're almost into  
2 a situation where certain individuals get huge tax  
3 breaks and we have to pay, that hasn't been done since  
4 the middle ages where they had a government set up  
5 where the poor would pay and the rich wouldn't.

6 We're back in that situation, and you  
7 should do something about it no matter who's mayor. I  
8 thank you.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Ozzie Quinn.

10 MR. OSBORNE: Ozzie Quinn, property

11 owner in Scranton. President of the Scranton  
12 Lackawanna Taxpayers and Citizens Association. I want  
13 to put a little emphasis on citizens association,  
14 because we had a meeting last Tuesday, and Fred  
15 Budzinski, who was a member attended the meeting, and  
16 he asked us to support the benches that he requested by  
17 way of petition to City Council, and I want to know  
18 what the standing is of these benches. That's not a  
19 pun.

20 MR. SAUNDERS: The standing of those  
21 benches, Mr. Quinn, we sent a letter out to Sara  
22 Hailstone, the director of OECD, a couple months ago,  
23 and she had called me back and told me that we're  
24 looking for locations and looking for certain areas  
25 that are okay for those benches.

.

46

1 Just recently, I believe last week,  
2 this week, we sent everything down that Mr. Budzinski  
3 gave us, the petitions and the locations, so we will  
4 wait for a response on that and report back to  
5 everybody as soon as possible.

6 MR. OSBORNE: So, it looks positive  
7 then?

8 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, I don't think she  
9 had much of a problem with doing the project, it was  
10 just where.

11 MS. EVANS: I have the letter here,  
12 Mr. Quinn, if you'd like to see it, the letter to  
13 Ms. Hailstone regarding the benches.

14 MR. OSBORNE: I believe you, I believe  
15 you. Okay. Being I'm the president of Scranton  
16 Lackawanna Taxpayers and Citizens Association and I'm  
17 speaking tonight, you know, in regards to the debt in  
18 the City of Scranton, and Mr. Doherty said there's not  
19 going to be any taxation and he's going to borrow  
20 again, I don't like to look at that when I see people  
21 saying that we're negative, because that's not a --  
22 what we're trying to do is not negative, we're looking  
23 out for the people, the taxpayers, and it's not  
24 negative if we're looking out for the taxpayers.

25 I'm very concerned about what's going

.

47

1 to happen in the future. We have a distressed city,  
2 and if we continue to borrow, and I don't know what PEL  
3 is doing because they chastised Jimmy Connors for his  
4 \$26 million or \$59 million long-term debt, and here we

5 are up over \$2 million, he quadrupled that, and I'm  
6 concerned about it that we might be on the road to  
7 bankruptcy, because I can see our descendants and their  
8 decendents suffering to pay these taxes to resolve this  
9 debt. How else are you going to pay this debt?  
10 Anybody can borrow to balance a budget.  
11 You don't have to be a financial genius to know that,  
12 and it doesn't work out that way, because somebody has  
13 got to pay in the end, and the taxpayers is, okay?  
14 And we're very much concerned about  
15 that and we know that budget is going to come down here  
16 and I know you're going to look at it, and, again, I  
17 want to reiterate that I hope that when Mr. Doherty  
18 looks at it, he respects the budget and brings it back  
19 down here, and again, like Mr. Osborne says, I hope we  
20 got more than a three to two vote, okay, and that  
21 Mr. Doherty would listen to what the Council is saying,  
22 okay?  
23 Also, it disturbs me because of the  
24 fact that whether you know it or not, we have a  
25 comprehensive plan, a master plan, okay, in other  
·  
48

1 words, in the City of Scranton, and I think it was done

2 in the '90s by Urban Research and Development  
3 Corporation out of Allentown, probably \$100,000 was  
4 spent to do that study collecting dust upstairs, and  
5 within that master plan it has economic development,  
6 capital improvements, Mrs. Evans, I'm sure you will be  
7 happy to see that, it's supposed to be what the costs  
8 are and what the source of funding is going to be, okay  
9 --

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MR. OSBORNE: -- which I know was sent  
12 down to you that way, and it also has to do with  
13 neighborhood improvements, okay, it takes the  
14 neighborhoods section by section, okay, and proposes  
15 what should be done with the neighborhoods, and various  
16 cities use their master plan, as Andy was trying to  
17 say, they use their CDBG block grant to implement the  
18 master plan, and their budget to implement the master  
19 plan.

20 They just don't grab projects out of  
21 the air. What's the sense of having a master plan,  
22 okay?

23 And I want to ask you, Mr. DiBileo, you  
24 spoke about the fact that you would go out to the  
25 neighborhoods, and because of the fact I spoke last

1 week about housing rehabilitation, and I know how bad  
2 the housing is in the City of Scranton, can you give me  
3 a little more emphasis on what you plan to do out there  
4 in those neighborhoods?

5 MR. DIBILEO: Well, I mentioned -- are  
6 you referring to the debate last evening?

7 MR. OSBORNE: Yes.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Well, it wasn't involving  
9 housing, and I was speaking as a candidate for mayor,  
10 but I'll say this also because even if I am not the  
11 mayor, I think this is something that Chris Doherty  
12 should do, and that is, you know, accessibility is  
13 something that's very important to people in this day  
14 and age, 2005, and, you know, businesses have made  
15 great strides in providing conveniences to its  
16 customers, but I don't think that city government has  
17 really kept up with the way that businesses have in  
18 that area, and I think it would be a benefit to the  
19 community, I've said earlier before this meeting  
20 started, this is the only outlet that people have, and  
21 to provide more of an outlet, I think that City Hall  
22 should be able to go on the road into the

23 neighborhoods, for example, say, on every three-month  
24 basis, why not have the mayor and his cabinet go to  
25 West Scranton for a meeting at West Scranton High  
. .  
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1 School, and allow the public to address concerns to the  
2 mayor and his cabinet? The following three months they  
3 can go to South Scranton, next three months they can go  
4 to North Scranton and then to East Scranton. That's  
5 something that should be considered by Mayor Doherty,  
6 something that I would consider.

7 In addition to that, I think that, you  
8 know, everyone works pretty much, not everyone, but  
9 many people work nine to five and they might have a  
10 hard time getting to City Hall during those hours, so  
11 why not on occasion, maybe once a month, have City Hall  
12 be open until nine o'clock at night, which would allow  
13 people to be able to get in here and get some answers.  
14 So, it's something that I would consider, something  
15 Mayor Doherty should consider.

16 MR. OSBORNE: I appreciate that,  
17 because I don't think you should run the city from an  
18 office in City Hall, I think that you should get out to  
19 the neighborhoods and find out what the needs are, and,



20 again, try to look at the comprehensive plan, the  
21 master plan, and see what the needs are in these  
22 communities, okay, and these neighborhoods.  
23 I do also want to make a note of the  
24 fact, and I want to emphasize this, and may I have a  
25 few seconds because he spoke, okay, I'll wind it up,  
.  
51

1 the fact that we are concerned about the wage tax, and  
2 we know that Mr. Doherty during this campaign he said  
3 he was going to decrease the wage tax, and we know four  
4 years later he hasn't decreased the wage tax, and he  
5 had an opportunity to do it last budget when they had  
6 the emergency municipal program -- service program, but  
7 he put that on the backside, okay, on the back burner,  
8 but the fact was he hasn't decreased the wage tax, our  
9 tax base is going and falling apart because the  
10 population, we're losing it, and last night when he  
11 didn't answer that question about the wage tax, I hope  
12 that the people realize -- just how this man is  
13 arrogant and how he can say that he did a wage tax and  
14 didn't do a thing about it, okay?

15 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

16 MR. OSBORNE: Thank you.

17 MR. DIBILEO: J.B. Davis.

18 MR. DAVIS: Assalaam Alaikum. That's

19 what I tell the kids, too. Whenever you walk --

20 whenever you walk by a piece of dirt that doesn't

21 belong there, didn't grow there, pick it up and put it

22 in the garbage can. And the kids say, I didn't put it

23 there. I said, Then maybe somebody else will fall over

24 it.

25 And that's what we're trying to say

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52

1 tonight, I have three points that I want to bring to

2 you, and they're very important points. First of all,

3 I have some friends from down in New Orleans, and I see

4 Mr. Bolus has already left, but they sent me a letter,

5 they sent me an e-mail stating that this Bolus guy is

6 dynamite, they thank him for what he did, they thank

7 him for all the problems that he might have had to get

8 the food, clothing and shelter to them, and so I came

9 here primarily to tell him thank you, but I waited

10 until now because I waited until they sent me

11 information back. And that's number one.

12 Number two, I would like to see all of

13 those people that are applying for CDBG grants, I want

14 to find out how much of the money that's being spent or  
15 given to them are administrative costs versus program  
16 costs, and if it's more top heavy, I think we should  
17 think about perhaps cutting them down, because I'm  
18 finding that most of the people that are in the  
19 administrative staff do not even live in Scranton.  
20 In all of these self-help programs that  
21 we have out here in Scranton, most of the money is  
22 being made and being taken back to Clarks Summit and to  
23 Dalton, or wherever you want to call it, but the money  
24 is for the program for the poor, for the kids, is not  
25 there.

53

1 We constantly -- I've talked to  
2 directors from the Boys Club, I talked to the athletic  
3 directors from the Progressive Center, and they're  
4 saying every time they put in a budget, the money is  
5 never there.  
6 So, I would like very much that you  
7 inquire of those that come before you before you ratify  
8 their grants or whatever they might get.  
9 What is -- what is their makeup  
10 financially first, then secondly, how many of the

11 persons that are applying for these funds are getting

12 paid by these funds actually live in the City of

13 Scranton? I think it's a very important thing.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Well, the program is

15 administered by the Office of Economic and Community

16 Development, and they go by the federal guidelines,

17 Mr. Davis, and --

18 MR. DAVIS: Which are?

19 MR. DIBILEO: -- you know, Sara

20 Hailstone is the director of that department, and I

21 would assume that they are going strictly by the

22 guidelines.

23 MR. DAVIS: I read the guidelines.

24 MR. DIBILEO: And applications must be

25 I'm sure, fully completed and certain percentages have

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54

1 to go into different areas of the community.

2 MR. DAVIS: When you see the grant come

3 before you, I'm only asking you to go over them again,

4 be scrupulous. We want the money for the kids that

5 need the money. We don't need the money being sent to

6 Dalton or Birchwood Tennis Courts.

7 We have tennis courts here in Scranton

8 we can't even use after dusk. Did you find out if that  
9 was true when I asked you before, they put a sign up on  
10 Northeastern from dusk to dawn --

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think what has  
12 happened, Mr. Davis, is the sign was put up there no  
13 trespassing after dark, and I believe, and you are  
14 going to have to ask the school board, because they're  
15 the one that did it, but my best guess is this, is that  
16 in order for the police to force anything, there needs  
17 to be a sign there stating that you can't trespass  
18 after dark, and I believe that's what they've done.

19 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. Davis, spoken to the  
20 school board, members of the school board, and they  
21 said that most of the vandalism that is done on their  
22 properties is done after dark, and that is another  
23 reason why, along with Mr. Courtright's reasons.

24 MR. DAVIS: Mr. Saunders, ask Jeffers,  
25 Brian Jeffers, your old buddy, ask him how much money

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1 was spent --

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Davis, I don't  
3 think that's Jay's job, I think you need to ask  
4 Mr. Jeffers.

5 MR. DAVIS: I did it already, and I  
6 asked him already how much money was spent because of  
7 vandalism on that school, Northeastern right in the  
8 middle -- or in the old Tech Central, how much  
9 vandalism was done at Lackawanna Junior College, now  
10 Lackawanna Junior College has lights all over it.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: But that was their  
12 decision, not ours.

13 MR. DAVIS: I asked the school board, I  
14 went to the school board and I asked them, will you  
15 please put the lights on so the kids could play night  
16 basketball, as well? They said, no, they didn't want  
17 the kids on there at all. That's their property?

18 Well, I have a problem with that.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: But we have no  
20 jurisdiction over the school.

21 MR. DAVIS: You were the --

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't want to argue  
23 with you.

24 MR. DAVIS: I can show you the SRA  
25 report that said you had to sign off on it, the City

56

1 Council, not you individually, I'm sorry. See, we lose

2 the chain of control, because one Council follows  
3 another Council, and they say I don't know anything  
4 that you're talking about because I wasn't there, I  
5 didn't sign that bill, and evidently the only people  
6 that lose are the communities over and over and over  
7 again.

8 I came here and I asked about  
9 Mr. Morgan, I seen 900 people come through here and get  
10 citations, Mr. Morgan never gets one. I don't know  
11 what the problem is, I just don't know. Excuse me.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Davis, Mr.  
13 Courtright's right, it is the school board's decision,  
14 but I will make it a point to ask them to consider  
15 lights.

16 MR. DAVIS: But you guys are supposed  
17 to be working together, I heard.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

19 MR. DAVIS: You are supposed to be  
20 working together to solve the problems of Scranton and  
21 our kids.

22 MR. DIBILEO: We will ask them to  
23 consider that recommendations.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Davis, while you were  
25 speaking I was perusing the CDBG allocations for 2006,

1 and I can tell you there are numerous allocations to  
2 benefit the community, specifically children, such as  
3 Bethel AME Institutional Church, Boys and Girls Club,  
4 United Neighborhood Center is listed several times.

5 MR. DAVIS: Yes, and not all of them  
6 for Central City.

7 MS. EVANS: And the one thing I also  
8 wanted to add, you had asked about, I think, program  
9 administration under CDBG --

10 MR. DAVIS: Yes.

11 MS. EVANS: -- that, too, is included,  
12 and the amount of that allocation is \$700,000.

13 MR. DAVIS: And I'm saying to you the  
14 same thing I said before, I hope the money gets down to  
15 us. Ms. Evans, I spoke --

16 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Davis, do you mind  
17 coming back next week with that question --

18 MR. DAVIS: Just one statement I have  
19 to make to here.

20 MR. DIBILEO: -- because we're well  
21 beyond the time period.

22 MR. DAVIS: Okay. I spoke to Darryl



23 Dawkins.

24 MS. EVANS: Did you?

25 MR. DAVIS: Yes, I did.

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58

1 MR. DIBILEO: Could you talk to her

2 after the meeting, Mr. Davis? Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: I'll talk to you,

4 Mr. Davis. Thank you.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Saunders, make a note

6 of me to request that of the school board to consider

7 lights in the evening at that location. Thank you.

8 Larry McAndrew.

9 MR. MCANDREW: Good evening, Council,

10 Larry McAndrew, Scranton taxpayer, Scranton resident.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

12 MR. MCANDREW: Last week I inquired

13 about a problem up at Providence Square about a park

14 bench, do we have a follow-up on that?

15 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, do you have anything

16 on that?

17 MR. SAUNDERS: No, not yet. Those

18 letters didn't get out until probably Tuesday of last

19 week.

20 MR. DIBILEO: They haven't had enough

21 time yet to respond.

22 MR. MCANDREW: Okay. During the summer

23 months we had people come to this podium that discussed

24 the problem, I believe it's Dickson Street or Dickson

25 Avenue, do we have any follow-up on what was being done

59

1 to help these people?

2 MS. EVANS: Well, actually I drive past

3 that location every day, and they kept their promise in

4 terms of the paving. I've also noticed that at

5 approximately once per week, it could be more, but I'll

6 say I've noticed once per week, that the entire area

7 has been wet down.

8 I also sent them a letter concerning

9 the noise level. The letter went from City Council,

10 actually, and I received a very detailed response from,

11 I believe, a Mr. Lewis from Daron Northeast, so we are

12 -- we have not abandoned the location by any means,

13 we're keeping a watchful and constant eye on it.

14 MR. MCANDREW: Please continue to do

15 this. What a historical week this has been. A person

16 that admire, Rosa Parks, who stood up for her rights as

17 a U.S. citizen passed away, a milestone is met in the  
18 Iraq War, 2,000 service person has passed away, in  
19 sports, the Chicago White Sox win the World Series, and  
20 in Scranton, Pennsylvania we had a mayoral debate held  
21 last night.

22 I attended that debate, I listened to  
23 both sides and what they had to say, and what I got out  
24 of it is our Mayor, Chris Doherty's, perspective, his  
25 vision for the next four years, is to borrow more

60

1 money.

2 My understanding is that with the audit  
3 reports, this city is over \$121 million in debt.

4 MS. EVANS: In principal.

5 MR. MCANDREW: In principal, yes, Mrs.

6 Evans, in principal, and Mayor Doherty said that he's  
7 bringing in more businesses to this area, two more  
8 restaurants, just what we need, more restaurants.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Please refrain from  
10 commenting while someone is at the podium, please.

11 MR. MCANDREW: But what really caught  
12 my eye, really caught my attention, was the word that  
13 Mr. Doherty used, crazy about cooperation. He used

14 this word stating that now isn't the time for him to  
15 sit down with the majority other three Councilpersons  
16 to discuss what his intentions are.  
17 Well, my understanding is that the  
18 government here in Scranton is ruled by a Home Rule  
19 Charter, which states that it has a mayor and a City  
20 Council of five members, it doesn't say in that Home  
21 Rule Charter only two members we discuss business with.  
22 Mayor Doherty, I don't know where  
23 you're coming from, but I cannot see this. In my  
24 opinion this is ludicrous.

25 I hope that the citizens and voters of

61

1 Scranton, Pennsylvania see through this mayor and see  
2 where he's coming from and realize that the debtness  
3 that we have right now, and what we're going to have if  
4 this continues.

5 There was also mentioned about a train  
6 from Hoboken, New Jersey coming into Scranton,  
7 Pennsylvania in the near future, I just want to say one  
8 more comment, and I'll leave this podium, with this  
9 country having a war to finance and with all these  
10 hurricanes and disasters that have happened, I see this

11 mostly unlikely to happen in the near future. I thank  
12 you.

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

14 I believe what Mr. Doherty said regarding the -- it  
15 would be crazy comment was to come at this point  
16 regarding the CRF legislation to address all of City  
17 Council, I think he commented on. Thank you. Bill  
18 Jackowitz.

19 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz, city  
20 resident and taxpayer, registered independent voter,  
21 proud alumni member of Troop 16 Boy Scouts.  
22 Last night I attended my first  
23 political debate, I came away with a better  
24 understanding of what this race for the mayor is all  
25 about, two simple little five letter words, money and  
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62

1 power. If you have money, you have power, if you have  
2 power, you have money. I have neither.

3 I would like to thank The Scranton  
4 Times for their article and chart that appeared in  
5 Tuesday, October 25 article on crime. I requested that  
6 two weeks ago and you did it, thank you.

7 This chart reflects that

8 Reading, Pennsylvania has a serious crime problem, it  
9 also reflects that Scranton has a crime problem.  
10 The mayor pointed out at the debate  
11 that Scranton had one murder and Wilkes-Barre had two  
12 murders so far in the year 2005.  
13 He should have gone further with his  
14 analogy. I am glad that he chose Wilkes-Barre to use  
15 for his example, now I can.  
16 He should have stated that Scranton had  
17 1,921 crimes reported so far this year, 2005.  
18 Wilkes-Barre had 1,226 crimes reported so far in the  
19 year 2005. That's 695 more reported crimes in  
20 Scranton.  
21 Last week at the West Scranton debate  
22 the mayor stated that Scranton is the safest city in  
23 Pennsylvania, I do not feel that these reported crimes  
24 reflects and support that statement.  
25 There is a crime problem in every city

63

1 in the United States, this is not negativism, this is  
2 not scaring people, these are facts.  
3 The citizens of a community are  
4 entitled to have truthful and honest facts presented to

5 them so they can be aware of what have is happening

6 around them.

