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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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5 Held:

6 Thursday, November 17, 2005

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10 Time:

11 7:00 p.m.

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15 Location:

16 Council Chambers

17 Scranton City Hall

18 340 North Washington Avenue

19 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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24 Lisa M. Graff, RMR

25 Court Reporter

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1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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3 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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5 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

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7 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

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9 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

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11 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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13 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

14

15 ALSO PRESENT:

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17 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. Courtright.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Here. For the record,  
13 Kay, we have a letter from Mr. Saunders informing us  
14 that Councilman John Pocius will be unable to attend  
15 tonight's City Council meeting, as he is out of town.

16 And if we can dispense with the reading of the minutes,

17 Mr. Saunders.

18 MR. SAUNDERS: 3-A, PETITION FOR A  
19 STREET LIGHT AT 705 WEST ELM STREET.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments on  
21 3-A? If not, received and filed.

22 MR. SAUNDERS: 3-B, MINUTES FROM THE  
23 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY,  
24 OCTOBER 26, 2005.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments on

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

2 MR. SAUNDERS: 3-C, MINUTES FROM THE  
3 POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY,  
4 OCTOBER 26, 2005.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments on  
6 3-C? If not, received and filed.

7 MR. SAUNDERS: 3-D, MINUTES FROM THE  
8 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER  
9 26, 2005.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments on  
11 3-D? If not, received and filed.

12 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, I have  
13 two things tonight, the first thing is for everybody is

14 Thursday, next Thursday our Council meeting has been  
15 cancelled due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

16 The second thing I have tonight is that  
17 before our meeting tonight I submitted my resignation  
18 to City Council.

19 After lots of consideration and some  
20 other things that I have taken into consideration, I am  
21 leaving effective November 25th.

22 You have to bear with me a couple of  
23 minutes here, I have to thank a couple of people, it's  
24 been three and a half years that I've been doing this.

25 First, when I first came in, Mary Ann

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1 Kitlas, Carolyn Lee and Jane Watkins, they taught me to  
2 be the city clerk, Lori Reed, my second secretary, she  
3 was my protector for a long time here, and then I have  
4 the past City Council, Kevin Murphy, Brian Reap, Tommy  
5 Gilhooley, Alex Hazzouri, Mike McCormick, and Gary, I  
6 have to thank those guys, they gave me the confidence  
7 to give me this position.

8 Also I have to thank Mayor Doherty and  
9 the administration, they've been very professional with  
10 me and very helpful through this three and a half

11 years.

12 I will go to the future before I go to

13 our Council to finish this off, Sherry Fanucci and Judy

14 Gatelli also showing the confidence of us going forward

15 as the city clerk, and I appreciate their confidence in

16 me.

17 Kay and Neil, every time I hear, Jay,

18 you're doing a great job, Jay, you did a great thing

19 there, it's always Kay Garvey, it's very seldom me, and

20 Neil.

21 And then I will go to this Council,

22 Gary and Bob, I was friends with you guys well before I

23 ever took this position, and I'm sure I will be friends

24 with you guys forever.

25 John Pocius was a -- I'm more proud or

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1 as proud that I was friends with his father for a long

2 time before I knew John, and I'm proud to say that I

3 served with John, he served for a lot of years here.

4 Janet, you made me famous, you

5 absolutely made me famous. You set the precedent and

6 the bar very high for a Councilperson, and I'm proud

7 that I served with you.

8 Bill, you became a friend of mine, and  
9 I appreciate that. Gene Hickey and Mark Walsh and  
10 Frank kept me out of trouble for a long time, and I  
11 appreciate that.  
12 And I would be kicked right out of my  
13 house if I didn't say thank you to my mother and father  
14 and to Tammy and my son Jason. Thank you.  
15 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, that was very nice.  
16 Just to let everyone know, this just became public  
17 knowledge as of yesterday, so it literally has been a  
18 very, very, short time period, and, you know, I feel  
19 very melancholy knowing that not only, you know, will I  
20 be here as of January 1, but now also, you know, you're  
21 not going to be here.  
22 May I ask everyone in the audience to  
23 please refrain from speaking, please? And I think that  
24 you'll be remembered as two things, Jay, and that is  
25 number one, fair, and, number two, professional.

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1 I have been on both sides of the aisle  
2 regarding this City Council while you were here for  
3 your three and a half years, I was in the so-called  
4 minority, as they say, my first two years, and you were

5 here for most of that, you treated me very fairly and  
6 professionally, and then I've been in the so-called  
7 majority, as they say, these past two years, and  
8 nothing has changed, you're very professional and fair  
9 and you haven't changed regardless of my status, and I  
10 would only hope that the next city clerk could be just  
11 like you have been in your job.

12 So, I just want to thank you for all  
13 that and wish you the best of luck. I'm sure your new  
14 employer is going to be getting a real winner.

15 And as you mentioned before, Janet, I  
16 think, made your new employer prove -- it was proven  
17 that you can get the job done, because if you can  
18 handle all of her things and chores that she gave you,  
19 you can handle any chores. So, I just want to wish you  
20 luck and say thank you, Jay.

21 MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you.

22 MR. DIBILEO: And we'll just move on.

23 MS. EVANS: Jay, I want to thank you  
24 for all of your hard work and your professionalism and  
25 your support. We've been through some great

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1 challenges, great victories, great defeats, but we've

2 done it all together, and you served each and every one  
3 of us fairly and admirably and you will be missed, not  
4 to mention the fact, though, I'll inject a bit of humor  
5 here, according to what people tell me was published in  
6 Electric City, it looks like a couple of colleges are  
7 going to have their balloon burst at some frat parties.

8 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Jay, if I may, I think  
10 Kay could attest to the fact I spend a lot of time in  
11 this building, and I probably wouldn't if you weren't  
12 sitting in that chair, so I can't even get into the  
13 computer without Jay, so I -- Kay's going to have to  
14 figure that out for me to get my mail, and everything I  
15 did, I had to go to him for, and I appreciate it, and  
16 we -- I think we became pretty good friends, and I hope  
17 we stay good friends, Buddy. Thanks for everything.

18 MR. MCTIERNAN: Jay, I'd like to thank  
19 you also for all of your help. As everyone has pointed  
20 out, we've had an interesting two years, and I would  
21 like to say that on more than one occasion you served  
22 as a life preserver, rather than an anchor, so I thank  
23 you for all of your help.

24 And for sure, we're going to miss  
25 you. I know that I will definitely miss all of your

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1 help. And I agree, everyone sentiments professed  
2 earlier, that you do handle this job with the upmost of  
3 professionalism, and thank you for your service.

4 MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Well, thank you,

6 everyone. And we're up to citizens participation. And  
7 before I call up the first speaker, I would like to  
8 remind speakers to please refrain from comments of a  
9 personal nature, please try not to exceed our  
10 five-minute rule, and please no -- I'd like to ask  
11 audience members to please refrain from speaking while  
12 anyone is at the podium so that we could pay attention  
13 to their comments. And with that said, the first  
14 speaker on the list is Fay Franus.

15 MR. SAUNDERS: Gary, the bell is broke.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Oh, yeah, and of all  
17 nights, the bell that Jay has used since he got here is  
18 broken.

19 MR. SAUNDERS: It's going with me.

20 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton,  
21 Pennsylvania. Jay, we're really going to miss you.  
22 You've really been quite nice to everybody.

23 Mr. Courtright, I'd like to talk to you  
24 a couple seconds here. Have you decided what you're  
25 going to do about the CRF loan?

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: I was going to speak  
2 on it when it was my turn to speak, but being you ask,  
3 I'll speak now.  
4 I think there was a little bit of  
5 confusion. I was waiting for Mr. Doherty to call me,  
6 and evidently he was waiting for me to call him, and  
7 this morning, I don't know, Jay, was it him you spoke  
8 to or Earl?

9 MR. SAUNDERS: I spoke to Earl Masters  
10 today.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: So, Earl called me  
12 today, and I'm going to be speaking with him tomorrow  
13 to see if I can get some of my questions answered.

14 MS. FRANUS: Which would be?

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Which would be what?

16 MS. FRANUS: Your questions.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, I'd like to  
18 reserve telling you what my questions are until I speak  
19 to him, and I will come here and I will openly tell

20 everybody what we discussed, and any questions you  
21 might have of me, then I will be happy to answer them  
22 for you.

23 MS. FRANUS: Why can't you say what  
24 questions you want to ask him? You've already said  
25 already how many times, until he answers questions

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1 about certain things, which would be, how he's going to  
2 spend the money, are you going to ask that question?

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Absolutely,  
4 absolutely.

5 MS. FRANUS: You know what I find  
6 strange, here is what I find strange, I find strange  
7 that before the election you were very, very, very firm  
8 about not going for this, you were right there with the  
9 people, now all of a sudden the election is over, you  
10 want to go with the majority of the people and go with  
11 Mr. Doherty.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, I figured people  
13 will come and say that, you know --

14 MS. FRANUS: Well, we'll see.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. Could I explain  
16 it to you?

17 MR. DIBILEO: Let Mr. Courtright

18 answer.

19 MS. FRANUS: Go ahead.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think I mentioned

21 last week, I don't know if you say the meeting, you

22 know, Mr. DiBileo had asked me, and for those of you

23 that heard me last week, I'm sorry, I've got to repeat

24 myself here, I had walked constantly with him knocking

25 on doors throughout the election, and all the time he

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1 asked me to take a second look at it, and, you know, I

2 didn't want to do it during the election because I

3 think people made it political, I don't think it was

4 about the people, I don't think it was about what was

5 good and what wasn't good for the city.

6 I think we had a parade of people

7 coming to that podium for their own personal reasons.

8 I have to make my decision based on what I think is

9 good for everybody, and so I didn't really want to

10 entertain it then.

11 I have the same questions now that I

12 had before, and Mr. DiBileo had asked Mr. Doherty to

13 come here, he would not come here and answer any of the

14 questions, and that was the number one reason why I

15 wouldn't vote in favor of it.

16 I'm not -- I don't know how I'm going

17 to -- if I'm going to reintroduce it or not, Fay, to be

18 honest with you. I have to see what answers he gives

19 me tomorrow.

20 I know you don't like that, and I know

21 you --

22 MS. FRANUS: It's very political.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, I mean, I know,

24 I knew people were going to say that.

25 MS. FRANUS: Well --

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: And I'm sorry, but I'm

2 going to do whatever I think is in the best interest of

3 the city. I had concerns, I wanted to see the city go

4 to banks and see if the banks would be willing to do

5 this, and I'm going -- that's one the questions I'm

6 going to ask him.

7 There's a couple other questions, I

8 would like to know if in fact there's any projects in

9 the works or does he have any plans for this money,

10 what he plans on doing with this money.

11 The single biggest thing I want to know  
12 is, I'm going to ask him to produce for me whatever  
13 information he has, and then I'm going to ask our  
14 solicitor to get whatever information he has that can  
15 guarantee me that if this loan ever goes through, that  
16 they cannot circumvent this Council, because that's my  
17 number one concern.

18 If there's five of us up here and a  
19 project comes through and three out of the five of us  
20 vote for it, well, I think that's, you know, the people  
21 of the city voted for us and we're speaking on their  
22 behalf.

23 If a project comes up and it's not good  
24 and three of five of us don't vote for it, then it  
25 doesn't go. I need to be assured that that's going to

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1 happen.

2 But I don't know. I know you -- I  
3 know, I shouldn't say I know, but I believe that you  
4 think in your heart that I have my mind made up, and I  
5 don't know how politically would this help me. No  
6 matter what I do --

7 MS. FRANUS: You don't want me to

8 explain that.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: No matter what I do,  
10 I'm sure I'm going to have a lot of people mad at me,  
11 all right, but I'm going to do what I think is right in  
12 my heart, and that's all I can do. That's the best I  
13 can do for you.

14 MS. FRANUS: Well, I hope you don't  
15 show cowardness and go against the people.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, I don't know --  
17 I don't think I've ever been called a coward before. I  
18 hope not.

19 MS. FRANUS: If the answers aren't  
20 answers satisfactorily to the people, Billy, and you  
21 vote for this, then there's something wrong here.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, yeah, I don't  
23 disagree with you. I have --

24 MS. FRANUS: I find it strange that the  
25 mayor would all of a sudden answer the questions now

15

1 and he wouldn't all this time before. Do you think  
2 he's really going to come forward with all of these  
3 answers and then you're going to say, Okay. You really  
4 believe he's going to come forward with these answers?

5 MR. SAUNDERS: Your time is up.

6 MS. FRANUS: He spoke the whole time.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, be nice now. He

8 called and asked to speak to me. Would you prefer I

9 don't speak to him?

10 MS. FRANUS: No, but I just find it

11 strange that now all of a sudden after --

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, only he can

13 answer why he chose -- maybe he chose to speak to me

14 now because the election -- I don't know, I don't know

15 why he chose to speak to me now. But I, you know --

16 MS. FRANUS: How about Mrs. Evans, is

17 he going to speak to her, as well?

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't know. I don't

19 know. I can't answer that. I can't speak --

20 MS. FRANUS: Did you get a phone call?

21 MS. EVANS: No, I didn't get any phone

22 call from the mayor.

23 MS. FRANUS: Well, I guess the

24 newspaper is reporting things wrong, he was going to

25 contact you, well --

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah. And --

2 MR. DIBILEO: Let me say this, Mr.

3 Courtright expressed an interest in speaking with the  
4 mayor, and I told him that I would personally ask him  
5 to contact Mr. Courtright. I actually didn't ask him  
6 to contact Mrs. Evans.

7 MS. FRANUS: He should know enough on  
8 his own without you, Gary, asking him.

9 MR. DIBILEO: But, Fay, let me just say  
10 that, you know, now politics, I think, is removed from  
11 this issue --

12 MS. FRANUS: That's what I'm trying to  
13 say.

14 MR. DIBILEO: I think it was all about  
15 the election before, and I don't blame them for really  
16 not introducing --

17 MS. FRANUS: What Mrs. Evans and Mr.  
18 Courtright didn't do was not anything to do with  
19 politics, it was for the people, and I hope they stay  
20 their course and not back down and be turncoats here,  
21 Mr. Courtright.