7 Myself, I take the time when it's

8 available to monitor the scanner, this way I have the

9 opportunity to hear the calls as they are being

10 dispatched.

11 Mayors do not prevent crime, police

12 presence does. Why do you think private industry has

13 security officers?

14 There was a lot of discussion about

15 federal grant programs and state programs, I have never

16 been a politician or elected official, but it seems to

17 me that the city government depends on federal money

18 and state money for everything. What happens with the

19 city tax money? Who gets to spend that money?

20 Like most people, I pay federal tax,

21 state tax, city tax and county tax, so I support all.

22 Right now the federal government is spending \$1

23 billion, \$1 billion a day on the war. Louisiana,

24 Mississippi and Alabama are asking for \$250 billion to

25 rebuild.

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64

1 I have not heard how much Florida will

2 be asking for. The other 46 states also will be asking  
3 for federal grant money, so will all the cities in all  
4 50 states be asking for federal grant money.  
5 What happens if the request for grant  
6 money is refused or not available? Does that mean the  
7 promises the local politicians made to their citizens  
8 will not be completed?  
9 The same goes for state grants.  
10 Pennsylvania states that they have no money, so taxes  
11 and fees must go up, but yet Scranton is dependent on  
12 that grant money.  
13 Has anyone in city government ever  
14 heard of the 12 step program? The first step is to  
15 admit that you have a problem. Without that first  
16 step, you will never get to the second step.  
17 Some of the city's problems that I see  
18 are crime, high taxes, declining population, economic  
19 growth, business opportunities, taxes, mercantile  
20 taxes. These in Scranton are not favorable for small  
21 businesses.  
22 No one can say that the business  
23 climate is good in Scranton, that's why businesses are  
24 going out of business or move to different locations.  
25 Of course new business will open, but how long do they



65

1 last?

2 Last night going to the debate and also

3 coming home from the debate, every business in Scranton

4 was closed 6:15 p.m. I work until four, do not get

5 home until 4:45, eat super. If I need something, I

6 have no choice but to go to Dickson City. Nobody in

7 Scranton is open except for Steamtown Mall, bars and

8 restaurants. So, if business is so good, why is

9 everything closed?

10 I was in town all day today, it was

11 completely dead. If real estate is so good, why did

12 the Scranton City Business Administrator state that

13 real estate is flat?

14 Why do most of the professional people,

15 such as doctors, lawyers, college professors,

16 directors, teachers live outside the city?

17 I noticed in Wednesday's paper one

18 candidate stated baby boomers wanted the flexibility of

19 apartments where they can live part of the year.

20 I already have one retirement, working

21 on my second. I know for a fact I will not have the

22 flexibility of having an apartment where I can live

23 part of the year with two retirements. I can only  
24 afford one residence, vacations occasionally, yes.

25 I do not think that he meant working people retiring in  
.

66

1 this area.

2 he also stated that had city developers

3 should turn downtown buildings into apartments, rather

4 than office spaces which have to compete with suburban

5 advantages of onsite parking. He also said downtown

6 market is poised for growth because of factors, like

7 increased gasoline costs.

8 If the city is poised for growth,

9 should we not be building businesses, not apartments?

10 He also said that the main concern on Cedar Avenue are

11 crime and blight.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Jackowitz, could I

13 ask you to come back next week with the rest of that,

14 please?

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yes, you can ask me

16 that, but there have been speakers that have spoke

17 longer than I have tonight, but I will honor your

18 request because I'm a gentleman.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Yes, you are,

20 and I appreciate that. Les Spindler.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council,

22 Les Spindler.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

24 MR. SPINDLER: First tonight I want to

25 send my thoughts and prayers out to Mark Walsh, and I

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67

1 hope he feels better soon.

2 I've known Mark Walsh for most my life,

3 my dad and family had a store in the Hill Section,

4 Mark came down there since he was a little kid, so I

5 hope he feels better soon and is back here very

6 quickly.

7 Last week a speaker was here and said

8 the DPW would not be privatized because Chris Doherty

9 told him so. He also said if anyone came to this

10 podium and said DPW would be privatized, they would be

11 lying.

12 Well, if that speaker thinks Chris

13 Doherty is telling him the truth, he better think

14 again. Chris Doherty hasn't told the truth since he as

15 been in office. He said he would be the sixth

16 councilman, he lied, he said he would cut the wage tax,

17 he lied.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Spindler, I would you

19 ask not to call anyone a liar, please.

20 MR. SPINDLER: He called you one.

21 MR. DIBILEO: You can say broken

22 promises, not liar, please.

23 MR. SPINDLER: He said he would put the

24 money for the golf course in a trust, he didn't tell

25 the truth, he said he wouldn't lay off cops, he didn't

.

68

1 tell the truth, he said he's created 3,000 new jobs,

2 again, he didn't tell the truth, and then when he was

3 asked about the 3,000 new jobs last night, he said,

4 Well, Molly Brannigan's is coming into town. That says

5 nothing about the 3,000 jobs. And this is not

6 negativity, these are facts.

7 So, a speaker believes the DPW will not

8 be privatized because Chris Doherty told him so, he

9 must be pretty naive. If it isn't in writing, it

10 doesn't mean a thing.

11 The next thing, last week Mr. Pocius

12 said our streets are safe because he saw a young girl

13 walking on Mulberry Street at 3:30 in the afternoon,

14 well, if we can't walk our streets at 3:30 in the  
15 afternoon, we're really in bad shape. So, that's not a  
16 big thing for a young girl to walk up the street 3:30  
17 in the afternoon.

18 Two Saturdays ago Governor Rendell was  
19 in town to present a few checks, one was presented to  
20 Chris Doherty and he was all smiles, it was for TMG  
21 health care, they're moving to Dunmore, so I don't know  
22 what Chris Doherty was smiling about. That's about 400  
23 jobs leaving the city, oh, but not to worry, Molly  
24 Brannigan's is coming to town.

25 The next thing, an ad in the paper from

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69

1 Tom Preambo, he's voting for Chris Doherty because of  
2 all he's done in the Plot Section, well, if he's done  
3 so much in the Plot Section, why didn't he go visit the  
4 Plot Section when it was flooded two times? He was  
5 nowhere to be found.

6 Next thing, there was an article in the  
7 paper the other day, City Hall investigating health  
8 inspector, I just want to read a quote from  
9 Chris Doherty about that investigation, it says, This  
10 is a slap in the face of city taxpayers.

11 Well, if that's a slap in the face of  
12 city taxpayers, then \$275 million in debt must be a  
13 knockout punch in the face of taxpayers.  
14 Next thing, I printed out some pictures  
15 today of Nay Aug Pool, which Chris Doherty was bragging  
16 about how beautiful Nay Aug Park is, may I approach  
17 Council?

18 MR. DIBILEO: Sure.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Now, if you look at the  
20 pictures, I'm not going to go over every single  
21 picture, you'll see there's concrete falling all over  
22 all around the pool, there's holes in fences, there's a  
23 lifeguard stand which only has plywood on it, and the  
24 plywood is eye level. Anyone walking by could lose an  
25 eye or get more seriously hurt.

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70

1 And these are all pictures from a  
2 certain website. Pictures don't lie. So, anybody can  
3 go to this website and print the pictures out.  
4 So, anybody that says that Nay Aug Park  
5 is so gorgeous, go to the this website and look at the  
6 pictures of the pool, it's disgusting. Thank you.  
7 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

8 Joanne Williams. Now, I'm going to remind everyone,  
9 please, no speaking or noisemaking in the audience  
10 while Mrs. Williams is at the podium. Thank you. I  
11 appreciate that.

12 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening, Council,  
13 Joanne Williams, taxpayer and proud to be a resident  
14 and homeowner in Scranton, especially in the last four  
15 years.

16 I just want to clarify something right  
17 now, Mayor Doherty was down at the Plot Section during  
18 the flood, Ian Miller is in the audience, he was at his  
19 house, so I just want to clarify that.

20 Mr. DiBileo, you say you want to be an  
21 elected official for all the people, that over the last  
22 several months from your Council chair it is, in my  
23 opinion, that you have insulted the following, number  
24 one, trade unions by not truly supporting economic  
25 recovery; number two, business communities with

71

1 investors such as Southern Union by belittling their  
2 start-up workforce; number three, Scranton taxpayers,  
3 such as Bob Scopelliti, George Parker, Bill Fiorini,  
4 Gene Hickey, Henry Sallusti for their choice to share

5 opinions that are not in agreement with your political  
6 agenda; number four, you have, in my opinion, insulted  
7 senior citizens by scare tactics that depict Scranton  
8 as such a bad city that people are starting to be  
9 afraid to go out of their house at night.

10 Mr. DiBileo, on October 1, at our newly  
11 renovated Nay Aug Park, hundreds of Scranton citizens  
12 participated in the Light the Night fundraiser walk for  
13 leukemia that raised \$60,000, and it's very close to my  
14 heart.

15 Scranton is alive and prospering,  
16 thanks to Mayor Doherty and the people of our city see  
17 this progress every day.

18 Mr. DiBileo, you say that you want to  
19 be an elected official for all the people, but your  
20 campaign slogan losses absolutely all credibility when  
21 the people of Scranton see treatment, in my opinion, as  
22 a mean, unprofessional and simply nasty reception given  
23 to speakers that come to this podium and do not share  
24 your political viewpoint.

25 I am sure that before tonight's meeting

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72

1 is over, I will be insulted by one of your campaign



2 workers that comes to this podium, and I will expect

3 you --

4 MR. DIBILEO: You're not going to be

5 insulted by anybody, as far as I'm concerned.

6 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, I have in the

7 past.

8 MR. DIBILEO: And, you know, just don't

9 say it's a campaign worker, because I'm asking people

10 not to speak while you're here --

11 MS. WILLIAMS: Mr. DiBileo, it's

12 happened to me every single time I have come to this

13 podium, Mr. DiBileo, so where is your leadership?

14 There. Let me continue, please.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Go right ahead.

16 MS. WILLIAMS: I didn't expect you to

17 do nothing about those insults. Mr. DiBileo, please

18 remember that in reality, all the people of Scranton,

19 including the Scrantonians that, number one, voted

20 overwhelmingly in favor of Mayor Doherty's Recovery

21 Plan by 70 percent to a 30 percent margin.

22 Membership of the local trade unions

23 support Mayor Doherty and not you as their candidate in

24 November.

25 The governor of our state,

1 Governor Ed Rendell, supports Mayor Chris Doherty as a  
2 strong leader with successful plans for the City of  
3 Scranton.

4 Governor Rendell stated that

5 Pennsylvania is investing in Scranton because of  
6 Mayor Chris Doherty.

7 Scrantonians see that State Treasurer

8 Bob Casey and former Republican Governor Bill Scranton

9 support Mayor Chris Doherty, so, please, Mr. DiBileo,

10 please be aware that your campaign tactics are not

11 supported by all the people in Scranton, so please stop

12 insulting speakers at this podium that do not share

13 your political viewpoint. Each of those speakers are

14 taxpaying citizens and deserve to be listened to and

15 not insulted.

16 And then finally in closing, a friend

17 of mine who is a nationwide policy holder with your

18 insurance company received this political letter from

19 you in the mail, I ask you, are you receiving financial

20 support or campaign contributions from Nationwide?

21 MR. DIBILEO: No, I'm not.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: Well then, Mr. DiBileo,

23 tell me why your symbol -- your letterhead is on their

24 stationery, can you tell me why?

25 I can show you these.

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74

1 MR. DIBILEO: I know exactly what

2 you're talking about.

3 MS. WILLIAMS: But, Mr. DiBileo, it has

4 Nationwide right on here.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, well, let me just

6 explain. As an insurance agent for certain people, I

7 asked them to consider my candidacy. Is that --

8 MS. WILLIAMS: So, they're contributing

9 to your campaign, Mr. DiBileo?

10 MR. DIBILEO: Is that against the

11 law?

12 MS. WILLIAMS: Mr. DiBileo, I'm asking

13 you a question.

14 MR. DIBILEO: No, there's not --

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Are they contributing to

16 your campaign? I have every right as a taxpayer.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah. No, they're not.

18 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, tell your audience

19 to stop --

20 MR. DIBILEO: I'm trying.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, you're not trying

22 hard enough, Mr. DiBileo.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Let me do it again.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

25 MR. DIBILEO: She has extra time

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75

1 because I'm commenting.

2 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, Mr. DiBileo, it

3 seems fishy that this is -- you know what, I'm used to

4 it, because that's why, Mr. DiBileo, people who support

5 this mayor who has moved this city ahead do not want to

6 come to this podium because you show poor leadership by

7 not taking care of the people in the audience.

8 You let some people talk over five

9 minutes, you let some people come back to podium,

10 you're just not fair. You're just not fair about

11 things.

12 But I don't agree with you, I really

13 don't look into this, because I think this is a

14 campaign contributing thing.

15 Now, and my last thought is this, if

16 you become mayor, how are you going to negotiate with

17 your own customers, did you think about that? Think

18 about that.

19 MR. DIBILEO: I have no idea what that

20 means.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: You know, Mr. DiBileo --

22 MR. DIBILEO: Let me say this --

23 MS. WILLIAMS: No, Mr. DiBileo. It's

24 my turn to talk, Mr. DiBileo.

25 MR. DIBILEO: I want to apologize for

76

1 the outburst.

2 MS. WILLIAMS: It's fourth order,

3 Mr. DiBileo, my turn to speak, and that's why the

4 people see what kind of mayor you would be by letting

5 this go on and insulting me constantly when I come up

6 here, okay?

7 And another thing, too, Mr. DiBileo, on

8 the CRF legislation, let them talk, Mr. DiBileo.

9 MR. DIBILEO: I think they're talking

10 to themselves, but please --

11 MS. WILLIAMS: Oh, but no one else can

12 talk. What kind of leadership is that, Mr. DiBileo?

13 MR. DIBILEO: Excuse me. I'm allowing

14 extra time because I'm talking -- I'm giving her some  
15 answers, but, please, would everyone please stop from  
16 speaking? Thank you.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: They can continue,  
18 because they're really making you look good. But  
19 anyway, the CRF loan, right, the CRF legislation would  
20 inject \$5 million into economic development. All CRF  
21 loan money would be subject to City Council approval.  
22 CRF legislation would create one new  
23 job for every \$35,000 loan. And I have a record here  
24 how you voted, and you conveniently voted yes when you  
25 knew Mr. McTiernan and Mr. Pocius weren't going to be  
.  
77

1 here, and then when they were here, you voted no.  
2 You know, we know the little game  
3 you're playing. You're saying no to working families  
4 and economic growth in this community, and that's one  
5 thing I'm voted for Chris Doherty, because he's moving  
6 this city forward. Thank you. And you know what, it's  
7 always a pleasure.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mrs. Williams.

9 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

10 And, Mr. DiBileo, I'm voting for you, because you're

11 going to move this city where it belongs. And just for  
12 the record, Joanne Williams spoke about eight minutes  
13 last week.

14 Now, I'm here to address something that  
15 really has me, and I'm glad you pointed out earlier  
16 about being frustrated and speaking negatively, I guess  
17 it's the big case of being frustrated, there was a ad  
18 in the paper for courtyard townhouses at Green Ridge  
19 Square, I'd like to say some of the things that are in  
20 this, please.

21 First floor master suites, three  
22 bedrooms, two and a half baths, two car garage,  
23 two-year tax abatement, okay? Prices starts from  
24 \$239,000.

25 Now, I live in a house maybe about  
.

78

1 \$60,000 that I'm paying on, and I pay taxes every year  
2 as most of the people in the city do.  
3 These townhouses are geared, it's in  
4 Green Ridge by Sanderson Avenue on the corner of Gree  
5 Ridge Street, from what I understand the city  
6 demolished the home that used to be there for these  
7 townhouses for a private developer. I'd like to know

8 how that happened.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Well, let me say this,

10 Ms. Franus, all newly constructed homes get a two-year

11 tax break in the City of Scranton throughout the whole

12 city.

13 MS. FRANUS: From who?

14 MR. DIBILEO: It's an ordinance that's

15 in existence right now, so all new construction does

16 get that.

17 MS. FRANUS: What about the fact that

18 the city tore down the house that was previously there?

19 MR. DIBILEO: I'm sorry?

20 MS. FRANUS: The city demolished the

21 home that was already there for a private developer.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Now, that I don't have a

23 lot of information on, but I -- are you talking about

24 the corner of Sanderson and Green Ridge?

25 MS. FRANUS: Yes, I am, yes.

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79

1 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. I don't have all

2 the details on that property. Does anyone?

3 MS. FRANUS: I'd like you to find out

4 if that's the case.



5 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

6 MS. FRANUS: I'd also like to address

7 the CRF, if anybody were to ask you to loan you money,

8 you know, or borrow money from you, wouldn't you ask

9 them what it was for?

10 MR. DIBILEO: Well, yes.

11 MS. FRANUS: Would you just turn over

12 money without -- if I said, Mr. DiBileo, could you loan

13 me \$100, would you say, sure, here, or would you say

14 what would you like it for, ist is something that you

15 really need?

16 MR. DIBILEO: And this is the same

17 question that I get asked by Mrs. Evans and by

18 Mr. Courtright, and we do discuss the legislation that

19 Mrs. Williams talks about, the CRF, and that you're

20 talking about now, and quite frankly, I think we are

21 making some headway getting closer, but I don't have an

22 answer to their question of me of why the mayor won't

23 come to a City Council meeting himself and tell them --

24 to answer his questions, let's put it that way.

25 MS. FRANUS: Yes.

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80

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mrs. Franus, I have

2 would have to say Mr. DiBileo's defense, he talked to  
3 me on more than one occasion and asked me to change my  
4 mind and he gave me his reasons why, but I'm just not  
5 there yet.

6 MS. FRANUS: I could understand it.

7 You don't know -- he's not coming forward, the mayor is  
8 not coming forward and saying why he wants to have  
9 this, money he just wants it, you're supposed to trust  
10 him with it. I don't think so. I just can't see it.

11 MS. EVANS: I'll add, too, since we're  
12 testifying it seems, Mr. DiBileo has probably asked me  
13 too many times about CRF.

14 MS. FRANUS: Yes, exactly.

15 MS. EVANS: And with all due respect,  
16 I'm not changing my mind about an issue that I believe  
17 is not good for the people of the City of Scranton, and  
18 until somebody can give me proof positive, can answer  
19 my questions what is this money for and prove to me  
20 that it's worth losing thousands upon thousands of  
21 dollars to make that happen, I'm just not going to do  
22 it, because it's their money.

23 MS. FRANUS: That's right. That's why  
24 you're here. That's why we elected all of you. I  
25 guess what I'm trying to say here is I hope the people

.

81

1 can see through all of this stuff and really put the  
2 right person in the position for mayor, because it's up  
3 to them, but if they can't see now, I don't know what  
4 it's going to take. I mean, we're going to go broke.

5 Thank you very much.

6 Thank you very much. One more thing,  
7 though, what is the situation, can somebody up there  
8 possibly tell me, I understand Mr. Doherty's taking  
9 credit for this Artspace, could somebody clear that up  
10 for me?

11 MR. DIBILEO: Artspace is a program  
12 that was presented to City Council and we learned about  
13 it from people in the community that knows all about  
14 the program, and it seems as though it's a good thing  
15 for the community, and City Council and the mayor  
16 proposed it, and City Council voted in favor of it.

17 So, really, you know, if credit is  
18 going to be taken, it should be taken by everyone.

19 MS. FRANUS: As a group, as everybody  
20 in the administration.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

22 MS. EVANS: And if I might add, at the

23 time this was discussed at a public caucus prior to the  
24 vote, I had stated more than once that my  
25 recommendation was for Artspace to be located in lower  
.

82

1 South Side, and that if the organization intended to  
2 seek further assistance, financial assistance by means  
3 of Council and the City of Scranton, I would certainly  
4 be looking at that project from that particular point  
5 of view, was it placed where it is most needed where it  
6 has the opportunity to turn around an entire section of  
7 town that suffered miserably over the last several  
8 years .

9 So, I'm sure the representatives of  
10 Scranton Tommorrow are aware that they were very  
11 gracious that day and made it clear that they  
12 understood fully my intention and where I wanted to see  
13 that project going, and that was why I provided an  
14 affirmative vote that day.

15 MS. FRANUS: Thank you all very much.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Stan  
17 Narsavitch.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Stan Narsavitch, city  
19 resident and taxpayer. Before I start my recitation, a

20 previous speaker said that Mr. DiBileo was putting --  
21 scaring senior citizens or something to that effect,  
22 what scares my wife and I, we're both senior citizens,  
23 is the neighborhood that I live in, there's a gang  
24 operating, mailboxes have exploded in our neighborhood  
25 and we do not have beat officers, that's what scares  
. .  
83

1 us.  
2 I'm a veteran of World War II, US Navy,  
3 Sailor No. 2489201, honorably discharged on 21  
4 May 1946. I feel that I'm qualified to make the  
5 comments and recommendations.  
6 I do not believe any mayor from any  
7 city should deliberately ignore men and women returning  
8 home from Iraq. These men and women were on a  
9 battlefield protecting everyone's freedom, including  
10 mayors of all cities; however, one mayor decided to  
11 ignore our men and women marching ing up the avenue to  
12 the Armory.  
13 Did he meet them to thank them for  
14 protecting him and his family? No. He arrogantly went  
15 to a basketball game.  
16 I know my family would never vote for a

17 politician that would deliberately ignore veterans.

18 These men and women put their lives on the line so that

19 we all could remain free.

20 I am suggesting that all Veterans from

21 all conflicts do not vote for a public servant that

22 would not honor returning men and women after a tour of

23 duty in a foreign land.

24 There's an old phrase that went around

25 a few years ago, and I honestly believe it's coming

.

84

1 back, the taxpayers are as mad as hell and they're not

2 going to take it anymore.

3 If you have not noticed, there's a

4 ground swell forming in our city and state, statewide

5 movements are in force against legislative pay raises.

6 This is also true right here in Scranton.

7 Taxpayers are turning out at Council,

8 commissioner and school board meetings. You witness

9 the results of the renovation of the courthouse and the

10 airport money transferred to a bank that a commissioner

11 was a board member.

12 Please vote on November the 8th and

13 regain control of our city. Thank you very much.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Regina

15 Yetkowskas.

16 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Regina Yetkowskas,

17 Scranton resident and taxpayer. Last week I made some

18 comments on The Times editorial of October 16. In it I

19 asked The Times if it was so sure the municipal

20 authorities will not need the city to support their

21 losses or debt services that The Scranton Times will

22 pay for them. So far my question was not answered.

23 An important argument in the editorial

24 was that Mr. Doherty's \$204 million long-term debt

25 excluded a discussion of value, because the editorial

.

85

1 said people view the debt as, quote, an abstract number

2 that is an obligation for city taxpayers in and of

3 itself without any relationship to the real world or

4 any benefit to the public, end of quote.

5 How grossly insensitive and inaccurate

6 this statement is to the people. As one senior

7 citizen, I can say a \$204 million debt is in no way an

8 abstract number. The Times knows it is related to the

9 real world, because we must pay the debt irrespective

10 of any value it may or may not create.

11 If I understand the editorial's  
12 reasoning it implies the mayor has no limit on how much  
13 he can increase our long-term debt, as long as the  
14 Scranton Times claims the millions of dollars borrowed  
15 are related to the real world as defined by The Times.  
16 Nowhere in its editorial does The Times  
17 mention the effect the mayor's current and future  
18 increased long-term debt will have on the people who  
19 must pay for it, neither does the editorial show how  
20 the debt benefits the people.  
21 The editorial writer is obviously not  
22 concerned on how payment for the huge debt affects the  
23 people's quality of life. Will The Times say it is  
24 perfectly acceptable for Mr. Doherty to borrow more  
25 millions to plug holes in his 2005 budget, so long as  
.

86

1 it is related to the real world as solely defined by  
2 The Scranton Times?  
3 As for me, I believe it is proper for  
4 the people to do whatever is necessary to prevent any  
5 more borrowing and any further increase in  
6 Mr. Doherty's long-term debt.  
7 Doesn't The Times realize that the cost



8 of debt service affects the quality of the people's  
9 lives because it deprives the people money that could  
10 have been used to give them tax relief or improve their  
11 neighborhoods or many other things that could directly  
12 help the people?  
13 Doesn't The Scranton Times realize that  
14 the greater the debt service payments, the more it  
15 will harm the taxpayers' lives? And this is so, no  
16 matter how much the borrowed money obtained from  
17 increasing the debt is related to the real world, as,  
18 again, defined by The Times.  
19 Doesn't The Times realize that its  
20 continuous blind support for Mr. Doherty only  
21 encourages him to continue to sink Scranton into a  
22 deeper financial hole?  
23 The Times editorial of October 16  
24 convinces me it does not so realize. It is common  
25 knowledge that when Mr. Doherty is glaringly wrong on a

87

1 matter, The Times' silence in deafening.  
2 To compound its improper silence, The  
3 Times refuses to investigate or verify matters that may  
4 be unfavorable to Mr. Doherty.

5 Hasn't The Times come to realize this?

6 The Times should get out, listen to the people and

7 answer objective questions. I guess it won't. It

8 doesn't want to be informed of the true facts because

9 its mind is already made up.

10 In this debate on Mr. Doherty's

11 increasing long-term debt, The Times did not refer to

12 the people's financial status, nor did it ever consider

13 or mention the people's ability to pay when supporting

14 Mr. Doherty's deficit spending.

15 To me, all of this adds up to a display

16 of callousness by The Times toward all who must pay the

17 debt. If anything, this conduct is insincere and

18 shameful in relation to its readers. How dare it.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Erik Johnson.

21 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, City

22 Council and staff.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

24 MR. JOHNSON: Let's not forget prayers

25 and respect for Attorney Mark Walsh, who is seriously

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88

1 ill in the hospital. Pardon?

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: He's not in the  
3 hospital.

4 MR. JOHNSON: Oh, he isn't? It was  
5 told to me tonight he was. Okay. That's corrected.

6 Scranton Face-Off, Mayor's Election  
7 2005. One of the main topics from the debate that was  
8 held at Scranton High last night was the decline of  
9 Scranton recent population of about 2000.

10 The counter reply challenged was using  
11 state police as a source for population numbers when it  
12 happened to add an accounting department to count  
13 residents.

14 Whatever the answer may be, true or  
15 false, there is evidence that certain people and  
16 businesses are moving out, and likewise certain people  
17 and businesses are moving, in particular in the South  
18 Side of Scranton.

19 Another of the main topics of the  
20 debate that was asked by the WYOU T.V. reporter and  
21 debate moderator, asked the candidates their position  
22 on the proposed train excursion system that's to be  
23 constructed from the Scranton to New York City and New  
24 Jersey.

25 Surprisingly and neglectful, The

1 Scranton Times and Tribune did not mention one sentence  
2 in their paper of this topic. It was completely  
3 ignored, the issue.

4 Both candidates mandated in favor of  
5 the project, but in slightly different views. Mayor  
6 Doherty, of the project, Mayor Doherty stated that  
7 there will be many new families from New York and New  
8 Jersey moving into Scranton, and the reply from  
9 Mr. DiBileo was, to the careful answer to the question  
10 was, We would need to be careful who's coming off that  
11 train, as for somebody else's problems, and possibly  
12 with guns and drugs coming into Scranton, which for  
13 sure will increase the crime rate and the population  
14 good or bad in Scranton, which would also counter if  
15 there is any loss of population in Scranton.

16 There is a chance population can  
17 increase by ten times the 2000 projected figure lost to  
18 the near or 20,000.

19 I asked the question today downtown to  
20 several people, where will be the new housing for all  
21 of these people from New York and New Jersey area?

22 There is not adequate housing as of now

23 for the large number of families that will be moving in  
24 Scranton. We need to build more apartment buildings  
25 now, not tomorrow.

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90

1 A person of good source who did not  
2 want to be named told me they heard for sure that there  
3 will be a low income apartment building built on  
4 Washington Avenue near Marywood.

5 A well-known lawyer told me he can't  
6 see that happening because of limited spaces and no  
7 houses to tear down for such a project.

8 He also asked my opinion who's leading  
9 in the mayor's election race, I told him this is the  
10 first time that I couldn't predict a positive answer in  
11 an incoming important political election as late in a  
12 stretch finish. Believe me, it's that close, and it  
13 shouldn't be at this time.

14 Other matters today, is there a --  
15 there is an election today from US Congress to pass  
16 into law cuts from the food stamp program for the poor  
17 and needy families to about \$1 billion, 40 percent,  
18 because of the hurricane disasters relief in the deep  
19 south and the continuing war in Iraq, which is costing

20 a billion a day, which both amounts to billions.

21 The oil companies' profits are as high

22 as 89 percent, a record high profit in history, while

23 the oil companies are continuing raising the high, the

24 most necessary need of heating and gas oil to heat

25 American homes this winter.

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91

1 Our respect and prayers goes to the

2 equal rights champion pioneer Rosa Parks who did not

3 give up her bus seat for a man. She paid for her seat

4 equally to the man who demanded her bus seat to him.

5 It was December 1, 1955. Thank you for letting me

6 speak.

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

8 Herlow Rowlands. Good evening.

9 MR. ROWLANDS: Good evening, City

10 Council. Actually, my name is Herlow Rowlands, I'm a

11 West Scranton resident, obviously a taxpayer.

12 I came here, I represent Astima,

13 Incorporated. The purpose of my attendance tonight was

14 Mrs. Evans had a question at last week's meeting, who

15 asked who it was, a subordination agreement we had

16 asked for from the city, and I'm sorry she stepped out.

17 I just want to let her know I'm here to answer any  
18 questions she may have or anybody on City Council may  
19 have.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Does anyone have any  
21 questions? Mrs. Evans may. Can you stay a little  
22 longer and maybe possibly we'll ask her if she has any  
23 questions for you.

24 MR. ROWLANDS: That will be great.

25 Thank you, Mr. Rowlands.

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92

1 MR. DIBILEO: Kathy Beck.

2 MS. BECK: Good evening, Council.

3 Kathy Beck, resident of East Mountain section of

4 Scranton.

5 Much of what I say this evening has

6 been said before, however, at the sake of being

7 redundant, I believe there is merit in repeating this

8 information in light of recent newspaper articles,

9 Channel 61 presentations, political advertisements and

10 the mayoral debate.

11 During a recent airing of The Scranton

12 Times Week, Times reporter Borys Krawczeniuk, I'm

13 sorry, I hope I said your name right, made two

14 statements that, to me, really spoke volumes.

15 First he stated that the mayor could

16 have chosen to engage those would were critical of his

17 performance and respond to those questions that most

18 bothered constituents, but for whatever reason he chose

19 not to respond; second, he stated that the results of

20 the primary election forced the mayor out into the

21 neighborhoods and into participating neighborhood

22 events.

23 This statement is absolutely true and

24 is extremely bothersome, since no mayor should be --

25 should feel forced into the neighborhoods of those

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93

1 people that elected him.

2 We have heard and read a lot lately

3 about crime and crime statistics and whether it should

4 be a concern or if it is merely perceived.

5 For months, the mayor claimed there had

6 been a significant decline in crime in the city.

7 Tuesday's edition of The Scranton Times referred to a

8 rise of about six percent and two percent in the city's

9 overall and violent crime rates between 2003 and 2004.

10 I admit that compared to many other



11 cities in the Commonwealth, Scranton remains quite a  
12 safe city, that does not, however, mean that crime is  
13 not increasing.

14 I'm sure we have all heard the  
15 statement, When your neighbor loses his job, it's a  
16 recession, but when you lose your job, it's a  
17 depression.

18 You can't afford to be passive and feel  
19 secure just because the deterioration of a section  
20 hasn't reached your block yet. You can't afford to  
21 ignore the signs of potential problems and pretend they  
22 don't exist or are merely perceived, they must be  
23 addressed now.

24 No one is running the city down when  
25 they speak of crime, they are merely sending a message  
.

94

1 that contrary to what the mayor may think, crime does  
2 need to be addressed before it is no longer safe.

3 If this is what the mayor is referring  
4 to when he asks how can you run a city when you run a  
5 city down, then I ask, how can you solve a city's  
6 problems when you don't even acknowledge that they  
7 exist?

8 Finally, it has been pointed out time  
9 and time again the mayor's failure to be the sixth  
10 councilman, his failure to place the proceeds from the  
11 sale of an asset into a trust account, his failure to  
12 even attempt to reduce the personal income tax, his  
13 selling of city assets, even though he was against it  
14 while sitting on Council, his claim of providing 3,000  
15 new jobs, which include jobs merely relocated from one  
16 part of the city to another by TMG Health, which is now  
17 moving to Dunmore, jobs that Diversified which were  
18 reported by The Scranton Times back in 2001 under the  
19 Connors administration, Gibbon's Toyota, which is  
20 supposed to be coming to Scranton but hasn't broke  
21 ground yet.

22 Finally allow me to quote from the  
23 mayor's office section of the city website, in total  
24 almost \$230 million is being invested in Scranton, and  
25 all of it began Doherty's election less than three

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95

1 years ago.

2 Included in the list is \$2.7 million

3 for the East Mountain Road, for which the mayor would

4 love to take credit.

5 I would like to refer to two articles  
6 in particular that appeared in The Scranton Times  
7 Tribune April 18, 2001, Senator Mellow credited  
8 Mr. Reap and Don Sherwood for their relentless pursuit  
9 of the funds.  
10 May 5, 2001, Councilman Brian Reap  
11 began his work on the project, while president of the  
12 East Mountain Residents Association before his election  
13 to Council.  
14 Why do I rehash all of these facts  
15 presented? Because after listening to Mayor Doherty's  
16 political ads stating Don't Take the Bait, Don't Fall  
17 For Lies and Misinformation, I ask that you decide for  
18 yourself who is being less than truthful and who is  
19 making misleading statements.  
20 It actually sounds like Mr. Doherty's  
21 ads are a campaign against himself. Thank you for the  
22 opportunity to let me speak.  
23 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Rowlands, Mrs. Evans  
24 has no questions either regarding the legislation.  
25 MS. EVANS: And we'll have Mr. Saunders  
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96

1 do a little report when we actually take our vote in

2 seventh order tonight.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

4 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council. I

5 really don't have very much to say tonight except that

6 I would hope that everybody gets out on election day

7 and votes for whoever the candidate of their choice is.

8 And I'd like to make a couple of

9 comments. In regards to a couple comments about The

10 Scranton Times, I really think that the Lynetts have

11 lost all their credibility in this community, and

12 they've driven an agenda of destruction in this city

13 for a very long time.

14 In many issues, they've taken one side

15 and then flip-flopped to the other side. I think

16 they've played politics with this city for so many

17 decades that they're really one of the major reasons

18 the city is in the shape it's in, and we can't lay that

19 at the feet of the reporters who come here to cover

20 stories here, because the Lynetts decide what they want

21 to print, and that comes right from an editor of the

22 Scranton Times, who I had a discussion with one time

23 about the agenda they spin inside this city.

24 I think that if we're going to have a

25 strong leader in the city, and I have my own opinions

1 who's going to win the election, and I really don't  
2 find them to be relevant, they're only relevant to  
3 myself, but the most important thing is that everybody  
4 votes, and if people haven't voted and you're  
5 registered to vote, please come out and vote.

6 If there's a problem at your poll and  
7 you should be allowed to vote there, go to the judge of  
8 the day and cast your vote. It's extremely important,  
9 irregardless of what candidate you're going to vote  
10 for.

11 And in my opinion, the next mayor,  
12 whoever it is, whether it's Mr. DiBileo or Mr. Doherty,  
13 this city has to take a very drastic change in its  
14 course. I think a strong mayor would leave his office  
15 and go through the city two or three times a day trying  
16 to figure out what he can do to lead this city in a  
17 more productive manner.

18 There's a lot of things that you can  
19 see in the city that need to be changed if you'd only  
20 go outside and see them. There's too much special  
21 interest here and too much politics, and politics have  
22 to end here.

23 And I would like to say this to this

24 Council and to the next Council, in regards to the

25 budget, the budget has to shrink, we have to spend less

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98

1 money next year than we spent this year, we have to

2 start cutting the budget, we have to start paying our

3 bills, we have to start being responsible, we have to

4 move inside the monies we have.

5 And, you know, I had a wonderful

6 conversation with the lady who teaches political

7 science at the University of Scranton, we didn't

8 necessarily agree on everything, but we did agree that

9 government is dysfunctional.

10 And the question I have is, over the

11 last -- all these years we've known that these budgets

12 haven't been right, and like I stated at the Lackawanna

13 Citizens and Taxpayers Association, I think it would be

14 a great service to this city if the Council, when it

15 reviews this budget, goes through it line by line by

16 line on Channel 61, and let's double check all these

17 figures, and let's for once have a legitimate budget

18 actually.

19 And you know what, call whoever you

20 have to call, get the answers you have to get and let's  
21 move forward and let's not talk about we're up against  
22 a time frame or I got this information from that  
23 person, let's having something factual here and let's  
24 start a new course in this city, because if we keep  
25 going the way we're going, we have to be honest and say  
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99

1 the taxes are going to reach the point where everybody  
2 is going to lose their property.  
3 We're talking about the business  
4 leaving, and they go somewhere in the mall, they can go  
5 wherever, they have assets they can move, they have  
6 money they can move, but the residents in the city, the  
7 loan -- the largest single asset they own is their  
8 home, and all the debt in this city is attached to that  
9 house, and they can't move it.  
10 And then as the tax rates escalate,  
11 which to be honest with you, I can't see why anybody  
12 would vote again for the county commissioners, they're  
13 absolutely clueless.  
14 You can't tax people out of existence.  
15 You have people who are just at the limit. And what  
16 I'm saying to you here is let the next Council and

17 whoever the mayor is change the direction of this city.  
18 Is it going to be hard? Yes. Is there  
19 going to be a lot of pain involved? Yes. But I think  
20 that too many people sit home and say when the city  
21 borrows however many, we'll say \$70-some million, well,  
22 the problem is solved, let's relax, everything is okay,  
23 but you know what, it's not okay, people are losing  
24 their homes to sheriff's sales, there's a lot of  
25 problems here.