22 MR. DIBILEO: The fact that they chose  
23 not to reintroduce it when people, as Mr. Courtright  
24 said, paraded up here and asked --

25 MS. FRANUS: He didn't reintroduce it,

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1 because he felt it was right for the people not to  
2 without the answers, si why he didn't, not because of  
3 the people coming to the podium.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks, Fay.

5 MS. FRANUS: I mean, I would hope  
6 that's why you did it.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll say it one more  
8 time, that I have some questions that I'm going to ask,  
9 I'm going to ask him to give me those answers. If he  
10 gives me those answers, and to me they're satisfactory,  
11 I will vote in favor of CRF. If he gives me those  
12 answers and they're not satisfactory, I will not vote  
13 in favor of CRF.

14 I cannot poll every person in the City  
15 of Scranton to see what their opinion is, but I will do  
16 what I think is best for the city, and I don't know  
17 what else I can do, Fay.

18 I mean, I know if by some chance, if  
19 by some chance I decide to make that motion, I know  
20 you're going to be mad at me, I know you're going to  
21 say if I flip flopped or whatever --

22 MS. FRANUS: It's not me, it's the

23 people in the city. I'm just one person.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm speaking to you,

25 that's why I'm saying you. I'm sure there will be

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18

1 other people mad at me.

2 MS. FRANUS: Tons of people.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right. If I chose the

4 other side, I'm sure there's going to be people that

5 are going to be mad at me for that, and that's fine,

6 that's the way it goes.

7 I asked to sit here, I asked to be

8 elected to this, and there's going to be decisions that

9 I'm going to make that somebody's not going to like.

10 MS. FRANUS: All right.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, I know. And so,

12 all I can tell you is I'm going to do what I think is

13 best, and if you disagree with me, well, then I'm

14 sorry, and there's not anything I can do about it, but

15 I wish that you wouldn't say I have my mind made up

16 already, because I do not, I promise you I do not.

17 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Franus, I had a

18 conversation this evening with Mr. Courtright

19 concerning CRF, and I can attest to the fact he does

20 not have his mind made up, that's what he has told me,  
21 and that he does have definite questions and he would  
22 like answers to those questions, and then as a result  
23 of what responses are rendered, then he's going to make  
24 his decision, but I do believe what he's told me  
25 tonight that no decision has been made.

19

1 I believe if it were, he would make a  
2 motion this evening regarding CRF. I don't believe  
3 he's going to do so. If he does, I'll certainly be  
4 quite shocked.

5 MS. FRANUS: Well, because he didn't  
6 speak to the mayor yet, he certainly can't.

7 MS. EVANS: Well, all I'm saying is, if  
8 indeed his mind were made up, I think he'd make the  
9 motion tonight without ever having to have that  
10 conversation.

11 MS. FRANUS: It would be a little  
12 foolish, but --

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Fay, I --

14 MS. FRANUS: The answers to your  
15 questions are the same Mrs. Evans wants answered. I  
16 hope you want the same exact questions answered that

17 Mrs. Evans does, because she had some pretty strong  
18 questions that needed to be answered, and I hope you  
19 get those answered, as well, not just part of them, all  
20 of them.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm going to tell you  
22 this, Fay, and you can answer anybody that knows me, I  
23 think that maybe you believe for some reason now Chris  
24 Doherty is going to control my decisions, my votes,  
25 that's never going to happen, nobody controls my  
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20

1 decisions, my votes.

2 He asked me for three months to bring  
3 it up, and I didn't, all right? I'm going to do what  
4 I'm going to do.

5 You know, I'm not going to be on  
6 Council forever, and someday you people are going to  
7 decide to vote me out, so while I'm here, I'd like to  
8 do what I think is right, I'd like to do what I think  
9 is best for the city, and that's all I can do. And I  
10 hope that it doesn't offend you, and if it does, I will  
11 apologize to you in advance.

12 MS. FRANUS: Well, I hope you do the  
13 right thing, Billy. I'm putting some faith in you.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: I would do my very  
15 best to do the right thing, I really, really will.

16 MS. FRANUS: Thank you.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mrs. Franus,  
18 appreciate it. Andy Sbaraglia.

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, citizen  
20 of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, well, the election  
21 is over, and I guess it's pay back time.

22 The new budget came out, and he wants  
23 to spend \$74,700,000 to run the city. The old budget  
24 called for him to spend \$65,825,588. That one fell  
25 through. We're in the hole.

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21

1 How does he plan to make up another  
2 \$8,875,412 under this new budget? It's a figure that's  
3 -- well, we told you that last time. We all knew it  
4 was a figure pulled out of the sky, and it's still  
5 pulled out the sky.  
6 Now, you're looking how to make money,  
7 okay, we can't afford to give away more money, we gave  
8 away the CommD money, that's gone.  
9 Any money that's left that we can  
10 scrounge, has to go to pay down the debt. We can sell

11 our streetlights that we bought, that we should never  
12 bought in the first place, and instead of giving away  
13 our CRF loans as gifts for pay backs, we can mortgage  
14 that to the banks and pay down the loan.

15 You must pay down the debt, and you  
16 can't incur more debt. You have to go through this  
17 budget. If you need help, we'll give you all the help  
18 you need to go through every line of this budget.  
19 Somewhere along the line you got to  
20 come -- income got to meet expenses, and if you fail to  
21 do that, all you're doing is putting your children --  
22 you're putting them into bondage. You're selling your  
23 children into bondage, if you don't pay back this debt,  
24 because they have to pay it back.

25 We'll be gone, but that debt will ride

.

22

1 on and ride on and ride on. Something got to be done,  
2 and now is the time to do it.

3 You can't let this guy do what he wants  
4 to do. I mean, it's ridiculous to want to increase the  
5 budget by \$8,874,412, when he can't pull it out.  
6 I think somebody said he has the Verto,  
7 well, you know we got a cable fee, we get a cable fee

8 from Verto, now, Verto is in receivership, it's going  
9 to deal to come out, God knows what we're going to get  
10 from that deal.

11 He keeps putting it in, but I never see  
12 any figures come out, how much money we actually got  
13 from Verto for our cable franchise, but that's in  
14 there, and there's a lot of other things in there  
15 that's not going to come to bear. It's just not doing  
16 it.

17 Mr. Bolus came before you many times  
18 and asked you to put an impact fee on a lot of these  
19 people that are not paying any taxes, but it falls on  
20 deaf ears, and obviously it fell on deaf ears to a lot  
21 of voters.

22 I can't fault, the people of Scranton  
23 has spoken. We're stuck with what we got, and we've  
24 got to do the best we can with what we got.

25 I don't envy any of you on Council,

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23

1 because believe me, what you do now affects your  
2 children, and if you love your children, you got to act  
3 in that response, because what you're doing is for  
4 their future, as well as your present. And I thank

5 you.

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

7 Terry Osborne.

8 MR. OSBORNE: Good evening, Terry

9 Osborne, 2644 Birney Avenue. Again, I'm here as a fire

10 representative from the pension board. I think we all

11 know that our pension ordinance had passed this Council

12 and was vetoed by the mayor and tonight will be an

13 override vote.

14 Once again, I'm here to thank the

15 entire Council. I think partially over this ordinance,

16 I think we got a good working relationship.

17 I had the opportunity to meet and speak

18 with most of you about that. Again, I'm hopeful here

19 tonight that we've given you enough information to, as

20 I just heard Bill Courtright say several times, to do

21 what is in the best interest of the city. Override

22 this veto, there's no question about it, is what is in

23 the best interest of the city.

24 We are with the clock running waiting

25 to have a court date after arbitration ruling. There

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24

1 are interest dollars being paid every single day on

2 that ruling, and there's no doubt about it, we're going

3 to be upheld in the court.

4 Rarely do arbitrators give bad faith

5 with interest payments on a decision, unless it's

6 100 percent clear.

7 So, again, you know, if we're not able

8 to override this veto tonight, taxpayers are going to

9 continue to pay, and believe me, I am a taxpayer, I am

10 not at all interested in paying any more than I have

11 to.

12 Again, the state law, I was actually on

13 the phone today with a member of The Pennsylvania State

14 Retirement Study Commission, just in my own mind to be

15 sure I don't have this law jazzed up, the law clearly

16 states two from the fire, two from the police, two from

17 the non-uniform. We willingly sat and negotiated in

18 1985 and added the mayor and the Council President and

19 the controller.

20 We sat and did that again with Council

21 President Bill Gerrity, and that's why we've lived --

22 we've lived since then with the nine members, despite

23 the fact that the law allows us to have six members,

24 strictly employees.

25 Part of the arbitration ruling is that

1 state law mandates when it has to be.

2 I was real disappointed with the

3 mayor's veto message. I think it made a mockery out of

4 Act 205, this line about, and I thank Lynn Shedlock for

5 showing me the message, that if we don't want these

6 people on the board, he'll stop putting in public

7 dollars.

8 Act 205 mandates that those dollars go

9 in, and it also gives mandamus action, which means the

10 first day one of them dollars don't go in, any member

11 of the pension fund, active member, retired member,

12 could simply go into court and have a court order for

13 that money to be put in.

14 You know, we all listened to, and I

15 congratulate the mayor on his election win, Gary, I

16 congratulate you on a great run.

17 You know, shortly after the election we

18 heard this message about coming together, the unions,

19 the city workers, and I think that message made a

20 mockery of the let's come together message, and then

21 and I was really sad to see it.

22 You don't have to look any further than

23 what transpired yesterday in this room to see why we  
24 need our board purified.

25 It made press today about that vote

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26

1 yesterday. What didn't make press today, and Lynn is  
2 sitting here, and she was here at yesterday's meeting,  
3 and I want to tell you what didn't make press, Roseann  
4 Novembrino, a member of our board for approximately  
5 20 years, and the city controller of the City of  
6 Scranton, a woman who I greatly admire and I greatly  
7 respect because of her fairness, she's been with us  
8 over the years, she has been against us over the years,  
9 she has been a watch dog for the city, Roseann  
10 contacted us and she asked could we postpone that  
11 meeting yesterday to next Tuesday, because she's at a  
12 state controller's convention and would not be able to  
13 be at the meeting yesterday.

14 I told her I would bring it up at the  
15 meeting, I would assume we're all professionals, I  
16 couldn't imagine that we would not extend her that  
17 courtesy, that motion was brought up at yesterday's  
18 meeting, and by an eight to seven vote, the motion was  
19 turned down to not postpone the meeting out of respect

20 for Roseanne Novembrino.

21 I think it was an insult to her on a  
22 personal level, I think it was an insult to her on a  
23 professional level. But, again, when the mayor  
24 controls the board, that's the difficulty we have.

25 I want to make it perfectly clear,

27

1 every employee representative on that board voted to  
2 postpone the meeting until next Tuesday out of respect  
3 for Roseanne Novembrino.

4 The recommendation the board will come  
5 to you in the form of an ordinance shortly. There is  
6 some questions being asked on that.

7 Our employee attorneys are looking at  
8 what transpired yesterday. There are also some  
9 discussions about fiduciary responsibilities, the idea  
10 of rejecting lower bids for higher bids.

11 Not one reason was given. Again, Lynn  
12 was at the meeting here yesterday, again, not one  
13 reason was given by anybody who voted in favor.

14 And I want to say publicly, Morgan  
15 Stanley submitted a bid, they submitted a professional  
16 bid, we have nothing against Morgan Stanley.

17 Lynn and I were in the middle of a  
18 discussion when our current consultant came over and  
19 pointed out to me something that I had not even  
20 realized after the vote, that in fact it was the most  
21 expensive proposal that we had received.  
22 I wasn't even totally aware of that,  
23 until our consultant in the presence of Lynn and I came  
24 over and said that to me.  
25 And with Lynn Shedlock, we sat and did  
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28

1 the numbers, and I'm not going to take up any more of  
2 your time, but we're going to pay an additional 20 to  
3 30 basis points in administrative fees for the contract  
4 that was voted for yesterday.  
5 Just to give you an idea of this, and I  
6 know Ozzie Quinn and the taxpayers group is very  
7 interested, if it's 20 basis points, we're going to pay  
8 an additional \$140,000 per year in administrative  
9 costs.  
10 That is money not out of the pension  
11 fund, that is money the city budget, the taxpayers are  
12 going to have to pay. If it's 30 basis points more, it  
13 will be \$210,000 a year.

14 Assuming our money goes up, \$70  
15 million, \$80 million, \$90 million, we are going to pay  
16 over the five-year life of this contract anywhere from  
17 \$700,000 to \$1 million extra in administrative costs.

18 I read in the paper about the Sewer  
19 Authority problem, I don't know where the City of  
20 Scranton and the taxpayers are going to get this  
21 money to pay these administrative fees.

22 MR. SAUNDERS: Your time is up, sir.

23 MR. OSBORNE: Thank you, Jay. Again,  
24 you know, we've been in contact with some of you people  
25 after that vote yesterday, we're hoping to have some  
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1 further discussions about that vote yesterday.

2 No way in a threatening manner or  
3 everything, but we got fooled five years ago, and,  
4 again, I want to absolutely state for the record, this  
5 has nothing to do with Morgan Stanley.

6 I was quoted in the paper today, it has  
7 nothing to do with Morgan Stanley, it has to do with  
8 the process and what happened at the tail end of this  
9 process yesterday in this room.

10 So, again, I thank you guys for the

11 discussions we had about your issues that you're going  
12 to do here tonight, and, you know, this pension issue  
13 that is now going to be coming back to this Council, we  
14 hope to have the same open and frank discussions with  
15 you in that matter. Thank you very much.

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

17 Ozzie Quinn.

18 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Scranton,  
19 President of the Scranton Taxpayers Association. I'm  
20 here tonight because of the fact of the budget, and  
21 I've been coming for the last two months because of the  
22 budget, because of the indebtedness that we have, that  
23 Mrs. Evans brought up about two months ago, and we're  
24 all aware of it, and yet we sent a letter to the mayor  
25 asking him not to borrow, our group did, and to try to  
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1 cut out some of the so-called fat, and he just spit in  
2 our face. Some of us, okay? There are people out  
3 there that we know that are supporting Mr. Doherty,  
4 okay, that wouldn't care if a tree fell on them, okay,  
5 if Mr. Doherty said so, but the fact is that we feel  
6 that we got really trampled on in the situation.