100

1 Even the one that I hope the city would  
2 really address, at least for the people in The Plot, is  
3 pit bulls moved from where they were to The Plot. And  
4 we have vicious animals in this city, and I hope this  
5 Council would enact legislation like I spoke about here  
6 before where you require certain breeds of dogs to have  
7 insurance so you can own them in the city.  
8 And the other thing I'd like to say is  
9 this, The Scranton Lackawanna Taxpayers Association  
10 have asked for money to start a playground program.  
11 Now, when the mayoral candidates went out and they've  
12 been talking to children and young adults in the  
13 community, they're looking for something to do.



14 You know something, remove politics and  
15 give us a shot at it. And Ozzie Quinn's the president,  
16 and on our grants, give us something and let's see what  
17 we can do, let's remove politics. Thank you.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.

19 Bill Moran.

20 MR. MORAN: Good evening, Council. My  
21 name is Bill Moran, I live in North Scranton.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

23 MR. MORAN: Last week Dick Laske  
24 reminded Council of the comments Mr. Parker made  
25 several weeks ago regarding an easement that was  
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101

1 cleared in North Scranton. At that time, Council  
2 indicated they would not be taking action on the issue  
3 because it is political in nature, as it's so close to  
4 the election.

5 I'm here to agree with Council, this  
6 issue is totally political. It begs to be addressed at  
7 this time, a time when allegations of political  
8 favoritism are running rampant.

9 Mr. Parker stood at this podium and  
10 insulting and defaming myself and others for exercising

11 our constitutional right to regress grievances with our  
12 government. He went so far as to claim that I was a  
13 liar and a deceiver for presenting pictures he  
14 allegedly hadn't even seen.

15 The pictures clearly showed a city  
16 truck on private property in front of a modular home  
17 that was essentially complete. He stated the clearing  
18 was done to help get materials into the lot, yet the  
19 house was already nearing completion when the pictures  
20 were taken.

21 In the interim, I spoke with two  
22 property owners who have been trying to build homes on  
23 East Mountain, they came to me, excited at the prospect  
24 of having somebody speak for them and get their  
25 information out.

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102

1 They were told that to obtain a  
2 building permit, they would have to clear their own  
3 easement, which is approximately 100 feet, install  
4 storm sewers, install 100 feet of sewer line because  
5 the Scranton Sewer Authority refused to extend the line  
6 to their house, they also had to pave the easement.  
7 The city was nice to them, though, they said, You don't

8 have to worry about sidewalks because there aren't any  
9 in the neighborhood.

10 Then and only then would they get a  
11 permit to build their house. They've been fighting for  
12 four years, and that, what I understand, is going into  
13 litigation now.

14 They also reminded me of Mrs.

15 Stoker-O'Malley, who came to Council last year  
16 repeatedly last year to have an easement cleared. I  
17 haven't heard how that turned out, but she said she'd  
18 been waiting many years.

19 I did some research in city hall and  
20 the courthouse, I checked the maps in both locations,  
21 the easement in question on Hollow Avenue is just that,  
22 an easement on the lands of the late David Fiegleman.  
23 He was concerned that Hollow Avenue --  
24 I was concerned that Hollow Avenue would not erode and  
25 that we have to have it dedicated to receive municipal

103

1 services in the future.

2 So, I checked with the city officials,  
3 and I found out that the road was used for 21 years,  
4 it's considered a road. It's a road to the end of the

5 blacktop. The blacktop was put in there in 2001. This  
6 by city definition is only a definition.  
7 I then asked if the city could clear an  
8 easement, I was told categorically no. I said, Well,  
9 wait a minute, what if somebody wanted to put a new  
10 house there? No. That was the answer.  
11 I'm going to ask something that you  
12 will very seldom hear at this podium, I ask that you  
13 not take my word for it, instead, check these facts out  
14 for yourself.  
15 The pictures are posted at  
16 Dohertydeceit.com. Look at them. Check with city  
17 officials about what I said, check with several so you  
18 get the whole story. Don't believe the words I speak.  
19 Check for yourself. Everybody, check for yourself.  
20 Prove it, prove me wrong, please.  
21 It's easy to stand here and call  
22 someone a liar and a deceiver, with a little work, the  
23 liars and the deceivers stand out.  
24 This is highly political. The work was  
25 done as a favor to a committee man for the Democratic

104

1 party who bragged about his connections and how he

2 could have the work done. We laughed when he said it,  
3 then it was done, while people on East Mountain wait  
4 for years for the same services.  
5 Work was done for a private citizen  
6 while trees and city parks posing as a safety hazard  
7 remain. Who is the deceiver? Who lied? Who did  
8 political favors? Who was in charge of this man?  
9 Mayor Chris Doherty appointed Mr.  
10 Parker, and he has sole responsibility for his  
11 continued employment. The blame, therefore, rests at  
12 the top. It's either a lack of leadership or it's  
13 something worse.  
14 I ask this, Council, please, by motion  
15 ask Mr. Parker to either come here or to the property  
16 in question, meet with us, the neighborhoods, the  
17 people who saw what happened, meet with the homeowner  
18 and talk to him. Come along yourself, please, and  
19 invite the people from East Scranton, let them get an  
20 ear full. We all want to know what happened.  
21 Let's take the politics out of it,  
22 let's make this request unanimous. If I'm proven  
23 wrong, I will apologize. If I'm -- if Mr. Parker is  
24 wrong, I ask only for his resignation based on the way  
25 that he acted towards me and other people.

1 I'm hear for one reason, I demand, I  
2 demand more from my government than petty politics, I  
3 demand equal treatment for all people, whether you're  
4 Democrat, Republican, DiBileo, Doherty, whatever, we  
5 pay the taxes, we deserve equal services. I demand,  
6 but I only demand what is rightfully mine to demand.

7 And one post script to this, the trees  
8 that Mr. Parker said that he cleared from the easement,  
9 he didn't cut those down. The person who owns the  
10 house cut those down.

11 I went to him and I said, My mom's  
12 worried about those trees, she's worried they're going  
13 to bring varmint into the neighborhood. Can you clear  
14 them? If you can't, let me know, I'll give you a hand  
15 with it.

16 The next thing I know, Mr. Parker's men  
17 are up there. And I don't blame the men, they got  
18 instructions from somebody. His men are up there  
19 taking care of the problem.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Moran, if I may, I  
21 know Jay hit the bell there, I think when this first  
22 came about, I really didn't think it was much of a big

23 deal, you know, and then Mr. DiBileo asked a question,  
24 and I believe he was accused of doing something because  
25 of the upcoming election, and so my understanding is  
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106

1 that's why he said last week he wasn't going to get  
2 into it, but every since this has started, I've heard  
3 quite a bit about it. You know, I've been on the road  
4 campaigning with some people, and it comes up a lot.  
5 I'd like to see Mr. Parker sit down and  
6 speak with the people that have concerns there. I just  
7 don't know how we accomplish that. I don't know if I  
8 request for him to do that, that he's going to be  
9 willing to do that.

10 But I don't know if we need to make a  
11 motion, if not, I would request that he sit down and  
12 speak with you and everyone just act civilly and see  
13 what's right and what's wrong and just have the matter  
14 settled once and for all, because I've heard quite a  
15 bit about it now, it's almost, as you said, become a  
16 political issue, which it shouldn't have, but I will  
17 make that request, unless it's felt that we need a  
18 motion.

19 If we need a motion, then I'll make the

20 motion, but I will make that request of Mr. Parker to  
21 speak with yourself or whoever else is interested and  
22 maybe, you know, he's claiming he's right, you're  
23 claiming you're right, so obviously someone is wrong,  
24 and maybe if need be, we can get an outside party in,  
25 but he seems like a fairly reasonable guy.

107

1 I know you're upset because he made  
2 statements about you, but maybe we can ask him if he  
3 can sit down and talk with you, your neighbors and  
4 yourself, and try to get it straightened out, because I  
5 don't think it's a good idea for week after week to  
6 come up here.

7 And, you know, I'm not accusing you,  
8 but not only up here, but I've heard it so much, I  
9 can't believe it, but I will be willing to do that if  
10 that's agreeable to you and to Mr. Parker, I would  
11 request that of him.

12 MR. MORAN: It's been my feeling all  
13 along that this subject was in need of discussion, we  
14 need to sit down as adults and discuss it.

15 It's very hard to do that when the  
16 person who would have the most responsibility in



17 sending those men out there, was acting in a way that  
18 we all saw, and I think that's what bothers me more  
19 than anything else.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think that was a  
21 little out of character for him, I never seen him act  
22 that way myself, I think maybe he was upset because he  
23 felt he was being accused of something, so maybe we can  
24 put all that aside and --

25 MR. MORAN: I will be glad to.

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108

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: -- and see if we can  
2 just have the residents and Mr. Parker speak and try to  
3 get a resolution.

4 MR. MORAN: And if I could, like I  
5 said, I would like to, not only have Mr. Parker there  
6 and the neighborhood, but I'd also like to invite the  
7 people who are also affected on East Mountain, I would  
8 like to have some answers for them, too, because it  
9 seems that one side was taken care of and another  
10 wasn't, and I think it's only fair that they have their  
11 questions answered at the same time.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, I would -- I'm  
13 just going to kind of disagree with you on that. I

14 would say let's get that problem solved up there in  
15 North Scranton, and then if the people on the East  
16 Mountain have a problem, you know, let Mr. Parker  
17 address that had separately. I don't want to pin one  
18 side against the other, one East Mountain against North  
19 Scranton, I'm not in favor of that, and I know that's  
20 not your intention, but I would ask that we just ask  
21 the people in North Scranton and Mr. Parker to sit down  
22 and try to get this thing settled once and for all.

23 MR. MORAN: That would be very  
24 acceptable to me. If you can get the man to a table or  
25 to a --

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109

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, I'll request it,  
2 I can't guarantee he's going to do it, but I will  
3 certainly request it.

4 MR. MORAN: Well, let me just say one  
5 last thing about that, if Mr. Parker is man enough to  
6 come out and discuss this with the neighbors, that  
7 would show that he is more of a man than we have seen  
8 so far, and I think all I'm asking for is a little bit  
9 of respect from the people that I pay a salary to.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. And I

11 don't think it's too much to ask, I think possibly we  
12 can make it happen.

13 MR. MORAN: Great idea. I think we  
14 should do it, and I'm ready to do it even after the  
15 election.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Does Kay have your  
17 address or your phone number or whatever? I can make  
18 the request, and then whatever answer we get, I can  
19 forward it to you.

20 MR. MORAN: I will make sure she has  
21 it.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Thank you.

23 MR. MORAN: Thank you, sir.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Moran.

25 That is it for the sign-in sheet.

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110

1 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,

2 Council, Charlie Newcomb.

3 I wasn't going to say this, but I'm

4 going to, I have a copy of that letter, I won't use her

5 name, the speaker that was up here before was giving it

6 out in the hallway, and it's your personal business,

7 and I don't know what it has to do with this podium,

8 and I honestly give you credit for standing up to this  
9 woman that continuously comes up here every week and  
10 talks about your -- makes this as a political forum.  
11 I just think it's wrong that the mayor  
12 has his face all over the place, in my opinion, as a  
13 political ad that we're paying \$48,000 for it, I think  
14 it's wrong in January of 2002, when the mayor had the  
15 taxpayers pay for the inauguration advertisements for  
16 his personal thing, this is nonsense, and I think the  
17 people of the city see right through it.  
18 And continuously she comes here and  
19 attacks your character, and I give you credit for  
20 standing up to people like this.  
21 There's been numerous ads in the  
22 newspaper this past week of citizens supporting the  
23 mayor. First, I recognize none of them, second, the  
24 one that stood out in my mind was a woman from West  
25 Scranton, and parts of her statement mocked Mrs. Evans'

111

1 comments that we're mortgaging our kids' future.  
2 Another one was that she thanked the  
3 mayor for having so many things for her kids to do. I  
4 heard that four kids from West Scranton, yesterday I

5 heard, that four kids from West Scranton vandalized  
6 Scranton High School. If there's so many things for  
7 her kids and other kids to do, then how come this  
8 happened? How come she knew one of these children  
9 extremely well?

10 Last evening I attended the mayoral  
11 debate at Scranton High School, this was honestly the  
12 sixth time in four years that I saw the mayor in  
13 public.

14 Every time crucial issues and questions  
15 were asked to him, he dodged them. When asked about  
16 consultants, his answer put me in a sleep. When asked  
17 directly why he won't come to a City Council meeting  
18 and explain his political CRF issue, he said, It would  
19 be crazy to come to a meeting.

20 In my opinion, it's an arrogant answer.

21 When asked about the \$1.2 million in raises, silence,  
22 the decrease in jobs, silence.

23 When asked why he didn't fulfill his  
24 promise and reduce the wage tax, he attempted to dodge  
25 the question, then he said you need to get \$800,000 to

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112

1 reduce the wage tax by 1 mill.

2 So, \$1.2 million in administrative  
3 raises, add the \$700,000 deposit that we got rid of on  
4 the South Side Complex, add the \$700,000 to the  
5 high-bidder for landscaping at Nay Aug Park, let's add  
6 the \$250,000 that went down the drain for Scartelli to  
7 knock down -- that only ended up knocking down the  
8 parking garage, many opportunities were right under his  
9 nose, why should I as a citizen have to come up with  
10 this theory, when he's the elected official and he  
11 can't even come up with ways to reduce our wage tax?  
12 Right there you're at three percent. Fallacies all  
13 over the place.  
14 When asked about crime, we have none.  
15 The state police don't know what they're talking about.  
16 All he did in four years, in my opinion, is divide this  
17 city and its people, intimidate ordinary citizens, like  
18 Mrs. Wardell that came forward to this podium, and  
19 others that I know personally, he gave, in my opinion,  
20 downtown a cosmetic look, he reduced the police force,  
21 he deliberately ignores people that don't support him,  
22 he created \$275 million in debt, and did I say it  
23 again, he ignores the citizens Scranton.  
24 This city is divided more than I've  
25 ever seen it in my life. People are fighting with each

1 other, the unions are divided, the morale is lower than  
2 I have ever seen it in Scranton, and it's because of  
3 the deceit.

4 Mr. DiBileo, did you ever vote to close  
5 Nay Aug Park, or did you ever stop the firemen from  
6 getting air packs? Now, I don't know if you want to  
7 answer that.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Not that I'm aware of.

9 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Yeah, I'm not aware  
10 of it either, and I've been coming to these meetings  
11 before you were even on Council, and that was a  
12 question that was posed to you tonight, I don't know  
13 where that was coming from, but more fallacies.

14 Again, this year I saw in the paper  
15 that we need to borrow money to pay the bills this  
16 year, we borrowed last year, the year before, now  
17 again. We sold assets to pay the bills.

18 There are three ways, in my opinion, to  
19 balance the budget in the mayor's eyes, A, borrow money  
20 or sell assets; B, raise revenue by increasing taxes,  
21 which isn't going to happen this year, and C, decrease  
22 personnel. So, what's going to happen if the mayor is

23 re-elected? A, B or C? Hopefully none of them.

24 When I was playing football, we used to

25 have to go play Berwick, the Berwick Bulldogs, and when

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114

1 you used to go to those meetings, you were very

2 intimidated by going to those meetings because the fans

3 used to spit on you when you walked by and all these

4 other things, when I was at the debate last night, a

5 lot of the people that don't have the same views that I

6 have didn't spit on me, but they basically gave me the

7 same attitude that I was given when we used to go down

8 to Berwick, and that is my point that this city is

9 divided, and I truly, truly hope that the people come

10 together and they stop this division in a couple of

11 weeks. Thank you.

12 MR. BUDZINSKI: Good evening. Fred

13 Budzinski, Jermyn Apartments.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

15 MR. BUDZINSKI: I've been reading and

16 hearing a lot about the city progressing, and I

17 honestly believe the city is progressing, but we're

18 progressing downhill, that's where we're progressing,

19 downhill, right into bankruptcy.



20 But there is one area that we're  
21 progressing up, but that's bad news, and that's the  
22 city's debt. I've heard where the city's debt is \$205  
23 million, \$205 million, and even higher than that.

24 Now, about a month ago The Scranton  
25 Times had an article in the paper about Erie, about the

115

1 Erie problems in Western Pennsylvania, and they even  
2 mentioned there that they're on the verge of Erie  
3 bankruptcy, and they even mentioned in the paper that  
4 the city is -- that they're laughing about Erie being  
5 the laughing-tock in Western Pennsylvania, and I'm  
6 beginning to think people in Scranton are beginning to  
7 say we're the laughing-stock in Eastern Pennsylvania.

8 Now, I think last week DiBileo  
9 mentioned about the population going down about 2,000,  
10 and I mentioned this before, we're down about 70,000  
11 people, and probably at the next census in five years,  
12 we're probably down about ninth and tenth population of  
13 58,000, 59,000 people.

14 Now, Mrs. Evans was talking about money  
15 that's being wasted, she talked about the parking  
16 garage there that we wasted, in fact, spent \$280,000

17 that only went down the sewer, and that parking garage  
18 was condemned. Instead of looking into it and  
19 inspecting it and condemning it at that time, the city  
20 wouldn't have wasted \$280,000 or so.

21 And also building that Hilton without a  
22 garage, who the hell ever heard of building a Hilton  
23 without a garage and no parking? If they had a garage,  
24 that Hilton wouldn't be going down in bankruptcy.

25 And then the city gives them \$3

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116

1 million, and then we've got to negotiate to get a  
2 million and a half back.

3 Now, then Dave Gervasi comes up here,  
4 talks about arbitration, arbitration, arbitration,  
5 hundreds of thousands of dollars have been lost. Has  
6 the city ever won one arbitration? I doubt it.

7 And then Ann Marie comes up here that  
8 works for FOP, she comes up here with like a shopping  
9 list. It took her about five minutes of all the money  
10 that was wasted, consultant fees, lawyers and so forth.

11 So, all I can say is this Tuesday's  
12 going to be a bid day, and how this city's going to go  
13 is up to the people. So, get out there and vote.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Budzinski.

16 MR. GEORGE MORAN: Good evening, George

17 Moran, Green Ridge.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

19 MR. GEORGE MORAN: First I'd like to

20 say about the crime, Gary, you didn't scare us, we're

21 scared long before that.

22 We had a Green Ridge Neighborhood

23 meeting maybe three months ago, Mrs. Evans was there,

24 they had a beat cop there, a bicycle cop actually, I

25 think she was, and, you know, everybody is saying, oh,

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117

1 they're all happy how safe they were and everything.

2 What happened? The day after, she's gone. Like,

3 there's nobody around. The thing of it is, if you

4 would see at least patrol cars, you don't see any kind

5 of cops around.

6 And the other thing that East Market

7 Street, now, everybody is so happy about the bridge, we

8 like the bridge, for months we put up with detours and

9 all this -- they closed down Sanderson Avenue, we were

10 locked in, now it -- they got the road all tore up.

11 When are they going to fix it?  
12 From the bridge up East Market Street  
13 is just tore up. They got all the cuts in it, they got  
14 it all patched up to heck there, we'd like to know when  
15 they're going to fix it.

16 Now, like, three weeks ago it was  
17 pouring rain, I happened to turn on my scanner, there's  
18 a policeman on there, they're getting cars towed out of  
19 there because they said they're going to pave in the  
20 pouring rain.

21 Now, what happened to these cars that  
22 got towed out of there? And they still haven't gotten  
23 it. That's like three weeks ago, and these people have  
24 to pay to get their cars out.

25 And if they did, I think it's not  
.

118

1 right. Now, that's what makes the people around  
2 Scranton real happy, you know?  
3 And the Head Start, that's something  
4 like federal or state, the Head Start Program, now, on  
5 those buildings there, are you allowed to post posters  
6 or anything, like, are you allowed to post your name  
7 there for election being that it's a state building and

8 whatever?

9 MR. DIBILEO: I'm not sure about that,

10 to be honest with you.

11 MR. GEORGE MORAN: Because I go down

12 Cedar Avenue and Alder Street, where the Head Start is,

13 they have a sign there, Head Start, with the arrow and

14 all this stuff, and Chris Doherty's picture right there

15 on the same thing. I don't know, that don't seem like

16 that should be.

17 MR. DIBILEO: It could be the

18 landlord's sign of the building, I'm not sure.

19 MR. GEORGE MORAN: It's right there

20 where it says Head Start on it. And I'd like to say

21 another thing, like, cutting off with the police and

22 the fire department, now with the price of the fuel

23 going up and whatever, there's a lot of people that are

24 going to be doing all kind of crazy things trying to

25 heat their houses and stuff, so these police and fire

.

119

1 departments, I think we're going to need a lot more of

2 them.

3 And one other thing, Sam Vitras was

4 here last week, and I'd like to say one thing, we're

5 forgetting how it was, like, 90 degrees for, what, 90  
6 days or something in the summer, and I have to say, his  
7 department, the garbage department, DPW did a heck of a  
8 good job. I know I would not want their job, that  
9 smell and everything. That's it.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

12 MR. VUTNOSKY: Good evening. Council.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

14 MR. VUTNOSKY: My name is Jack

15 Vutnosky, I'm proud to say I'm a lifelong citizen of

16 Scranton and proud to be a Veteran.

17 Absolute power breeds corruption,

18 that's an old saying. When you throw an egotistical

19 maniac into that mix, that's what makes it disastrous.

20 Right now there's a trial going on,

21 just for the point of saying, Saddam Hussein, he was

22 this type of person, and how this happened, now, when

23 he come into power, the first thing he did was separate

24 himself from the people.

25 Now, he did this to gain all his wealth

.

120

1 and he did this by putting his relatives and his -- a

2 few choice generals they were very obedient to him and  
3 they put them in charge of committees, squads, and they  
4 were given unlimited power, unlimited, to do whatever  
5 he wanted them to do, and they did it.

6 As you see as this case is unfolding,  
7 you can see more and more of the atrocities that he did  
8 against his own people.

9 And anyone whoever opposed him, they  
10 were dealt with severely quick, he had squads for that,  
11 too, and he didn't care if they were men or women,  
12 fathers, mothers, grandfathers, grandmothers, he didn't  
13 care, he would deal with them severely if they opposed  
14 him.

15 He was also sort of like an egotistic,  
16 but he was also shrewd because he didn't want the  
17 outside world to know what he was doing, and he didn't  
18 want them to think that his people didn't approve of  
19 what he was doing, so when you can see he had names put  
20 up all over the city, he had pictures of himself, and  
21 eventually even statues, built his palaces, and those  
22 obedient generals were allowed to be on the good side  
23 of the wall of those palaces.

24 The common people, who he really didn't  
25 really have much to do with anymore because he didn't

121

1 need them, they were on the other side of the palaces,  
2 and there was a distinct change in lifestyles on either  
3 side of the palaces and the walls.

4 Now, as you can see when he did finally

5 get taken down, the things that his newspaper would

6 say, because he controlled all the media, the

7 newspapers weren't allowed to write anything at all

8 that wasn't favorable to the king, and his radio, his

9 news, that was just a joke, it was the same thing, they

10 weren't allowed to say anything about the truth or what

11 was really happening, but that all came out now and

12 it's coming out more in his trial now, and he was quite

13 a nasty guy.

14 But my point is, I'm just letting off

15 steam, I guess, but my point is here to tie it into

16 city business is I think that Christopher Doherty would

17 be a very, very successful politician in Bagdad. Thank

18 you. MS. SAPONI: Hi. I just want to

19 say thank you for allowing me to speak tonight. My

20 name is Lori Saponi, I'm a taxpayer, a resident of

21 Scranton, and I wanted to come here many, many times,

22 because I listen every week, and as Mayor Doherty said,



23 you have to be crazy to come here, I guess I am crazy,

24 because I'm so upset about all the negative things

25 being said about Scranton, I'm so upset that everybody

.

122

1 comes up here with personal agendas.

2 This will be the last time you'll ever

3 see me here on a personal agenda. This is taxpayers'

4 time. Doesn't -- don't they understand it costs money

5 to put on a production like this?

6 If you have something, it should be

7 constructive. If someone is going to make a comment,

8 they should be able to back up what they have to say.

9 Where are the facts? What is really going on?

10 I can't tell for Scranton. Then I hear

11 people bad mouthing The Scranton Times, well, I can't

12 tell who's telling the truth and who's not telling the

13 truth, so I have to look at the record, I have to look

14 at what has been going on in Scranton.

15 Where were we five years ago? Are we

16 better off today than we were five years ago? Damn

17 right we are.

18 And I am one of those people who came

19 from New Jersey, but in 1974, I invested in Lackawanna

20 County in Scranton, and I'm proud to be a Scrantonian,  
21 I'm proud of the architectural heritage we have here,  
22 the beautiful city we live in, I'm proud of everything  
23 that has gone on in Scranton, I'm proud that our mayor  
24 is so well respected wherever I go, I'm proud of the  
25 renaissance of our city.

123

1 What I'm not proud of is this charade  
2 that I watch week after week after week, the same  
3 people coming up here every week and allowed to spiel.  
4 There has to be some type of agenda.  
5 Is there no control? I don't know what anybody's jobs  
6 are. While I was getting my graduate degree, there was  
7 proletarians and stuff like that that were required to  
8 do certain things, I'm not sure what your jobs are,  
9 what you're required to do, but I do want to see people  
10 come up here and show leadership.  
11 You are our leaders, we voted for you.  
12 You voted for this -- this new -- you voted for the  
13 city to go forward, and you're holding it back.  
14 I don't know why, because everything I  
15 read, it's -- I have to read between the lines. I hear  
16 bickering, I hear arguing, not just, you know, on all

17 sides. Let's get rid of the bickering, let's get rid

18 of the little talk and let's talk issues. Let's get

19 our city forward.

20 I also am a multi-family owner of

21 properties here, and I love this city. I put a lot of

22 time and energy into this city, and all I want to see

23 is the best things go forward.

24 I think that we're much safer than we

25 were. Look at the city five, ten years ago, you know,

124

1 let's go forward, let's do what we can, let's be

2 respected and let's stand up here and say what's good

3 about Scranton. Thank you.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

5 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, ladies and

6 gentlemen.

7 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

8 MR. GERVASI: With all due respect for

9 the last speaker, this is not a show, this is not a

10 production, unlike what happens on Channel 61 with the

11 commercials, campaign commercials, that are shown on

12 Channel 61 with the mayor where no one has an

13 opportunity to come up and debate the mayor, it's all

14 scripted, the other shows that his cabinet members go  
15 to that are all scripted.

16 I'm sorry to say, and I mean no

17 disrespect to the last speaker, this is government,

18 this is live T.V., and this is not scripted, okay? I

19 want to make that perfectly clear.

20 And if it wasn't for this Council, that

21 young lady would not be able to speak up here, because

22 the first thing the mayor tried to do was shut down

23 this chambers to keep the people from being able to

24 speak and address their grievances to the city or give

25 their opinions or just do something that's -- that darn

.

125

1 First Amendment Right to free speech.

2 But I'm happy this young lady got up

3 and made her statements tonight, because this Council,

4 especially you, Mr. DiBileo, are the one who allowed

5 these people to come here and say what they had to say.

6 The other thing I have to talk about

7 tonight is Mr. Jackowitz was here tonight, I was

8 listening to some of the people speaking, and he said

9 it seems that money means power and power means money,

10 well, that's kind of been what's holding us down here

11 for about the last 100 years in this town, in this

12 area.

13 Let me just tell everyone out there,

14 all the little people like us, we have the power. When

15 you go into and you close the curtain and you flick a

16 switch, you have the power.

17 If you think Mayor Doherty's doing a

18 good job, you have the power to retain him, and if you

19 think Mayor Doherty's not doing a good job, you have

20 the power to remove him. We have the power, we have

21 the numbers, and we have the power, not the rich, not

22 the powerful, not the out of towners, not the big power

23 brokers that usually is 80 percent of Mr. Doherty's

24 campaign contributions, they don't have the power, we

25 have the power, and if you don't believe me and if you

.

126

1 don't believe other speakers that come up here, by all

2 means take your power and vote for Chris Doherty.

3 That's your right under our Constitution.

4 The other thing I have to say is,

5 there's a lot of talk about -- I mean, this town is a

6 -- a couple speakers in this town are so divided, and I

7 know families that are fighting over this election.

8 I don't know how to say this, because  
9 frankly, I'm a special interest, I'm representing the  
10 firefighters union when I'm speaking up here, but I've  
11 always tried to come up here and document what I'm  
12 saying and try to make it clear to what's really going  
13 on, because maybe our unions have made mistakes  
14 30 years ago, 20 years ago, but we have given and given  
15 and given and we trusted the people that came here  
16 14 years ago to straighten out our town, and we were  
17 abandoned and politics were played and city governments  
18 didn't follow the recovery plans, just like this mayor,  
19 that 70 percent of the people voted for this recovery  
20 plan, violated his own recovery plan.  
21 For instance, the recovery plan said  
22 that all the city employees were supposed to have wage  
23 freezes. That's a fact of life. Do we like it, to  
24 have wage freezes, to not have a raise for the last  
25 four years and have probably six or seven wage freezes

127

1 in the last 14 years?  
2 We don't like that as employees. I  
3 don't think anyone that works wants to have wage  
4 freezes.

5 But it's a fact of life. Until it's  
6 gone and until the city is straightened out, it's a  
7 fact of life. But where does it say in the recovery  
8 plan that every person that's a firefighter that comes  
9 to your house when you call 9/11 or every person that  
10 calls a police officer or people that expect at seven  
11 in the morning their garbage to be picked up by city  
12 employees, and people that call down here for zoning or  
13 clerks or anyone else that works in this building, we  
14 should have wage freezes, but the supervisors shouldn't  
15 have wage freezes?

16 Supervisors, should be given \$5,000 and  
17 \$10,000 raises. Please explain to me where in the  
18 recovery plan Chris Doherty had a right to give all  
19 these raises to everyone, please explain to me where in  
20 the recovery plan, because we're supposed to cut  
21 expenses, that he can give no bid contracts at times --  
22 almost \$100,000 more than what the low bid was for his  
23 campaign contributors.

24 This is the most blatant pay to play  
25 administration in my memory. And I can say it now,

.

128

1 because I'm getting older. I've been around a little

2 while now.

3 I mean, they say there's no money for

4 police officers. I mean, we can talk about numbers, we

5 can debate this for two years, crime is up. I mean, is

6 it not obvious to everyone?

7 But we knock off police officers, and

8 Mayor Doherty says we can't afford that, but he can

9 afford to send flowers to people that he knows on

10 taxpayers' dime, he can afford to do no bid contracts,

11 he can afford to put flower pots on the streets, he can

12 afford to give millions of dollars to people to build

13 buildings downtown with a promise of jobs, and no jobs

14 come. But that's okay.

15 Mayor Doherty made a statement, I've

16 been coming here for years, before they were televised

17 and before this Council was sitting, and I said what

18 was actually going on and what we've done to help the

19 city get out of distressed status, and we've done it,

20 and it's documented, an nobody's going to tell me we

21 haven't. We've been giving up for -- going backwards

22 for 14 years.

23 Our union, along with the other four

24 unions, have given and given and given, and we an

25 document millions and millions and millions of dollars



1 in savings.

2 The point I'm trying to make is this,

3 we've been saying that in the recovery plan there was

4 open-ended language within the recovery plan that said

5 the mayor had sole discretion to do whatever he wants

6 without the security of impact safety studies, without

7 the security of many things, that's what we're

8 fighting.

9 We're not fighting economic things, we

10 want a big giant raise, that's not what we're fighting

11 in arbitration, we're fighting management right

12 language that to us is dangerous, because we are sworn

13 to protect the citizens of the city.

14 We know what's going on, he does not

15 know what's going on in the police and fire

16 departments, we do, we live here, we work here, I've

17 been here for 20 years.

18 I'm trying to prevent firefighters and

19 the citizens from being killed because a bean counter

20 want to save money without knowing the ramifications of

21 what's going to happen if he makes these changes.

22 He finally made a statement after three

23 and a half years, because we've been asking for three  
24 and a half years, what are your intentions under this  
25 language of Act 47, and finally said it, as far as the

.

130

1 fire department is concerned, he needs to cut the fire  
2 department by \$2.4 or \$2.5 million or 30 positions.  
3 Now, does that means he's going to lay  
4 off 30 guys, does that mean he's going to try to go  
5 through attrition, which he can't because frankly  
6 everybody already left, very few people have their time  
7 to retire at this point.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Gervasi, are you  
9 saying he said that? He said that?

10 MR. DAVIS: He said that to one of my  
11 members, who called me up immediately and said, The  
12 mayor told me, and I believe this guy, as a matter of  
13 fact, this guy is a friend of the mayor's, and he says,  
14 What's going on? And I said, Well, he never really  
15 said this, exactly what his intentions are, but three  
16 weeks ago I met with the mayor and he says, I need to  
17 get \$4 million, quote/unquote, right to my face in his  
18 office, \$4 million from the police and the fire  
19 contracts, and now he told my friend, I need \$2.5

20 million or 30 guys or however you want to do it,  
21 meaning, we give up everything else, we can keep the  
22 guys, if we don't want to give up anything, we got to  
23 get rid of the guys somehow some way.

24 So, I've been telling the people that  
25 we can fund consultants and lawyers and more chiefs all

131

1 over the place, because we can afford that, to have  
2 bloated administration, and who is going to pay for  
3 this? Who is going to pay for his spending?  
4 You know who's going to pay for his  
5 spending? Were are and you are with lower -- your  
6 taxes are not being lowered, but your public safety is  
7 going to be lowered.

8 And finally after three and a half  
9 years, he said it. He wants cuts in the fire  
10 department. What he wants in the police department, I  
11 don't know, I'm not privy to that, but he wants  
12 30 positions or \$2.4 million, however we want to do it.  
13 Your taxes aren't going down, and I've  
14 been saying it for three and a half years, and he  
15 finally said it to one of my members, he's going to  
16 reduce your public safety in the fire department.

17 If that's what you want, vote for Chris  
18 Doherty. When is the last time a consultant, a lawyer,  
19 or one of his chiefs that he put on that raised the  
20 salaries here by \$3.4 million that sit in these offices  
21 to do their jobs, picked up your garbage or fought your  
22 fires or chased bad guys out of your backyard?  
23 I've never seen one of these people do  
24 this. We do it. We're the ones when you call and you  
25 pay your taxes, we show up.

.

132

1 We're going to take the hit for his  
2 spending again. Thank you for the opportunity to  
3 speak.

4 MS. ROSKY: Good evening, Council, or  
5 good night, I don't know what time it is at this point.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

7 MS. ROSKY: The first thing --

8 MR. DIBILEO: For the record, your  
9 name?

10 MS. ROSY: I'm sorry. Mary Ann, city  
11 homeowner, lifetime resident in Scranton and taxpayer.  
12 The first thing I feel I want to do right now is to  
13 apologize to Mr. DiBileo for the woman who was here

14 earlier that does nothing but bash Mr. DiBileo.

15 MR. DIBILEO: No apology needed.

16 MS. ROSY: Yes, yes. You know why,

17 because she comes up here week after week trying to

18 push your buttons, she wants to get you going, and she

19 has no morals whatsoever, okay? She has no self

20 respect for herself and she has no respect for anyone

21 else.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Well, Mary Ann, that's

23 perfectly her right to be able to do that, and I

24 appreciate your concern. That's okay.

25 MS. ROSKY: Yeah. I don't appreciate

.

133

1 the disrespect like that, I really don't.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

3 MS. ROSKY: Okay. I'm proud of the

4 First Amendment, okay, only if spoken truthfully, and I

5 was raised an honest person, and the mayor mentioned

6 negativity and scare tactics happening in our city

7 right now, they are not scare tactics, they are the

8 facts. People need to listen and pay close attention,

9 okay?

10 I haven't been walking the streets or

11 even been out when it gets dark since a young girl got  
12 raped by Holy Cross Church, okay? And there is crime  
13 in this city.

14 And I don't do it anymore, I don't  
15 walk, there is crime in this city, but in my opinion  
16 you have to see the issues, you have to hear the  
17 promises that were made and pay attention to them, and  
18 also know they're broken, they're broken, they're  
19 broken promises, okay? We can't have that as city  
20 taxpayers, we cannot have that.

21 And the scare tactic for me is the  
22 thought of this mayor getting re-elected for four more  
23 years. That's my scare tactic. It's my opinion.

24 And it doesn't take, like, a rocket  
25 scientist to figure out we are being betrayed, we are  
.

134

1 being, okay, I won't use the words lies, broken  
2 promises, however, but -- and just to let everyone  
3 know, I've never been one to step on anybody's toes, so  
4 I'm not here to knock anybody down, but I've got a, I  
5 don't know, I'm going to try to make this as quick as I  
6 can, I've never ignored anyone, okay, but last night  
7 the mayor crossed the line with me, okay? That's what

8 brought me here tonight, my first City Council meeting,

9 so I am little nervous, if you'll bear with me.

10 I found out last night what people

11 meant when they were saying that Scranton has a snotty

12 cocky attitude of a mayor, okay? That, in my opinion,

13 was an understatement, and he's definitely not for all

14 the people.

15 Last night after the debate, I politely

16 walked over to Mayor Doherty, I reached out to shake

17 his hand, told him it was nice to meet him, and said,

18 With all due respect, Mayor, why did the city tell me

19 back in April and May of 2005, that the city has no

20 money and will not have any money for at least three,

21 four years, at least?

22 Now, I was told they can send me a city

23 loan application, I have an emergency with my roof, and

24 I thought -- I've called Habitat for Humanity, and I

25 explained this to the mayor, I called Neighborhood

.

135

1 Association, I've called -- I've spoke with HUD, and

2 I've spoke with the city, okay, and I explained my

3 situation to the girl, and at that point he said, You

4 couldn't have called the city. I said, Yes, I did call

5 the city. Okay. That much he gave me. He reiterated  
6 it again, and that was it, okay?  
7 So, at that point I just said -- I went  
8 onto the crimes, okay? I didn't like how he digressed  
9 from what Mr. DiBileo said of Scranton and digressed to  
10 Hazleton and Wilkes-Barre. We live in Scranton. And  
11 that's what I told the mayor, and I am scared. I'm  
12 scared to live in this city with the crime rising, and  
13 I told him that.  
14 We may not have as high of a crime rate  
15 as Wilkes-Barre or whatever he stated, but it's rising  
16 in this area, and I'm scared.  
17 And what I got from him was stuttering,  
18 mumbling, I couldn't understand him. The hand went  
19 like that (INDICATING.) He turned his back on me. I  
20 got to go, very sarcastically. I didn't appreciate  
21 that, okay?  
22 And right now, that's what I was left  
23 with, with his back to my face, and if I were undecided  
24 at this point with my vote, I wouldn't be any longer.  
25 Can I just have one more minute since this is my first

.