7 He didn't really care for the

8 taxpayers, he didn't care at all for the taxpayers, so  
9 the only thing I can say now is that he raised the  
10 budget, it's up to 13.4 percent, put on new people,  
11 that was probably the worst slap in the face we ever  
12 got when he hired new people at \$50,000. I mean,  
13 that's like saying -- putting his five fingers up to  
14 his nose to us, okay? At least he could have kept the  
15 budget without adding people or giving raises, but no.  
16 So, what I'm trying to say is this  
17 here, I want to ask Council if they would look at  
18 meeting with the Pennsylvania Economy League before you  
19 do anything with the budget in regards to any enactment  
20 of it, okay, and that you go over the budget.  
21 I think actually the recovery plan,  
22 which is, you know, overseen by the PEL had \$7.2  
23 million capped for health care, and Mr. Doherty put  
24 \$11.3, so obviously that recovery plan is outdated,  
25 okay?

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1 And you have to meet with this -- with  
2 the Pennsylvania Economy League, because you've got to  
3 see, you know, you've got to realize that because  
4 that's outdated had and this restructuring of the fire

5 department and the police, it's not going to pay this

6 debt off, okay?

7 So, I would appreciate it that since

8 they are the originators to get us out of distress,

9 this recovery plan, I would appreciate that you ask for

10 a meeting with them before you act on the budget. I

11 would appreciate that. Thank you very much.

12 MS. EVANS: Mr. Quinn, you need not

13 come back to the podium, but since you are the

14 President of The Taxpayers Association, I have just a

15 few facts that I've been able to determine from a very

16 quick review of the budget, the 2006 operating budget

17 that I received on Tuesday, November 15, and first, the

18 mayor's borrowing on tax anticipation notes has gone

19 from \$8 million in 2004, to now a hoped for \$14,980,000

20 in 2006. That's an increase of \$6,880,000 in two

21 years, or an increase of 87.2 percent, just to try to

22 plug his budget holes.

23 And I think in addition to that, what

24 is also important for you to know is that if he's

25 successful in borrowing \$14.5 million in 2006, the

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1 people will have to pay a total of \$20,839,000 on his

2 long-term debt and TANS in 2004, \$20,859,000, and that  
3 comes out to, let me just look this up for you,  
4 28 percent of all the city's revenue in 2006 is going  
5 to be to pay off debt.

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

7 Doug Miller.

8 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

9 Doug Miller, Scranton.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

11 MR. MILLER: I'd like to take care of

12 this issue once and for all here regarding the speed  
13 bump issue I've brought up before, residents this week  
14 have informed me, they're very upset that nothing has  
15 been done over there, and all they want is just a sign  
16 put up, a Children At Play sign to prevent the cars  
17 from driving fast around those corners. There are  
18 small children in that area, and somebody is going to  
19 get hurt over there. The city --

20 MR. DIBILEO: That may be much more  
21 doable, Doug, than the speed bump idea.

22 MS. EVANS: So, you've eliminated the  
23 necessity then -- I understand you feel it's necessary,  
24 but your request is no longer the speed bump, but  
25 rather the sign?

1 MR. MILLER: Well, they said that you  
2 said or Jay has said that the city cannot put in a  
3 speed bump, so that's why we'll go with the sign. So,  
4 if we could please get that taken care of.

5 MS. EVANS: We'll work hard towards  
6 that.

7 MR. MILLER: The second thing tonight  
8 is regarding the budget, how does borrowing get you out  
9 of debt? From what I read, we are in deep debt, and  
10 how by borrowing does that get you out of debt without  
11 selling assets or raising taxes or fees?

12 Today I was reading The Scranton Times  
13 and I was reading a letter to the editor I came across  
14 from a resident in Moscow, and she made the statement,  
15 Shame on those who voted for Mrs. Evans and Mr.  
16 DiBileo, this person should not question Scranton  
17 residents on who they vote for in this election.

18 What somebody does behind that curtain  
19 is their business. They have every right to vote for  
20 who they chose.

21 I think this person who wrote this  
22 letter should be ashamed. And I can only wonder how

23 the rest of the 11,517 Scranton residents who voted for  
24 Mr. DiBileo and the 17,227 that voted for Mr. DiBileo  
25 feel about this shameless remark.

34

1 Now, speakers pride to the election had  
2 so much to say then, where are they now?  
3 And, Janet, I would like to  
4 congratulate you on your successful run. I think  
5 17,000 votes says enough.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much, Mr.

7 Miller.

8 MR. MILLER: You're welcome. And, Jay,  
9 I wish you the best of luck in the future. You're a  
10 professional, and I thank you for all you did for us.

11 MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you.

12 MR. MILLER: And I'd also like to wish  
13 everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you. Good night.

14 MS. EVANS: Happy Thanksgiving to you.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Doug. Bob

16 Bolus.

17 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,

18 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

20 MR. BOLUS: Janet, I'd like to

21 congratulate you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MR. BOLUS: Gary, I know what you're

24 going through, I've been there. I know what it's like

25 to be criticized before, during and after an election.

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1 And it's four years later, and I still get honorable

2 mention in The Scranton Times. So, you know, it's not

3 going to go away, I'm sorry, but maybe they'll pick on

4 you for the next four years and leave me alone.

5 You know, it's nice now to see that we

6 have a new mayor, and it's nice to see this new mayor

7 that's coming in gave us a job tax now of \$52, we're

8 going to get some money here, but the old mayor

9 wouldn't bring it in. Now we got this new guy, he's

10 going to take care of it.

11 And now this new guy is coming in, he

12 wants a \$75 million budget. This new mayor is going to

13 clean up the financial mess created by the last mayor

14 that was a deficit spending mayor here.

15 I'm sure he will figure out how to pay

16 the American Water bill of \$5-plus million, and figure

17 out how to cover the \$3 million debt from the Hilton  
18 and not raise taxes or wholesale of assets, as his  
19 predecessor is doing.  
20 I'm sure he won't allow the Sewer  
21 Authority to buy out catch basins at taxpayer's  
22 expenses on borrowed money which would result in higher  
23 fees, higher sewer bills, and I'm sure this new mayor  
24 is going to put the golf course money in trust, like  
25 the other mayor misrepresented us, I'm sure he will cut  
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36

1 fees, pay the lawyers, like Carl Greco, who earned over  
2 \$700,000 in three and a half years, I can't even speak  
3 when I think of that money.

4 I'm sure this new guy is just going to  
5 do one heck of a job to cut the deficit spending, and  
6 of course you know I'm dreaming, because it's the same  
7 guy.

8 We're not going to see changes, we're  
9 going to see more deficits, we're going to see bigger  
10 sale of assets, we're going to see higher legal fees,  
11 and we're going to see a city run rampant.

12 Now, and that's going to be sad,  
13 because we've spent a lot of time talking, and maybe

14 some people just didn't listen, but when they get that  
15 new sewer bill, and they're going to get a tax raise,  
16 because we can't continue like we are. And then we're  
17 going to pay the piper.

18 And this new guy coming in town, he'll  
19 probably get tagged as a deficit spender, too, because  
20 it seems to be running that way.

21 I'd like to ask now that the campaigns  
22 are over, but the questions still persist, I'd like to  
23 see an investigation of the records of the Scranton  
24 School District, Scranton High, especially, for the  
25 information that was given to Mr. Doherty's son to run

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1 a campaign.

2 I wonder how those records were  
3 obtained and who's responsible. I think a letter  
4 should go to the superintendent of schools and we  
5 should have that answer. We have that right, and  
6 people have a right to protection.

7 While some people may be able to get  
8 some names on the Internet, I'm sure they can't get  
9 them all. And that question has got to be answered.

10 I still think there should be a special

11 investigation by the District Attorney of Lackawanna  
12 County into Mr. Doherty's campaign finances from his  
13 last campaign. That question was asked and asked, it's  
14 never been answered, but it's in black and white. It  
15 should be answered. Maybe now is the time to do it.  
16 I ask that a fee be put on all KOZs and  
17 non-profits --

18 MR. SAUNDERS: One minute.

19 MR. BOLUS: Jay, you can throw the soda  
20 can, since your bell isn't working, don't worry about  
21 it tonight.

22 If we look at the non-profits and the  
23 fees and the KOZs, we'll increase the tax base to  
24 increase the tax rate, and maybe it will help us from  
25 this deficit spending mayor who's going to bury us  
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38

1 here.

2 You know, it was sad to see the  
3 sergeant that was killed in Vietnam (sic) laid out at  
4 the Armory, but more importantly what really troubled  
5 me was the President and Commander In Chief, who was  
6 right here at Tobyhanna Army Base, that this man who  
7 sent this sergeant into battle to die, couldn't take

8 the time to go the seven or eight miles to pay his  
9 respects that he should have had by his Commander In  
10 Chief, and that bothered me.

11 MR. SAUNDERS: Your time is up, sir.

12 MR. BOLUS: What I'd like to say now  
13 is, John isn't here, but he asked me on numerous  
14 occasions when the Scooter's Hot Dog Hut was going to  
15 open up in Dunmore, well, I'd like to tell him and  
16 invite Council, Saturday we are having the grand  
17 opening at one o'clock at Scooter's Hot Dog Hut up in  
18 Dunmore, and everyone is invited.

19 Everybody listening, there will be  
20 giveaways for prizes. And you will get one of the best  
21 hot dogs you are going to find in Northeastern  
22 Pennsylvania. And with that, I'd like to wish you all  
23 a Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you.

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

25 Phyllis Humphrey.

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1 MS. HUMPHREY: These are gifts for the  
2 City of Scranton.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Now, Phyllis, I'm going  
4 to have to remind you to try to keep it to city

5 business and no prayers, please.

6 MS. HUMPHREY: This is no prayer. I

7 wanted the children from the University of Scranton to

8 come up, but, I don't know, they're kind of a little --

9 this represents peace, this represents crime, this

10 represents desecration.

11 One of my missions was to retrieve

12 religious and different articles that had to do with

13 the way they're destroying the mosques, the Catholic

14 churches, the Christian churches, and this is very

15 significant of the Holocaust.

16 Pope Pius The 12th, he was born in

17 1917. He seen the gifts of the spinning of the moon of

18 Our Lady of Fatima, but he is going to be canonized for

19 peace and to end abortion, euthanasia, capital

20 punishment and ethnic cleansing.

21 I want to lay this here as I go through

22 this, because I know I only have five minutes. This

23 represents also the Jewish people and what is

24 transpiring right now with the -- in the Middle East.

25 MR. DIBILEO: But does this have

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1 anything to do with city business?

2 MS. HUMPHREY: Yes, it does have to do  
3 with city business, it does. I want to give this to  
4 the Scranton City Council to protect them. St. Michael  
5 the Archangel, and this was one the things that was  
6 desecrated, and I would like to come up forward, if I  
7 may.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

9 MS. HUMPHREY: God has picked you for  
10 better things than you would ever know, would you  
11 accept this for the City of Scranton for peace and  
12 congratulations, and congratulations to Tom Munley.  
13 I'm not completely finished yet, okay? I'm trying to  
14 do the best I could in five minutes.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much.

16 MS. HUMPHREY: This here is going to go  
17 to the police department in honor of all mothers for  
18 peace. That goes there for the police department.  
19 Okay. Now, what I have here is, this  
20 is heavy duty, this represents salt and bread for the  
21 body and blood of Christ for Israel, the chosen people  
22 for peace.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

24 MS. HUMPHREY: Now, I have some other  
25 documents, I know you don't want religion, but this is

1 the way it goes, the Baltic, the country, those that  
2 died pre-war Jewish population 250,000, number of  
3 Jewish people killed, 230,000, Belgium, 90,000, 40,000  
4 Jewish people killed, Bulgaria, 65,000, 15,000 killed,  
5 Denmark, 2,000, that was the pre-war Jewish, they were  
6 completely killed, France 300,000, 90,000 killed,  
7 Germany and Austria, it's 785,000, number of Jewish  
8 people killed, 210, Greece 785,000, 210,000. I'm of  
9 Eighth Grade education, I'm trying to read perfectly.  
10 Hungaria, 75,000, 450,000 killed,  
11 Jewish, Hungaria, 650,000 population, 450,000 killed,  
12 Italy, 40,000, 8,000 killed, Luxembourg, 5,000, 1,000  
13 killed, Netherlands, 150,000, 120,000 killed, Norway,  
14 2,000, 800 killed, Poland, 3,334,000, 294,000, Russia,  
15 975,000, 107,000 killed, Ukraine, 1,500,000, there was  
16 900,000 killed, White Russia, 375,245 killed, Romania,  
17 850,425 killed --  
18 MR. SAUNDERS: Your time is up.  
19 MS. HUMPHREY: Okay. We have Slovakia  
20 and we have Yugoslavia, and plus the unborn. I have a  
21 miracle, and it's going to -- I signed papers today  
22 with the Catholic Light to bring the miracle and the

23 Russian Orthodox Church, the Polish National Church and

24 all that have the documents.

25 Now, I have a set here, they're kind of

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1 beat up, but I'm going to hand them to Mrs. Evans,

2 because she is a school teacher, and I'm sure when she

3 sees everything, but the pictures I have are going to

4 go to Mr. Early, and I would like you to meet with him

5 for ecumenical peace.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Phyllis --

7 MS. HUMPHREY: And one more thing --

8 MR. DIBILEO: Even though your --

9 MS. HUMPHREY: -- exoneration and

10 vindication of all the priests from the Cedapeter,

11 they're innocent. I have the proof. Free our priests,

12 free our priests.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Phyllis.

14 Thank you very much.

15 MS. HUMPHREY: And I want to thank

16 everybody, and may they all have a happy thanksgiving.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Phyllis.

18 MS. HUMPHREY: And I'm glad, so happy

19 that you own.

20 MR. DIBILEO: We appreciate these  
21 beautiful gifts. Thank you. And Happy Thanksgiving to  
22 you, too, Phyllis. Reverend Cathryn Simmons.