2 MR. DIBILEO: I can't give you another

3 minute, Mary Ann, but finish your thought there.

4 MS. ROSKY: Okay. I hope Mayor Doherty

5 at this point is at least watching. Mayor, no one in

6 this city should feel that they are not good enough to

7 be respected by you, especially when one speaks to him

8 with the utmost respect. He gets paid to be mayor,

9 okay?

10 If he gets re-elected, God help us all.

11 How many more people will be ignored and feeling like a

12 fool? Okay? I worked for the public, and I never

13 wanted to be rude to anybody and never was.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mary Ann.

15 MS. ROSKY: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. POCIUS: Mary Ann, Mary Ann --

17 MS. ROSKY: Yeah.

18 MR. POCIUS: Is Ann your last name or

19 do you have a last name for the record?

20 MS. ROSKY: Yes, I do.

21 MR. POCIUS: That's one of the

22 protocols, you have to give your full name. You don't

23 have to say where you live, but you must state your

24 full name.

25 MS. ROSKY: State your full name?

1 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah.

2 MS. ROSKY: Okay. Mary Ann Rosky.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Thank you.

4 MS. ROSKY: I had more to day, maybe

5 I'll continue next week. Thank you.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Thank you.

7 MS. STULGIS: My name is Ann Marie

8 Stulgis, and I'm here not as a campaign worker, as a

9 previous person led to, in fact, I take umbrage with

10 that, I'm here because I'm president of the Fraternal

11 Order of Police.

12 I want to remind everyone that the

13 latest numbers we have on the men and women killed in

14 Iraq is 2,001, 2,001 young men and women killed in

15 Iraq.

16 This city has sent a number of men and

17 women to that country to protect and to push freedom.

18 Several of those people happen to have been city

19 workers. Those city workers were denied a couple

20 dollars by this administration because this

21 administration has absolutely no respect, no respect

22 for what those men and women did, and no respect for

23 their own employees.

24 Last night one of the things that the

25 mayor said is that he can't get the city under control

.

138

1 until he gets contracts with those unions because he

2 needs to cut their budget.

3 Well, from the last budget of Mayor

4 Connors to the present, we've lost 22 police officers,

5 and he's cut our budget by \$1 million. How much more

6 does he want to cut?

7 He said it right there for everyone to

8 hear it, and anyone that missed it can watch it on 61

9 and notice, he made it very clear, he's not finished

10 cutting police officers. He doesn't care about

11 people's safety. It's all about perception.

12 I guess if you get mugged and you

13 perceive, you really weren't mugged, you weren't

14 mugged, I don't know.

15 Also earlier George Parker was

16 mentioned as being a Scranton resident, George Parker,

17 while he works for the city in a lucrative

18 administrative position, and has an SUV, gas and car

19 insurance courtesy of taxpayers, lives in Moscow, not

20 in Scranton.

21 Now, last week I was shocked, amazed

22 that two members of Council voted against turning the

23 ability to control the investment of the pension funds,

24 the decision on that, back to the people whose pension

25 funds it actually is.

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139

1 What amazes me is that month after

2 month all of you sit there and you approve the minutes

3 of the police pension board, of the clerical pension

4 board, of the fire pension board, and of the composite

5 pension board, now I have a question, if you approve

6 those minutes, I must assume you read them first. I

7 certainly doubt that an elected official would ever

8 approve minutes that he didn't read first.

9 And if you read those minutes, you

10 would see that everything I've said for the last four

11 years is the absolute truth.

12 That investment firm chosen by our

13 current mayor against the people who's money is in the

14 pension fund have lost \$30 million. All that money you

15 hear about being infused, \$17.5 million, and the \$11

16 million, we don't have any more money today in that

17 fund than we had when this company took over. We don't  
18 have that \$11 million anymore, we don't have that \$7  
19 million anymore, we don't have any of that. It's gone,  
20 it's gone, we don't have any more money than we had.

21 So, I have to say that either politics  
22 are well at work here and we're looking at using the  
23 pension fund belonging to city workers as another pork  
24 belly sweetheart deal for one of the mayor's cronies,  
25 or all of you will vote unanimously to turn control of

140

1 the employee's pension money back over to the employees  
2 where it belongs.

3 Also, one more comment on crime, we  
4 hear about how safe Scranton is, Scranton is but one  
5 part of Lackawanna County, but one part, and yet the  
6 entire rest of Lackawanna County, the entire sum total  
7 of last year's police calls for all of Lackawanna  
8 County wasn't quite 1200 calls more than the police  
9 officers in Scranton alone answered. And you really  
10 want to allow him to cut cops? Lord help us all.

11 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening, Council,  
12 I'm Nelson Ancherani, resident, taxpayer, and member of  
13 the FOP. And first of all, I want to say, I love my

14 city, also, and unlike the young lady that spoke before

15 Mr. Gervasi did, I've lived here longer than she's been

16 here, for her 17 years --

17 MR. POCIUS: Can I interrupt you for

18 one second?

19 MR. ANCHERANI: Sure.

20 MR. POCIUS: I say the picture of a

21 handsome young man in a West Scranton yearbook this

22 past weekend when I was away, you happen to be a

23 classmate of my brother-in-law, Nelson, you haven't

24 changed much at all.

25 MR. ANCHERANI: Oh, yeah? Thanks.

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141

1 MR. POCIUS: That's the truth. I'm

2 just backing up what he says, he's been here a long

3 time

4 MR. ANCHERANI: Right. Well, anyway --

5 MR. DIBILEO: He's not going to

6 disagree with that, John.

7 MR. ANCHERANI: Right. No argument

8 tonight.

9 MR. POCIUS: I told you, Nelson, it's

10 not personal, you know that.

11 MR. ANCHERANI: Okay. Anyway, last  
12 week I didn't have enough time to rebut Ms. Williams,  
13 when she gave credit to the mayor for obtaining night  
14 vision goggles for the department.  
15 In reality, it was the detective  
16 division that found a grant for the goggles on their  
17 own. Let's give credit where credit is due, and the  
18 night goggle credit goes to the detective bureau.  
19 As long as we're on the subject of  
20 credit going to the mayor, let's discuss the three  
21 brand new cars in the detective bureau, the same that  
22 Ms. Williams had said.  
23 What three brand new cars did they get  
24 under this mayor? I saw a paper that shows the cars  
25 assigned to the detective bureau, the newest car is a  
.

142

1 2003 Chevy, that's one, and the next newest is a green  
2 2002 Chevy, two, and the next newest car is a green  
3 2001. That can't be number three, because that one  
4 would have been purchased new under the Connors  
5 administration.  
6 The detective division has six 1997  
7 vehicles, they are nine years old, two 1996 vehicles,

8 ten years old, seven 1994 vehicles, and they're  
9 12-years-old, the division has also two vehicles that  
10 the years are not marked, but they are not brand new  
11 vehicles.

12 An interesting observation on these  
13 vehicles is that 13 of them have over \$50,000, and out  
14 of these 13, four of them have over \$100,000.

15 Back to our city employees who served  
16 in Iraq, Veteran's Day is fast approaching, and it  
17 doesn't look like the mayor is going to honor these  
18 returning soldiers, par for the course, though.

19 There are six policemen and one fireman  
20 who served in Iraq, and there's one policeman currently  
21 there. This doesn't amount to \$20,000. Come on,  
22 Mayor. More was spent on flower pots, \$700,000 on  
23 green fish pond, and even better yet, \$1900-plus for  
24 flag attachments, \$300 of which went for the parts, and  
25 \$1600 went to restock them.

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143

1 As I said previously, the money can be  
2 take from this year's police overtime budget. I  
3 believe we're under the budget at this time and we will  
4 be at the end of the year, we will be at that.



5 If this mayor doesn't give the bonus,  
6 it will be like slapping them in the face, considering  
7 that they fought to protect our country and us.  
8 Well, the paper and mayor are at it  
9 again blaming the financial problems of the city and  
10 the workers, the same workers that the city approached  
11 in the past whenever the city cried poverty.  
12 The city approached the workers and the  
13 workers responded by giving the city concessions and  
14 foregoing raises. The workers gave vacations,  
15 longevity was capped, and the biggest concession was  
16 manpower.  
17 Police gave up 17 positions, and the  
18 fire gave up 50. These are all things that you will  
19 not see in the paper. The clerical has been taking the  
20 manpower loss recently. The workers have been labelled  
21 as greedy. I don't see any greed in what was given up.  
22 This was done to help the city out on occasions when  
23 the city said they were in dire straits and couldn't  
24 afford raises. You won't see that in the newspaper,  
25 because that may look like the workers aren't as bad as  
.

144

1 they're portrayed.

2 I also don't think that it is a bad  
3 thing for the workers to ask that they be respected and  
4 treated like other City Hall employees who appear to be  
5 favored by this administration.  
6 I know how I felt as a child when the  
7 neighborhood kids that had money were given candy, and  
8 the rest of us poor ones stood by and watched. It's  
9 like d♦j♦ vu.  
10 This mayor's not treating his employees  
11 equally, he will pay out \$3.4 million in raises to  
12 certain few by December 2005, and he was hired new  
13 employees at higher wages while eliminating  
14 lower-paying clerical workers. Where is that fairness?  
15 At the debate, the mayor said he  
16 respects his employees. Fooled me. For a minute I  
17 didn't know I was in Scranton.  
18 The mayor said he built a new DPW  
19 complex, I thought that was built with taxpayer money.  
20 If I remember correctly, the DPW was sold to the  
21 Scranton Sewer Authority and leased back to the city, I  
22 wonder why.  
23 Only problem, okay, about the police  
24 headquarters, it will be open in approximately six  
25 weeks, and according to the mayor, and the only problem

145

1 is that it wasn't built big enough to fit the entire  
2 police department in it.

3 In May 2001, the mayor had a vision to  
4 restore the city. He plans to work with the city  
5 business administrator and other officials to organize  
6 a fair deal with union workers, so far he hasn't done  
7 that.

8 And the police and fire were willing to  
9 talk, but the mayor wasn't. To me, the mayor doesn't  
10 respect the city workers, at least sit down and talk to  
11 us. We don't bite. Thanks.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

13 MS. JENNING-FOWLER: Patty  
14 Jennings-Fowler. I'm going to be real quick. Mr.  
15 McTiernan, I'd like to thank you for your help in  
16 getting the West Scranton and Scranton High School  
17 football game televised.

18 I do understand it will be televised  
19 tomorrow night. I hope it will be a long tradition  
20 running. Barring no politics, I think it's a great  
21 thing, and I really want to thank you for your help.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council. My

24 name is Nancy Krake. And just so you know that what

25 Mr. Gervasi is saying is not hearsay. There was an

.

146

1 article on October 23 in The Scranton Times and it

2 reads as follows, Mr. Doherty, a Democrat, who is

3 finishing his first term is banking on the distressed

4 city state -- state required recovery plan. It will

5 save \$2.4 million in the fire department through

6 overtime and other restructuring, which you can

7 translate as cutting firemen.

8 The plan was overwhelmingly approved by

9 city residents in 2002, but is not fully in place

10 because of outstanding union contract issues. And here

11 it is in black and white.

12 Last night at Scranton High School, The

13 League of Women Voters held a debate between the two

14 mayoral candidates. During the debate the mayor told

15 us that cooperation between governmental bodies is

16 important. He mentioned lots of public officials he

17 cooperates with, in fact, most of these officials have

18 endorsed his candidacy.

19 Whether the mayor owes them for

20 endorsing him, I guess we can't know that for sure.

21 What we do know is that the other mayoral candidate,

22 Mr. DiBileo, doesn't owe anything to these politicians.

23 His allegiance is to the people of Scranton alone.

24 The mayor did not mention his ability

25 to cooperate with City Council and the Scranton School

.

147

1 Board, however.

2 Since these two governmental bodies

3 have the greatest impact on our day to day lives, you

4 would think the mayor would be very concerned about

5 establishing a good working relationship with

6 Scranton's Council and school board.

7 Who the mayor chooses to cooperate with

8 speaks volumes about his leadership ability. A leader

9 listens to all of his constituents, a leader is able to

10 be firm in a kind way, a leader doesn't just cooperate

11 with people who could do something for him or with

12 people who agree totally with him on all issues, that's

13 not how a leader behaves, that's how a dictator

14 behaves.

15 A question was raised during the debate

16 on city workers, Mr. DiBileo said he would negotiate

17 firmly but respectfully with Scranton city workers.

18 The mayor also said he has respect for the city

19 workers. The way he shows that respect is by cutting

20 clerical workers by 30 percent.

21 If saving money was the reason he cut

22 clerical jobs, why didn't he pass that savings onto the

23 citizens in the form of a tax break?

24 What he did was give that money to his

25 administration in the form of raises and jobs, and many

.

148

1 of the speakers tonight have mentioned the \$3.3 million

2 of raises. This is disrespectful to the taxpayers, as

3 well as to the workers.

4 The mayor commented that he would focus

5 on finances when he was elected, only he didn't tell us

6 whose finances. We know now, the finances of lawyers,

7 consultants and no-bid contracts for friends were his

8 true focus.

9 While the finances of certain

10 individuals and corporations improved under this mayor,

11 the City of Scranton was quickly racking up \$275,000 in

12 long-term debt.

13 Finally there was a good-sized group of

14 administrative workers at the debate, you know, the  
15 ones that cost us \$3.3 million, and they appeared to be  
16 clapping for the mayor, but most likely I would say  
17 they were clapping for their jobs.

18 The outcome of the primary election  
19 gave us hope these past months. We've had it Chris  
20 Doherty's way for four years, let's have it the  
21 citizens way for the next four. Thank you.

22 MS. SLACK: Hi, my name is Betty Slack,  
23 West Sider all my life. I will keep my address to  
24 myself.

25 I was sitting home watching this, and I

149

1 couldn't take it anymore. I said I have to get down  
2 here.

3 Okay. The first thing I would like to  
4 start with, because, like, I've been wanting to come  
5 here for awhile, but this week I guess I really, really  
6 got pushed with that new commercial, I really was  
7 disturbed by it. I began wondering if I even knew what  
8 the definition of positive meant, so I decided to get  
9 my son's dictionary, it's a children's dictionary.

10 Positive, and it give you six different

11 meanings and it gives you an example, Sure, certain,  
12 I'm positive I left my pencil here; helpful or  
13 constructive, He gave someone positive comments about  
14 ways I can improve my short stay; showing approval or  
15 acceptance, I received many positive replies to my  
16 invitation, and the other three are about numbers and  
17 electrical, medical tests.

18 So, then I went to message, and  
19 message, Information sent to someone, second one, the  
20 meaning of something, and here's the example, The  
21 message of the movie was the truth wins out. That's a  
22 positive message, and I'll stick with trying to stay  
23 positive.

24 But this is something that's been  
25 bothering me since the summer, the mayor is taking all  
.

150

1 the credit for Nay Aug, when it was the children and  
2 the families of Scranton who went and did all the  
3 cleanup work, and their reward for doing all that with  
4 their time was to pay \$3 a swim for each and every one  
5 of them, that was their reward for their time.

6 My son, who is -- won't come up here,  
7 was one of the kids who donated their time, and my



8 nephew, and it's been bugging me, and I got it off my  
9 chest. Thank you. Good luck. I'm ready for change.

10 New mayor time.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. If there's no  
12 further speakers.

13 MR. SAUNDERS: Fifth order. 5-A,  
14 Motions.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. McTiernan, do you  
16 have any motions or comments tonight?

17 MR. McTIERNAN: Nothing at this time,  
18 Mr. President.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Mrs. Evans,  
20 motions or comments?

21 MS. EVANS: Yes. First, I just briefly  
22 wanted to return to a remark made several hours ago by  
23 a speaker concerning the Boys and Girls Club and an  
24 exchange of information that we had had.

25 My intent was not entirely to say that

.

151

1 the board of directors, the Boys and Girls Club turned  
2 a deaf ear, I more specifically meant our mayor, to  
3 whom I spoke in person, one on one, asking for his help  
4 to save the West Scranton Boys and Girls Club, and he

5 bluntly answered, no, and the following day, \$15,000  
6 was awarded to United Neighborhood Centers, and of  
7 course the West Scranton Boys and Girls Club closed.  
8 Citizens problems and requests for the  
9 last week are as follows: 841-843 Quincy Avenue, an  
10 empty house is very badly neglected, condemnation  
11 notice has been removed; the corner of Quincy Avenue  
12 and Myrtle Street, repair sidewalk, which was broken up  
13 when the street was paved, and this is the third  
14 request on this particular item, abandoned overgrown  
15 lot behind 900 Myrtle Street is also used as a  
16 junkyard, according to residents of the surrounding  
17 area; in fact, The Scranton Times published a photo of  
18 the lot under something should be done. This is the  
19 third request.

20 The 500 block of Morgan Court, fill  
21 large potholes near the Hickory Street end. Also,  
22 there's a pave cut made within the last five years, yet  
23 the court was never paved or restored.

24 527 South Irving Avenue, the basement  
25 of the home floods during each heavy rainfall. Please

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152

1 inspect the problem with the resident or send a letter

2 indicating why the city will not rectify the issue.

3 The 1100 block of Watson Street and the

4 1100 block of Smith Place, please repair all potholes.

5 A letter to Mr. Parker, contact the water company

6 concerning the 500 block of Hampton Street. After

7 20 years, it was finally paved in early 2005, yet

8 months later, the water company made road cuts for

9 their project and failed to repave the street, and I

10 can tell you the residents are very angry.

11 A letter to Mr. Parker, flooding

12 problems on North Cameron Avenue must be addressed.

13 Residents cannot leave their homes following a rain

14 storm. Water eventually runs down to Merrifield

15 causing additional flooding in the area of the pump

16 station. And I have a number of very telling pictures.

17 Frankly, I don't know how these people are able to live

18 in their homes. This is not the Ivan flood, this is

19 from a weekly rainfall, and it's -- it looks like a

20 creek or a stream running beside houses, and I'm going

21 to pass those along and ask that they be sent to Mr.

22 Parker.

23 A letter to the zoning board regarding

24 businesses grandfathered in, according to the 1993

25 zoning ordinance of Scranton. If or when a business

153

1 changes ownership or occupancy, it must be in  
2 compliance with a higher and more recent standard.  
3 If any change is desired, a special  
4 exception must be granted. Is this correct? And must  
5 a business provide parking for customers and employees  
6 within the perimeter of said business? A written  
7 response is requested as soon as possible.

8 And, Mr. Blasi, to date, October 27,  
9 2005, the mayor has failed to submit a valid 2006  
10 capital budget that complies with every element of  
11 Section 904 of the Home Rule Charter, I would like you  
12 to prepare to take legal action on Tuesday, November 1,  
13 2005, if that material does not arrive in City  
14 Council's chambers.

15 And I'm going to move onto two issues  
16 of importance this evening, over the past months this  
17 mayor's supporters came to the podium and said that  
18 Scranton is better now than four years ago, many people  
19 this evening, in fact, said this city is better now  
20 than four years ago.

21 In his recent TV campaign ads, this  
22 mayor often concludes by saying the viewers should ask

23 if Scranton is better now than it was four years ago.