23 MS. SIMMONS: Good evening, Council.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

25 MS. SIMMONS: My name is Reverend

43

1 Cathryn Simmons, I'm a lifelong Scranton resident.  
2 Jay, I just want to thank you for your kindness to  
3 myself and my church over the past year in particular.  
4 I know you from 1371 North Washington Avenue, and you  
5 were very professional out there, you will dearly be  
6 missed. God's blessing to you.  
7 I came here tonight not as an ordained  
8 member of Bethel AME ministry staff, but as a loving  
9 and blessed member of Bethel AME Institutional Church.  
10 Last week you allowed the vision of our  
11 pastor, Reverend Andrew K. Newberry, who could not be  
12 here this evening, his father has passed away and he is  
13 in Ohio for a funeral, or he would be here himself, but  
14 you allowed this vision to be upheld, and also the  
15 words of my father God himself out of Psalm 146 the  
16 Lord says, Happy is he that asks the Lord of God Jacob

17 for his help, which is hope is in the Lord his God  
18 which made heaven an earth the sea and all that there  
19 in is, which keepeth truth forever, which execute  
20 judgment for the oppressed who gives food to the  
21 hungry. The lord looseth the prisoner, he opened the  
22 eyes of the blind, the Lord raisedth them that are  
23 bowed down, the Lord loveth the righteous, the Lord  
24 preserveth the strangers, he relievth the fartherless  
25 and the widows.

44

1 In allowing the grant to come to  
2 Bethel, you are feeding the hungry, you are watching  
3 out for those that can't take care of themselves right  
4 now, but possibly in time to come, maybe even one of  
5 them some day will be sitting on Council's seat, maybe  
6 during your reign, Mayor Evans, but until that time, we  
7 at Bethel thank you for your support both financially  
8 and spiritually, and we say to you, God's blessing to  
9 each and every one of you, and may you all have a  
10 blessed Thanksgiving.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Thank you,

13 Reverend Simmons. Les Spindler.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council,

15 Les Spindler.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Jay, I, too, want to

18 wish you the best of luck in the future endeavors,

19 we're going to miss you here. You did a great job.

20 First of all, is there any news on the

21 Hollow Avenue situation? I know a few weeks ago Mr.

22 Moran spoke here and there was supposed to be a meeting

23 arranged with Mr. Parker and him.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: We were never able to

25 get a hold of Mr. Parker, I guess we will try again to

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1 see if we can get a hold of him.

2 MR. SPINDLER: I'm not surprised.

3 Mr. Courtright, I, too, am going to ask you again, I

4 don't care what the mayor has to say to you, vote no to

5 CRF.

6 And I agree with Mrs. Franus, that it

7 is political, because before election, there were all

8 union representatives asking to pass CRF, where are

9 they now? The election is over, they're nowhere to be

10 found. So, I urge you to please vote no.

11 I really had no intentions of being  
12 here tonight until I woke up and saw the paper  
13 yesterday about the budget and the mayor wants to  
14 borrow more money. This Council can't let him borrow  
15 any more money. We borrowed, borrowed, borrowed, and  
16 that's why we're in the debt we're in now.  
17 You can't use a credit card to pay off  
18 another credit card. I urge you, don't give this man  
19 another penny in this new budget.  
20 Something else on the budget, he said  
21 he wants to restructure the fire department to save  
22 \$2.4 million, well, he could have saved \$3.3 million in  
23 raises that he gave his friends in City Hall in four  
24 years.  
25 I have something else to read. Well,  
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46

1 citizens of Scranton, sad to say it didn't take very  
2 long to say one big I told you so, or should I say, \$6  
3 million big I told you so, five for us, one for  
4 Dunmore, and it only took one week.  
5 It took Mayor Doherty a couple of years  
6 to fritter away the \$3 million that Mayor Connors left  
7 him, but it only took one week to discover that

8 Scranton is already another \$5 million in the red.  
9 And our good neighbors in Dunmore can  
10 thank Mayor Doherty for digging them a million-dollar  
11 hole. Now, where was The Scranton Times on this story?  
12 Where was their famous investigative reporters before  
13 Mayor Doherty's election? Nowhere to be found. So  
14 much for ethics, so much for integrity.  
15 If Jimmy Connors lost \$6 million, The  
16 Scranton Times would have had him hanging from their  
17 tower. And where is the PEL, spending the \$2 million  
18 of our money that we paid them. What a racket,  
19 lawyers, bond dealers, friends, consultants, family  
20 members, every one a wash in money, while the taxpayer  
21 is hosed.  
22 Here is what happened to our  
23 \$6 million, Mayor Doherty brought in American Anglian,  
24 then reneged on the deal, threw them out when they were  
25 doing a good job, and now we owe \$6 million, all

47

1 because Mayor Doherty had the new friends he wanted to  
2 hire and new contracts he wanted to give out. The  
3 people suffer. At least we found out early this time.  
4 And by the way, Scranton Times, thanks

5 for the great piece of Pulitzer surprise winning,  
6 hard-hitting investigative journalism, asleep at the  
7 wheel.

8 So, after the city finally got out of  
9 debt, balanced its budget three years in a row under  
10 Mayor Connors and left a surplus, we're now saddled  
11 once more with a structure deficit of over \$5 million  
12 in untold long-term debt.

13 And since several of its employee  
14 contracts are already settled, how on earth do you wipe  
15 out that debt on the backs of the remaining police  
16 officers and firefighters? You would have to decimate  
17 both departments leaving the city totally unprotected.

18 Does this mayor really have a plan or  
19 is he making it up as he goes, and are we dragging  
20 ourselves deeper and deeper into debt while leaving our  
21 streets more and more unprotected? Only time will  
22 tell. Thank you.

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

24 Bill Jackowitz.

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening, City

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48

1 Council. May I approach the bench before my time

2 starts? I've always wanted to say that.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Certainly.

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, Jay, you can

5 start my time now, please. Bill Jackowitz, city

6 resident, taxpayer, registered independent voter,

7 retired military.

8 I had a meeting with Mayor Doherty this

9 morning, the meeting went very well. I'm not going to

10 reveal what answers I received. I gave copies of the

11 questions I asked to the Council members. I will leave

12 some here for some people if they want to look at them.

13 The only answer I'm going to reveal is

14 the first answer. I asked the mayor why he did not

15 attend the February 26th homecoming of the military

16 personnel, the mayor stated that it was his son's

17 eight-year-old birthday party and his son wanted to go

18 see Jerry McNamara play basketball, but then he said

19 something that really insulted me as a Veteran, he said

20 that he did not receive an invitation to attend the

21 homecoming of the Veterans.

22 I really don't think anybody received

23 an invitation. I think that most people attended

24 because they wanted to welcome home the Veterans and

25 salute them for their courage and for protecting the

1 Iraqi citizens' rights to vote. So, that's the only  
2 thing I'm going to reveal about the meeting.  
3 But I do have some breaking news, to  
4 all the residents of Scranton and the surrounding  
5 communities that read The Times Tribune, Scranton  
6 election for city offices became official on the  
7 evening of 8 November 2005.  
8 Mayor Doherty was re-elected, Janet  
9 Evans was re-elected, Judy Gatelli and Sherry Nealon  
10 Fanucci were elected to City Council, so now that that  
11 news has been made public, I hope The Times Tribune  
12 will stop publishing the trashing of the candidates.  
13 Enough is enough.  
14 Let's stop with the editorials and  
15 letters about the characters of the candidates,  
16 especially the ones from the ex-citizens of Scranton.  
17 That really impresses me, ex-citizens. Why are they  
18 ex-citizens?  
19 The mayor stated he has no control over  
20 The Scranton Times. Mr. Lynett, and editors, you have  
21 control. Let's put a stop to it. Enough is enough.  
22 This also goes to the speakers at City Council, the

23 election is history, let's move on.

24 Today's news reading today's newspaper,

25 Mr. Courtright stated that he was hard pressed to come

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1 up with an alternative. That was a re-assuring

2 statement, Mr. Courtright. Mr. Pocius stated that it's

3 nothing out of the ordinary and he is not concerned

4 about paying it back. That's my kind of guy. The

5 banks already have enough of money, so let's not worry

6 about paying it back.

7 Judy Gatelli stated she also does not

8 have an alternative. Sherry Nealon Fanucci agreed with

9 Mr. Pocius, borrow more money to pay off the bills.

10 The only person, in my opinion, that made any sense was

11 Mr. Quinn, and he has not been elected to any office.

12 The people's team, the Scranton School

13 Board, will be raising property taxes in January by

14 6.3 percent. The reason due to high energy costs,

15 health costs. Well, People's Team, my personal energy

16 costs and health costs also have risen.

17 Do you think that you can raise a few

18 dollars to help us citizens out with our bills? Maybe

19 the school board should develop a recovery plan, also.

20 The main question that I asked this  
21 morning was, Where does the money go? I asked that  
22 question five years ago, I still have not gotten an  
23 answer.

24 For those of you who say that Scranton  
25 has always been this way, nothing will ever change.

51

1 You're right, if you stay home, say nothing, change  
2 nothing, it will never change.

3 Remember California, Arnold is now the  
4 governor, Pennsylvania legislators, no pay raise s,  
5 people spoke up.

6 A politician, a politician, in my  
7 opinion, is like a diaper, it needs to be changed  
8 regularly for the same reasons.

9 An elected official is a person who  
10 takes his or her office seriously and takes that oath  
11 of office that they took when they assumed that office  
12 seriously and will do what they can to help the people  
13 and the citizens who put their confidence in them when  
14 they voted for them.

15 And again, I hope we have no  
16 politicians, but I'm beginning to think that we do. I

17 hope the elected officials stand up, be counted, stand  
18 your ground, don't give in, and especially don't listen  
19 to political rhetoric, because that's all I heard all  
20 morning today.

21 And, Mr. McTiernan, if you would please  
22 read that part about Veterans for me, because we do  
23 have a lot of young people in the audience, and I've  
24 been told that there are a lot of young people who  
25 listen to this program.

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1 MR. MCTIERNAN: Are you talking about  
2 the second section?

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: The second section  
4 where it says Veterans.

5 MR. MCTIERNAN: It is the Veteran, not  
6 the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion, it  
7 is the Veteran, not the reporter, who has given us  
8 freedom of the press, it is Veteran, not the poet, who  
9 has given us freedom of speech, it is the Veteran, not  
10 the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to  
11 assemble, it is the Veteran, not the lawyer, who has  
12 given us the right to a fair trial, it is the Veteran,  
13 not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.

14 It is the Veteran.

15 It is the Veteran who serves under the

16 flag, it is the Veteran who salutes the flag.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: And then the other part

18 about tomb of the unknown soldiers, please.

19 MR. MCTIERNAN: On Page 4?

20 MR. JACKOWITZ: Right.

21 MR. MCTIERNAN: Eternal rest grant

22 them, O Lord, the perpetual light shine upon them.

23 MR. JACKOWITZ: The whole thing,

24 please.

25 MR. MCTIERNAN: Before I read it out

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1 loud, I want to read it myself.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: Sure, that's

3 understandable.

4 MR. MCTIERNAN: I don't know if you saw

5 this in the news, but it really impressed me, funny,

6 our US Senate House took two days off as they couldn't

7 work because of the expected storm.

8 On the ABC evening news it was reported

9 tonight that because of the dangers from Hurricane

10 Isabella approaching Washington, DC, the military

11 members assigned the duty of guarding the tomb of the  
12 unknown soldier were given permission to suspend the  
13 assignment. They respectfully declined the offer. No  
14 way, sir.

15 Soaked to the skin, marching in the  
16 pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that  
17 guarding the tomb was just not an assignment, it was  
18 the highest honor that can be afforded to a service  
19 person.

20 The tomb has been patrolled  
21 continuously since 24-7 since 1930. I don't usually  
22 suggest that many Emails be forwarded, but I would be  
23 extremely proud of this one, if this one reached as  
24 many as possible.

25 We can be very proud of our young men

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54

1 and women in the service, no matter where they serve.

2 God bless them all.

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: Thank you, Mr.

4 McTiernan, for doing that, and I hope people payed

5 attention and listened. And just remember, those

6 service people make a lot less money than those

7 politicians who stayed home for two days because they

8 were afraid to get wet. Thank you.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Jackowitz

10 and Mr. McTiernan. Lee Morgan.

11 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

13 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I'd like

14 to say is that I really appreciate the people that came

15 to the zoning meeting yesterday from mad you son' and

16 Vine Street who complained about Lackawanna College,

17 and I think it would be a very positive thing for

18 Council to set up meetings with the University of

19 Scranton and all the institutions of higher learning in

20 the city to create a code of conduct for all of their

21 students and have them enforce it.

22 I think it would be a very productive

23 thing for the neighborhoods and for the city itself,

24 and I'm not saying that we don't want students to come

25 from other places, I think we just want them to respect

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1 this city.

2 I'd also like to say that I think that

3 the two Council-elects should come in to Council and

4 sit in on the budget, considerations, and I think that

5 this Council should go through this budget on Channel  
6 61, even if it's in a special meeting, and go through  
7 this budget line by line, and I think it's extremely  
8 important that we try to cut this budget by  
9 \$10 million.

10 I can't honestly see how we're going to  
11 borrow \$14 million and promise anybody in this city,  
12 whether they're a business person, a property owner or  
13 a resident any future here.

14 What we've seen here in this city is, I  
15 think the mayor was the finance chairman when American  
16 Anglian came in and took the sewer authority, and he  
17 stated how great this deal was, and I told Council and  
18 I told Myron Walcoff, and I told anybody who'd listen  
19 that this agreement had nothing to offer this city,  
20 except a later date with bankruptcy.

21 And as you can see, it has nothing to  
22 offer us. And, you know, like when we talk about this  
23 \$14 million, I don't think that even includes the  
24 almost \$6 million we're going to have to pay them.

25 And the other question is, are we going  
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56

1 to have to pay their legal costs to collect this money?

2 Are we responsible for that?

3 You know, for all the residents, it's

4 important to understand that special interest is in

5 play here, PEL has been silent for four years, in my

6 opinion, and there has been no movement forward to save

7 this city, none.

8 We've given everything away that could

9 be given away. And to be honest with you, there's not

10 much left. I'd really hope that a lot of people would

11 get involved and start attending meetings.

12 The Scranton Lackawanna Taxpayer Group

13 is meeting next Tuesday at seven o'clock. It's never

14 too late to make change.

15 And I'd be extremely concerned about

16 the Scranton School District's plan for -- I guess I'd

17 have to say modernization of their buildings, because I

18 think it lacks the focus of what really needs to be

19 done.