24 He obviously wants the people to think of the parks, a

25 Triple A bond rating and Central City construction

.

154

1 projects. It's easy to show trees, plants, bricks and

2 mortar, when you sell city assets and then spend and

3 borrow to a long-term debt of over \$200 million,

4 But this question is deliberately

5 misleading, because it applies to Scranton only as a

6 geographic area. The mayor never mentions the people.

7 Scranton is inhabited by people who

8 live, work, go to school, raise families, and, yes, die

9 in Scranton; therefore, the real question this mayor

10 and his supporters should ask is if the people, not the

11 city, are better off now than they were four years ago,

12 he should ask if his job performance over the past four

13 years made the people's lives better now than they

14 were.

15 You will note the mayor doesn't mention

16 the cost of his addictive overspending, that way he

17 hopes the Central City construction and parks will

18 speak for him.

19 When this mayor points to the parks and

20 Central City construction to show what he did to  
21 improve the city, then I say you, the taxpayers, should  
22 ask these questions, first, what construction projects  
23 in Central City, KOZs and ten-year tax abatements  
24 directly benefitted you, the people? Think about that.  
25 There is no benefit for the people.

155

1 And second, think back, was it worth  
2 all the millions of tax dollars and grant money this  
3 mayor spent and the waiver of thousands upon thousands  
4 of dollars in taxes this mayor gave up to get nothing  
5 but new KOZ construction for his friends and political  
6 contributors?  
7 When I've raised the question of  
8 whether the mayor's job performance made the people's  
9 lives better now than they were four years ago, I shall  
10 ask specific questions about the people's everyday  
11 lives so you can decide for yourselves and act  
12 accordingly.  
13 Now, let me ask you, Is your city wage  
14 tax less now than it was four years ago, is your city  
15 real estate tax less now than it was four years ago, is  
16 your garbage fee less, is the city mercantile tax less,

17 is the city's long-term debt less or more than it was  
18 four years ago, for the past four years, did this mayor  
19 direct more and more money for the benefit of the  
20 wealthy and large businesses, while ignoring Scranton's  
21 residents and taxpayers who elected him, did this mayor  
22 use grants to increase an improved police, fire and  
23 medical services for the benefit of the people, did the  
24 mayor use city revenue or grants to improve city  
25 neighborhoods or your homes?

156

1 There are many more questions, but I'm  
2 not going to go any further. By now, you get the  
3 picture that this mayor won't talk to the people about  
4 their lives and how the people will cope with the  
5 terrible debt he ran up in less than four years.  
6 In short, I submit to all who may hear  
7 and see me that this mayor cannot point to what he did  
8 in the last four years which directly improved your  
9 life.  
10 As for me, I put people first, I  
11 believe the people's lives are better when their taxes  
12 are reduced, when they have better police, fire and  
13 health protection and security, when their

14 neighborhoods and homes are improved, and when the  
15 younger generations will want to remain here and raise  
16 their own families because they have good-paying jobs.

17 Now, let us take a step back to

18 February 27, 2002, prior to that date, the Royal Bank  
19 of Pennsylvania loaned Scranton Hotel, LP, the original  
20 party in the Hilton deal, \$7.5 million to build the  
21 Hilton Hotel. The bank learned the cost to build the  
22 hotel would cost much more, up to \$12.7 million.

23 By letter to the Scranton Hotel, LP,  
24 the bank voiced its displeasure to the necessity of  
25 borrowing an additional \$5.2 million, and intended to

157

1 call its loan.

2 The February 2, 2002 letter was  
3 confidential in nature and addressed to Robert W. Ellis  
4 of Scranton Hotel L P. The letter was over the  
5 signature of David Lochner, vice president of the bank.

6 Around March 6, 2002, the letter's  
7 contents were discussed by Bob Davis of William H.  
8 Lane, Incorporated with Attorney Greco. It was to be  
9 given to Sara Hailstone with copies to Carl Greco,  
10 Virginia McGregor and Mayor Doherty.



11 Virginia McGregor is a private citizen,  
12 she holds no elected or appointed office in city  
13 government, why was a copy of such a confidential  
14 letter between the Royal Bank of Pennsylvania and the  
15 original builder of the Hilton Hotel given to Virginia  
16 McGregor?

17 Just who is Virginia McGregor? She is  
18 the mayor's sister. Now the people can see the big  
19 picture, and it does not pass the smell test. That's  
20 it.

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

22 Mr. Pocius, motions or comments?

23 MR. POCIUS: Yes. Jay, any -- well, I  
24 guess we're not going to have them, but any -- is there  
25 any chance of getting the Rossi & Rossi Firm in here or  
.

158

1 Elliott and Hayes before the election?

2 MR. SAUNDERS: Well, I -- this week I  
3 tried to get Mr. Wintermantle in, and he said he was  
4 not available, so next week, I will -- I talked to Mr.  
5 Wintermantle, he also said there's a possibility of  
6 next week. If I talk to him and get him in next week,  
7 I will see if I can get him in the following week.

8 MR. POCIUS: Well, whatever. Just one  
9 thing for -- this is just a little bit of history  
10 that's kind of important, the only time that the wage  
11 tax was ever lowered in the last, I don't know, I'm  
12 going to take a wild guess, 20 years maybe, maybe  
13 longer, we lowered it on Council, I was a member of a  
14 Council that lowered the wage tax, probably around  
15 1998, somewhere in that area, we lowered it one-tenth  
16 of one percent, but the next year we immediately had to  
17 raise it back up because -- it was the next year or so  
18 under the direct pressure from the state. They were  
19 really -- we had the hearings in Scranton and  
20 Harrisburg, and not only did we do that, but I was on  
21 the last Council that voted for a tax increase in the  
22 City of Scranton and a garbage fee increase, we voted  
23 for the millage on the land, and we also voted for a  
24 \$178 current thing.

25 So, that was a necessity at the time,

.

159

1 and since then, the taxes have remained constant, which  
2 is a good thing, it's better than being raised, which  
3 they never were.

4 The wage tax has been a problem in the

5 city since it was first enacted back in the -- I'm  
6 going to say back in the '70s or '60s even, there was a  
7 wage tax in the City of Scranton, so -- and it  
8 increased, too. I mean, from the beginning was a  
9 percent and the school district jumped on it for a  
10 percent, then it was up to 3.4 percent, which 2.4 is  
11 ours, so it's been a staggering problem for the city  
12 for a long time, and hopefully someday we'll be in a  
13 position, at least not me, because I won't be here  
14 anymore, to vote on lowering the wage tax, but I hope  
15 future Councils and mayors will be able to accomplish  
16 this.

17 I just want to -- just share another,  
18 and I'll be very brief because the hour, well, it's not  
19 as late as I thought, but it's still pretty late, I,  
20 back when I first got on Council, back in 1990, was  
21 encouraged by members of the, which I thought -- I kind  
22 of grew fond of the shift, they were called the C Shift  
23 at the time, they were like the odd shift that kind of  
24 worked four in the afternoon -- no, eight at night  
25 until four in the morning, no, I think it was A, B and

160

1 C, they were the odd shift, whatever they were, C or --

2 they were the ones that came in and worked, and I was  
3 encouraged by them to take a ride.  
4 Well, I did on numerous occasions, and  
5 I can tell you a lot of the officers I rode with, most  
6 of them are retired by now, one of the ones that really  
7 encouraged me to do this was former Patrol Officer P.J.  
8 Roberto. P.J. was at the time, for lack of a better  
9 word, he was called -- well, he was the wagon man, and  
10 there was no wagon in the police department at that  
11 time. They actually transported prisoners in a caged  
12 vehicle, a 1986 or '87 Plymouth, some type of Plymouth,  
13 it was a real sad state of affairs, but what I'm  
14 getting at is, and I always rode on the midnight shift,  
15 I mean, that was the time they told me, if you want to  
16 see this city, and this is in 1990, people, it was  
17 scary. I mean, downtown was not improved like it is  
18 today.  
19 Those of you who remember Bogart Court,  
20 that was a wide open place for prostitution and all  
21 kinds of other crimes that were being at the time.  
22 My eyes were open and the respect that  
23 I gave to this police officers, because I saw those  
24 people do a lot of things that I didn't believe even  
25 went on, I mean, wrestling with people so high on

1 alcohol or drugs, wrestling with them, getting them  
2 into the lockup, trying to book them, handcuff them,  
3 take them in, hold them while they're trying to search  
4 their pockets, being called to citizens houses where  
5 police officers entered through open doors with drawn  
6 guns and flashlights to see in the house was broken  
7 into, bar fights, robberies, DUIs, accidents.  
8 I didn't just do this once, I did it a  
9 series of times, and there was some lighter moments,  
10 too, where we actually put the no parking signs on the  
11 meters all through the downtown in preparation for the  
12 St. Patrick's Day Parade. We kind of joked as we  
13 walked up the street giving the guy a hand with the  
14 rubber bands, we used to tape them onto the meters.  
15 But I guess what I'm getting at is, in  
16 a city the size of Scranton, there always was crime,  
17 there always is crime, and there always will be crime,  
18 because you just can't get rid of all the bad people,  
19 if that's what you want to call them, and in this day  
20 and age, the crimes have turned from, you know, maybe  
21 the, I don't know what you would say is other kind of  
22 crimes, when I was a young man there was lots of

23 burglary rings in Scranton, people robbing TVs and

24 stealing out of Shehadi's and different other places

25 like that, but they did it for their own benefit, but

.

162

1 now it's this terrible cancer we have called drugs,

2 narcotics that is spurring most of this crime, and I

3 don't know where that's going to go, I just think

4 that's just one -- an issue that's going to be there

5 for a long time, because you don't have to be a down

6 and out poor person or someone, there are many people

7 we would say are affluent that contribute to this

8 problem by using so-called drugs for pleasure, so crime

9 is how you perceive it, it's always been here.

10 I mean, numbers, like, and I'm not

11 saying this against anything, but, you know, like,

12 numbers are numbers, and what do they really mean, but

13 really for -- it's not something that happened

14 overnight. The City of Scranton always had crime, just

15 to a different nature.

16 I mean, now it's getting -- maybe the

17 severity of some of the crimes is there because of this

18 drug influence and our easy access to New York and

19 Philadelphia and the other major metropolitan areas by

20 our great highway system, so I just wanted to get that  
21 off my chest, because it just seemed like this just  
22 happened overnight, and it didn't happen overnight.  
23 We've been dealing with this since whenever.  
24 And not to -- I just want to do this, I  
25 am going to do it without comment, only because I was

163

1 given an opinion for our Solicitor Mark Walsh basically  
2 giving me the proper way to make the motion for CRF. I  
3 just took some ridicule up here that I was not --  
4 basically did not know my own rules of Council.  
5 I'm going to make it in Mark's motion,  
6 it's basically the same way that I had envisioned it  
7 except that he just added a few words, so I'd like to  
8 make the proper motion at this time that Council  
9 suspend rules to reconsider in the affirmative all of  
10 the motions to re-enlist the CRF legislation thereby  
11 suspending all applicable rules to permit the CRF  
12 legislation to be relisted. That is a motion.

13 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Motion on the floor and a  
15 second, on the question?

16 MR. POCIUS: I'm just going to read one

17 sentence, Mr. DiBileo, just to kind of say why this --  
18 in this way, all of the interim motions are  
19 reconsidered in the affirmative through a suspension of  
20 the rules and a relisting of the CRF legislation may  
21 take place through a suspension of the rules.

22 One more line, although this solution  
23 may appear overly complex and may appear to be an  
24 issue of form over substance, the value attached to  
25 the CRF legislation justifies close scrutiny of both

164

1 form and substance.

2 This was a written opinion which I  
3 asked Mr. Walsh to give, me, and he did.

4 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

5 MS. EVANS: Yes. The last time this

6 Council discussed CRF, I submitted that the issue was  
7 being brought to a vote week after week after week  
8 because eventually it would create a voting record that  
9 could be used in an advertisement, and there it is.

10 The dates, each Councilperson's name, the voting record  
11 for re-elect Chris Doherty Mayor 2005, Keep working  
12 families working, well, I still don't know what this  
13 money is for, I don't intend to waste any more of the



14 people's money after the grand total that's been  
15 tallied in the last three years, and I'm not going to  
16 be made a fool of anymore.

17 MR. POCIUS: I'm going to say  
18 something. I respect your opinion totally, I respect  
19 your opinion totally, but, again, I just -- and this is  
20 the last time, this is it, I will not bring this up.

21 Thank you.

22 However, like I said, I just wanted to  
23 prove my point, and I bowed to Mr. Walsh's substance or  
24 form over substance just to comply with a written legal  
25 opinion, which I asked for, and that's all I'm going to

165

1 say. This will be the last time I bring it up.

2 Thanks, Gary.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Mrs. Evans, would you  
4 have been willing to make that motion yourself having  
5 voted against it as part of the majority in the past?

6 MS. EVANS: No.

7 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Anyone else on the  
8 question? Mr. Courtright, would you be willing to make  
9 that motion?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

12 MS. EVANS: And, well, I don't know,  
13 with the election is how many days away, but I guess  
14 you don't need a voting record anymore.

15 MR. DIBILEO: You know, based on this  
16 advertisement that Mrs. Evans held up here, you know,  
17 it almost seems like -- and seeing speakers week after  
18 week after week every speaker under the sun, except the  
19 one speaker that we had been hoping for, and that would  
20 be the mayor himself, it almost seems to me like this  
21 issue has become more political than economically  
22 development oriented, and I'll never vote against  
23 economic development, but it seems as though with the  
24 election so close and political ads being taken, that  
25 this has become very political.

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166

1 I also would like to stand by the  
2 situation having -- we've talked about it in the past  
3 numerous times about the CRF legislation, I hope that  
4 by the end of this year this can pass, I hope that this  
5 can pass before this year is up, but right now it seems  
6 like it's becoming a political ploy.  
7 This is about the sixth time now that I

8 think we're voting on it, and that's what I'm going to  
9 say prior to this vote. Is there any other questions  
10 regarding this motion? Okay. There's a motion on the  
11 floor and a second. We've had the question. All those  
12 in favor, signify by saying aye.

13 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

14 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

15 MR. DIBILEO: All those opposed?

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

17 MS. EVANS: No.

18 MR. DIBILEO: No. By a 3-2 vote,

19 motion does not pass.

20 MR. POCIUS: And that's all I have, Mr.

21 President. Thank you.

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

23 And I have to ask members of the audience to please

24 refrain from speaking while -- during motions at this

25 time. Thank you. Mr. Courtright, any motions or  
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167

1 comments?

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes, Mr. President.

3 A letter received just today I got, and it's to Dave

4 Elliott, it says, Again today I needed the services of

5 your police department. Patrolman Robert McKeon  
6 responded to my complaint of the next door neighbor  
7 making threats. He acted very professional and talked  
8 to, and I'm not going to say the name of the guy  
9 involved, and explained you can't blow up your house.  
10 As chief you must be proud of the men  
11 and women in your department. Officer McKeon makes  
12 your department an asset to you. Thanks again. And I  
13 don't know if this woman wants her name read or not,  
14 but she's from Ferdinand Street.  
15 And another letter, and it's really  
16 lengthy, and I apologize for not reading the whole  
17 thing, but it says, Enclosed please find a copy of an  
18 editorial submitted to the Scranton Times-Tribune. My  
19 wife and I wish to share our appreciation for the  
20 Scranton Fire Department's acts of kindness to our  
21 young friend Adam, and I'll just read bits and pieces  
22 of it because of the length.  
23 On Wednesday, October 5, 2005, an  
24 obituary appeared in the Scranton Times Tribune that  
25 reported the death of a seventeen-year-old Adam, I hope

168

1 I pronounce his name right, Slough, the obituary

2 mentioned that Adam was an honorary member of The  
3 Scranton Fire Department.

4 There is, however, so much more to the  
5 relationship between Adam and the Scranton Fire  
6 Department than a few words in an obituary can relate,  
7 and I'm just going to jump to the back of the letter.

8 The citizens of Scranton, the Scranton  
9 Fire Department and the city government should be proud  
10 of the professionalism, kindness and compassion of the  
11 Scranton Firefighters. The acts of true brotherhood  
12 demonstrated by this entire group, too numerous to  
13 mention, are second to none. And their friendship to  
14 Adam and his family and their tribute, they did the  
15 right thing.

16 As citizens we usually only see only  
17 one side of public safety, we see the trucks at a fire,  
18 car at an accident or other emergency, and yet we  
19 should all know that so much more goes on behind closed  
20 doors of these firehouses. There is so much more to  
21 these firefighters.

22 Thank you so much for your heartfelt  
23 care and concern for Adam and his family. You went  
24 above and beyond the call of duty, and your acts of  
25 professionalism, caring and concern will never be

1 forgotten.

2 MR. POCIUS: Bill, if you don't mind, I

3 would just like to add the part that it says in here

4 that The Scranton Fire Department not only served as an

5 honor guard, but one of their members rode on the back

6 of the fire truck taking this young man to his final

7 resting place in a pouring rainstorm with a heartfelt

8 volunteer, and that's very commendable. It's above and

9 beyond, and there's a lot more in the letter, and it's

10 very touching if you read the whole thing.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: And if anybody would

12 like to see this, anybody from the fire department, I

13 don't know if you have a copy or not, I will be happy

14 to give it to you.

15 MR. POCIUS: I didn't want to interrupt

16 you, Bill, but that was very touching.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: No problem. And, Jay,

18 I asked several weeks ago about West Locust Street, the

19 street is cracked for a good length of the street, and

20 the neighbors are very concerned, they think there's a

21 sewer line under there that's causing the problem, and

22 in the cold weather, we sent the letter out, but can we

23 ask Mr. Parker to give us a response?

24 And one other letter, maybe we sent it

25 to the wrong spot, I brought up several weeks ago about

.

170

1 Park Gardens, people that were upset about the fact

2 they've been on the list one two, one three years, and

3 that they can't get into Park Gardens yet, people in a

4 month or two got in, and I -- we sent that, I believe,

5 to Mr. Baker and have gotten no response yet, and I'm

6 wondering is it -- did we send it to the right place or

7 do we maybe need to get the rules from HUD or how -- if

8 you could check with them for me.

9 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, I'll check with

10 Mr. Baker. Everything else we sent to them, they

11 responded pretty quick, so I will check.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Maybe we sent it to

13 the wrong place. And I need a little indulgence from

14 Mr. DiBileo, if I could on this.

15 It recently came to my attention that

16 there might be some problems at the new parking garage

17 being built across from the Hilton on Adams Avenue, and

18 since the parking garage is scheduled to be open in

19 November, I visited the site, and I have some pictures,

20 and if I may, I'd just like to go down front and show

21 them, if Jay might be able to help me out with that.

22 It will be very brief.

23 I don't know, and I'm sorry to Council,

24 I'll show you these pictures in a minute, I don't know

25 if the camera is going to be able to pick this up, but

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171

1 in these two pictures here, we got cracks that are

2 branching out from the support columns that are

3 supporting the building, and over here this next

4 picture we have cracks that are running along -- this

5 would be this picture right here, I'm sorry, okay,

6 cracks that are running along the expansion joints, and

7 they're a little more daunting when you see them in

8 person, and this particular picture right here, the one

9 that really upset me, is that it's rebar from the

10 ceiling that's exposed, and I think we need to keep in

11 mind, this garage isn't open yet. This is the garage

12 across from the Hilton.

13 And my certain is this, you know, if my

14 house was being built and I had these type of problems,

15 I would certainly not be happy about it. This is not

16 my idea of a job well done, and I do not blame, I want



17 to make this perfectly clear, I do not blame the union  
18 workers that did this, they're only doing what they're  
19 told to do, but this contractor has been paid millions  
20 of dollars for this garage, and I don't know -- I hope  
21 that the mayor is not going to accept this work, and  
22 I'd like to know what he would do with this, and if  
23 it's going to cost the taxpayers now to have all this  
24 repaired.

25 And I'm not a contractor and I'm not an

.

172

1 engineer, but this certainly does not look good to me.

2 So, I would ask that Jay would forward this to the  
3 mayor's office and get it to the appropriate people and  
4 just give us some kind of ideas.

5 There's one particular one in here,

6 right here, and I'm sure you can't see it on the thing,

7 it looks like the concrete eventually is going to fall

8 off out into the street, maybe yes, maybe no, and,

9 again, I'm a contractor, I'm not an engineer, but when

10 I saw this, I got very, very concerned, and I just

11 thought it was something we needed to bring forward

12 before we go ahead and open this garage up and pay for

13 this and then we have no recourse down the line.

14 And it's my understanding, and I don't  
15 want to cast any shadow on anybody, but it's my  
16 understanding that there's a similar problem with a  
17 similar contractor in Scranton that there's now a  
18 lawsuit being involved over something very similar to  
19 this.

20 So, again, I don't want to point any  
21 fingers, I would just ask that this stuff would be  
22 forwarded to the mayor, and quite honestly, I don't  
23 know why he doesn't know about it, an maybe he does, he  
24 didn't say anything, but this does not look good to me,  
25 and I just thought we need to bring it to light.

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173

1 I just got the photos, or I would have  
2 shared them with everybody earlier, and I apologize for  
3 that, but I will ask Jay to forward this, and I  
4 appreciate that. Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to add  
6 something to that, for a number of weeks now I've been  
7 trying to obtain Mr. Wintermantle's presence at a  
8 public caucus meeting over the Casey Garage, which is  
9 what you just saw photos of, because I had heard there  
10 were serious problems, and that, number one, it could

11 be a safety hazard to those parking there if it goes  
12 unrepaired, and number two, what also concerns me is I  
13 seem to believe that there were timelines involved in  
14 the agreement with Electric City Hospitality, if that's  
15 what Spectrum calls themselves now, and part of that  
16 agreement was that this garage was going to open in  
17 October 2005, and the city has absolutely no protection  
18 from lawsuits under that agreement.

19 And I just wonder now after Mr. DiBileo  
20 worked so hard to try to preserve any amount of that \$3  
21 million that frankly was tossed out a window, I don't  
22 know if even that can be a reality now, because I don't  
23 see any way this garage is going to open in the month  
24 of October, not safely anyway.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: I just want to say,

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174

1 like I said, I'm not quite sure how severe that is, but  
2 to me it seems to be a problem, and I don't know, I'm  
3 not --

4 MS. EVANS: Well, would you park your  
5 car there?

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, what I wouldn't  
7 do is I wouldn't --

8 MS. EVANS: Well, maybe I'll park next

9 to the beam.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah. I wouldn't want

11 to see the city sign off on this before these problems

12 were repaired, and I would hope that it would be at no

13 cost to the city, and that's one of my main concerns.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Can I ask, does anyone

15 know when the garage was supposed to open officially?

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: When I walked through

17 it, the gentleman told me at the latest he believes it

18 would be November 7 at the latest, that was his belief.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Well, we're not rushing

20 to beat any particular timeline, like, the day after

21 November 7th, Election Day, are we?

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: That, I don't know.

23 I'm just telling you what the -- and I can't recall his

24 name, there is one man -- there's two different

25 individuals that I walked through with, and they didn't

.

175

1 really ring a bell to me at the time, but not it does,

2 but I don't know what the reason is.

3 MS. EVANS: I do recall there having

4 been some language and agreements that we studied at

5 the time involving the Casey Garage in October 2005 and  
6 the Medallion Garage in, I think, July, was it, 2006,  
7 and the Casey was to be used in the interim period  
8 until such time that the medallion would open for use  
9 by the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, I would hope  
11 that we can get it opened, because that's what's going  
12 to pay the debt, the bond debt, correct, the revenue  
13 from that garage, so it needs to get opened as soon as  
14 possible.

15 MS. EVANS: Oh, it does.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: We're counting on that  
17 money.

18 MS. EVANS: And we're already, you  
19 know, in an unstable position in terms of the revenue,  
20 though, because, again, if, and I don't even know what  
21 the parking agreement is there, purportedly it's at a  
22 discount, but any way you want to cut it, you're losing  
23 money, because even if those spots aren't used, they  
24 still have to remain available, according to, you know,  
25 these agreements, so they may sit empty, and I'm just  
.

176

1 wondering how the Scranton Parking Authority is going

2 to meet its debts on all of this.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's all I have, Mr.

4 President.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

6 MR. POCIUS: Well, Mr. President, I

7 think this is important enough, at this time I'd like

8 to make a motion that we ask for a report from the

9 structural engineer responsible for the architectural

10 team, I don't know who exactly the structural engineer

11 is, you can ascertain that information from the parking

12 authority and ask him to give us a report back to

13 Council.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second that

15 motion.

16 MR. POCIUS: On the question, I mean,

17 that's the proper way to go with this. Sending these

18 down to the mayor, he's not an engineer. I mean, I'm

19 an engineer, but I would be very hesitant -- I'm a

20 councilman up here, not an engineer, I cannot -- I

21 don't act as an engineer up here because there's

22 liability issues that can go back to our company and

23 everything else, Frank would know that, that you can't

24 -- I'm here as a Councilperson, so I think the proper

25 motion would be to ask for a report on what Mr.

1 Courtright has shown in these photos from the  
2 structural engineer.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's specifically  
4 why I didn't ask you to go on record and give a  
5 comment, because I didn't want to hold your company  
6 liable for this.

7 MR. POCIUS: That's what happens, you  
8 got to be very careful with that. Frank advised me of  
9 that, too. I think you're telling me the same thing,  
10 be careful.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Just on the question, the  
12 Hilton, as we all know, you know, needs this parking as  
13 soon as possible, downtown needs the parking, so we  
14 need the garage to open, but let me say that at the  
15 same token we want to make sure that it's safe to open  
16 for the public's sake, and, you know, as chairman of  
17 public safety, Mr. Courtright, I don't -- I understand  
18 your concerns and you would have concerns after seeing  
19 that.

20 I have not been in the garage, I've  
21 only seen the photographs, and there looks to be some  
22 concern, just to be sure, so let's get that report to

23 make sure that, you know, that will not open if anyone  
24 could possibly be heard, and hopefully it's not going  
25 to cost the city much money to fix. Anyone else on the

178

1 question?

2 MR. POCIUS: Yeah. Just on situations

3 such as this, just so the viewing public knows, that

4 building right now is in the ownership of the

5 contractor. Until that building is accepted and taken

6 by the Parking Authority, that is not our business, we

7 have no responsibility for that building.

8 From my experience basically, repairs

9 of that type are -- fall back on the general contractor

10 to be made, so I think when we hear the report from the

11 engineer, I think we'll be satisfied that things are

12 under control.

13 MR. DIBILEO: And I would hope that,

14 you know, it wasn't done as a result of any kind of

15 rush to get opened, you know, the day before the

16 election, let's hope that that certainly didn't play

17 into any of the problems.

18 With that said, if there's no further

19 questions, all those in favor signify by saying aye.



20 MS. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

22 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? It looks

25 like a 5-0 vote on that.

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179

1 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, before

2 you go further, Mr. Pocius, can you explain that, you

3 want that to go to Jim Wintermantle or right to the -

4 Ellis, is it?

5 MR. POCIUS: I don't think it's Ellis.

6 MR. SAUNDERS: Quandal it is.

7 MS. EVANS: It's Quandal.

8 MR. POCIUS: Quandal is the

9 construction manager, I would direct the question to

10 him. I would send a letter to Quandal, he can get the

11 response from the structural engineer that's in charge

12 of the project that should be performing -- more than

13 likely they are performing periodic inspections and are

14 called in on situations such as this, okay?

15 MR. SAUNDERS: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. DIBILEO: That's it?

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's it. That's all

18 I have.

19 MR. DIBILEO: I just want to make a

20 couple of brief comments, nothing major. Tomorrow

21 night there's a classic clash of two outstanding

22 schools in football, that is, and that's our two public

23 high schools, Scranton High School and West Scranton

24 High School, and as we all know, this is the so-called

25 Bell Game, the battle for the bell.

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180

1 Both schools are enjoying just

2 tremendous seasons, and two great teams, you know, and

3 coaching and fans and cheerleading and bands, the whole

4 works, I wish both of them luck and we hope nobody gets

5 hurt. I'm sure it's going to be an exciting game as

6 they both battle for the bell and we wish both of them

7 luck. And that's tomorrow evening, Friday night. And

8 it's going to be televised, and thank you, Mr.

9 McTiernan, I understand he had something to do with

10 that, that's a great idea.

11 MR. McTIERNAN: It was mostly Mr.

12 Sheridan, I just acted as intermediary, and the School

13 Board.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Well, thanks to the  
15 School Board and Mr. Sheridan because that's a great  
16 idea. It's almost like the old Thanksgiving Day games  
17 that we used to have.  
18 And I was asked to, you know, this is a  
19 big weekend for kids, Halloween this weekend, Sunday,  
20 at least I believe it is, I'm losing track of the days  
21 --

22 MS. EVANS: Monday.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Monday?

24 MS. EVANS: Monday's Halloween.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Monday's

181

1 Halloween, I want to wish all the children Happy  
2 Halloween, and on that note, there is a Halloween party  
3 that I was asked to mention, everyone's welcome,  
4 Halloween dress-up party, Sunday, October 30, this  
5 Sunday, October 30, at the West Side Crime Watch  
6 building. They do it every year. This Sunday the  
7 party is from six o'clock until eight o'clock p.m., and  
8 they're going to have pizza, hoagies, candy, cake,  
9 balloons and drinks and prizes, and it doesn't say  
10 here, but I'm almost positive it's a free party for

11 kids, so come on down there.

12 And the last thing is, I should have

13 mentioned in my opening prayer a friend of the family

14 that passed away in a car accident recently, Ralph

15 Pelagrino, and our condolences to the Pelagrino Family.

16 And that's all I have.

17 MR. BLASI: 5-B, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN

18 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004,

19 ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

20 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE

21 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED

22 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

23 PROGRAMS (AS AMENDED) TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY

24 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT

25 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT

.

182

1 (ESG) PROGRAM, BY TRANSFERRING \$23,279.17 FROM PROJECT

2 NO. 05-066.1 BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB (PARK-IT) AND

3 \$7,067.54 PROJECT NO. 04-252 BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

4 (ROOFING) TO PROJECT NO. 03-066 BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

5 (REACH OUT).

6 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

7 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into

8 it's proper committee.

9 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: 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. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

18 have it and so moved.

19 MR. BLASI: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN

20 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004,

21 ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

22 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE

23 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED

24 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

25 PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

.

183

1 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

2 (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)

3 PROGRAM, BY REALLOCATING \$100,000.00 FROM PROJECT NO.

4 99-100, COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM,

5 TO PROJECT NO. 04-107 EMERGENCY HOUSING REPAIRS, WHICH  
6 IS ADMINISTERED BY NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING OF SCRANTON.

7 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. At this time I'll  
8 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be introduced into  
9 it's proper committee.

10 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

12 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

13 All those in favor of introduction, signify by saying  
14 aye.

15 MS. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

17 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
20 have it and so moved.

21 MR. BLASI: 5-D, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN  
22 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 114, 2003,  
23 TO AMEND THE COMPOSITION OF THE FIREMEN'S RELIEF AND  
24 PENSION FUND COMMISSION RESTORING SAID COMPOSITION OF  
25 SAID COMMISSION TO THE COMPOSITION AS SET FORTH WITHIN

.

184

1 SECTIONS 2(a) AND 2(b) OF FILE OF THE Council NO. 14 OF

2 1964.

3 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

4 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced into

5 it's proper committee.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

7 MS. EVANS: Second.

8 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

9 All those in favor of introduction, signify by saying

10 aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed?

14 MR. POCIUS: No.

15 MR. MCTIERNAN: No.

16 MR. DIBILEO: By 3-2 vote, motion

17 carries.

18 MR. BLASI: 5-E, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

19 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING CITY OF SCRANTON PARTICIPATION

20 AND INDICATING SUPPORT FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF

21 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION IN THE CREATION OF A

22 REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

23 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

24 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be introduced into

25 it's proper committee.

185

1 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

3 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

4 All those in favor of introduction, signify by saying

5 aye.

6 MS. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

8 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

11 have it and so moved.

12 MR. BLASI: Sixth order. 6-A, READING

13 BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 155, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE

14 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS

15 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS

16 TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY

17 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER

18 THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM,

19 HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND

20 EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM.

21 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading by

22 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?



23 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move that

24 6-A pass reading by title.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

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186

1 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

2 MR. POCIUS: Mr. Saunders, what's the

3 timeline on this now? Is there still a waiting period

4 because of some legal advertisements?

5 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, I was just writing

6 that note to myself. I'm going to check to see if it's

7 within the 30-day limit that we have to stretch that

8 out. I will let you know that and let you guys know

9 next week.

10 MR. POCIUS: Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. If there's not

12 further question, all those in favor, signify by saying

13 aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

16 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

19 have it and so moved.

20 MR. BLASI: 6-B, READING BY TITLE -  
21 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 156, 2005 -- AN ORDINANCE -  
22 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 113, 2003, TO AMEND  
23 THE COMPOSITION OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON COMPOSITE  
24 PENSION BOARD RESTORING SAID COMPOSITION OF SAID  
25 PENSION BOARD TO THE COMPOSITION AS SET FORTH WITHIN

187

1 SECTION 6 OF FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 154 OF 1987.

2 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading by

3 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

4 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move that

5 6-B pass reading by title.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

7 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

8 MS. EVANS: Yeah, this -- these pieces

9 of legislation are going to save the taxpayers money,

10 and if they don't pass, what's getting passed onto you

11 are more legal costs and more interest, and I --

12 frankly, I can't understand any reason to oppose this.

13 MR. DIBILEO: If there's no further

14 questions, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

15 MS. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed?

18 MR. McTIERNAN: No.

19 MR. DIBILEO: By a 3-2 vote, motion

20 carries.

21 MR. BLASI: Seventh order. 7-A, FOR

22 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR

23 ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 151, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE

24 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 82, 2004, AN ORDINANCE

25 ENTITLED GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2005 BY

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188

1 TRANSFERRING \$11,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT

2 NO. 01.401.13090.4299 (CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT

3 NO. 01.080.00083.4340 (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

4 BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS CONSTRUCTION/PAVING MATERIALS) TO

5 PROVIDE FUNDING FOR PAVING PARKING LOT AT NEW POLICE

6 HEADQUARTERS.

7 MR. DIBILEO: What's the recommendation

8 of the chairperson for the committee on finance?

9 MS. EVANS: As chair for the committee

10 on finance, I recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

11 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

12 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? Roll

13 call, please, Kay.

14 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

15 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

16 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

17 MS. EVANS: Yes.

18 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

19 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

20 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

22 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby declare

24 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

25 MR. BLASI: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

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189

1 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION -

2 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 152, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING

3 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004, ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE

4 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS

5 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS

6 TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY

7 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER

8 THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM,

9 HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND

10 EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM, BY ADDING

11 PROJECT NO. 05-161, REHABILITATION OF THE FORMER NORTH  
12 SCRANTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, PROJECT NO.  
13 05-152, RECONSTRUCTION OF JACKSON STREET PLAYGROUND -  
14 PHASE II, AND PROJECT NO. 05-226, PROVIDENCE SQUARE -  
15 PHASE II.

16 MR. DIBILEO: What's the recommendation  
17 of the chairperson for the committee on community  
18 development?

19 MR. MCTIERNAN: I recommend the final  
20 passage of Item 7-B.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Seconded.

22 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? Roll  
23 call, please, Kay.

24 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

25 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

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190

1 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

4 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

5 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

7 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby declare

9 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

10 MR. BLASI: 7-C, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

11 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION -

12 File of COUNCIL NO. 153, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING

13 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004, ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE

14 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS

15 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS

16 TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY

17 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER

18 THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM,

19 HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND

20 EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM, BY TRANSFERRING

21 \$350,000.00 FROM PROJECT NO. 02-150,

22 COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN FUND, TO PROJECT

23 NO. 05-161, REHABILITATION OF THE FORMER NORTH SCRANTON

24 JUNIOR HIGH.

25 MR. DIBILEO: What's the recommendation

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191

1 of the chairperson for the committee on community

2 development?

3 MR. MCTIERNAN: I recommend final

4 passage of Item 7-C.

5 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

6 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? Roll

7 call, please, Kay.

8 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

9 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

11 MS. EVANS: Yes.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

13 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

14 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

16 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby declare

18 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

19 MR. BLASI: 7-D, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

20 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION -

21 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 154, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING

22 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004, ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE

23 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS

24 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS

25 TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY

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192

1 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER

2 THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM,  
3 HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND  
4 EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM, BY ACKNOWLEDGING  
5 THE RECEIPT OF UNANTICIPATED PROGRAM INCOME OF  
6 \$142,870.16 FROM PROJECT NO. 97-07, ECONOMIC  
7 DEVELOPMENT LOANS AND ALLOCATING THESE FUNDS TO  
8 ELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES.

9 MR. DIBILEO: What's the recommendation  
10 of the chairperson for the committee on community  
11 development?

12 MR. MCTIERNAN: I recommend final  
13 passage of Item 7-D.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Seconded.

15 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? Roll  
16 call, please, Kay.

17 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

18 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

19 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

22 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

23 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

25 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.



193

1 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby declare

2 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

3 MR. BLASI: 7-E, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

4 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

5 169 OF 2005 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

6 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER

7 INTO A SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT WITH ASTIMA, INC. IN

8 ORDER TO ALLOW FOR THE BORROWER TO REFINANCE ITS DEBT.

9 MR. DIBILEO: As chairperson for the

10 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of Item

11 7-E.

12 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

13 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

14 MS. EVANS: I had a few questions last

15 week, I spoke with the, oh, my goodness, it's so late I

16 can't recall his -- yes, Mr. Rowlands this evening out

17 in the hallway, I also had an in depth conversation

18 with esteemed city clerk, and I'm satisfied, very well

19 satisfied, with the responses. This is a very, very

20 good business, and I'll be supporting it.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. If there's no

22 further questions, roll call, please, Kay.

23 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

24 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

25 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

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194

1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

3 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

4 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

6 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

7 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby declare

8 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted. Before we

9 adjourn, I want to commend members of our audience for

10 staying the whole evening with us, and seeing no

11 further business on the agenda, I'll entertain a motion

12 we adjourn.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

14 MS. EVANS: Second.

15 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.

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18 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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195

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

3

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.

9

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11

LISA M. GRAFF, RPR

12 Official Court Reporter

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