20 And before I go from this podium, I'd

21 like to say that I think it's important, also, that

22 once and for all we move some legislation in this

23 Council to control vicious animals inside the city.

24 We've waited a long time, and I hope somebody would do

25 something on that.

1 And Mr. Courtright, I think that  
2 everybody that's come to this podium, and, Mrs. Evans,  
3 you had stated that you thought that if Mr. Courtright  
4 was going to vote for CRF, he would introduce it  
5 tonight, I seriously doubt that, because there's only a  
6 2-2 split on that Council, the way I see it now, and it  
7 couldn't pass, but if Mr. Pocius was here, then I might  
8 believe that could be possible.

9 But I'd say this, you know something,  
10 there's a lot of things that have taken place in this  
11 city that were totally political, and this is one thing  
12 that can only be political.

13 Because Mr. Courtright, would you loan  
14 somebody a dollar and let them pay you back \$.88 of  
15 your own money? Thank you.

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

17 Pedro Gonzales.

18 MR. GONZALES: Good evening, Council,  
19 speakers, everyone in attendance. First of all I want  
20 to say congratulations to Mayor Doherty on his win.  
21 The election is over, it's time to move on, yes?

22 Jay, my man, you will be missed. I've

23 only known you a little while, we spoke on the phone a  
24 couple of times, and I know some of the same people you  
25 know on a personal level outside of this place, and  
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58

1 everyone has nothing but good things to say about you.  
2 Hopefully I'll catch you on the basketball court one  
3 day, you know?  
4 The meeting we were going to have for  
5 the Scranton Alliance for the 22nd has been cancelled.  
6 One of our committee members is going away on family  
7 business, and another member has finals and so forth  
8 and so on, so that meeting has been cancelled next  
9 Tuesday on the 22nd.  
10 We are concentrating more on the  
11 programs, the ESL program, like we said before, the  
12 English is a second language, that is going according  
13 to schedule. We are shooting for the first --  
14 actually the second, it a Monday, the 2nd of January.  
15 Everything is going great with that.  
16 And, again, any teachers that are willing to volunteer,  
17 we have about 12 on board that have confirmed right  
18 now, which is fabulous, excellent, all volunteers, some  
19 retired, some actually that are still working as

20 teachers, Scranton School District all over the city.

21 Fabulous, fabulous turnout.

22 We need about six more to have a full

23 curriculum. Students, we have about 30 to 40 already

24 signed up ready to play, all adults. And, again, these

25 individuals that struggle with English and are very

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59

1 adamant in contributing to the city in any shape or

2 form, especially with the form of education.

3 I want to ask, again, any teachers that

4 are out there that have old ESL books, books that are

5 just laying around the house from old programs, please,

6 if you could donate them to us, that will be fabulous.

7 You can bring them down to the store at 319 South Main

8 or you can give us a call down at 341-8256 or call me

9 personally on my cell, 504-4455.

10 And, again, donations, that's what it's

11 all about, and that's how we're running all our

12 programs on donations, and I thank everyone in the city

13 for their contributions.

14 Mr. DiBileo, you yourself donated

15 papers, envelopes and stuff like that, office

16 materials, we thank you so much, other people also have

17 donated stuff for the office, computers, so forth and  
18 so on, we thank them very, very much.  
19 Again, we are meeting with Mercy  
20 Hospital to secure the classrooms, everything is going  
21 great with that, and they're also very adamant in  
22 hiring some of the Latino people in the city, which is  
23 another fabulous, fabulous thing.  
24 My prayers go out to Judy Gatelli, I  
25 heard she has fallen ill, and she's a very good friend  
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60

1 of mine. And Judy, stay with it, girl, and I hope you  
2 feel better, hope to see you soon at the next meeting.  
3 And we have our official logo finally,  
4 Moving Forward With the Scranton Alliance. Again, it's  
5 been great, tremendous. The logo is going to look  
6 something to this effect. Everything is copyrighted,  
7 of course, everything is going -- everything that we do  
8 is under the accordance of law here in Scranton, we try  
9 our best to do that.  
10 And last, but not least, we have our  
11 first official fundraiser, and it's going to be held on  
12 December the 3 at Don Pablo's in Dickson City. It's  
13 going to be \$5 to get in. We're going to be dancing

14 all night long.

15 Yes, it is an adult party. We will be

16 shaking what your mother gave you, pretty how they say

17 it, you know, but it will start from 10:30 until about

18 two in the morning until closing. We tend to raise

19 money for some of the programs, leaflets,

20 advertisements, things to that effect, anything that

21 has to do with alliance business, and we invite City

22 Council, all in attendance, and the entire city, anyone

23 and anyone who's ready to come out and just donate and

24 give with their hearts, please, you're welcome to come

25 join us.

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61

1 And once again, my name is Pedro

2 Gonzales, president of the Scranton Latin Alliance.

3 Thank you so much for letting me express myself.

4 MR. DIBILEO: You're welcome. Thank

5 you, Mr. Gonzales. Erik Johnson.

6 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, City

7 Council and staff.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

9 MR. JOHNSON: And I believe that

10 Mr. Gonzales is doing a great job with the Latin

11 community, and we appreciate a man of his quality to be  
12 here.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, he is.

14 MR. JOHNSON: Erik Johnson, resident of  
15 Scranton, taxpayer. At the -- oh, Jay, thank you for  
16 the excellent job that you have given us for City  
17 Council, we appreciate you, and we're going to miss  
18 you.

19 At the Downtown Scranton Senior Citizen  
20 Center, a police officer, Lieutenant Leonard Niometka  
21 recited an excellent oral review on crime against the  
22 elderly, brought up numerous good points against shams  
23 and potential robberies and other crime factors to be  
24 aware of and how to protect and react in such criminal  
25 events.

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62

1 Mr. Gonzales, you would like to hear  
2 this, I was invited to a neighborhood Latino birthday  
3 party and was the only one that was not Latino. They  
4 treated me excellent, spoke English to me, the party  
5 with excellent Spanish food for my son and I to enjoy,  
6 and the respectful Latino ladies were dressed up in the  
7 upmost neatness and pretty outfits.

8 A clean cut party without drugs or harm  
9 of any sort, a great example of these Latinos, men,  
10 women and beautiful children. My son, a police officer  
11 said, Indeed, how decent, Dad. These good people put  
12 on a party and fed us until we were full of good food,  
13 and they were also impressed by the size and good  
14 demeanor of my son as a police officer.  
15 Officials predict hikes in crime if  
16 Congress cuts program funds. Fund have already been  
17 cut for federal funded more police on the streets, and  
18 now law enforcement leaders blasted proposed budget  
19 cuts by Congress that would help kids get a right start  
20 into life to avoid crime.  
21 Local programs, such as Head Start,  
22 SMART, Pride and education assistance programs would  
23 lose more than \$1 million and would force hundreds of  
24 children throughout the Scranton School District out of  
25 after school activities.

63

1 We all should protest to our lawmakers  
2 to keep these anti-crime programs for our children of  
3 today and tomorrow, not cutting these programs.  
4 We need a change of the proposed

5 government policy that would allow authorities to get  
6 records or frame up such records that are politically  
7 inspired about people or citizens who aren't suspects  
8 of any crime or have been found innocent of a supposed  
9 law breaking infraction who are made to be mug shotted  
10 and fingerprinted in the system for insinuos,os,  
11 motives, against innocent citizens that never even had  
12 a preliminary hearing on such criminal charges, as such  
13 indicated by these authorities.

14 The ACLU should have total right to  
15 investigate and correct these false implemented records  
16 and have them expunged. Such records have ruined  
17 innocent citizens' lives from jobs to every aspect of  
18 their defamed life for the rest of their life  
19 thereafter.

20 Let's not waste our hard-earned  
21 taxpayer money against scrutinizing innocent people and  
22 do solely on the raising number of real -- the rising  
23 number of real criminals such as terrorists, murderers,  
24 bank robbers, pedophiles and other real criminals that  
25 are a threat to our society and security. Thank you

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64

1 for letting me speak.

2 MR. DIBILEO: You're welcome. Thank

3 you, Mr. Johnson. Mike Dudek.

4 MR. DUDEK: Good evening, Council. My

5 name is Mike Dudek, 608 Depot Street, Scranton, PA, The

6 Plot. It sounds like there's a plot tonight here.

7 Everybody is speaking about the same thing that I want

8 to speak about, and I think repetition is very good

9 education.

10 This budget is a mess. This last

11 problem that we saw come down with the sewer, with the

12 arbitration award, the \$5 million arbitration award,

13 just the latest of a continuing series of problems, and

14 I pointedly would like to ask The Scranton Times why

15 they didn't publish this the day after the decision

16 came down. That decision came down almost a month ago.

17 The Times sat on it, and I resent that.

18 As to Council business, I did want -- I

19 would ask Mrs. Evans to please clarify something for

20 me, because it's traditional for mayors to contact

21 newly elected or City Council people who when

22 re-elected, he never congratulated you, he never

23 contacted to call -- he never called you?

24 MS. EVANS: No.

25 MR. DUDEK: Oh, God, so much for

1 extending -- I'm shocked, I'm very shocked, but then I  
2 have the same shock sitting here to hear the Veteran  
3 say that the mayor expected to be invited to honor a  
4 Veteran. I mean, is this King Doherty? I can't stand  
5 that.

6 As to the budget, I'm going to ask  
7 Council to do just one thing, put the mayor's feet to  
8 the fire. He has paid consultants all over the place.

9 Mr. Saunders did his job magnificently.

10 I don't see a \$100,000 paid consultant doing Jay  
11 Saunders' job. Mr. Saunders did Mr. Saunders' job.

12 Before we do anything, let's rip out \$3  
13 million worth of consultants, and then let's see what  
14 kind of a budget we can get. Thank you very much.

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

16 That's it for the sign-in sheet. Are there any other  
17 speakers?

18 MR. MCANDREW: Good evening, Council.

19 Larry McAndrew, Scranton resident, Scranton taxpayer.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

21 MR. MCANDREW: There's a famous radio  
22 commentary ends some of his stories by saying, Now you

23 know the rest of the story. Here in the City of

24 Scranton, the taxpayers know the rest of the story.

25 Mayor Doherty's budget proposal is a

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1 slap in the face to all taxpayers in the City of

2 Scranton. We cannot expect to borrow more and more

3 money.

4 And I say to you, Council people this

5 evening, Mr. Pocius isn't here, but when time comes to

6 vote on this disgraceful budget, please vote no.

7 And when the mayor, and I'm sure he

8 will do this, veto this, again, I ask you all to vote

9 no.

10 Take into consideration what Mr. Quinn

11 said. And, again, this Tuesday at 7 p.m., the

12 taxpayers and citizens of the Lackawanna County are

13 going to meet here.

14 Jay, we're going to miss you, we're

15 going to miss your bald head over there, that

16 shininess, we're going to miss that. You did a good

17 job. Congratulations.

18 MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you.

19 MR. MCANDREW: I want to wish everybody

20 a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

23 MR. MCANDREW: Again, with this budget,

24 please, not only for the taxpayers now, for the future

25 generations that live in this city, vote no for it.

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67

1 Thank you.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

3 MR. DAVIS: Assalaam Alaikum. Jay,

4 Jay, Jay, last week I'm here and I'm calling you an

5 honorable man, are you going to tell me that Mr. Morgan

6 has been arranged for as far as a citation, no?

7 MR. SAUNDERS: I will promise you that

8 I will do that before I go on Wednesday.

9 MR. DAVIS: Your word is your bond.

10 MR. SAUNDERS: We received the budget

11 this wee, Mr. Davis, it was a busy week for us.

12 MR. DAVIS: Okay. Thank you.

13 Accountability, I've heard this term used over and over

14 again by many, many people, and this is what we're

15 hoping for, we're hoping that this four years that's

16 coming now that will start right from this point on,

17 that people will become accountable to you, City  
18 Council, that when you ask people to bring forth  
19 information, you will get that information so that you  
20 can run the city properly.

21 Those that are here, fine; those that  
22 are not here, but the people in the audience, the  
23 people in the city itself, they say that what rights do  
24 you have of asking for accountability if nothing can be  
25 done with it?

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68

1 If the figures you get are bloated or  
2 wrong, can we correct them at that point? So far we  
3 haven't been able to, but at least from my count.  
4 I came to you a couple weeks ago and I  
5 asked about a program that was being done by the city  
6 as far as consolidating funds for the Boys Club in  
7 Scranton, today I tried to find out what this program  
8 was all about, just asking a question, what is this  
9 program going to do?  
10 I understand there are two programs,  
11 there's one that's run by the city, there's one that's  
12 run by the county, and what it does is it transports  
13 people from the low income areas to the Boys Club,

14 things like that, it's Reach Out, is what the name of  
15 the program is, but nobody knows the parameters of it,  
16 nobody knows how much is going to be spent, nobody  
17 knows the full gist of it.  
18 I can't imagine how they can move  
19 \$30,000 into an account, and when you call the people,  
20 such as the County Housing Authority, nobody even knows  
21 the program exists. And I was told that these are the  
22 people who would know at the county.  
23 When I called OECD, I couldn't get Sara  
24 Hailstone, I think she didn't return my call, maybe  
25 tomorrow she will return it, God willing.

69

1 I don't know how to say that I'm not  
2 displeased with the election, I think Mr. DiBileo,  
3 although I've seen you and known you for a long time, I  
4 think when you went to law and order, you blew the  
5 black vote.

6 MR. DIBILEO: When I what, I'm sorry?

7 MR. DAVIS: When you went to law and  
8 order, when you became a law and order advocate, I  
9 don't know any other way of saying it, you just listen,  
10 whenever you make statements like that, most of the

11 black community remembers the Trickle Down Theory, it  
12 came along with the law and order regimes in the United  
13 States, in Scranton and everywhere else, and we usually  
14 suffered from them, more so than any others, so that is  
15 the reason why it might have hurt you within the black  
16 vote.

17 I'm saying this because I think you  
18 could have -- you ran a beautiful -- up to that point,  
19 you ran a beautiful campaign.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Jim, what did I say  
21 exactly? I'm still not sure what you're getting at.

22 That's okay. We can talk about it later.

23 MR. DAVIS: Thank you. Thank you.

24 MR. SAUNDERS: Your time is up, sir.

25 MR. DAVIS: Okay. The Latin American

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70

1 Alliance, I'm very happy to have you aboard. I wish  
2 you nothing but the best. I'll pray for you, I'll join  
3 you, I'll do anything you'd like me to do.  
4 As a matter of fact, I've introduced  
5 you to the NAACP in Wilkes-Barre, so you're on your  
6 way.  
7 Election was bought, it was a bought

8 election from my standpoint. Promo, the whole nine  
9 yards, I can see just nothing but money being bought  
10 conquering people. I don't know if you can understand  
11 what I'm saying.

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

13 MR. LYNOTT: Good evening, City  
14 Council.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

16 MR. LYNOTT: Just for the record, can  
17 you give your name and address, please?

18 MR. LYNOTT: Oh, Martin Lynott, city  
19 resident, no affiliation with the paper. I hope that  
20 Ms. Gatelli is doing okay and Mr. Walsh is doing okay.  
21 And, Jay, good luck in your endeavors.

22 MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you.

23 MR. LYNOTT: I heard somebody bring up  
24 the Adelpia issue earlier today, and I know it's not  
25 about the budget, and I hope I'm not off base here a

71

1 little bit, I was wondering, does the city have a  
2 contract with Adelpia where they, like, they help the  
3 city, like, they reimburse the city for their  
4 customers?

5 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, they do, Mr. Lynott.

6 MR. LYNOTT: Do they?

7 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah.

8 MR. LYNOTT: Does Scranton Housing

9 Authority fall under those same rules and regulations?

10 MR. DIBILEO: I'm not sure what you

11 mean, but I don't believe so.

12 MR. LYNOTT: You don't believe so?

13 MR. SAUNDERS: No, Adelpia's contract

14 is with the City of Scranton, not anybody else.

15 MR. LYNOTT: Not with the Scranton

16 Housing Authority?

17 MR. SAUNDERS: No.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Right.

19 MR. SAUNDERS: It covers the whole

20 city.

21 MR. LYNOTT: Excuse me?

22 MR. SAUNDERS: It covers the whole

23 city.

24 MR. LYNOTT: It covers the whole city,

25 but not the Housing Authority?

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72

1 MR. DIBILEO: Well, the Housing

2 Authority as far as being a part of the City of

3 Scranton, yes, but not as a separate entity.

4 MR. LYNOTT: It's a separate entity.

5 MR. DIBILEO: But it doesn't cover them

6 as a separate entity, only as a part of the entire

7 city.

8 MR. LYNOTT: Okay. My question is, I

9 ride around the projects and everything and people

10 have, like, their satellite dishes on their front

11 porch, like, in Bangor, for example, or Hill Top, I

12 guess you can see them up there, and I was wondering if

13 it was in the power of the Scranton Housing Authority

14 to, like, erect something on top of my building to be

15 specific so I could have cable -- so I could have

16 satellite access, because as everybody knows, like, the

17 cable bill is stifling, you know, it's, like, very,

18 very high, and I want the option of having satellite,

19 and I wonder if that's, like, a possibility.

20 MR. DIBILEO: I suppose that would be

21 up to the Housing Authority board. I don't know if

22 they have a current, you know, rule about that or not,

23 Mr. Lynott.

24 MR. LYNOTT: Is there any reason or is

25 there any way that City Council could recommend to the

1 Scranton Housing Authority that --

2 MR. DIBILEO: Well, I can have

3 Mr. Saunders ask if that exists right now. We can't

4 really recommend anything, since that, you know, they

5 cover, you know, their rules and regulations

6 themselves.

7 MR. LYNOTT: Okay. Because in the

8 Scranton Housing Authority, there must be, like, a few

9 thousand members, and they're all paying, like, at

10 least 50-some dollars a month, which I think is very --

11 a lot of money, especially with people on fixed income,

12 you know?

13 I think it would be something to

14 pursue, and I wish you could look into it for me.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

16 MR. LYNOTT: I'd appreciate that.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Mr. Saunders, if

18 you would.

19 MR. LYNOTT: Thank you for your time,

20 sir.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, sir.

22 MS. STULGIS: Good evening. I'm Ann

23 Marie Stulgis, I reside in the city, and I'm President  
24 of the Fraternal Order of Police.

25 Before I tell you a little story, I

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74

1 I want to remind everyone that as of this date, the  
2 police officers who are back from Iraq and the police  
3 officer who is in Iraq has not received one dime in  
4 compensation from the city to try to bring his salary  
5 or their salaries up to what they would have made had  
6 they not gone on active duty, costing them between \$14  
7 and \$16,000 in loss for serving in Iraq.

8 We all know about the debacle with the  
9 Sewer Authority and the fact that that decision was  
10 brought down and held back.

11 We also know that suddenly the city  
12 doesn't think that they can appeal an arbitration  
13 award, mind you, they've appealed every arbitration  
14 award filed by police officers and won, and every  
15 arbitration award filed by firefighters and won, and  
16 they didn't come to \$5.5 million, as the Sewer  
17 Authority one does.

18 I think that says a lot about this  
19 administration's concerns about the public safety

20 employees in the city, but I want to share a little  
21 story with you starting with an article that I read on  
22 line by Water Tech, and it questions --

23 MR. DIBILEO: Excuse me. Would -- I  
24 don't know who's speaking, but whoever it is, would  
25 they please refrain, Mr. Lynott, from speaking while

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1 there's --

2 MR. LYNOTT: I'm sorry about that, sir.

3 MR. DIBILEO: No problem. Go right

4 ahead, Mrs. Stulgis.

5 MR. LYNOTT: It brings up the fact that  
6 the United States Justice Department questioned as to  
7 why the City of Scranton wasn't fined as other  
8 municipalities were for any EPA violations. It is  
9 DEP's job to enforce any fines and any problems found  
10 by the EPA.

11 Our mayor said that they weren't --  
12 they didn't collect the fines from the city because we  
13 were a distressed municipality, however, a fine was  
14 levied, just not collected, in the amount of \$194,929  
15 by a Mr. MacDonald, who at the time was the head of the  
16 DEP in Luzerne County.

17 Now, keep in mind that that fine,  
18 according to Mr. Doherty's statements, was not  
19 collected by Mr. MacDonald because we are a distressed  
20 municipality.

21 However, coincidentally, shortly  
22 thereafter Mr. MacDonald retired from the DEP. And low  
23 and behold, if he didn't get a new job as executive  
24 director of the Scranton Sewer Authority at \$90,000 a  
25 year.

76

1 So, now he works for the Scranton Sewer  
2 Authority for \$90,000 a year, and as long as he's there  
3 managing everything, American Anglican is out, costing  
4 the taxpayers \$5.5 million.

5 The mayor was well aware of this, The  
6 Scranton Times printed it on August 6 and August 8 of  
7 last year, stating that the deadline was running out  
8 and that it was going to cost the taxpayers of Scranton  
9 \$5.5 and the taxpayers of Dunmore over \$1 million, and  
10 the mayor's comment was something to the effect of,  
11 Well, what will be will be. And I guess we found out  
12 what will be, since we're going to owe that \$5.5  
13 million.

14 But as an aside to the fact that Mr.  
15 MacDonald coincidentally got a \$90,000 with the  
16 Scranton Sewer Authority, Mr. MacDonald's E-mail  
17 address, if you want to apply for a job at the Scranton  
18 Sewer Authority, you write to William MacDonald at  
19 CECO, not at the Scranton Sewer Authority.  
20 Now, I really think that if that isn't  
21 enough for somebody to be a bit suspicious as to what's  
22 going on in the city, then people really are missing  
23 it.

24 And it's all public knowledge, and all  
25 you have to do is go onto DEP's website and you will  
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77

1 find that e-mail address.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mrs. Stulgis, I  
3 thought way back when we had two police officers that  
4 were away in Iraq and they weren't getting paid, and  
5 then I had a conversation with Ms. Moran and she said  
6 she made a mistake and that was taken care of, so now  
7 you're telling me this is happening again?

8 MS. STULGIS: It's continuing.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: They're not getting  
10 any money?

11 MS. STULGIS: Officer McDonald and  
12 Officer Kowalick are back quite a long time.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right.

14 MS. STULGIS: They never received a  
15 dime. They are the ones who lost between \$14 and  
16 \$16,000. They took that pay cut to serve in Iraq, and  
17 the city did not give them a dime.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: I thought they were  
19 supposed to get money to make their pay come out  
20 equivalent to what it would have been.

21 MS. STULGIS: That was the original  
22 agreement, yes.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: And you're saying that  
24 didn't happen?

25 MS. STULGIS: That did not happen, sir,  
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78

1 and I also provided the city with their W-2s, because  
2 coincidentally, both those officers served from the  
3 beginning of the year right through the end of the  
4 year, so their W-2 from the United States Government  
5 would reflect their entire pay, and I provided that to  
6 the city, too, to prove that, as a speaker a few weeks  
7 ago stated that I was trying to gorge the city, I

8 provided W-2s showing what those officers made, and  
9 they did take huge pay cuts, and their families  
10 suffered greatly.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Ms. Moran told me when  
12 I was there, and this was a long time ago, right, she  
13 told me that there was a mistake made and that whatever  
14 pay they got, I'm trying to put it in just my terms,  
15 whatever pay they got from the military, then the city  
16 would make up the difference so that their pay would be  
17 equivalent as if they were here.

18 MS. STULGIS: That's correct.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: And you're saying that  
20 didn't happen?

21 MS. STULGIS: No, sir, that did not  
22 happen. And officer Scarfo is still in Iraq, and his  
23 wife is not getting a dime either.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, I will ask her  
25 tomorrow, because -- unless I misunderstood, that's

79

1 what she told me, and I just thought it was a done  
2 deal.

3 MS. STULGIS: No, it hasn't been. As a  
4 matter of fact, we have grievances filed on it, and

5 maybe you can do something so that we don't have to go  
6 to arbitration on it and cost the taxpayers more money,  
7 but, no, they reneged on that agreement.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: You're saying they got  
9 no money, none?

10 MS. STULGIS: Not a dime, not one dime  
11 from the city for the entire year those two men were in  
12 Iraq, they did not get one dime from the city.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Well, I'll  
14 ask tomorrow. I was under the impression that that was  
15 done a long time ago.

16 MS. STULGIS: I wish it were. It was  
17 not. Thank you.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mrs. Stulgis.

20 And thank you, Mr. Courtright, for looking into that  
21 situation. Chris, come on up.

22 MR. SLEDZINSKI: Jay, I'm going to miss  
23 you, Old Buddy. So, keep it up, will you? Good luck,  
24 Jay.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Chris. Very

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80

1 nice, Chris.

2 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council. My  
3 name is Nancy Krake, I'm a resident of Scranton, and  
4 I'm also president of the clerical union.  
5 First I would like to say thank you to  
6 Jay Saunders, and good luck in the future. We'll miss  
7 you.  
8 I looked over the mayor's budget, I  
9 never received a copy, and I never received or actually  
10 never communicated with anyone in the administration  
11 about any of the budget cuts.  
12 There are four clerical jobs cut, they  
13 total \$96,000, there are six job creations that I can  
14 see so far. As I said, no one has spoken to me from  
15 the administration, so I'm really not sure.  
16 It looks to me that there are six  
17 creations and many raises. There are raises for  
18 \$5,000, \$2500, \$3200, \$6,000, just more and more of the  
19 same.  
20 That total appears to be \$281,000.  
21 Once again, the mayor will say he's making cuts because  
22 we need to make cuts to save money, but it is  
23 absolutely not true.  
24 It wasn't true the first time he did  
25 it, and it's not true the fourth time. He's just

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81

1 continuing more of the same.

2 He's driving us into debt that is

3 spiraling and spiraling out of control. There's no way

4 he can justify small job cuts and giving huge raises

5 and award huge jobs.

6 I wonder how this happens in a city

7 with a distressed status. It's very curious that the

8 Pennsylvania Economy League looks the other way when

9 the mayor asks what he needs. I urge this Council to

10 examine the disastrous role of the distressed status.

11 The Pennsylvania Economy League and

12 their various recovery plans, and I certainly hope that

13 you will never renew any recovery plan that comes

14 before you, since this one technically is up at the end

15 of this year, no matter what anyone says, and I

16 certainly hope you would never approve any new recovery

17 plan that has anything at all to do with the

18 Pennsylvania Economy League. Thank you.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

20 MS. FOWLER: Patty Fowler, city

21 resident and health inspector. Now that it's budget

22 time and we're in such a bind, I'd like to propose

23 maybe we could charge for condemnations, or if not for  
24 the condemnations, for the general inspections required  
25 to lift those condemnations.

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82

1 When we have a general inspection, we  
2 send out four to five inspectors, health, housing,  
3 electrical, mechanical, plumbing. That's a lot of man  
4 hours, that's a lot of time and money, and we have a  
5 lot of out of town landlords who can certainly afford  
6 this charge when we have to condemn these houses  
7 because they're not taking care of them, they're just  
8 accepting their rent money and not taking care of these  
9 places.

10 I would just like to propose -- I  
11 mentioned it to the department director, he thought it  
12 was a good idea, but the thing in City Hall seems to be  
13 unity, and so I'm trying to unify maybe all areas of  
14 government, and maybe we can get together and put some  
15 legislation together for some kind of a charge.

16 Obviously we could use more money into  
17 the city, there's a lot of man hours that are used for  
18 a general inspection, even a regular inspection, a  
19 plumbing inspection, electrical inspection, that's a lot

20 of man hours, a lot of money used when we go out to  
21 lift a condemnation, or even if we changed for a  
22 condemnation, something.

23 There's a lot of out of town landlords  
24 that can certainly afford it, when they can be buying  
25 these houses sight unseen. Thank you.

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83

1 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mrs. Jennings.  
2 MR. MCGUIRE: William McGuire, resident  
3 and taxpayer. This evening I didn't plan on coming  
4 down, I was going to wait until the second meeting  
5 actually, because next week, I believe, you will be off  
6 for the holidays in regards to an ordinance, but  
7 Mr. Morgan had brought it up about the ordinance for  
8 vicious dogs, if that ordinance is going to be  
9 entertained by this Council, I would like to add a  
10 couple things that you could take into consideration.  
11 One of the things are licensing of  
12 cats, feline animals. In our city we have to license  
13 all dogs, well, cats are no different. I believe there  
14 should be a license fee for cats, too.  
15 Also for the dog license and cats, if  
16 this was accepted or passed, a portion of that money

17 from the licensing would go towards, excuse me, I'm  
18 very sick, a spay and neutering fund. What that will  
19 do is that could help in spay and neutering, a lot --  
20 some people like to call them stray cats, I like to  
21 refer to them as homeless cats.

22 If you spay and neuter those cats,  
23 there's another program that's available, it's called  
24 Spay, Trap and Release. The cat is trapped it's taken  
25 to veterinarian and spayed.

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84

1 If we use some of that money to put  
2 toward that spaying of them, we're going to cut down on  
3 a lot of the stray population of cats throughout the  
4 city, which in return would take a lot of time away  
5 from the animal control officer going out and doing  
6 those things.

7 Another thing, as far as the licensing  
8 goes, today we use a big 8-by-10 sheet for licensing  
9 information. If we modernize that or copy what the  
10 county does, they have a small form, you drop it off at  
11 the local veterinarians, you rip it off, they take it  
12 home, they mail it in with the information, and it's  
13 sent back and the dog can get a license that way,

14 instead of people coming down to City Hall and trying  
15 to find parking, which they complain about a lot.

16 The other thing is, if we go to a  
17 smaller form of the application, in the past a lot of  
18 local vets would take the application, they would sell  
19 the license right there.

20 Well, in today's day and age, it's not  
21 beneficial for them to use their manpower to do the  
22 city's work, so they're using their staff to fill out  
23 applications, you know, the whole nine yards, well,  
24 that's resources they're losing at their expense.

25 If you just have a general form there

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85

1 in a smaller version, it's easier on the county, they  
2 could just rip it off and send it in.

3 The other thing is, Mr. Morgan had  
4 mentioned about vicious dogs, state law already has  
5 laws in place where vicious dogs are -- they have to  
6 follow certain rules and regulations.

7 The other thing I think is what he's  
8 talking about is, maybe stopping certain breeds of  
9 animals in the past from coming to the city, which has  
10 been done in other states. You cannot do that. You

11 cannot discriminate against any breed of dog. The law  
12 will not allow that. It has been tried in other  
13 states.

14 There are other ways that have been  
15 done that pertain to vicious animals at large or dogs  
16 biting people and stuff, so there are other ways to do  
17 the law, besides, you know, saying that particular  
18 breed can't be in our city.

19 I think the one state does for certain  
20 breeds, they have a fee that would be required for  
21 that.

22 But the licensing fee for cats is  
23 really big. The cost of having somebody do the  
24 monitoring of the licensing, it's a win/win situation.

25 If the cat is licensed, it has its rabi vaccinations.

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86

1 If by chance you're in the neighborhood and you're  
2 trapping farrow cats, somebody's Fluffy gets caught in  
3 a trap, well, now it has a license and identification.

4 So, now it can be brought back to the owner and sent up  
5 to the Humane Society.

6 The other thing that I don't know if

7 it's legal to do, as far as vicious dogs that bite more

8 than once, maybe there's a way that legislation could  
9 be written according to the law, that they could do  
10 microchipping of the dogs.

11 If the dog after the second bite is a  
12 repeat offender, it could be microchipped, that way it  
13 goes into a computer system.

14 So, if they move from Scranton and go  
15 to Dunmore, the computer system stays there with a  
16 chip. So, once it's in there, it's registered now.

17 Now the next municipality or a lot of them seem to be  
18 come to our city, we would already know if they're a  
19 second or third offender. So, that might be a way to  
20 track a lot of the first, second and third bites.

21 I have some other thing, but the Trap  
22 Neuter and Release Program that is available, I do have  
23 some information. If you want, I can leave it with  
24 Kay, she can copy it and give it to you. It's an  
25 actual company that comes into your municipality. They

87

1 set up the whole program.

2 I don't know exactly, it's been a while  
3 since I read it, I don't know exactly what the fee is  
4 involved in doing it, if there is one, but I think the

5 benefit outweighs the cost in doing this, and we can  
6 cut down on a lot the population of cats. And if we  
7 start enforcing some of these other ordinances  
8 pertaining to dogs, we can cut down on the vicious dogs  
9 and dogs at large and stuff. Okay. Thanks. Sorry if  
10 that was all broken up.

11 MR. DIBILEO: No problem. Thank you,  
12 Mr. McGuire. That's good information. Perhaps you can  
13 leave a copy of that for City Council's office, Mr.  
14 McGuire. Thank you.

15 MR. SAUNDERS: Fifth order. 5-A,  
16 motions.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Were there any  
18 other speakers? Okay. If not, Mr. McTiernan, any  
19 motions or comments?

20 MR. MCTIERNAN: Just briefly, I want to  
21 wish Mr. Saunders good luck and thank you for all his  
22 help over the past two years.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. McTiernan.  
24 Mrs. Evans, motions or comments?

25 MS. EVANS: Yes. First I'd like to ask

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88

1 for everyone's prayers for Katherine Van-Heusen, who

2 was a very good friend of my late father's and of mine,  
3 and for Leann Lapinski, as well.

4 Tonight I wish to thank the good people  
5 of Scranton for placing their confidence in me. I will  
6 spend the next four years watching vigilantly how their  
7 tax dollars are spent. I also look forward to working  
8 on Council with Judy Gatelli and Sherry Fanucci.

9 And I have quite a number of requests,  
10 not all will be read, but many are of urgent  
11 importance. 2701 Birney Avenue, remove the curb which  
12 the city installed from the resident's driveway as soon  
13 as possible, please.

14 1114 Monroe Avenue, residents complain  
15 abandoned parked cars. 737 Fig Street, curbstones are  
16 broken. Grimes Court, a very large hole and neighbors  
17 ash that DPW fill that before winter.

18 Repair and pave the road which enters  
19 McNicholl's Plaza School. Clear abandon lot on  
20 East Elm Street next to McNicholl's Plaza.

21 The rear of 1505 Cedar Avenue, fill a  
22 large pothole. A letter to Mr. Packer, several  
23 residents of Green Ridge have requested that the block  
24 of Capouse Avenue which meets Electric Street either  
25 change to a one way Street or that parking be

1 prohibited on one side of Capouse Avenue in that block.

2 A letter to Mr. Fiorini and OECD, I was

3 informed that in prior administrations, landlords

4 and/or tenants who were at fault for the condemnation

5 of a house or an apartment were billed for emergency

6 housing caused by condemnation.

7 It appears the city, however, has been

8 paying for emergency housing for the past few years.

9 Is this correct? And if so, can the process change?

10 If the landlords or tenants at fault

11 were billed for emergency housing costs, the city would

12 have more funds available for heating and heating

13 repairs for the needy each winter it.

14 Remove illegal vehicles from Schimpff

15 Court. Residents have complained for the last two

16 months that other vehicles were removed by an inspector

17 and police, yet the vehicles owned by Hart Masonry

18 Company have 2004 stickers and continue to sit week

19 after week.

20 Neighbors complain that at the entrance

21 to Kirst Court in South Side, Sheetrock, roofing

22 materials and debris are being thrown by another

23 resident.

24 Also, a letter to Mr. Wallace and

25 Mr. King regarding Apgar Place in the rear of 1518 West

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90

1 Locust Street. And this has been an ongoing problem

2 for a number of years, and one that I have addressed

3 time and time again.

4 The resident is an elderly disabled

5 woman who now feels so beaten down by the city, she's

6 ready to give up on life, and she's ready to give up on

7 her property.

8 I've attached copies of supporting

9 documents to be sent to Mr. Wallace and Mr. King, and I

10 ask them, please, so many exceptions have been made for

11 large and lucrative businesses in this city, I really

12 cannot understand why they cannot do something for this

13 woman, when in fact she's in the right.

14 Fix streetlights in Reed Court, and I

15 do have all of the pole numbers. Viaduct between

16 Railroad Avenue and Meridian Avenue, weeds, trash and

17 rats litter the sidewalks that run along both sides.

18 Please clear before winter weather.

19 Letter to appropriate department head

20 regarding the animal control officer. The Humane  
21 Society cannot meet the requirements or the  
22 responsibilities of a full-time officer.  
23 Police often are called concerning  
24 animal problems, and neither is this their  
25 responsibility. So, when will the position be filled?

91

1 Residents of Detty Street and Ruth  
2 Avenue request the placement of a stop sign on Detty  
3 Street where it meets Ruth Avenue.  
4 801 South Webster Avenue, trim trees.  
5 The rear of 309 Fig Street, this house has been  
6 condemned for several years. There have been problems,  
7 ongoing problems, with rats, and currently vagrants are  
8 using the building for shelter. The residents feel  
9 that this poses a potential fire threat and they are  
10 very concerned about vagrants in the neighborhood.  
11 The 400 block of Gibson Street,  
12 residents complain that sidewalks have been washed away  
13 as a result of lack of curbs, and water is ponding or  
14 turning to mud, and I've included photos to accompany  
15 that request.  
16 Also, I asked Mr. Parker to consider

17 collecting bagged leafs many weeks ago. I was very  
18 pleased to recently read in the newspaper that the city  
19 will pick up bagged leafs, as well as vacuuming the  
20 leafs from beside curbs, however, Mr. Parker will not  
21 create a leaf pickup schedule, so we don't know when  
22 any neighborhood will be addressed or when we should  
23 move our cars; therefore, bagging could be the most  
24 reliable system for pickup for most of us.

25 Next, with regard to 841 and 843 Quincy

92

1 Avenue and a condemned house at that location, a letter  
2 was sent to the owner notifying him of demolition and  
3 lien that will be placed on the property for demolition  
4 costs.

5 Also, a letter was sent to Mr. Parker  
6 requesting a traffic study in the 1400 block of Cedar  
7 Avenue for the elderly residents who cannot exit their  
8 driveway due to excessive traffic.

9 Two letters were sent to Mr. Baker  
10 regarding handicapped parking at Park Gardens. I  
11 continue to wait for his reply.

12 In addition, I still await a response  
13 from Mr. Parker regarding overtime costs at the DPW

14 from May to November 8, 2005.

15 Also, there has been great publicity of

16 late concerning American Water Services and the

17 arbitration that is owed, when I was elected to this

18 Council seat two years previous, one of the hotly

19 discussed issues before the public was the intent of

20 Dunmore and the Sewer Authority to terminate American

21 Water Services Company's contract; moreover, Dunmore,

22 the Sewer Authority, and the mayor gambled that the

23 termination would cost them nothing.

24 At that time I was a newcomer to

25 Scranton's political scene with no knowledge of the

.

93

1 law, but with ordinary common sense, anyone should know

2 that a company of American Water Services' size would

3 not give Scranton \$6.7 million, and Dunmore \$1.3

4 million upfront for a 20-year contract to manage the

5 sewer services.

6 Obviously American Water Services

7 expected to make a profit in managing the sewer

8 services, and also recover its total of \$6.6 million

9 owed.

10 To put it in plain language, the

11 company was not going to allow itself to be cheated out  
12 of its profits from the contract without a fight. Big  
13 money, in the millions of dollars, was at stake.  
14 When I learned of the mayor's approach  
15 to this problem to fight American Water, I spoke out  
16 clearly and often against the mayor's intended course  
17 of action, especially when American Water Services held  
18 a strong contract in its favor.  
19 On a number of occasions, I said the  
20 mayor stands a good possibility to lose the  
21 arbitration, and from where would the money come,  
22 knowing the financial mess we're in right now?  
23 From the first time I spoke on this  
24 subject, I was chastised by many as a negative person.  
25 I viewed myself as a realist, because I told the people  
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94

1 accurately what could happen as a result of the mayor's  
2 and Dunmore's and the Scranton Sewer Authority's  
3 gambit.  
4 In any event, the mayor fought the  
5 arbitration with AWS. This past Tuesday we were all  
6 informed that the mayor lost, and lost an amount of  
7 money that could be as high as \$5.4 million.

8 With, that \$5.4 million does not  
9 included legal fees, arbitrator's fees, stenographic  
10 fees and other costs incurred in the arbitration.  
11 I wonder, do the people consider an  
12 additional debt of \$5.4 million plus as the city moving  
13 forward? Where is Mr. Doherty going to get \$5.4  
14 million, when we all know he's scrambling to get  
15 millions to plug holes in his operating budget.  
16 The newspaper reported, the mayor said  
17 the city is in a much better financial position to deal  
18 with the matter now. This, I must see, because if he  
19 borrows money to pay the arbitration award and fees, he  
20 will just continue to increase the long-term debt or  
21 will he sell an asset? Is this being negative or  
22 realistic?  
23 As of this date, Mr. Doherty sold most  
24 of the city's assets. I believe there are only a very  
25 few assets the people have left, one, is the safe \$5.2  
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1 million loan portfolio, which the mayor so desperately  
2 wants to sell to CRF and lose approximately a half a  
3 million dollars on the sale.

4 In fact, he still has people come to

5 the podium and urge Council to approve that sale, and I  
6 still ask if anyone has a safe asset with a nice income  
7 every year, would he be willing to sell it at a loss of  
8 half a million dollars? Is this being negative or  
9 realistic?

10 Another remaining city asset the people  
11 own is the storm water and catch basin system. Beware  
12 if the mayor tries to sell this system to the Sewer  
13 Authority, because it would be a phony sale.  
14 The mayor would sell the people's storm  
15 sewer system to the Sewer Authority, which is to the  
16 people; in other words, the people would be paying for  
17 something they already own, then no doubt, the Sewer  
18 Authority would increase the rates, which would be  
19 nothing more than an additional tax on the people to  
20 pay for what they already own.

21 It will be interesting to see City  
22 Council's vote on this request. To me, it's all more  
23 smoke and mirrors. Is this being negative or  
24 realistic?

25 The third remaining city asset is the

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96

1 housing development of Park Gardens. It is profitable.

2 We should all be wary about Park Garden's future, so  
3 long as Mayor Doherty continues to search for money to  
4 satisfy his spending addiction.

5 I am the person who first raised the  
6 mayor's spending conduct, which created his long-term  
7 debt. Both he and the newspaper denied my statements,  
8 but later admitted to a larger amount of long-term debt  
9 than I first told the people about.

10 Since I took my seat on Council,  
11 virtually all of my criticism of the mayor has been on  
12 his excessive spending, sale of city assets, favors for  
13 contributors and unnecessary borrowing.

14 I shall continue to give the people  
15 facts on this city's financial condition, because I  
16 firmly believe that this city cannot and will not  
17 realistically move forward, when it continues to sink  
18 deeper into debt. And the burden of paying that debt  
19 falls primarily on you, the average taxpayer. You  
20 cannot borrow your way out of debt or use a fictitious  
21 sale to do it.

22 By the way, the four assets Scranton  
23 still owns is City Hall and the parks. Keep your eye  
24 on them. And I'm going to let the people decide, is  
25 this negative or realistic? That's it.

1 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much, Mrs.

2 Evans. Mr. Courtright, motions or comments?

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes, Mr. President.

4 Well, Jay, evidently you have more friends than you

5 thought you did. Some people like your haircut and --

6 once again, thank you.

7 And you will be missed, not only from

8 people here, but people that watch us, and I understand

9 many colleges will be missing you.

10 One, I'm sure you will be passing these

11 onto Kay, but I'll give them to you one last time, I

12 still haven't seen the report, if there is one on the

13 parking garage that we were supposed to get from the

14 engineer, Mr. Pocius made the motion, and we haven't

15 received any report yet on what's going on down there,

16 so we can ask that question, is it going to be coming

17 soon, are we going to be getting that report before

18 they open the garage?

19 I brought up a subject, I think it was

20 last week about campaign contributions, and I don't

21 think our solicitor was here at the time, but I would

22 ask that he looks into seeing about caps on campaign

23 contributions, especially for people that are doing  
24 business with the city, if there's anything that this  
25 Council could do about that.

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1 I mentioned last week that quite a  
2 while ago Mrs. Evans had brought that up, and I think  
3 in light of what had happened in this past election, as  
4 I said last week, I think the money got really out of  
5 control, I think spending that kind of money prohibits  
6 the average everyday person from even considering  
7 running for office, so I'm going to pursue this until I  
8 get some kind of an answer. So, if we can look into  
9 that and see if there's anything that this Council will  
10 do about that, I would appreciate it, and if there is,  
11 I will certainly make a motion to try to move in that  
12 direction.

13 MS. EVANS: Mr. Courtright, if I might  
14 add, I'm in complete agreement with you, it's called  
15 play to play politics, and it's been a movement across  
16 the country to try to reign this in, and we were  
17 closely watching the City of Philadelphia, because  
18 their Council had intended to propose just such  
19 legislation approximately a year ago and commissions

20 were formed and the issues were studied, and I'm sure  
21 we're all aware of what has happened in Philadelphia in  
22 terms of their City Council, their mayor, and a lot of,  
23 well, diplomatically speaking, legal problems that have  
24 arisen because of play to play politics, and so they  
25 have successfully passed Council legislation, and I  
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1 believe that the time is well overdue, and it is my  
2 hope to join you, that this Council will pass  
3 legislation, and legislation with teeth.  
4 And should we be unsuccessful, then I  
5 would also ask you, since you will continue to be  
6 seated on Council, as will I, to pursue an action that  
7 would place the question on the ballot for the Scranton  
8 voter, to then be presented in Harrisburg to our state  
9 legislators in the hopes that it might move them to  
10 change election law to include a provision that will  
11 allow for caps on individual contributions, corporate  
12 contributions and PAC contributions.  
13 MR. COURTRIGHT: And I brought it up  
14 because I think Philadelphia might have paved the way  
15 for us, and it might be a little bit easier for us to  
16 do it now, and I hope it could go through Council and

17 wouldn't have to be put on a ballot.

18 I can't imagine anybody running wanting

19 to have to raise that type of money. It's very, very

20 difficult for those of us that don't have it. So, if

21 we can look into that, and I know it's going to take

22 some time, but I just don't want it to drop.

23 I don't want to have people coming here

24 again saying I'm trying to scare people, but we have

25 had several daytime robberies of homes in this city in

100

1 the recent week or so, several, I don't want to give

2 the number, because I think the number might be a

3 little scary, and I would ask that you pay specific

4 attention. It seems to be happening in the daytime

5 when people are at work, so if you can watch out for

6 your neighbor, and if you see any action going on that

7 don't seem right, call the police department, because

8 there's just been a rash of these break-ins, and

9 hopefully we can catch these individuals.

10 I was just sitting here thinking ever

11 since Mrs. Stulgis brought that up, that something just

12 doesn't seem right. I was almost positive that this

13 was solved with the soldiers.

14 I haven't gotten any more calls from  
15 the two soldiers' wives who had called me originally  
16 when the problem occurred, that's why I assumed it was  
17 over with, and I'll try and find out tomorrow, and if  
18 in fact we did not pay them what they had coming to  
19 them, My God, let's just get that done. It's only  
20 right.

21 MS. EVANS: Mr. Courtright, I was  
22 wondering if you knew that the city by law must make  
23 the pension contributions while the employee is engaged  
24 in active duty, and the city hadn't been doing that  
25 either and --

101

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: That particular thing  
2 I wasn't even aware of. I didn't even --

3 MS. EVANS: It's contained in the  
4 minutes of, I believe, one of the meetings of the  
5 Composite Pension Board, and they are looking at  
6 addressing that now and refunding the money paid out by  
7 our city employees.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: I just think that, you  
9 know, no matter what side of the politics you're on, I  
10 don't think that there's anybody in this city that

11 doesn't believe that our soldiers shouldn't get what  
12 they have coming to them, I can't imagine anybody  
13 disagreeing with that, so I will do my best to try and  
14 find out what happened there, and also I'll bring up  
15 what you had just mentioned, I wasn't aware of that.  
16 And one last thing, our own Chrissy has  
17 brought this up in the past, on Main Avenue, Jay, and  
18 Jackson Street, I don't know if it would be the city,  
19 if they put the sewer in or what, but he had brought up  
20 about it being broken up, the sidewalk there, there's a  
21 very large chunk of cement broken up. I actually tried  
22 to put it back in place, a little bit like a puzzle  
23 there, but it's a real danger. And I don't know if  
24 that's the city or the state there, it's at the corner  
25 of Jackson and Main right on the corner where the  
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102

1 Wachovia Bank is, it's really bad, it's a heavily  
2 travelled area, if we can get somebody over there and  
3 take a look at it. And I guess that's the last request  
4 I get to make of you, huh?

5 MR. SAUNDERS: I will follow through on  
6 it.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Thank you.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr.

9 Courtright, and thank you for following up on the  
10 situation regarding the pay of the military personnel  
11 of the city. I, too, thought that that was already  
12 solved and taken care of, but if it's not, I think it's  
13 something that we need to work on immediately, if not  
14 sooner.

15 Also, it's too bad that the campaign  
16 caps question couldn't have been on the ballot last  
17 year instead of this year. That would have been a good  
18 thing.

19 And I'd like to recognize the 2005  
20 Super Bowl Champions of the Northern Area Junior  
21 Football League, and I'm speaking of the North Scranton  
22 Vikings. I was asked to recognize them, and they truly  
23 deserve it.

24 The North Scranton Vikings C Team won  
25 the super bowl of the C division by beating the

103

1 Abington Junior Comets 7-0, and the North Scranton  
2 Vikings B Team won their super bowl by beating the  
3 Valley View Bulldogs 29-6.

4 So, our congratulations go out to all

5 the members of the North Scranton Vikings and all the  
6 coaches, including head coach Dave McGonaghey.

7 And also, I want to wish everyone a

8 Happy Thanksgiving, and I hope that we all can be

9 fortunate enough to feast on Thanksgiving.

10 And, Jay, I had given you the bell from

11 my office, which you've used now for the past, I think,

12 two years, and you've really come to master that bell,

13 and I just want to say that, you know, you can keep the

14 bell as a lasting remembrance of your City Council

15 service. And I appreciate all your help, and thank

16 you.

17 MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you.

18 MR. DIBILEO: And that's all I have.

19 MR. BLASI: 5-B, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

20 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

21 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

22 MORTGAGE SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT, AND ANY RELATED

23 DOCUMENTS, IN FAVOR OF PENNSTAR BANK CONCERNING A CITY

24 OECD COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL LOAN WITH WOOLWORTH

25 DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC.

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104

1 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

2 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into

3 it's proper committee.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

5 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

6 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

7 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

12 have it and so moved.

13 MR. BLASI: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

14 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

15 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

16 MORTGAGE SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT, AND ANY RELATED

17 DOCUMENTS, IN FAVOR OF PENNSTAR BANK CONCERNING A CITY

18 OECD FACADE GRANT WITH WOOLWORTH DEVELOPMENT COMPANY,

19 LLC.

20 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

21 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be introduced into

22 it's proper committee.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

24 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

25 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

105

1 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

2 MS. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

6 have it and so moved.

7 MR. BLASI: Sixth order. 6-A, READING

8 BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 160, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE

9 - ESTABLISHING AS ONE-WAY THE FIVE HUNDRED (500) BLOCK

10 OF COREY STREET ALLOWING TRAFFIC TO TRAVEL FROM BIRNEY

11 AVENUE TO PITTSTON AVENUE ONLY.

12 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading by

13 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I move

15 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

16 MS. EVANS: Second.

17 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? All

18 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

19 MS. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

23 have it and so moved.

24 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, before we

25 move onto 6-B, I think we're going to need a motion for

106

1 a public hearing for 6-A, December 1 at 6:45.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll make a motion

3 that we have a hearing.

4 MS. EVANS: Second.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Motion on the

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

7 favor, signify by saying aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

12 have it and so moved.

13 MR. BLASI: 6-B, READING BY TITLE -

14 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 161, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING

15 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 82, 2004 - AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED

16 GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2005, BY TRANSFERRING

17 \$252,360.17 FROM VARIOUS CITY ACCOUNTS TO PROVIDE

18 FUNDING FOR LIFE INSURANCE, UTILITIES AND DEBT SERVICE.

19 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading by

20 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I move

22 that 6-B pass reading by title.

23 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

24 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? All

25 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

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107

1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

5 have it and so moved.

6 MR. BLASI: Seventh order. 7-A, FOR

7 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION

8 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 156, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE -

9 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 113, 2003 TO AMEND THE

10 COMPOSITION OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON COMPOSITE PENSION

11 BOARD RESTORING SAID COMPOSITION OF SAID PENSION BOARD

12 TO THE COMPOSITION AS SET FOR THE WITHIN SECTION 6 OF

13 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 154 OF 1987. MOTION TO

14 OVERRIDE OR SUSTAIN MAYOR'S VETO.

15 MR. DIBILEO: As chairperson for the

16 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of Item

17 7-A.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Seconded.

19 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question, Mr.

21 President, Jay, if we vote yes, that is to override the

22 veto, am I correct? A yes vote is to override the

23 veto?

24 MR. SAUNDERS: One second.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Don't falter here in

108

1 your last moments, Buddy. I just don't want to vote

2 incorrectly.

3 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, the motion to

4 override would be yes.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: I'm going to be voting in

7 the affirmative this evening. An arbitrator's decision

8 indicated that the makeup of the Composite Pension

9 Board is illegal, there is state laws that mandate the

10 composition of the Composite Pension Board.

11 Unlike the mayor, who sometimes breaks

12 laws and then makes his own, I believe in the law, and

13 I will abide by the law, and that is why I am voting

14 for this override of this piece of legislation.

15 MR. MCTIERNAN: Mr. President, I want

16 to just say very simply that I've had three occasion to

17 speak with Mr. Osborne, who has outlined his particular

18 position on this issue, and quite frankly, he's done an

19 objective job.

20 I've also taken the opportunity to

21 speak with members of the administration and some of

22 the lawyers representing the administration, and they

23 are equally as passionate about their position, and

24 with this being the appeal, the arbitrator's rule and

25 appeal, I will be voting no, waiting for the lawyers

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109

1 and for the appeal process to take effect.

2 So, not being a lawyer, I think the

3 best thing you can do at this point in time is to wait

4 until a decision is settled by the courts. Thank you,

5 Mr. President.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Anyone else?

7 MR. BLASI: Mr. President, before you

8 take a vote, just so we're clear on the record, a vote

9 of yes will be to override the mayor's veto, a vote no

10 would be to sustain the mayor's veto.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. And I'd just  
12 like to say that, you know, in compliance with the  
13 arbitrator's decision, I feel that we are compelled to  
14 override this veto at this point, that's number one;  
15 number two, that I think no one more than the employees  
16 themselves, who this pension plan is to benefit, would  
17 have the best interest of not only themselves, but more  
18 importantly, the taxpayers in mind when they oversee  
19 this pension by the makeup of this board.  
20 So, with that said, I'm in favor of  
21 overriding the mayor's veto.

22 MS. EVANS: And Mr. DiBileo's comments  
23 spurred a thought that was raised earlier this evening  
24 when Mr. Osborne addressed Council, apparently the  
25 highest bidder is receiving the pension management  
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110

1 contract, and it's going to cost the taxpayers.  
2 And according to what Mr. Osborne said,  
3 if I heard him correctly, that will run anywhere from  
4 \$140,000 to \$210,000 extra per year.  
5 In light of the budget difficulties  
6 we're facing, I can't imagine how anyone could justify  
7 throwing away that kind of money year after year.

8 And apparently this was a decision  
9 voted on by the people who are placed there by the  
10 mayor. So, the deck was stacked very successfully, I  
11 would say, but it's an illegal stack, and I'm going to  
12 follow the law.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a motion  
14 and a second, and if there's no further questions, can  
15 we have a roll call, please, Kay?

16 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

17 MR. McTIERNAN: No.

18 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

19 MS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

21 Mr. Courtright.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

23 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. The recommendation  
25 to override the mayor's veto of Item 7-A, File of  
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111

1 Council no. 156, 2005, has not had an extraordinary  
2 majority vote, therefore, I declare the override of the  
3 veto of File of Council No. 156, 2005 defeated, which  
4 means the veto stands.

5 Seeing no further business at this

6 time, I'll entertain a motion that we adjourn.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

8 MS. EVANS: Second.

9 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.

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12 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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112

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2 C E R T I F I C A T E

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4 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

5 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

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

7 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same

8 to the best of my ability.

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LISA M. GRAFF, RMR

12 Official Court Reporter

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